



City of Watsonville

Meeting Agenda

Parks & Recreation Commission

Ana V. Hurtado, District 1

Vacant, District 2

Brando Sencion, District 3

Jessica Carrasco, District 4

Abel Sanchez, District 5

Kristian Flores, District 6

Vacant, District 7

Monday, March 4, 2019

6:30 PM

City Council Chambers
275 Main Street, Top Floor

1. ROLL CALL

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. COMMUNICATIONS

(This time is set aside for members of the general public to address the Parks & Recreation Commission on any item not on the Agenda, which is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Commission. No action or discussion shall be taken on any item presented except that any Commissioner may respond to statements made or questions asked, or may ask questions for clarification. All matters of an administrative nature will be referred to staff. All matters relating to Parks & Recreation Commission will be noted in the minutes and may be scheduled for discussion at a future meeting or referred to staff for clarification and report. Any Commissioner may place matters brought up under Oral Communications on a future agenda. ALL SPEAKERS ARE ASKED TO FILL OUT A CARD & LEAVE IT AT THE PODIUM, ANNOUNCE THEIR NAME AND ADDRESS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN ACCURATE RECORD FOR THE MINUTES.

3.1 Oral Communications from the Commissioners & Members of the Public

3.2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

4. CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the Consent Agenda are recommended actions which are considered to be routine and will be acted upon as one consensus motion. Any items removed will be considered immediately after the consensus motion. The Chair will allow public input prior to the approval of the Consent Agenda.

4.1 [PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES OCTOBER 2018](#)

Attachments: [MINUTES-October](#)

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

6. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

6.1 REPORT ON YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS PROGRAM BY RECREATION SUPERVISOR JENNIFER VIVENZI

Attachments: [Sports Report v4](#)

6.2 PROGRESS REPORT FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-19 BY ASSISTANT PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR BENJAMIN HEISTEIN

Attachments: [March 2019 CIP Update](#)
 [Attachment A - CIP Update March 2019](#)

6.3 URBAN GREENING REPORT BY ASSISTANT PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR BENJAMIN HEISTEIN

Attachments: [Acceptance of Urban Greening - Report_PRC](#)
 [WS Connector Trail Project_A](#)

6.4 REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARK MASTER PLANS FOR RAMSAY PARK AND CITY PLAZA BY PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR NICK CALUBAQUIB

Attachments: [Staff Report - Strategic Plan Update](#)

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

- a) NOMINATION PERIOD
- b) PUBLIC INPUT
- c) MOTION ELECTING CHAIRPERSON

**7.2 NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

- a) NOMINATION PERIOD
- b) PUBLIC INPUT
- c) MOTION ELECTING VICE-CHAIRPERSON

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next Commission meeting will be held on April 15, 2019

MINUTES
REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 1, 2018

City of Watsonville
Council Chambers
275 Main Street, Top Floor

1. ROLL CALL

Commissioners: DeHart, Estrada, Hurtado-Aldana, Parker

Commissioners Absent: None

PCS Staff: Director Calubaquib
Administrative Assistant II Moya
Administrative Assistant II Diaz

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Commissioner DeHart shared she attended the Bridge Street Median meeting at Ann Soldo School, and said the meeting was informative and she also complimented Assistant Director Heistein on the presentation. Commissioner Parker also attended the meeting and suggested a neighborhood tree-planting event. Chair Hurtado-Aldana provided a brief overview of the Friends of Parks & Community Services and the support they provide to the Department.

3.2 FREE COMMUNITY SOCCER CLINIC REPORT – Jesus Madrigal reported on the Free Community Soccer Clinic held at Ramsay Park on June 30 & July 1 at the Ramsay Park Sotomayor Soccer field. Francisco Estrada, Roy Contreras and Jesus Madrigal coordinated the activity. The purpose of the clinic is to encourage participants to continue developing their soccer skills. Thirty-three participants received a free soccer ball, t-shirt, school supplies, photo and bag. The activity was managed and supervised by volunteers, and Mr. Madrigal thanked the City for co-sponsoring this activity and support. Parent feedback was positive with many asking for the clinic to happen again. Chair Hurtado-Aldana thanked Mr. Madrigal and his colleagues for providing this successful activity to the community. Commissioner DeHart recommended for a report to be presented to the Council. Mr. Madrigal shared that next year's clinic is scheduled for June 29 & 30, 2019.

3.3 DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Calubaquib revisited the Commission's request for Department announcements and events updates, and the Director will send bi-weekly updates to commissioners, known as Nick's Notes, that provides details. Director Calubaquib also introduced the new digital edition of the Department newsletter, Rex Roaring News, which will replace the PCS Scoop newsletter. Director Calubaquib informed the Department is working on the development of a Strategic Plan and is working closely with a landscape architect consultant firm who will help with the public engagement phase, where community partners can give input to the plan and prioritize projects. The consultant firm will also help develop vision plans for the City Plaza and Ramsay Park. Director Calubaquib provided an update to the

proposed bike pump track installed at Ramsay Park. The Department is in discussions with Mountain Bike of Santa Cruz in their offer to build the pump track and identifying a location. Director Calubaquib informed the Department is in the final stages of receiving an Urban Greening grant that Assistant Director Heistein applied through the California Department of Natural Resources, and a site visit at Ramsay Park was conducted. The grant will help build connector trails at Ramsay Park. Director Calubaquib announced several events including the 150th Birthday Community Concert in the City Plaza on Oct. 7th; Tree Planting at Muzzio Park on Oct. 20th; the Fall Festival at Callaghan Park on Oct. 27th; and the Multicultural and Tree Lighting event in the City Plaza on Dec. 1st. Director Calubaquib announced Eugene Bragado's promotion to Recreation Supervisor and oversee Youth Development programs.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Motion to Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 6, 2018

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Vice-Chair DeHart and carried by the following vote to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 6, 2018.

Ayes:	DeHart, Estrada, Hurtado-Aldana, Parker
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

6. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

6.1 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT UPDATES – Assistant Director Heistein provided a progress report on the capital improvement projects that are approved for fiscal year 2018-2019. Due to deferred maintenance at parks and recreation centers, staff identified and prioritized projects that improve safety, public experience, aesthetics and maintenance service levels. Assistant Director Heistein listed the completed projects and provided status of progress for those uncompleted. Vice-Chair DeHart complimented the CIP progress report and stated it is informative. Chair Hurtado-Aldana asked what the acronym LLMAD stands for. Assistant Director Heistein answered it stands for Landscape, Lighting Maintenance Assessment District.

6.2 CAMP WOW PROGRAM UPDATE - Recreation Supervisor Bragado provided a report on the 2018 Summer Camp WOW program. Recreation Supervisor Bragado displayed a video to the Commission that highlighted the program participants enjoying the activities and explained the program's daily routines. This year 62 participants registered, with 28 campers being new to the program, for 248 total registrations, which is an increase from the previous year. The program staff conducted participant and parent surveys and overall received positive feedback and results. Chair Hurtado-Aldana asked what might have contributed to receiving more registrations this year. Recreation Supervisor answered the flexibility to register for a half day, which allows

more participant to sign up, contributed to the increase. Commissioner Estrada inquired if staff has explored applying for grants that may help participants register for the program. Recreation Supervisor answered that currently the program works with Santa Cruz County Parents Association Voucher Project and the Friends of Parks and Community Services, but is also looking for other resources.

7. ADJOURNMENT – 7:48pm

City of Watsonville

MEMORANDUM



DATE: February 25, 2019

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission

FROM: Jenny Vivenzi, Recreation Supervisor
Nick Calubaquib, Parks & Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Report on Youth and Adult Sports Programs

AGENDA ITEM: March 4, 2019 Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the report on Youth and Adult Sports Programs.

DISCUSSION:

The Parks and Community Services Department offers a wide array of youth and adult sports, year round. All programs combined provide an opportunity to participate in leisure activities for thousands of residents from Watsonville and surrounding communities. Our programs are held in a variety of parks and facilities, providing a safe space for all to engage in healthy exercise.

Youth Sports

We offer the opportunity to engage in sports from as young as three years old. The two biggest youth sports programs are youth soccer and the summer aquatics program. Not only do they provide a service for the individual participant, but an opportunity for the whole family to engage in a pro-social setting.

Recreational Soccer

Our recreational soccer league not only teaches the game of soccer, but develops team-building skills, positive sportsmanship and increase self-esteem. The spirit of the game is emphasized over competition. The league runs two (2) seasons per year, spring and fall. Both seasons consist of 10 weeks of games and 12 weeks of team practices. A total of four divisions separated by age are provided: 5 year olds (U6), 6-7 year olds (U8), 8-9 year olds (U10), and 10-11 year olds (U12).

In 2018, the spring league served 185 youth, while the fall league, historically, has fewer registrations than spring.

The program relies on volunteer team coaches. Volunteer coaches are required to clear finger print and background checks before working with a team. They are responsible for practices, being at games, picture day, and providing an overall enjoyable experience. They are loaned soccer balls and cones. If volunteer coaches meet all responsibilities, they receive a credit for

the fee of one child for recreational soccer, since most coaches have a child registered in the program. The credit can be applied the following season, or for any other programs they register for following the season.

Competitive Soccer

This program began in 2014 to meet the needs of participants from our recreational program who are ready to advance to the competitive level, but not wanting transfer to a different program. Having a competitive option allows players to remain with their teams, coaches, and the familiarity of our program sports philosophy and teammates. In turn, our recreational soccer program has served as a feeder program to the competitive teams over the years. The program started with one team in 2014, and is now maxed out with eight competitive teams, with players between the ages of 9-15.

Teams register for and play in two seasons per year, spring and fall, with all teams receiving a month and a half of practice time prior to season start. Teams register and play in sanctioned tournaments, paying for tournament fees on their own.

Our teams fall under the umbrella of the Santa Cruz Breakers Academy Football Club. All team names are Watsonville Breakers. Our club plays in the NorCal Premier League, which is run by NorCal Premier Soccer, a US Club Soccer sanctioned league and member of the United States Soccer Federation.

Gymnastics

The youth gymnastics program runs year round, and is held at the Ramsay Park Family Center. Participants register for two month blocks, one class per week. Classes are held in the afternoons, Monday-Thursday, for ages 3-14 years old. Our toddler class, "Tot 'n Me," is available two mornings per week serving ages 18 mos. – 3 years. We serve on average 90 participants per session.

USA Gymnastics is the sole national governing body for the sport of gymnastics in the United States. This designation comes from the U.S. Olympic Committee, and the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG). USA Gymnastics sets the rules and policies that govern gymnastics in the United States. Our program follows their guidelines on how to instruct participants to progress through the skill levels. This allows participants to learn skills based on a recognized standard, which may allow for smooth transition to a competitive program.

Aquatics

The eight week long program is held during summer months at the pool of Watsonville High School, consisting of two components: swim lessons and open recreational swim.

The curricula for the swim lessons are based on American Red Cross swim lesson curricula. Four, two-week sessions are available, with classes held Monday through Friday. Instructional swim is available for all ages, toddler to adult. There were over 500 registrations for the 2018 program.

Open Recreational Swim, or "Rec Swim", is held Monday through Friday from 1:15 p.m. to 2:55 p.m. The daily fee for recreational swim is \$3. Individual and Family passes, good for up to 5 people, are available for purchase for the program. There were 1,100 daily recreation swim sign-ins in the 2018 program.

The program is staffed by swim instructors, certified lifeguards, and a pool manager (certified lifeguard).

Itty Bitty Sports

This popular, action packed and well-attended program serves participants 3-5 years of age, and is held at Callaghan Park. Each session is 4 weeks long, and focuses on one sport (soccer, basketball, flag football, or t-ball), introducing it in a fun-oriented and non-competitive environment. Sessions are held March-October, taking the winter months off.

Adult Sports

All of our adult sports programs are available to participants ages 18 and above. Our leagues are filled with team registrations, as opposed to individually. Teams are managed by one person, the manager, who is the main contact for communicating information and league rules and policies to their team.

Softball

The league runs two (2) seasons per year, spring and fall. Both seasons consist of 10 weeks of games and one week of playoffs/championships. Three divisions are available for men's, each division playing on a set night, Monday-Wednesday. Two divisions are available for co-ed, each division playing on a set night, Thursday or Friday. Divisions are separated by caliber of play, each with a maximum of 6-teams, but play with a minimum of four (4) teams. Division champions receive individual "champion" t-shirts.

League play rules are governed by USA Softball, and behavior/code of conduct rules are governed by SANCRA (Sports Association of Northern California's Recreation Agencies). Some USA Softball league play rules are modified to accommodate for our field size/dynamics, or to balance league play if the rule is more designed for competitive play. Total number of participants: 686

Basketball

The men's league runs three (3) seasons per year: winter, spring and fall. All seasons consist of eight (8) weeks of games and one week of playoffs/championships, with two separate divisions, one being for higher caliber of play. Like softball, each division's maximum of teams is six (6) with a minimum of four (4), and division champions receive individual "champion" t-shirts. League play rules are modified NBA rules, and behavior/code of conduct rules are governed by SANCRA as well. Total number of participants: 227

Co-ed Volleyball

League play is available two (2 seasons) per year, winter and fall. All seasons consist of eight (8) weeks of games and one week of playoffs/championships, with only one division available on Monday nights. Team maximums and minimums, awards, and behavior/code of conduct are the same as the other adult sports leagues. League play rules are governed by the Federation International Volleyball rulebook, with supplemental co-ed rules of play. Total number of participants: 97

Co-ed Dodgeball and Co-ed Kickball

These leagues are designed to be short so that there is not as big of a time commitment as the other adult sports leagues. Both consist of five (5) weeks of games and one week of playoffs/championships. Dodgeball is offered late October-early December, and March-early April. Kickball is offered late January-February, and September-mid October. Team maximums and minimums, awards, and behavior/code of conduct are the same as the other adult sports leagues. These leagues are new and kicked off in 2019.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The planning and implementation of youth and adult sports programs are regular activities of the Parks and Community Services Department. In 2018, the youth and adult sports programs generated \$200,274 in revenue, with \$137,672 in direct program expenses. Expenditures include staffing costs and supplies, with 10% of the total added as administrative fees, but do not include Recreation Supervisor salaries and other City administrative support.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



DATE: February 28, 2018

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission

FROM: Ben Heistein, Assistant Parks and Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Progress Report for Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2018-19

AGENDA ITEM: March 4th, 2019 **Commission**

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report for Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

DISCUSSION

Background

During the 2017-2019 budget planning process, staff identified over \$8,000,000 in Capital Improvement Projects necessary between now and Fiscal Year 2021-22 to address deferred maintenance at parks and recreation centers.

A list of prioritized projects was presented to the PRC at its February 5th, 2018 meeting and to the Council during the mid-year budget review for consideration. A number of the Department's projects were approved for funding and most projects have been carried over into FY 2018-19. During the adoption of the FY 2018-19 budget, the Council also approved several additional projects.

This progress report serves to inform the PRC about the status of each CIP, summarized in Attachment A. In the attachment, each project contains a brief description of the project, its area of public impact, allocated funds, and the status of each project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding for these projects is from the City's General Fund and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The cost of completing these projects is estimated at \$1,014,291.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – December Progress Report for PCS Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2018-19

Attachment A: March 2019 Progress Report for PCS Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2018-19

Project	Public Impact	Budget	Status
Maintenance Contract for Landscape Medians The Department maintains landscape in public right of ways on Ohlone Parkway, Manabe Ow Rd., Main St. (downtown), Upper Main St. (Hwy. 152) and Airport Blvd. Contracting this work is more cost effective and it increases the service level in these areas.	Aesthetics and Service level	\$50,000	In Progress. Monthly Landscape Maintenance from July '18-June '19.
City Plaza Improvements A consulting firm will be selected to assist City staff in developing a plan for modernizing the City Plaza to fit the community's needs, while maintaining its historical integrity.	Safety and Public Access	\$30,000	In Progress. Part of RFP for PCS Strategic Plan, Ramsay and City Plaza Conceptual Design. Working with Verde Design, Inc.
Re-wire City Light Poles in City Plaza Many of the lamps in the City Plaza do not work. It has been determined that the wiring is not up to code and must be replaced. Increasing the lighting at the Plaza will improve safety and safety perception for pedestrians during the evening time.	Safety and Aesthetics	\$5,000	Complete.
Repair/Re-wire Fountain Pump at City Plaza The pump in the fountain at the City Plaza is not functioning. To have this historical feature of the City Plaza operating again, a new water pump should be installed.	Aesthetics	\$2,000	Complete. Additional restoration work required (future CIP item).
Repair Exterior Wall at Callaghan Park Cultural Center The stucco on the exterior wall below the drinking fountain was kicked in. While making repairs, the contractor discovered significant water damage to the studs that resulted from a leaking roof. The wall of the building must be repaired and roof needs to be fixed to prevent further damage to the building.	Safety, Prevention of Further Damage, and Public Access	\$25,000	Not Started. Public Works staff will develop a scope of work in order to contract the work in Spring '19, possibly using restroom contractor.
Softball Field Improvements The current dugouts flood when it rains and are difficult to supervise for undesirable activities. Raising them to the level of the infield will alleviate these problems. The cap along the foul line fence will help prevent injury to any player reaching over the fence to catch a foul ball. Install new scoreboard	Safety and Public Access	\$60,000	50% Complete. New dugouts and safety fence rails installed. \$35,000 in CDBG funding (currently finalizing NEPA compliance) developing SoW for Public Access and Scoreboard upgrades.

Project	Public Impact	Budget	Status
Tree and Landscape Improvements at Crestview Park - Tree pruning and landscape improvements are needed for improved safety and aesthetics.	Safety and Aesthetics	\$30,000	Complete in FY17-18.
Paint Interior and Exterior of Ramsay Park Family Center The exterior of the building has non-matching colors as a result of covering up graffiti and the paint on the wood trim has peeled exposing bare wood to the elements. The interior needs to be repainted to improve aesthetics for programs and rentals.	Aesthetics and Prevention of Further Damage	\$40,000	In Progress. Request for Quotes due from Contractors 3/18. Work to begin in April
Install Switches for Gym and Game Room Lights in the Ramsay Park Family Center Currently the gym and game room lights are turned on and off by switching the circuit breakers on and off as no switches to control the lights were ever installed. This is against code and a safety hazard	Safety	\$10,000	Carryover to FY19-20, combining with AMBAG LED switchover.
Install a Fence around Ramsay Park Family Center The sides of the Ramsay Park Center facing Main St. and the Overlook Shopping Center are often used by homeless individuals for shelter and as a latrine.	Safety and Aesthetics	\$20,000	Fencing Complete in FY17-18. Soliciting quotes for a Storage Space and from an artist to install a mural.
New Roof at Ramsay Park Family Center The facility's roof has not been replaced in many years and is in need of replacement to remedy roof leaks.	Safety and Prevention of Further Damage	\$35,000	In Progress. Patch work recently completed; Roof cleaning in progress; move remaining funds to PCS Roof project.
Ramsay Park Family Center Gym Floor Remodel The current floor is in need of replacement due to heavy use and water damage.	Safety and Prevention of Further Damage	\$60,000	In Progress. Recently completed work to correct water intrusion issues. Writing SoW and putting out RFQ in March. Work to begin in May.
Ramsay Park Back Bathroom Remodel Similar to improvements made to the park restrooms on the east side of the park, this remodel will bring the restrooms into compliance with ADA standards, increase efficiency of maintenance and improve aesthetics.	Safety, Aesthetics and Public Access	\$284,291	In Progress. Council approved bid award on 11/27 for \$265k Construction began in Jan. and scheduled for completion in late April.

Project	Public Impact	Budget	Status
Park Maintenance Vehicles Replace one park maintenance vehicle. All parks maintenance vehicles are 15-20+ years old and are at the end of their useful life. One vehicle was replaced in FY 17-18, with an additional planned in FY 18-19.	Safety	\$33,000	Complete. Purchased one truck in Oct. 2018.
PCS Customer Service Center - Roof Project The facility's roof has not been replaced in many years and is in need of replacement to remedy roof leaks.	Safety and Prevention of Further Damage	\$50,000	In Progress. Public Works staff developing Scope of Work and Quick Bid Package.
Marinovich Park Termite Repair Address extensive termite damage. This includes replacing wooden beams and building fascia that have suffered damage and treating the building for termites.	Safety and Prevention of Further Damage	\$15,000	In Progress. Fumigation scheduled for 12/28. Contractor selected for structural repairs and work to begin in March.
City Plaza Restroom Facility Improvement Phase I Install a permanent restroom at the City Plaza. The City Plaza Improvement Plan will assist in determining location. This project will bridge two Fiscal Years.	Safety and Public Access	\$150,000	Not Started. Pending NEPA compliance docs and develop SoW; sync with City Plaza Conceptual Design process
Gene Hoularis and Waldo Rodriguez Youth Center HVAC Repair The HVAC system has not been in operation for over 10 years.	Safety and Public Access	\$100,000	In Progress. Finalizing NEPA compliance docs. Requires flood insurance; staff getting quotes.
Peace Drive Park Playground Slide Repair Replace metal slide with a more modern apparatus.	Safety and Public Access	\$10,000	In Progress. Finalizing NEPA compliance docs.
Peace Park Dock Replacement Part of the dock boards has rotted and are in need of replacement.	Safety and Public Access	\$5,000	In Progress. Finalizing NEPA compliance docs.
	TOTAL:	\$1,014,291	

City of Watsonville

MEMORANDUM



DATE: February 28, 2018

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission

FROM: Nick Calubaquib, Director, Parks & Community Services Dept.
Ben Heistein, Assistant Director, Parks & Community Services Dept.

SUBJECT: California Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening Grant for the Watsonville Slough Connector Trail Project at Ramsay Park in the Amount of \$1,350,000

AGENDA ITEM: March 4th, 2019 Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the report on a \$1,350,000 grant from the California Natural Resources Agency, Urban Greening Program, for the Watsonville Slough Connector Trail Project at Ramsay Park.

DISCUSSION:

The City submitted an application to the California Natural Resources Agency for Urban Greening grant funds that are intended to help create healthy and vibrant communities by establishing and enhancing parks and open space, using natural solutions to improve air and water quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption, and creating more walkable and bike-able trails. After a competitive selection process, The California Natural Resources Agency has awarded the City of Watsonville grant funds.

The Watsonville Slough Connector Trail Project at Ramsay Park will enhance pedestrian facilities within Ramsay Park and connections to existing trails and commuter routes. Approximately 0.4 miles of trails and sidewalks along with 0.6 miles of Class IV bike lanes will be created in and adjacent to the park to allow the community safe and dedicated passageways for walking and bicycling instead of using roads and parking lots shared with cars. Other major elements of the project include: planting trees, installing rain gardens, landscaping, native habitat landscaping, existing trail enhancement, removing invasive plants and other green infrastructure including interpretive aids to highlight alternative transportation and natural systems.

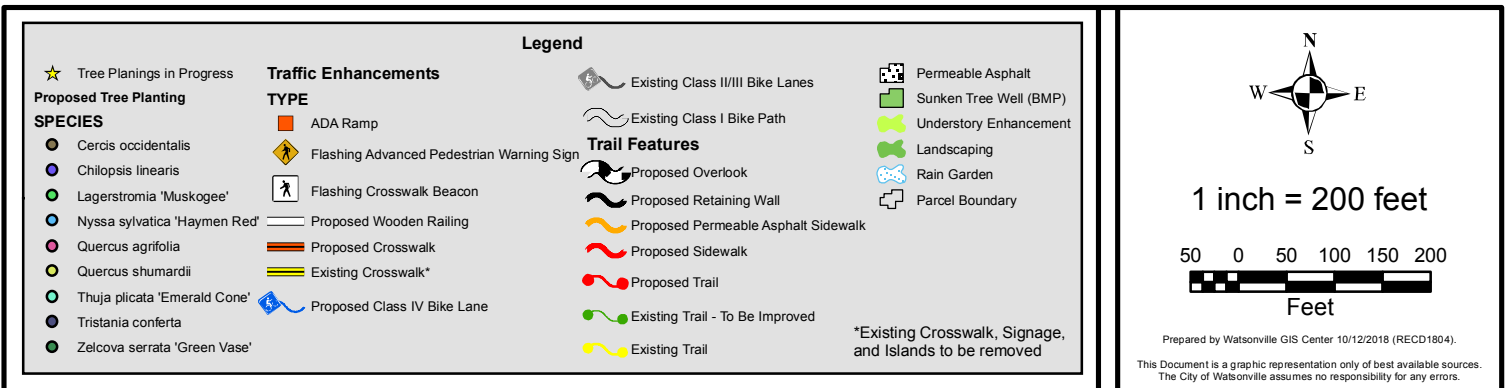
FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The \$1,350,000 grant will go directly towards design and implementation of this project

ATTACHMENTS:

WS Connector Trail Project_A.pdf

Watsonville Slough Connector Trail Project at Ramsay Park





DATE: February 25, 2019

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission

FROM: Nick Calubaquib, Parks and Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Report on the Development of a Strategic Plan for Parks and Community Services and Park Master Plans for Ramsay Park and City Plaza

AGENDA ITEM: March 4, 2019

Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report on the development of a Strategic Plan for Parks and Community Services and Park Master Plans for Ramsay Park and City Plaza.

DISCUSSION

Background

Our community's parks and recreation programs and facilities improve the quality of life of our residents and although the City offers a myriad of quality services, the Parks and Community Services Department has the potential to deliver services more effectively, more strategically, and more future focused. Post recession and after years of deferred maintenance, there is a need to move the community's parks and recreation system forward and into the future.

In order to accomplish this, the City has hired a Verde Design, Inc., a landscape architecture firm, to develop a Strategic Plan for Parks and Community Services and Park Master Plans for Ramsay Park and City Plaza. The overall purpose of these initiatives is to engage the community to develop strategic direction for the development, expansion and rehabilitation of parks and recreation programs, services and facilities.

Strategic Plan for Parks and Community Services

In 2009, the Council adopted our current Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The purpose of this document was to serve as the "overarching plan for the development and implementation of future parks and recreational opportunities." The process involved a comprehensive community engagement effort and identified goals and priorities for parks and recreation services. However, largely due to the recession, the document has essentially been shelved and minimal Progress has been made on this plan to date. The

document also lacked tangible, action-oriented steps that could be developed into a work plan.

Following years of deferred maintenance, the City's parks and recreation needs, especially in terms of our parks and facilities, is greater than the resources currently available to the City. The development of a strategic plan will include a comprehensive assessment of system-wide needs through community engagement. These revitalization needs are the result of factors ranging from outdated equipment, to ADA upgrades, to technological advances, to modernizing facilities to meet the current needs of the community.

This process will seek to:

1. Update/reaffirm community goals for parks and recreation programs and facilities
2. Define community-driven prioritization of park/facility projects and recreation programs for development, expansion and revitalization
3. Develop an action plan to move these projects/initiatives to action

The end result of this initiative will be an addendum to our Parks and Recreation Master Plan that provides an action plan that is relevant, practical, and achievable given our economic restraints and potential. This plan will address current funding mechanisms and identify future funding opportunities. The Strategic Plan will be an opportunity to integrate the most innovative thinking in parks revitalization, capital and operations funding, cost recovery and economic development through improved design and access to recreation options.

Park Master Plans for Ramsay Park and City Plaza

Ramsay Park and the City Plaza have historically been identified and prioritized as the City's most significant and highly used park assets. Over the past decade to present day, the City has prioritized investment in improvements to amenities at both of these sites, however, long term vision plans have not been established. The creation of Park Master Plans for these individual park sites, developed through high levels of community engagement, will identify priorities and needs and establish a vision for these community assets. These plans will also create an opportunity to reimagine how existing uses and history may be woven together with an updated modern perspective.

Park master plans will create a vision and plan for the entirety of these park sites, rather than looking solely at individual features of a park. This will allow staff to plan forward and realize the full potential of park spaces so that as conversations are furthered concerning amenities such as restrooms, soccer fields, pump tracks and others, they are conducted with an overall plan in place as to not impede opportunities for future amenities and expansions.

These plans will better position the City for funding opportunities and increase chances of obtaining private funding, public buy-in for fundraising and bonds and grant funding.

In June of this year, California voters adopted a \$4 billion statewide park and water bond, with a large percentage allocated for grants for local jurisdictions. This represents the

largest investment in California's parks in close to two decades. This year's allocations include \$185 million in Per Capita funds, \$254 million for the Statewide Park Program for Park-Poor Communities, and \$40 million for the Cultural, Community and Natural Resources Program (otherwise referred to as the "Kitchen Sink" Program). Grant proposals will begin to be accepted in the spring of 2019. These master plans will be considered to be "shovel ready," aligning them to be competitive for these grant opportunities.

Next Steps

These projects will proceed with the following timeline:

- January/February 2019 – Begin Community Engagement efforts
- Late spring/early summer 2019 – Complete individual Park Master Plan and apply for Proposition 68 grant funds
- August 2019 – Complete PCS Strategic Plan

Our community engagement efforts include workshops, meetings, surveys and pop up events. The following is the schedule for planned meetings and workshops:

Date	Time	Location	Meeting Topic
2/5/2019	11a-1p	Civic Plaza Community Room	Interdepartmental Staff Workshop
2/6/2019	6-8p	Civic Plaza Community Room	Stakeholder Meeting #1
2/28/2019	6-8p	Civic Plaza Community Room	Interactive Workshop
3/2/2019	12- 2p	Civic Plaza Community Room	Interactive Workshop
3/7/2019	6-8p	Ramsay Park Family Center	Interactive Workshop
3/27/2019	6-8p	Civic Plaza Community Room	Project Specific Workshop - City Plaza/Strategic Plan
4/10/2019	6-8p	Ramsay Park Family Center	Project Specific Workshop - Ramsay/Strategic Plan
4/13/2019	9a-1p	Ramsay Park	Pop Up Meeting
4/16/2019	6-8p	Civic Plaza Community Room	Stakeholder Meeting #2
4/28/2019	12-4p	City Plaza	Pop Up Meeting

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The agreement with Verde Design, Inc. is for an amount not to exceed \$175,918, from the following sources:

Fund	Amount
Urban Greening Grant	\$30,918
Capital Improvement Plan (City Plaza Improvements)	\$30,000
General Fund (current personnel savings in the PCS budget)	\$115,000
TOTAL:	\$175,918

ATTACHMENTS

None