

Sulphur Creek Nature Center Visioning Workshop Q&A

Questions & Answers

During Visioning Workshop #1, participants submitted questions to the Project Team during the virtual session which the Project Team was unable to address due to time constraints. Below are responses to those questions.

Q: Can Sulphur Creek Nature Center link to San Felipe Park and the Trails Master Plan?

A: The master plan will identify future connection to adjacent San Felipe park. Connection between Sulphur Creek Nature Center and the regional trail network is currently in progress by other governmental agencies. The County has plans to fill in the sidewalk gap and install bike facilities along D Street from Hayward City Limit near Sulphur Creek Nature Center to Fairview Avenue, while the City of Hayward is proposing a Class II bike trail (on-street, dedicated bike lane) on D Street according to its recently adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

Q: Could trails be expanded along the creek beyond the boundaries of the Nature Center?

A: The development of trails along the creek would be very difficult due to the involvement of multiple, private property owners.

Q: One of the grant requirements is that the project site attracts visitors from the region. How is "region" defined?

A: The Prop 68 Regional Park Program grant guidelines define a regional park as a project site with at least 50 acres, or one that offers a feature that attracts (or will attract) visitors from at least a 20-mile radius or a county-wide population.

Q: Is there a grant committee?

A: HARD has contracted with HTA Associates to prepare its Prop 68 Regional Park Program grant application for Sulphur Creek Nature Center. Staff, PlaceWorks and HTA are working on the grant application, there is no grant committee otherwise.

Q: How much Park Bond funds is allocated for Sulphur Creek Nature Center?

A: A total of \$222,000 in Measure F1 Bond funds has been allocated for capital improvements at Sulphur Creek Nature Center. This amount is intended to be leveraged to obtain additional grant funding. In 2018, HARD developed a conceptual plan for improvements to support educational programs at Sulphur Creek Nature Center and was awarded a \$500,000 Outdoor Environmental Education Facility grant award from the State.

Similarly, the Measure F1 Bond funds are supporting the current master plan process with the goal of submitting a competitive grant application for a State Regional Park Program grant of up to \$3M.

Q: What improvements will be implemented to update facilities and improve the wildlife exhibit?

A: We are working to identify the needed improvements for Sulphur Creek Nature Center. During the master plan process, we will prioritize these needs based on community input, the District's priorities, as well as the grant criteria. We will present design options in our next community workshop for further comments and discussion.

Q: Could the master plan accommodate new programs and expand existing ones?

A: HARD has received numerous requests to incorporate facilities for new programs, as well as to expand existing programs. Ideas ranged from spaces for native cultural programs to overnight camping and science education. Although Sulphur Creek Nature Center has physical site constraints, it is HARD's intention to incorporate site improvements where possible that would allow for more program opportunities, including partnerships, to enrich the program offerings at Sulphur Creek Nature Center.