



# **Palo Alto Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Annual Retreat – April 11, 2025**

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# Parks and Recreation Commission 2025 Retreat Agenda

1

Introductory Remarks (10 min.)

2

Review FY25 Priorities and Accomplishments (30 min.)

3

Review and Update Current Priorities (30 min.)

4

Review, Update, and Assign Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Roles (30 min.)

5

Review and Update Current Work Plan (60 min.)

A photograph of a man and a young child standing on a wooden dock that extends into a calm lake. The man, wearing a blue plaid shirt and jeans, has his right arm raised, pointing towards the distant shore. The child, wearing a light purple shirt and dark pants, stands next to him, also pointing. The dock is made of light-colored wooden planks and has a simple railing. In the background, across the lake, is a lush green field and a dense forest of tall trees covering a hill. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

# A Year in Review

**Review FY25 Recreation Commission Priorities  
and Accomplishments**

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# FY25 Priorities



**Optimize Resources to Offer  
Diverse Recreation  
Opportunities, and Promote  
Community Health and  
Wellness**



**Advance Equity, Access, and  
Inclusion for Programs,  
Parks, and Open Space**



**Enhance Biodiversity,  
Environmental  
Sustainability, and Climate  
Change Resilience**

# Optimize Resources to Offer Diverse Recreation Opportunities, and Promote Community Health and Wellness

## Improved Transparency

- Conducted Review of CIP Projects

## Worked to Develop and Improve Park Facilities

- Wellness Center Development
- Skate Park Development
- Robles Park Improvement – Community Meeting

### NOW OPEN:

- Boulware Park Project
- Cameron Park Improvements
- Mitchell Dog Park Improvements
- Cubberley Fields Restrooms
- Ramos Park Restrooms
- Rinconada Park Restrooms

## Continued to Work with Community Partners

- Aquatics Program
- Canopy
- Community Garden
- First Tee
- Funding Partners – Friends of Palo Alto Parks, Palo Alto Recreation Foundation
- Palo Alto Pickleball Club
- Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance (SCVBA)
- Youth Council

# Advance Equity, Access, and Inclusion for Programs, Parks, and Open Space

## City Projects and Programs Reviewed

- Unanimous recommendation supporting rename of Fred Eyerly Tower Well Park
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Open Space Access Policy
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan
- Traffic Garden New Project (Ventura Community Center)
- Middle School Athletics Programming
- Eleanor Pardee Park Restroom Survey
- Racquet Court Policy
- Terman Park Pickleball Court Lines

# Enhance Biodiversity, Environmental Sustainability, and Climate Change Resilience

## City Projects and Programs Reviewed

- Unanimous recommendation supporting Valley Water Palo Alto Flood Basin Tide Gate Repair PIO
- Infrastructure Updates at Foothills, Pearson-Arastradero, and Baylands Nature Preserves
- Park Dedication – Potential Sites
- Tree and Landscape Technical Manual
- Tree Ordinance Updates
- Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan (BCCP)
- Arastradero Creek Stabilization Plan & Utility Line Repair
- Byxbee Park Sewer Pipe Rehabilitation & Associated Trail Closures
- Office of Emergency Services (OES) Plan for Radio Equipment at Fire Station 6



# Workplan 2025 Accomplishments

## See Attachment B for full Details (Part I)

### Master Plan

- Reviewed and provided feedback on the FY26 CIP plan in December, 2024.
- Based on direction, the CIP plan was brought back for further review and discussion in January, 2025

### Recreation Wellness Center

- Partnered with staff and the Friends of the Recreation Wellness Center to draft and sign a Letter of Intent (LOI) in December, 2024, outlining the relationship between the City and the Friends group
- Co-hosted a community meeting with staff in January, 2025 to discuss the proposed center and explore potential locations

### Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan (BCCP)

- Ad Hoc worked with staff to resume development of the draft BCCP including:
  - Update draft to reflect current conditions
  - Work to define scope of modifications to pursue
  - Increased focus on environmental stewardship and sustainability
  - Work flow & best practices for managing facilities & human impact

### Nature Preserve Access Policy

- Ad Hoc worked with staff to review current Open Space Preserve (OSP) access policy and to visit OSPs
- Collaborated with staff to identify areas for increased signage and additional bicycle racks
- Presented Pearson-Arastradero NP trail realignment concept plan to PABAC



# Workplan 2025 Accomplishments

## See Attachment B for full Details (Part II)

### Park Dedication

- Ad Hoc worked with staff reviewing a prioritized list of 7 potential locations for parkland dedication suitability
- Tower Well Site updates:
  - Dedicated as parkland in March, 2024
  - As directed by City Council, reviewed and supported recommended name change from Tower Well Park to Frederick Eyerly Tower Well Park in May, 2024
  - Benches, Signage, Walkways, Perimeter Landscaping, and Site Amenities added
  - Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony scheduled for May, 2025.

### Playing Fields and Racquet Sports

- Ad Hoc working with staff reviewing current reservation policies
- Supported and implemented pickleball lines at Fletcher School/Terman Park to increase access for students
- Met with Pickleball Club leadership to discuss expanding access, including the possibility of multi-use courts at Mitchell Park

### Middle School Athletics (MSA)

- Ad Hoc met in March, 2025 with community members to discuss future visioning for MSA
- Ad Hoc working with staff researching MSA programming

# Parks and Recreation Commission: Purpose & Duties (Municipal Code)

## Advise on planning and policy related to:

- Goals and services
- Construction and renovation
- Matters

## Review...

- Proposed budgets, fund-raising efforts, and plans for gifts to the city
- Pertinent legislative proposals

## Serve as a...

- Conduit to the community for information and feedback
- Community forum for Urban Forestry

# Purpose and Duties: City Boards, Commissions, and Committees Handbook

## General

- Guidelines
- Standards
- Duties
- Commitments
- Roles
- Term limits

## Annual Work Plan and Report

- Approved by City Council as primary work items for the commission
- Includes goal, benefit, mandate, timeline for completion, and measure of success
- Report results of prior year's performance and community involvement

## Ad Hoc Committees

- Temporary, advisory
- Defined purpose and time frame to accomplish that purpose
- Not subject to Brown Act
- Created by action; members appointed by chair or action



# **Parks and Recreation Commission Roadmaps**

**City Master Plan**

**Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation  
Master Plan**

**Urban Forestry Master Plan**

**Sustainability & Climate Action Plan (S/CAP)**

**Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Plan**

# Staff Priorities: Proposed FY26 CIPs

## Parks

- Athletic Court Resurfacing
- Benches, Signage, Walkways, Perimeter Landscaping, and Site Amenities
- Dog Park Installation and Renovation
- El Camino Field Replacement
- Johnson Park Renovation Design and Construction
- Mitchell Park Improvements Design and Construction
- Park and Open Space Emergency Repairs
- Park Restroom Installation
- Ramos Park Improvements
- Rinconada Pool Family Changing Room Design and Construction
- Robles Park Improvements
- Werry Park Playground Improvements

## Open Space

- Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan
- Baylands Levee Repair for Public Safety Access
- Eucalyptus Tree Removal
- Foothills Nature Preserve Boronda Lake Dock Replacement
- Foothills Nature Preserve Dam Seepage Investigation
- Foothills Nature Preserve Improvements
- Multi-Use Pathway Resurfacing and Repair
- Open Space Lakes and Pond Maintenance
- Open Space Trails and Amenities

## Golf

- Golf Course Net and Artificial Turf Replacement Design & Construction
- Golf Course Reconfiguration (Mitigation and Monitoring)

# Alignment with City Council Priorities



## 2025 COUNCIL PRIORITIES



Implementing Housing Strategies for Social and Economic Balance



Climate Action & Adaptation, and Natural Environment Protection



Economic Development & Retail Vibrancy



Public Safety, Wellness & Belonging

## PRC Priorities



# FY25 Priorities



**Optimize Resources to Offer  
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**Advance Equity, Access, and  
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Environmental  
Sustainability, and Climate  
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# Alignment with City Council Priorities



## PRC Priorities

- Optimize Resources to Offer Diverse Recreation Opportunities, and Promote Community Health and Wellness
- Advance Equity, Access, and Inclusion for Programs, Parks, and Open Space
- Enhance Biodiversity, Environmental Sustainability, and Climate Change Resilience

# Staff FY26 Priorities (continued)

## Priority Projects

- Turf Study
- Finalize Long Term Partnership Agreement with First Tee Driving Range
- Continue to offer diverse programs to meet and enhance needs of the community
- Compliance with Mitigation Requirements
- Executing CIPs

## Staffing

### Recruitments

- Hiring Hourly staff for Recreation Programs (Middle school athletics, field reservation support)
- Assistant Director, Open Space, Parks, and Golf
- Recreation Coordinator
- Public Works Coordinator
- Park Ranger
- Parks Maintenance

### Staff retention

Professional Development

Succession Planning

# Parks and Recreation Commission: 2025 Priorities

## PRC Priorities

- Optimize Resources to Offer Diverse Recreation Opportunities, and Promote Community Health and Wellness
- Advance Equity, Access, and Inclusion for Programs, Parks, and Open Space
- Enhance Biodiversity, Environmental Sustainability, and Climate Change Resilience



# Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Roles (Existing)

PALO ALTO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION -- FY25		
AD HOC COMMITTEES	MEMBERS	STAFF LIAISON
Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan	Greenfield, Kleinhaus	
Nature Preserve Access Policy	Freeman, Greenfield, Kleinhaus	Sarah Robustelli
Master Plan Review	Brown, Kleinhaus	
Park Dedication FY25	Greenfield, Wei	Kristen O'Kane
Playing Field and Racquet Courts	Cribbs, Freeman, Wei	Adam Howard/Mark Ribeiro
Recreation Wellness Center	Cribbs, Deng, Freeman	Kristen O'Kane
Middle School Athletics	Brown, Cribbs, Deng	Adam Howard
LIAISONS	MEMBER(S)	STAFF / CONTACT
Aquatics	Brown, Cribbs	Sharon Eva
Community Gardens	Brown	
Cubberley	Cribbs, Freeman	Kristen O'Kane
Dog Parks	Brown, Cribbs	Sarah Robustelli
Funding Partners	Brown, Cribbs	Adam Howard
Golf / First Tee	Freeman, Cribbs	Lam Do
Open Space Preserves	Greenfield, Kleinhaus	
PAUSD / City	Freeman	Kristen O'Kane
Safe Routes	Greenfield	Rose Mesterhazy
Skate Park	Cribbs	Sarah Robustelli
Urban Forestry	Greenfield	Peter Gollinger
Youth	Deng, Wei	Adam Howard

# Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Roles (Existing)

## Ad Hoc Committees

- Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan
- Nature Preserve Access Policy
- Master Plan Review
- Park Dedication FY/25 and 26
- Playing Field and Racquet Courts
- Recreation Wellness Center
- Middle School Athletics

## Liaisons

- Aquatics
- Community Gardens
- Cubberley
- Dog Parks
- Funding Partners
- Golf / First Tee
- Open Space Preserves
- PAUSD / City
- Safe Routes
- Skate Park
- Urban Forestry
- Youth Council

# Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Roles (Proposed)

## Ad Hoc Committees

- Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan
- Nature Preserve Access Policy
- Master Plan Review
- Park Dedication FY/25 and 26
- Playing Field and Racquet Courts
- Recreation Wellness Center
- Middle School Athletics

## Liaison

- Aquatics
- Community Gardens
- Cubberley
- Dog Parks
- Funding Partners
- Golf / First Tee
- Open Space Preserves
- PAUSD / City
- Safe Routes
- Skate Park
- Urban Forestry
- Youth Council

# Develop FY26 Work Plan

## **Bicycle / E-Bike Access Policy (Freeman, Kleinhaus)**

- Bicycles, E-Bikes, Electric conveyances
- Work with staff and stakeholders and make policy recommendations regarding access at Baylands, Pearson-Arastradero Preserve

## **Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan (BCCP) (Kleinhaus, Greenfield)**

- Work with staff and stakeholders to review the current draft BCCP and recommend next steps

## **Master Plan Review (Brown, Kleinhaus, Greenfield)**

- Review the process for planning and implementation of the Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space, and Recreation Master Plan for consistency and coordination with the annual CIP process

## **Park Dedication FY25 (Wei, Greenfield)**

- Continue review of Rinconada Gardens for potential park dedication
- Review and assess additional potential sites

## **Playing Fields and Racquet Courts (Cribbs, Freeman, Wei)**

- Work with staff and stakeholders to review and recommend changes to: playing fields policy and racquet court policy

## **Recreation Wellness Center (Cribbs, Freeman, Oche)**

- Work with staff and stakeholders to facilitate progress on a new Recreation Wellness Center



# Open Discussion

