

Parks and Recreation Commission Workplan Accomplishments

- **Racquet Court Policy**

- Ad Hoc reviewed existing policy and received community feedback through stakeholder meetings and site visits.
- PRC recommended an update to the Racquet Court usage policy, increasing pickleball access, on November 22, 2022.
- Initiated a racquet court stakeholder advisory group with pickleball and tennis users.
- Began research into the cost and feasibility of adding lights to City-owned tennis courts.

- **Recreation Projects/Opportunities**

- Gym/Wellness Center

- Weekly ad hoc meetings (with occasional staff participation) on stakeholder outreach and research on wellness center need, potential locations, facilities, programs and activities.
 - Worked with city staff on stakeholder outreach and research of wellness center facilities, programs and activities.
 - Hosted a community meeting on March 7, 2023 to discuss the proposed Recreation Wellness Center, and issued a community survey to collect additional feedback.
 - Organized “Friends of Palo Alto Recreation Wellness Center” Board of Directors submitting bylaws and articles of incorporation, achieving 501.c3 status and constructing a web site www.parwc.org.
 - Provided status updates to the PRC during monthly ad hoc updates and at a March 28, 2023 presentation.

- Skatepark

- Ad hoc worked with staff and skatepark stakeholders and broader skateboarding community on potential skatepark conceptual design that incorporates and honors existing historic skate bowl.
 - Established a partnership with Friends of Palo Alto Parks to serve as the repository for skatepark donations, following PRC recommendation on September 1, 2022, and City Council authorization on October 24, 2022.
 - First draft conceptual design completed by pro-bono designer, and staff is working on parking analysis.

- First Tee partnership at Baylands Golf Links

- Encouraged completion of the LOI signed with City of Palo Alto and First Tee to allow First Tee to raise funding for this public private partnership.
 - Feasibility study report provided by First Tee on January 27, 2023.

- **E-Bike and Electric Conveyance Device Policy**

- PRC ad hoc met throughout the year reviewing policy and regulations regarding the use of e-bikes and electric conveyances in parks and open space areas. This included Palo Alto and neighboring cities, regional, state, and national jurisdictions.

- Discussed policy considerations including parks vs. open spaces, types of e-bikes, and state policy implications with CSD, Transportation and Safe Routes staff, and PABAC, including their E-Bike subcommittee.
- PRC discussed balancing competing interests and priorities including wildlife and ecosystem protection, recreation, bicycle transportation corridors, public access, equity, safety, enforceability, ADA requirements, and clarity and communication of rules on October 25, 2022.
- After considerable public comment and discussion, PRC unanimously recommended e-bike and electric conveyances policy and regulations for parks and open space on November 22, 2022

- **Fundraising**

- Developed process for recreation, open space, and community service advertisements to be placed on regular basis in Enjoy Catalogue.
- Increased regular communication between Friends of Palo Alto Parks, Palo Alto Recreation Foundation, and the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Created [webpage](#) for City of Palo Alto Community Services, increasing awareness of how to give to various programs within Community Services.
- Encouraged city staff and partners to pursue grants, which may be available to community services, parks, and open space.

- **Urban Forestry**

- Annual State of the Urban Forest report presented to PRC on December 15, 2022.
- Reviewed implementation status of significant changes associated with the Title 8 Tree Ordinance update including new tree protections, tree removal and maintenance processes, public communication, and new staffing.
- Provided periodic updates on the roll-out of new Tree Ordinance processes, communication, and staffing.
- PRC feedback centered on clarification, communication, timing, and transparency of the associated changes. City web pages continue to evolve. Roll-out is proceeding despite staffing challenges.

- **Parkland Dedication**

- The PRC ad hoc reviewed the 10-acre Measure E site at the Baylands Nature Preserve / Byxbee Park for potential rededication as park land, and consulted with Public Works, Utilities, and City Attorney departments, and Utilities Advisory Commission leadership.
- PRC discussed permitted development under the ballot measure, absence of current project proposals, and potential benefits of a recreational connector trail, wildlife corridor, and support for the ecological integrity of the Baylands on September 27, 2022.
- PRC voted 4-2 to recommended dedication of the Baylands Measure E site as park land on October 25, 2022.
- The ad hoc reviewed other potential sites for Parkland Dedication, and is working with staff to move forward with dedicating a small area at Greer Park where a sewer easement is being released (February 28, 2023).

- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Review**

- The ad hoc met with staff on November 7, 2022 to review the FY 2024 - 2028 CSD Capital Plan for Parks, Open Space, and Golf projects.
- The ad hoc recommended updates to the CIP project list, including providing more specific details of "On-going CIPs" and adding Foothills Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Cubberley synthetic turf replacement projects, and perhaps the Roth Building restroom.
- The PRC reviewed and provided feedback on the CIP plan on November 22, 2022.