

New Lake Forest development 'good addition to image'

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LAKE FOREST – Irvine-based Trumark Homes was given the green light Tuesday night to build 68 homes on three cul-de-sacs in the city's center. Grading should begin next month, a Trumark official said.

The City Council on Tuesday in a 4-0 vote approved a tentative tract map for the residential development of a 13-acre parcel known as Whisler Ranch. Councilman Richard Dixon was absent. The parcel – once home to the Whisler family, early founders of El Toro area – is at the southwest corner of Osterman Road and Regency Lane.

Whisler Ranch is the first of five developments approved in an 800-acre area identified by the city as the Opportunity Study Area – land once zoned commercial/industrial because of its location under the former El Toro Marine base flight path.

On June 3, 2008, after five years of study that included two environmental reports, almost 30 public input sessions, hundreds of resident comments and seven possible alternatives, the City Council rezoned the land preparing the way for new home development.

The Whisler development, Trumark's first stab at single-family detached homes, will offer homes ranging from 2,310 square feet to 3,266 square feet. The homes will be two stories and have two-door garages. Back yards will range in depth from 12 feet to 39 feet, big enough for barbecue areas, pools or entertaining space, Trumark officials said. Architecture will vary from European cottage to American farmhouse to traditional.

Entrance to the gated community will be from Osterman. The pedestrian-friendly streets, linked mid-block, will give residents shortcuts through the community so they don't have to drive. Each of the new roads will be private and maintained by the development's homeowners association.

James O'Malley, executive vice president of Trumark, said grading is expected to begin in November and models will be ready by April or May 2011. Trumark Homes has town home projects in Riverside and Los Angeles counties.

"This is a good addition to our image," Councilwoman Kathryn McCullough said after reviewing some of the plans for landscaping. "One we can all be proud of."

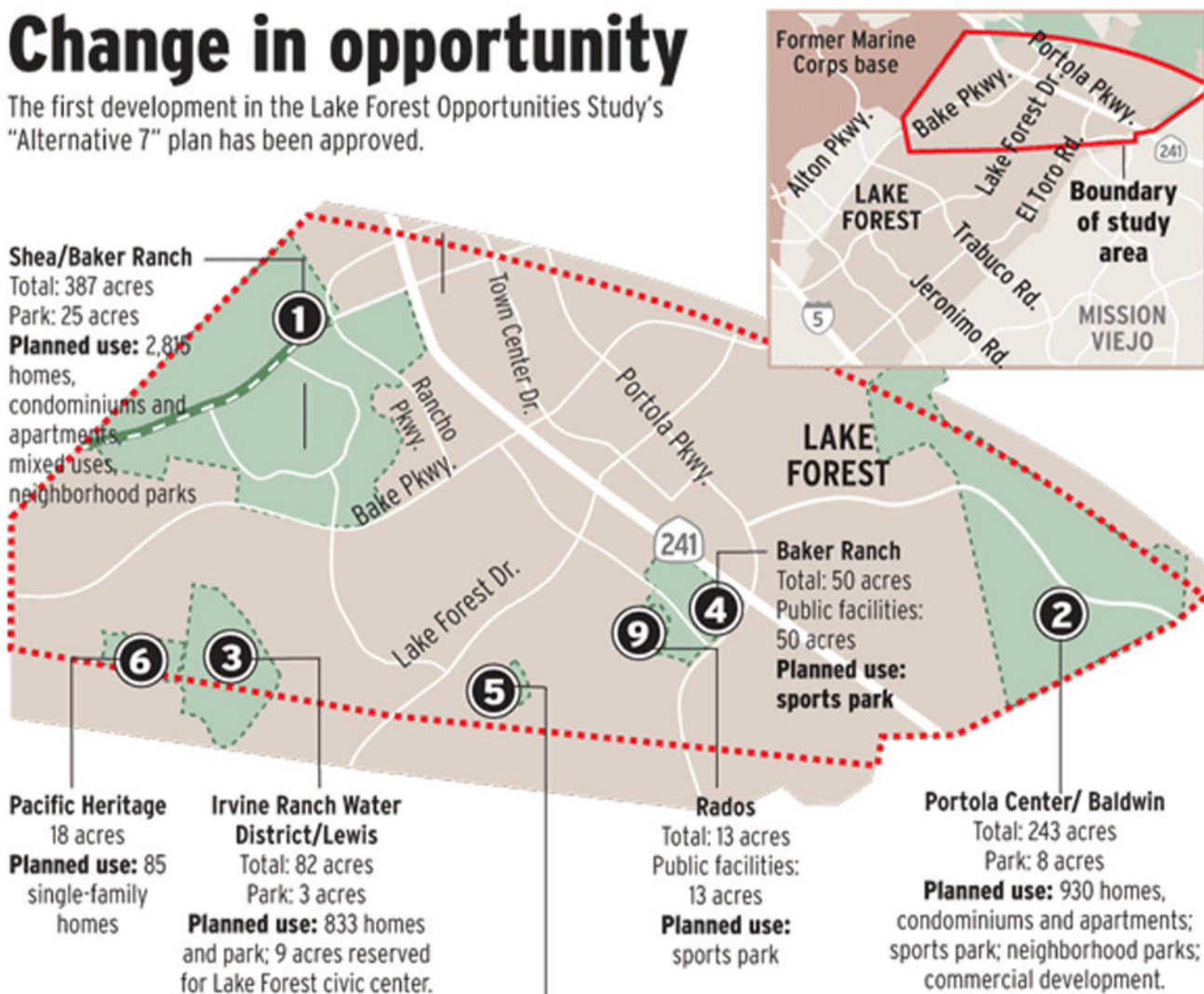
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Change in opportunity

The first development in the Lake Forest Opportunities Study's "Alternative 7" plan has been approved.



Source: City of Lake Forest



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