

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
Department of Regional Parks

For the Agenda:
December 7, 2013

To: American River Parkway Advisory Committee

From: Department of Regional Parks

Subject: Approve Department of Regional Parks Special Event Policy

Supervisory
District: All

Contact: Emily Weathers, Recreation Specialist, 875-6336

Overview

In the 1980's, the Board of Supervisors approved the Policy for Special Events Requiring the Closure of the Jedediah Smith Memorial Bike Trail. Regional Parks has updated this policy to be consistent with the American River Parkway Plan, and to address current trends of trail use. The policy is used by staff to permit special events and uses of the Jedediah Smith Memorial Bike Trail (Bike Trail). Parks staff circulated the proposed Special Event Policy –to trail users and organized trail groups for comments. The revised policy addresses closed trail events, trail events when the trail remains open and training groups.

Recommendations

Approve amendments made to the Special Event Policy for implementation beginning January 1, 2013.

Measures/Evaluations

The proposed action is consistent with Regional Parks Performance Measure to provide safe, clean, and accessible park facilities for all.

Fiscal Impact

None. The Regional Parks 2012 Fee Schedule outlines specific fees that will be charged, related to the Special Event Policy

BACKGROUND

The Policy for Special Events Requiring the Closure of the Jedediah Smith Memorial Bike Trail has been in effect for over 20 years. The current policy only addresses closed trail events and does not include events that take place along the Bike Trail while the trail remains open for other users. This has resulted in confusion and broad of interpretation of the current policy for non-closed trail events. In 2008, the American River Parkway Plan was updated, and policies related to trail events changed. The proposed Special Event Policy is updated to be consistent with the Parkway Plan, and addresses the changing needs of individual and group trail users.

DISCUSSION

The American River Parkway, Jedediah Smith Memorial Bike Trail is one of Sacramento's favorite Regional Park amenities. It is estimated that the American River Parkway receives more than eight million visits annually, and most of these visits include the use of the trail. Today, an average of 25 events occur along the Bike Trail every year, and not all require the trail to be closed to other users. The

proposed Special Event Policy addresses Special Events, Closed Trail Events, Open Trail Events and Training Events, and includes special conditions for the Jedediah Smith Memorial Bike Trail as required by the American River Parkway Plan.

Overview of Policy Changes/Additions:

- Includes policies to address events that occur when the trail remains open for public use;
- Limits the number of Closed Trail events to one per month OR ten events annually;
- Events can occur on Sunday;
- Eliminates the restriction that Closed Trail events could occur only September 15 to May 15;
- Establishes a fee structure based upon number of participants.

In October, a draft policy was presented to event organizers, Park stakeholders and the public for comments. In November, a revised draft was circulated. All comments were considered before the current proposed policy was drafted; adjustments were made from the initial draft to the proposed policy.

Some user groups welcomed the new per person fee structure, and others opposed such a change. Those groups opposed were concerned about escalating costs to hold an event on the Parkway and the potential for declining participation due to higher fees. All groups appreciated the opportunity to submit their applications earlier in the year, allowing more time for event preparation. User groups were also supportive of the change to allow events to occur on Sunday in addition to Saturday.

The Special Event Policy will be effective immediately upon approval by the Board of Supervisors.

MEASURES/EVALUATION

The proposed action is consistent with Regional Parks Performance Measure to provide safe, clean, and accessible park facilities for all.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. The Regional Parks 2013 Fee Schedule outlines specific fees that will be charged, related to the Special Event Policy.

Attachments

A – Proposed Special Event Policy