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Laguna park plan to be discussed

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by Frank Robertson
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SEBASTOPOL — Residents can take a critical look at planned improvements to the city's Laguna de Santa Rosa nature park at a community meeting at city hall next Wednesday night.

The meeting's "immediate focus is refining ideas" for projects to be implemented starting this fall, said city Planning Director Kenyon Webster in an announcement of (Please see *Plan* page A9)

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the Aug. 12 meeting. Questa Engineering and Prunuske-Chatham Inc., the city's consulting environmental firms, will present preliminary concepts of the design and

location of trails, viewing decks, restoration projects, and other amenities to be constructed in the Laguna wetland preserve.

Preliminary work is scheduled to begin this fall on a Laguna trail, tree planting, and possibly some berry removal on the city's 75-acre park site, said Webster. The projects that will be under way this year "would

be straight-forward projects that don't require permits from the Army Corps of Engineers," said Webster.

Although the Laguna park's amenities are spelled out fairly specifically in the Laguna de Santa Rosa park master plan, "There may be some questions about concepts" and suggestions for changes or

improvements, said Webster. Fine-tuning may address what types of native trees will be planted along the trail, as well as what to do with the Goodwill truck that now occupies the site planned as the Laguna park entrance on Morris Street.

The truck, where people drop off donations, has been at

the Morris Street site for the past 11 years but "ultimately will have to be relocated" to make way for the park, said Webster.

A skate board park that has been proposed in the area of the Teen Center may also be part of Wednesday night's discussion, said Webster.

The city in May awarded the consultants a \$78,000 contract to draw up plans for the location and design of nature trails, restoration projects, viewing decks, a parking lot, amphitheater, an informational kiosk, and signage.

Wednesday's meeting starts at 7 p.m. at city hall on Bodega Avenue. *Sonoma West Aug 5-11 1998*