

County funds sought to complete Rio park

A proposal to seek county park funds for the completion of the community park at Rio del Mar School has received the backing of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber directors this morning heard a presentation by Joan Fitzgerald and Jim Follis, who said the school is seeking a portion of \$214,000 the county has amassed in park dedication funds. The money was accumulated from building permit fees on new construction in the county.

The community park at the school was started in 1973 as a project of the Rio del Mar Improvement Association with the cooperation of the school district. Grass and landscaping was planted and a sprinkling system installed, and some picnic tables were built but never installed.

The new proposal calls for the planting

of more grass in the play fields, construction of a play area for pre-schoolers, barbecue pits and picnic tables, a stage, soccer and baseball fields, exercise area including jogging course and development of nature trails.

Cost of the project would range upward to \$40,000, although no firm figure has been set.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said the plan will be presented to the Pajaro Valley School District trustees on May 17, and if approved by them, will be presented to the Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Department June 5.

She said the work would be done with volunteer labor by residents in the area and with materials supplied by the county. After it is completed, the school would be responsible for the maintenance of the park.