



# Agenda Report

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, April 4, 2024

**TO:** PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** NICK CALUBAQUIB, PCS DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** PARK FACILITIES ASSESSMENT – FINAL REPORT

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## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Accept the final Park Facilities Assessment report .

## **DISCUSSION:**

On January 6, 2023, the City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting all interested and qualified consultant teams with expertise in project management, landscape architecture, civil engineering, cost estimating, and other trades, with proven experience in parks and recreation facility design and construction administration to submit a project proposal to conduct a Park Facility Assessment Study.

On February 21, 2023, the City Council approved a contract with Callander Associates Landscape Architecture for this Study, which included 24 of the City's 26 parks, excluding Ramsay and City Plaza. The City worked in partnership with Santa Cruz County Parks and this study also includes five (5) County of Santa Cruz Parks that fall within South County and/or Watsonville's sphere of influence. The County will reimburse the City for project costs associated with County parks.

The intent of this study was to inventory and examine each Park and determine when systems will need to be replaced. The assessment study included the examination of the features, amenities, hardscape, landscape, electrical, and irrigation systems which are key to keeping these Park facilities safe and functioning. This study included assessments and field review, proposed improvements, estimate of improvements costs and priority for implementation of improvements at each of the specified City Park facilities.

The study resulted in a Park Facility Assessment Report that includes priorities for funding. This will serve as the prioritized plan for system-wide park maintenance, renovations, and replacements through the City's Capital Improvement Plan and Measure R funding. In addition, the scope of work included the creation of a GIS database of inventory for each park.

## Priority Ranking Methodology

The assessment establishes a priority ranking system that takes into consideration three key factors: condition, community value, and equity. Assessing the needs of parks based on their physical condition, in combination with social factors in relation to the community they serve, provides a more comprehensive and inclusive understanding of each park.

## Key Takeaways

- The 2 highest priority City parks for renovations (not including Ramsay and the City Plaza), out of 24 assessed City parks, are River Park and Callaghan Park.
- To renovate all 24 assessed City parks in kind, the estimated cost is \$78,000,000.
- To renovate the park infrastructure that has a condition rating of 1 or 2 across all 24 assessed City parks, the estimated cost is \$29,000,000.
- Taking into account the City's 2022 Building Facility Assessment estimated \$24,900,000 in deferred maintenance needs across the City's recreation facility buildings, the estimated deferred maintenance costs with no funding secured is estimated to be \$53,900,000.
- Including costs to renovate City Plaza and Ramsay Park, which were not assessed as a part of this assessment because they are slated to begin renovations in 2024, the total estimated cost to renovate all recreation facilities and City parks is \$95,000,000.

Park Improvement Funding Needs	
Item	Replacement Cost
Park Assessment (Condition rating of 1 or 2)	\$29,000,000
Building Assessment (Recreation Facilities)	\$25,000,000
Ramsay Park Renaissance	\$33,000,000
City Plaza Revitalization Project	\$8,000,000
<b>TOTAL NEEDED INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$95,000,000</b>

The ranking from this report gives staff data to inform priority for parks and amenities for improvements and funding moving forward.

## STRATEGIC PLAN:

- 3-Infrastructure & Environment – This project collects data to be used for planning and budgeting for City infrastructure needs.
- 5-Community Engagement & Well-Being – The City and County parks included in this assessment directly contribute to the well-being of community members. The timeline for this project also includes a series of community meetings to help identify needs and priorities.
- 6-Public Safety – This project will assess safety concerns in our City parks. Parks also contribute to our community's sense of safety and security.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The contract for this project was for a not to exceed amount of \$199,238.38, charged to CIP 0150-7820-15020. The County of Santa Cruz will reimburse the City for their portion of the contract. Future funding for the implementation of recommendations from this report will be included in the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION:**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):**

- Watsonville Park Assessment Final Report