



## Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter, June 2016

### Master Planning Our Parks



Summer is almost here, and it's the perfect time to enjoy your free time in the many parks, trails and open space preserves that Palo Alto has to offer. The City has 36 parks and open space preserves covering approximately 4,165 acres and more than 40 miles of trails.

For the past year, the City has been seeking the community's feedback as it reviews its parks and recreation system in preparation for a 25-year Master Plan. The last comprehensive Master Plan for the City's parks was completed in 1965. The goal of the new [Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan](#) is to gain clear guidance on future renovations and capital improvement projects aimed at meeting current and future demands on the City's recreational, programming, environmental, and

### National Parks Facts



- The National Park Service (NPS) celebrates 100 years on August 25

- President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating NPS

- Yellowstone was the first national park

### Visitors By Decade

**1920 - 1 million**  
**1940 - 17 million**  
**1960 - 79 million**  
**1980 - 198 million**  
**2000 - 286 million**  
**2015 - 307.2 million**

### Most Visited Parks 2015:

Great Smoky Mountains  
**10,712,674 Visits**  
 Grand Canyon  
**5,520,736 Visits**  
 Rocky Mountain  
**4,155,916 Visits**  
 Yosemite  
**4,150,217 Visits**  
 Yellowstone  
**4,097,710 Visits**

maintenance needs.

Following a series of community engagement efforts, each park now has an existing site plan that has been posted at [www.paloaltoparksplan.org](http://www.paloaltoparksplan.org), and the City is asking for input on priorities for each park. The site plans address common themes heard during the community outreach process including more dog parks, native restoration of plants/vegetation, as well as adult and senior fitness opportunities. Council will get an information update on the parks' Master Plan. The draft of the Parks master plan is scheduled to be completed this fall.

Work on the draft of the Master Plan happens to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the National Parks system that began in 1916 and has grown to include 59 parks covering more than 84 million acres.



While we plan for our parks' future, some of the planned activities happening around town this summer include the regular May through October canoe rentals at Foothills Park at Boronda Lake, and camping at Foothills Park Towle Camp. There are also opportunities to bike ride or go fishing with a Ranger, enjoy a Sunday birdwalk at the Baylands or view the stars, planets and other celestial bodies after dark on Vista Hill in Foothills Park. You can find these outdoor recreation opportunities, plus summer camps, aquatics and other activities in the summer edition of the [Enjoy](#) catalog.

## Cool Block Program

Source: [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

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### Calendar of Events

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#### Transition Palo Alto Share Faire

Share produce, books, crafts & more!  
Various locations  
Sunday, June 12, 1-3 pm

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#### Creative Ecology Artist Jenny Odell "Garbage Selfie"

Palo Alto Art Center  
1313 Newell Road  
Sat., June 25, 10am-12 pm

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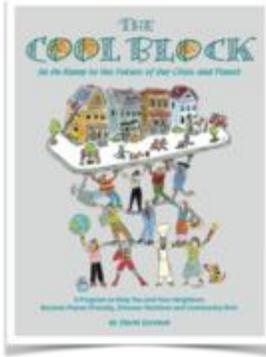
#### Teen Ceramics Summer Drop-In

Palo Alto Art Center  
1313 Newell Road  
Thursdays, June 16-Aug. 11  
6:30-8:30pm

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*Our Palo Alto* mobile App for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#)



The City has a history of supporting innovative programs to address climate change while promoting community engagement, and the Cool Block pilot program does both. This free, five month, action-based program is a partnership with the Empowerment Institute to help households and neighborhoods act on climate change, resiliency, social connectedness and to grow the green economy.

In 2012, the Council agreed to participate in the [Cool Cities Challenge](#), which has been modified to the current Cool Block program. The pilot is a block-based engagement effort and aligns with other programs the City is participating in including the Know your Neighbors grant program, Our Palo Alto community events, and the Council's Neighborhood Town Hall initiative.

Fifteen community members volunteered to be Block Leaders in their respective neighborhoods to create solutions and structured behavior change to help Palo Alto achieve its goals of 80 percent carbon reduction by 2030 as stated in the [Sustainability and Climate Action Plan \(S/CAP\)](#).

Getting to know your neighbors is one of the best benefits of the pilot. Participants select from a menu of 112 action recipes that include carbon reduction, water conservation, resiliency and livability. They are also able to track their progress through a web platform that has the resources necessary to help achieve the actions they choose to complete. Some actions are done as individuals and others are collective and carried out by The Cool Block team.

There will be a second-stage Cool Block pilot that includes an additional 20 blocks starting in the Fall.

For more information or to get involved, email Sandra Slater, the Northern California director of the Cool City Challenge at: [sandra@sandra Slater.com](mailto:sandra@sandra Slater.com)

## Help a Homeless Veteran

If you have a room, apartment or a house for rent, the Palo Alto Human Relations Commission invites you to learn how you can help house a homeless veteran through the [All the Way Home program](#). The City is a sponsor of the program along with Santa Clara County and other local cities as they work to address the more than 700 homeless vets in the region. The campaign aims to end veteran homelessness by the 100th Anniversary of Veterans Day in 2018.



The County Housing Authority is hosting an [All the Way Home](#) information session at Mitchell Park Community Center in the El Palo Alto Room on Wednesday, June 15 from 8-9:30 a.m. RSVP is preferred, but not required. Contact Mary Constantino: [mary.constantino@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:mary.constantino@cityofpaloalto.org) or (650) 463-4906 for more details.

## Bike Friendly Community

Palo Alto is one of only four California cities to be awarded [gold status](#) level as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB).



The status is valid for four years and is only given to communities with a strong commitment to bicycling and is based on LAB's 10 Building Blocks of a Bicycle Friendly Community.

Some of the criteria includes:

- Major streets with bike lanes
- Total bike network mileage to total road network mileage
- Bike-friendly laws/ordinances
- Active bike advisory committee
- Public education outreach

This isn't a first for the City either- it previously received this cycling recognition in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2011.

## World Music Day



Downtown Palo Alto is about to become more vibrant as it fills with music and dance for the annual World Music Day on Sunday, June 19 from 3-7 p.m.

Forty professional and amateur musical groups will perform jazz, blues, pop, rock, classical, world music, choral, dance and more on sidewalks and street corners along University Avenue and in King Plaza.

Sponsored by the [Stanford Federal Credit Union](#) this year, not only is the event free, but it also takes place on Father's Day, so it's the perfect place to bring the family and honor dear ole' dad.

For more information, visit: [www.pamusicday.org](http://www.pamusicday.org)

## Tweets of the Month

Are you following us on Twitter yet? [Connect with us](#) and tell us what's on your mind.



[City of Palo Alto @cityofpaloalto](#) June 1

Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders makes campaign stop in Palo Alto ahead of June 7 primary. <http://bit.ly/25Kv87E>



[Palo Alto Library @PaloAltoLibrary](#) March 30

On Your Mark, Get Set, READ! [#SummerReading](#) kicks off Sat. 5/28 2-3:30pm, Mitchell Park Library. Theme = sports. <http://bit.ly/1WDEujJ>



Palo Alto Police @PaloAltoPolice May 15

Sunshine? Lemonade? Smiley entrepreneurs? That trifecta is tailor-made for a #CopsLoveLemonadeStands visit! <http://bit.ly/1PF7LZd>

To find out how you can get involved, or more information about Our Palo Alto, go to: [www.ourpaloalto.org](http://www.ourpaloalto.org)