

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FROM: COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS
DATE: October 27, 2015
SUBJECT: Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan

RECOMMENDATION

No action to be taken.

BACKGROUND

The City of Palo Alto has 37 parks and open space preserves covering approximately 4,165 acres of land, which includes Foothills Park, Pearson Arastradero Preserve, and the Baylands Nature Preserve. A Capital Improvement Project for a Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) was adopted by Council for the 2013 fiscal year. The purpose of this project is to provide the necessary analysis and review of Palo Alto's parks and recreation system for the preparation of a Parks Master Plan. The Parks Master Plan will provide the City with clear guidance regarding future renovations and capital improvement projects aimed at meeting current and future demands on the city's recreational, programming, environmental, and maintenance needs, establishing a prioritized schedule and budget of future park renovations, facility improvements and expansion of recreational programs.

DISCUSSION

Staff will introduce and discuss with the commission the proposed evaluation process of prioritization as outlined below.

The second phase of the master planning process focuses on developing and prioritizing recommendations. This phase started in June of this year with the drafting of the project principles and criteria. The evaluation process created in this phase will provide the basis for determining which potential projects and actions will be included in the final Master Plan Report. Creating a process that is concise and defensible, which leads to clear actions will be the main focus of discussion.

Steps of Prioritization

Step 1: Draft the Initial List of Recommendations - The consultant (MIG) will generate a list of potential recommended projects and actions based on the data analysis and community input from phase one, as well as compatibility with the principles. The list of potential recommendations and the available background

data information for each recommendation will be reviewed and vetted by staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Step 2: Criteria Evaluation of Recommendations - Once the list of potential projects and actions has been generated, each of them will be evaluated by an evaluation panel using the criteria and ranked using a point system. The point evaluation system and the composition of the evaluation panel are under development.

The commission is requested to discuss the overall process, the point ranking system applied to the criteria and the formulation of an evaluation panel.

NEXT STEPS

City Council Study Session (November 2015)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed CIP recommendations are consistent with Policy C-26 of the Community Services element of the Comprehensive Plan that encourages maintaining park facilities as safe and healthy community assets; and Policy C-22 that encourages new community facilities to have flexible functions to ensure adaptability to the changing needs of the community.

PREPARED BY

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ATTACHMENTS

1. City Council Study Session – Draft Staff Report Attachment A
2. City Council Study Session – Draft Consultant Report Attachment B