

Landmark acreage recommended as park site

Assigned the task of finding more park space in the city, the Watsonville Recreation and Parks Commission approved a list of potential sites last night that includes a 27-acre softball and soccer complex on land currently a part of the proposed Landmark Business Park.

Recreation Director Patricia Donohue and her staff were directed by the City Council, at its Feb. 9 meeting, to come up with park sites and report back with

the findings.

Donohue's site recommendations were approved by the commission last night and will be presented to the City Council at its March 23 meeting.

The 106-acre Landmark industrial park has been in the works for five years, but has been stalled by legal problems and difficulty finding tenants. The developers recently requested that the city rezone some of the land

for residential development.

The Recreation and Parks Commission last night approved the recommendation that the city purchase 27 acres of the land for use as a lighted community park. The report states that the land would "provide additional soccer and softball facilities for over 100 teams."

Currently, 42 adult City League teams share one field at Ramsay Park with Pony League baseball.

The commission will not make recommendations to the council on how the land for future parks will be purchased and at what price.

Sites for smaller neighborhood parks were also approved for recommendation. Two "vest-pocket" (one acre or less) neighborhood parks were recommended for an unspecified site in the Rodriguez Street-Kilburn Street area and a school-city park project was proposed

for Linscott School.

Donohue said the sites were chosen because the city lacks parks in the west end of town.

Another recommendation calls for an additional three to five acres to be added to the two-acre Joyce-McKenzie Park. The additional acres would provide parking, a putting green, picnic facilities, a youth-practice field and a walk-exercise trail.

The final recommendation was for a 5-acre park across from the proposed Starlite Elementary School. The Pajaro Valley school district recently purchased the land now occupied by the Starlite Drive-In theater for the school and the park-site report said a park across the street, on Pennsylvania Drive, would complement the school "by providing pre-school and adult facilities for that neighborhood area."