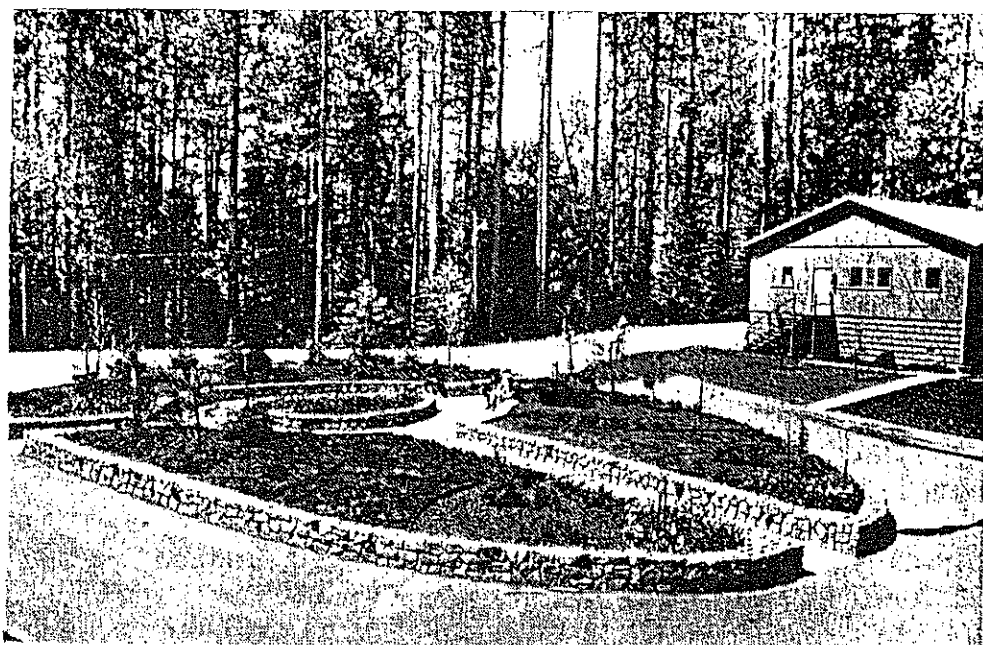


SLY PARK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PLANNED



The pollution and destruction of man's environment has reached and possibly passed the critical point. Authorities in the field of environmental research have found evidence that the ecological structure of Monterey, San Francisco, and Bodega Bays in California have been upset to the point that the entire life system of the waters is in grave danger. The conifer forests of Southern California are turning brown because of the smog problem. Many of our country's fresh water streams and lakes can no longer be used and enjoyed because of their polluted condition. It is vital that programs for young people be started that will create an awareness of these problems and dangers and that will also develop concepts and attitudes and behaviors needed to reverse the present trend of continual destruction of life systems. Informal surveys of our student population indicate that less than ten percent have had any purposeful exploration of nature.

The John Day Ranch Foundation, Incorporated is an organization dedicated to an environmental education program relevant to the latest and wisest needs both for the management and preservation of our natural resources. It is composed of twenty civic-minded persons from the Sacramento Metropolitan Area and includes conservationists, architects, bankers, engineers, lawyers, educators, and businessmen. The Foundation is a non-profit organization and the Directors serve without fee. Its purpose has been, for several years, to locate and provide an outdoor education center that can accommodate thousands of youth from the Greater Sacramento Area where under instruction they may live and learn in the out-of-doors. Such outdoor experiences were available to some 240,000 children in California last year, but denied most the youth in North-central California because there are few sites or facilities for a program.

The Sacramento County Office of Education, Sacramento, California, is designing an outdoor, conservation, and environmental education program for the youth of the Greater Sacramento Area. It is planned that this program will become operative in September, 1970.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sacramento County Office of Education in cooperation with other county superintendents and district personnel in four counties and other community agents will: design, establish, and operate an outdoor, conservation, and environmental education program for approximately 5,000 upper elementary, physically handicapped, and underprivileged children from the Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado and Placer Counties; coordinate a cooperatively designed vocational educational program for approximately 30 to 50 high school seniors; and provide in-service education programs on outdoor education for more than 150 classroom teachers per year.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. Upper Elementary—Forty-two hundred students for 35 weeks during regular year.

To provide first-hand experience in the out-of-doors for children who live under urban conditions; to develop attitudes and concepts

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that will encourage conservation of our natural resources; to develop an understanding of the relationships that exist among living organisms; to develop an awareness of man's dependency upon a balanced ecological structure and also his dependency upon man himself; to develop behaviors that will contribute to the restoration of a healthy ecological system.

2. Physically Handicapped—Three hundred fifty students for 35 weeks during regular year.

To provide an opportunity for physically handicapped students to live and learn in an outdoor setting and develop skills essential for success in working with students in learning activities from regular school programs.

3. Underprivileged—One thousand children—12 weeks in the summer months.

To provide an opportunity for young people from socio-economically deprived homes to experience life in the out-of-doors and to develop new concepts, attitudes, and behaviors toward his peers and toward the natural and human resources of our country.

4. Vocational—Fifty students—regular year.

To develop marketable skills, abilities, understandings, attitudes, work habits, and appreciations sufficient to enable the trainee to obtain and hold a job in a particular occupation.

PROCEDURE

This program will be developed around learning experiences designed by teachers, students, and lay people. Seminars, field trips, resource speakers, and formal classroom work will be provided. Groups, both large and small will participate in problem solving activities, focused to insure carry-over in daily living. The latest methods, techniques, and materials will be used to achieve performance goals established for each attending group. The program for the elementary and physically handicapped students will be one week in length, for the underprivileged one to two weeks, and for the vocational students one or two semesters depending on the skills to be developed.

PERSONNEL

The permanent instructional staff for the outdoor program will consist of a director and three teachers, all of whom will be highly skilled in outdoor and environmental education. Each week four groups of thirty students will be accompanied to the Center by their regular teacher, ten handicapped students accompanied by their teacher, and four practice teachers from a local institution of higher learning who will also act as counselors for the student groups.

The vocational program will be staffed by certificated teachers appointed following the selections of the area(s) in which training is to be offered. Each teacher will be a specialist in the specific skills to be taught.

The summer program will be staffed by certificated teachers experienced in outdoor education programs assisted by resources persons with experience in youth work and camping activities.

Site maintenance and operating staff will be selected by the Sacramento County Office of Education and must meet the qualifications set for each position by the personnel department of this office.

FACILITIES

The program will operate in the multi-million dollar Sly Park Job Corps Facility recently made available to this office by the federal government. It is located fifty miles east of Sacramento near U.S. Highway 50. All structures to be used in the program are permanent. These include: an administration building and dispensary; an academic building with five classrooms and a library; a dining hall and commercial sized laundry; four dormitories each housing thirty-four individuals; a vehicle maintenance building; a warehouse; and an arts and crafts building. All equipment necessary to fully operate the facility for one-hundred-fifty persons is available. All roads are paved and serviceable year-round. The permit to use these facilities include all the above at no leasing fee to the Sacramento County Office of Education.

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