

What is Your Sanctuary?

What is a park? It's a place to play. It's a place to walk. It's a place to ride your bike, or just a place to sit on a park bench. It's a sanctuary for your quality time. You pay your taxes for this communal property for the common good for your community. It's a time-honored space, forever protected for your diverse use. You own it. We all own it. You pay your fair share for a time share. We need parks for that break from all the hard work we do. What would it be like to have no parks or open space? They are essential in our lives, to rest with contemplation and reflect on what's important. Parks are the perfect setting to slow down, relax and enjoy our time together.

All this being said, what is a park? It's space that we need for our sanctuary.

ODDS & SODS

Berry Creek

How many pies were sold at the Berry Creek Berry Festival? I heard from a good source (Sharon Gill) that there were 602 berry pies!

After I attended the Berry Creek Festival, I trekked in my truck to Bald Rock. I took the hike past the tree line to the foot of the rock. I danced from rock to rock until I got to the top. And what did I see? Immediately before me on the rock was an offering by some devotee to the rock's spirit and the heavens above. There was a pomegranate, three plums and five highly polished stones. What occurred to me was that this big bald rock is a sanctuary, like a park or a wide space on a road. Any area can be a sanctuary.

I could see the valley below, and the meandering of the watershed to Lake Oroville and beyond to the Afterbay and to the Buttes. It was an awesome sight. While I was on top of the big rock, a shadow was cast by a large hawk as he flew overhead. As I watched him, I had this urge to take flight like Icarus ascending. And then I thought I would probably descend like Icarus as well.

To the southeast off in the distance I could see a helicopter with its long water hose appendage over smoke and fire. The firefighters were working to put out the spot fires that still smoldered. Prior to getting to Bald Rock I had been listening to Peter Gabriel. Upon seeing the helicopter, I thought of several verses from his song "Don't Give Up."

*Drove the night towards my home
The place that I was born, on the lakeside
As daylight broke, I saw the earth
The trees had burned down to the ground.*

*Don't give up
'Cos you have friends
Don't give up
You're not beaten yet
Don't give up
I know you can make it good.*

I descended down the big rock and headed back on the trail towards my truck in the U.S. Forest Service parking lot, when a thought by James Broughton came to me:

"This is It, and I am It, and You are It, and so is That, and He is It, and She is It, and It is It, and That is That."

Concerts in the Park

The Bangor concert was great, thanks to Little Mayo and Marjorie Daley. The community of Bangor should be proud of Marjorie and all that she has done. The Magalia Hillbillies played great country rock, and we hope to see them again next year.

During the concert we reminded those who are interested to provide comments for the District's Master Plan update. One gentleman approached me and strongly suggested that the Bedrock Park lagoon be rehabilitated to its historic condition as a swimming hole. It's a great comment, and he is right. Bedrock Park was known as a terrific swimming hole for many years. In addition to restoring it as a favorite swimming spot, the Bedrock Park lagoon would also be a great location for a small whitewater park. Once again, we welcome all your comments. Contact Land Image at 899-1913, or the FRRPD office at 533-2011. Remember, it is your Master Plan.

This Thursday we ascend to Feather Falls for the final concert of the year. Join us at the Feather Falls Grange for the rock, blues and country sounds of the Crossroads Band. I would once again like to thank Sheryl Manies and the District staff for all their hard work in putting together this year's concerts. We're already looking forward to next year, and a partnership with the Oroville Chamber of Commerce and others. I would also like to thank the sponsors of this year's concert series:

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See you in the parks!