

SCOTTS VALLEY

Town spending green on parks

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Scotts Valley budgets \$350,000

By Terri Morgan

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Two years ago, Scotts Valley's budget for parks and recreation was non-existent. This year, the city has budgeted \$350,000, and expects to get back \$280,000 in user fees.

"Parks and recreation is a big focus for the city right now," said August Caires, Scotts Valley's city manager. "One of the many things we're working on is laying down the plans, and making preparations to implement Scotts Valley's parks master plan."

The Scotts Valley City Council was to meet with its advisory commission Tuesday to discuss the board's role in helping to carry out the parks plan, which was accepted by the council in December.

The Parks and Recreation Commission was established by the city council in 1988 to provide studies on recreational issues and make recommendations to the council on park projects. The commission then consisted of seven people appointed by the council. In September, the council reduced the number of commissioners to five, with each appointee chosen by an individual council member.

"There's always been sort of a question regarding the commission's role," said Caires. "Following the recent change, they want that role to be more carefully defined."

The city owns two park sites. One, the 12-acre Siltanen Park adjacent to Vine Hill Elementary School, is developed. The other, 40-acre Lodato Park on the east side of Highway 17, is a wooded area that is largely undeveloped. The city's master plan includes future park sites that are either owned by the city or by private parties.