



County of San Luis Obispo, California

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Parks and Recreation / Larry Iaquinto 781-5209

SUBJECT: Vista Lago Adventure Park proposed improvements within the Lopez Lake Recreation Area (LLRA)

DATE: 4/28/2016

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Park and Recreation Commission advise the Board of Supervisors to approve the proposed improvements at Vista Lago Adventure Park within the Lopez Lake Recreation Area (LLRA).

Discussion:

EcoLearn LLC dba Vista Lago Adventure Park has been operating the aerial challenge course and zip line park for approximately 16 months within the Vista Lago Area of LLRA. Vista Lago Adventure Park is a facilitated aerial challenge course built on wood poles with minimal impact to the surrounding environment. The adventure park includes a main aerial challenge course consisting of 25 - 30 elements on two different heights, a beginner's / children's course with 8-10 elements, 4 zip lines between elements and a Quick Jump™ free fall element (See Attachment 1).

The intent of the concessionaire was to eventually expand the park after operating for a period of time, determine types of user demand and how they may be able to accommodate it, and remain competitive in the industry. EcoLearn LLC has proven themselves to be a very competent company and a good partner with County Parks. They have approached County Parks with a plan to add two zip lines to the existing park as shown in attachment 2. Additionally they will be removing one of the existing shorter zip lines (350') that has rarely been utilized. One of the new zip lines will span approximately 1400' from an existing platform in the Adventure Park to the destination point shown in attachment 2. From there the second line will span approximately 700' back to the existing platform landing area. These additional zip lines would be exciting zip runs that would attract a lot of attention to their facility and to County Parks.

As per County Parks agreement with the District, Section 7, Construction On Premises, County Parks will be noticing Zone 3 Water District of our support for this project at their upcoming May meeting. County Parks would like to move forward with this project if recommended by the Commission and District, and, approved by the Board of Supervisors provided all applicable permits and approvals associated with the design and operation of this type of facility are obtained.

Vista Lago Adventure Park is located in a high use area of the Lopez Lake Recreation Area between the Mustang Water Park and Vista Lago Swim Area (See attachment 3). This facility has quickly become popular and these proposed improvements would make it a more popular tourist destination. The two additional proposed zip lines would also be located in the active part of the LLRA as to be sensitive to the passive areas of this dynamic facility.

County Park's staff is offering support for this proposal as it aligns with the County Parks mission statement of providing diverse recreational opportunities for the public. A Cultural Resources Inventory Report (CRIR) was completed in May of 2014 as part of the project requirements when this facility was first built. The CRIR included the area where these two new zip lines are proposed to be installed. The project improvements will have little impact to the area. The majority of the improvements for this project will be installed over the existing adventure park facility and a smaller portion will terminate at the island adjacent to the adventure park. Then, the second zip line will carry the rider from that point back to the existing landing area (see attachment 2). It is the intent of EcoLearn LLC to not disturb any trees as a result of this project. However County Parks will require additional native tree and other plantings to screen the improvements as needed and enhance the surrounding area. The existing concessionaire agreement between County Parks and EcoLearn LLC dba Vista Lago Adventure Park would be modified to include all construction and operational costs for the facility to be the responsibility of the concessionaire. This project will also be on the May agenda of the Zone 3 Water District. The amendment to the existing concessionaire agreement will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval tentatively in May 2016.

Other Agency Involvement:

SLO County Parks, Zone 3 Water District, Planning, and the Board of Supervisors either have contributed, or will be, contributing throughout the planning, implementation and approval process of this proposal.

Financial Considerations:

There is no financial impact to County Parks for the implementation and operation of the Vista Lago Adventure Park improvements as outlined in this report. All associated costs will be the responsibility of the concessionaire.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Existing Vista Lago Adventure Park

Attachment 2 - Proposed Zip Line Locations

Attachment 3 - Site Map