

Mount Bonnell as County Park Held Key of Scenic Highways Plan: Heavy ...

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Mount Bonnell as County Park Held Key of Scenic Highways Plan

Heavy Traffic To Lake Area Calls For Road Changes

Right of Way Secured To Reroute Road Around Mountain

Purchase of the Mount Bonnell tract of 50 acres and transforming it into a county-owned park is being considered by County Commr. Warren S. Freund as a highlight of a program of developing a system of scenic roads in Precinct 2. Mr. Freund announced that the county commissioners court has already acquired a 40-foot right of way on the east side of Mount Bonnell for a rerouting of the Mount Bonnell road, but because of the heavier traffic anticipated in this area due to the construction of Marshall Ford and Tom Miller dams and lakes, a 100-foot right of way will be needed.

Scenic Loop Planned

Commr. Freund has in mind constructing the new Mount Bonnell road in such a way that cars can move along the road and move into parking areas along the side of the Mount Bonnell slope, and visitors to the place may walk to the crest of the mountain afoot.

"I believe while we are working on this program it would be wise for the county to buy the entire Mount Bonnell tract of 50 acres and turn it into a county-owned park," Mr. Freund declared. "This is my idea right now and I haven't taken it up with the other commissioners, so there is nothing definite that can be said right now."

But Commr. Freund did say definitely that the present road that passes over Mount Bonnell near the top will be abandoned in favor of the new route around the east slope. He pointed out that the present road is dangerous and that it is rather difficult to maintain.

Afford Access to River

Commr. John E. Shelton of Precinct 3 is considering the construction of car parking areas at Lohman's crossing on the Colorado river to enable motorists to get to the water's edge in the proposed Marshall Ford lake which will inundate the present Lohman's crossing under 80 feet of water from the Marshall Ford dam.

Several Crossings Covered

The new Marshall Ford lake will create another problem in Precinct 3 within the next year or two. Cox Crossing on the Pedernales will be inundated under 40 feet of water backing up Marshall Ford dam and another outlet from Bee Cave to Spicewood and Marble Falls will be necessary in Travis county. Commr. Shelton and County Engr. W. W. Carson Jr. said a new route is now being contemplated in the area west of Bee Creek which will call for a high water bridge across the Pedernales.

Construction of this bridge together with the rerouting and improvement of this road will create another beautiful and picturesque scenic highway leading from Austin to Marble Falls by way of Oak Hill.

SUNSHINE CAMP MEETS

Sunshine camp, Royal Neighbors, will serve noon dinner at Travis county courthouse Monday. The public is invited.