

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 03-75

DATE March 20, 2003

C.D. 02

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF TREEPEOPLE'S CENTER FOR COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN COLDWATER CANYON PARK

J. Combs \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Corrales \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Duggan \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Kolb \_\_\_\_\_

H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_  
\*B. Lukehart BSC .  
L. Barth \_\_\_\_\_

  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve the current plans for the development of the Center for Community Forestry planned by the non-profit organization, TreePeople, to be located in their leasehold at Coldwater Canyon Park; and,
2. Direct the Board Secretary to notify TreePeople that any additional capital improvements or plans to name additional features will require the prior written approval of the Board.

SUMMARY:

TreePeople has been headquartered at 12601 Mulholland Drive in the 44-acre Coldwater Canyon Park since 1977. On April 17, 2002, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners approved an extension to their current lease, No. 237; the new expiration date is March 2, 2029 (Resolution No. 9969, Report No. 02-168). This extension was needed so that they could demonstrate sufficient site control to attract major donors for the new center for Community Forestry. At that time the Board was notified of the general components of the project, which is expected to be operational in 2004 and will serve as a demonstration site for sustainable building and landscape design. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the project's status and seek the Board's formal approval of the plans for development, which have already been approved by Planning and Construction Division (schematic map attached).

The components of the Center will replace an assortment of outmoded structures, trailers and the like that date from TreePeople's earliest days at the site. The structures have been demolished, and the organization is operating out of temporary quarters. The planned replacements will be of substantially the same size and capacity as the former structures.

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The new Center is the recipient of multiple funding sources. A portion of the project is funded by a \$1,080,000.00 grant under Proposition K. The other major sources of funding and the principal features of the new Center are as follows:

- *Lloyd E. Rigler Conference Center* - Named for a long-time, major donor to TreePeople and a donor to other cultural amenities in Los Angeles, who is giving \$1 million for this project. The 3,870 square-foot building will host educational programs and teleconferences.
- *S. Mark Taper Foundation Environmental Learning Center* - In the mid-1990s, this organization funded an amphitheater at the site. The current grant is \$500,000. The new attraction will feature interactive displays for the Eco-Tour and other programs in an 1,800 square-foot building.
- *La Kretz Urban Watershed Garden* - Named for a long-time, major donor to TreePeople and to other environmental groups. The current donation is \$1 million to fund interactive displays and demonstrations of sustainable urban landscaping and innovative watershed management.
- *W. M. Keck Foundation Nursery* - Provided a \$500,000 grant for a nursery that will provide seedlings for educational programs at the park and citywide.
- *Operations Center* (as yet unnamed) - To be attached to the new S. Mark Taper building, providing 10,400 square feet of planning and office space to accommodate the expansion of TreePeople's programs in urban forestry and community outreach. TreePeople currently hosts upwards of 70,000 park visitors annually and sponsors offsite programs involving additional volunteers and students.

As currently designed, the project is eligible for an award from the U. S. Green Building Council as being one of the most ecologically friendly projects in the nation. In addition to the features described, the Center will be constructed of reused or renewable materials, have solar panels to generate electricity and will use evaporative coolers. Gardens and groves will recycle rainwater. Trees will be placed to cool the buildings in summertime but admit light and heat in the winter.

The Center for Community Forestry has filed with Los Angeles County a Notice of Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article III, Class 2 (2), of the City CEQA Guidelines.

Community input for the project was solicited in a series of public forums including the Mulholland Design Review Board, the Beverly Glen Neighborhood Council, homeowner groups and a Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee. The Superintendent of the Valley Region and the Councilmember for Council District 2 concur with Departmental staff recommendations.

This Report was prepared by Joan Reitzel, Senior Management Analyst, Real Estate and Asset Management.

Center for Community Care

LEGEND

Streets

A Staff Building

B Conference Center

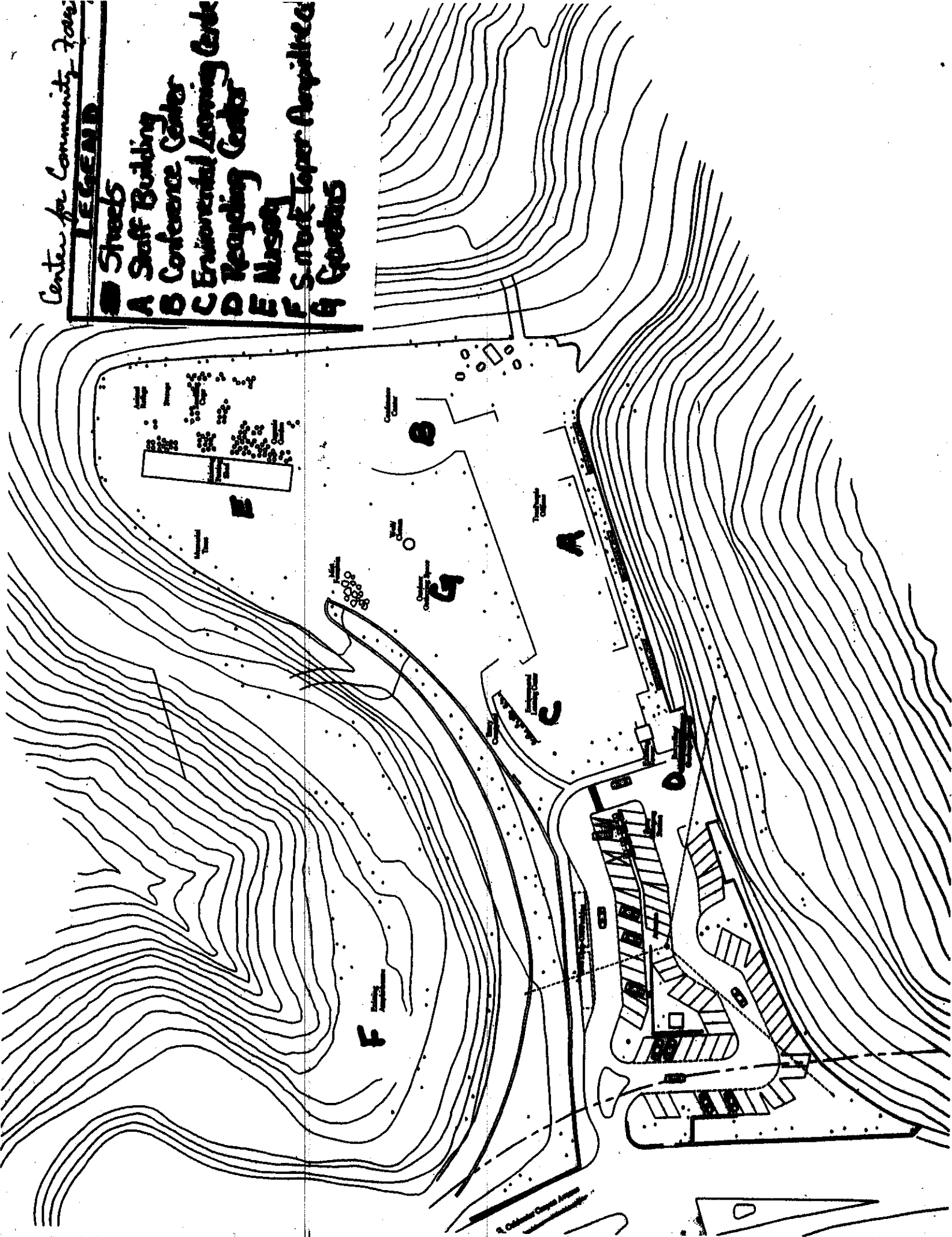
C Environmental Learning Center

D Recycling Center

E Nursery

F Staff Tower Apartments

G Gardens



Columbia College Avenue

