

From: [Shannon Griscom](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [Shannon Close Griscom](#)
Subject: Bathroom at Eleanor Pardee Park
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024 10:22:20 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from shannonclosegriscom@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear City council members: I wrote a letter to each of you in February, 2024. The letter was also published in the Palo Alto Weekly. I have NEVER received any response from any of your council members. NOT ONE EMAIL or response. I am writing again to urge the installation of a bathroom at Eleanor Pardee Park, a place where large numbers of children, adults, and seniors use the park and the neighboring community gardens. At present, Palo Alto citizens are forced to relieve themselves behind bushes and trees, a very unsanitary and ridiculous situation considering the taxes and budget of this community.

I have lived here in Palo Alto since 1965, and currently own two houses here. I participate in Tai Chi practice at Eleanor park, and I can see the use of that park and the need for a bathroom there. I voted for several of the current city council members, and I am very disappointed to be ignored by the Council.

Sincerely,
Shannon Griscom
815 Melville Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94301
508-237-1883

From: [Wendy Sinton](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Bathrooms at Pardee Park
Date: Friday, May 17, 2024 5:31:43 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from wendy.sinton@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council Members,

We have lived near Eleanor Pardee Park for 40 years. We have attended T-Ball games, soccer games, birthday parties and playground dates there. We have been waiting for a bathroom for forty years.

With modern technology, a bathroom can be locked automatically at 8:00 p.m. and unlocked at 8:00 a.m..This would serve our needs.

Wouldn't all the UPS drivers who gather at 5 o'clock every afternoon appreciate a bathroom? Wouldn't all the grandparents and nannies who spend mornings at the playgrounds appreciate a bathroom? And all the gardeners, who spend hours at the wonderful gardens, would definitely appreciate a bathroom.

Currently, the bushes around the edges of the park are used as toilets. This is not a good idea.

Thank you,

Wendy and Doug Sinton
1393 Forest Ave.

From: [Sara Ajayi-Dopemu](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [City Mgr](#); [Parks](#); [Administrative Services](#)
Subject: Community outreach for Eleanor Pardee Park restrooms
Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 6:00:49 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from saradopemu@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

Restrooms are drastically needed at Eleanor Pardee Park as soon as possible. Thank you for the positive response at the recent budget meeting.

How can the greater community of park users be included in the proposed outreach? What information can be provided to skeptical neighbors to help them understand there is a genuine need by the greater Palo Alto community that uses the park regularly and that there is unlikely to be an increase of crime simply from adding restrooms?

There is a genuine need everyday for bathrooms at heavily used parks. I would like to share my experience at the Gamble Garden this Sunday as an example. There were several families with young children enjoying the flowers. There were several groups picnicking on the lawns in and around the garden. As I approached the restroom area at least 3 of these families tried to take their young children to the restrooms. But they were closed In the middle of the day!

Imagine this scenario taking place at Eleanor Park every day, not just in 5 minutes. How many frustrated parents have had to cut their trip short because someone needed a restroom. Add to that the community gardeners and master gardeners there throughout the day. Also add the participants to master gardener classes and sports events on weekends.

Perhaps if the neighbors hear from real users at the park they too will recognize the greater need for restrooms for our community.

Sincerely,
Sara Ajayi-Dopemu, Community Gardener
2450 West Bayshore Rd #4
Palo Alto, CA 94303

From: [Reid Kleckner](#)
To: [Council, City; ParkRec Commission](#)
Subject: Concessions at city parks
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024 4:36:00 PM

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Honourable City Council members & Parks & Rec commissioners,

I heard that the city has been working on improving bathrooms at city parks, which I greatly appreciate as a parent of a three year old child who regularly needs to use the bathroom. Building on that good work, I would like you all to consider issuing permits or licenses to sell concessions at our parks. In particular, there is no food or drink for sale anywhere in the community center district near the Junior Museum & Zoo.

Selling concessions at parks is a common practice all over the world, and I think it will enhance and enliven our parks. As a parent who hangs out in Robles Park every evening and spends a lot of time packing snacks for kids, it would be nice to have some fallback snack options conveniently available at the park. It would also be great to invite a friend to meet up for coffee in the park, instead of having to get coffee elsewhere and relocate to a park. I think we can see Ada's Cafe as a great example of what adding a small cafe near a park looks like.

Permitting concession sales creates a local opportunity that can support our small businesses, which stimulates local business activity and recirculates dollars in our backyard.

Finally, this is a minor revenue source for park maintenance and improvement. I have no sense of the relative income and budget, but this upside can't be ignored.

Thanks for your consideration,
Reid

From: [Penny Proctor](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [City Mgr](#); [Parks](#); [Administrative Services](#)
Subject: Eleanor FY 2026 Restroom - Thank You!!
Date: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:53:22 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from plumbago1927@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Members of the City Council, Finance Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee, and City Staff,

Thank you all so very much for the recommendation that a restroom be added to Eleanor Pardee Park in FY 2026! Wonderful! It is desperately needed, and we are grateful.

Penny Proctor
Community Gardener
Greer Road

On May 12, 2024, at 19:56, Penny Proctor <plumbago1927@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the City Council, Finance Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, and City Staff,

I was grateful and encouraged by the thoughtful discussion of a possible restroom for Eleanor Pardee Park at last Tuesday's Finance Committee meeting! Thank you council members Burt, Veenker, and Lauing!

Please ensure that the planned community outreach this fall includes the park users (many come from across town,) as well as the park's close neighbors.

I really appreciate Councilmember Burt saying this should be a City Council decision, not a Staff decision.

Several of the bathrooms going in are *additional* bathrooms - Rinconada, Mitchell, and Cubberley, when Pardee, a nearly 10 acre, very popular, park, has no bathroom, and people use the bushes.

One of our community gardeners shared with me that he just turned 86, and is a bladder cancer survivor. He has to bring a container, and discretely urinate in his car frequently while gardening. He has an apartment with no balcony, and loves his garden plot.

He, and most of the 72 other community gardeners, put in many extra hours weeding, and planting roses, wildflowers, and plants for butterflies, hummingbirds and other birds; berries, squash, and cherry tomatoes, outside the fences to make the garden pleasant for visitors. Most of us are old, and no

bathroom is a problem.

I remember well the discouraging community meeting 15-20 years ago about a possible bathroom. Many neighbors probably feel differently, but those in attendance then were vehemently opposed, saying the park was too crowded, overused, and being prematurely worn out. They said a bathroom would allow visitors from across town to comfortably stay longer, making the park more crowded. And they were very concerned that “people from San Jose” would come if there were a restroom. (Surely there are many nice parks in San Jose that its residents prefer?) They said they were very concerned about crime.

A police officer had data from several other parks that had recently added bathrooms, comparing before and after crime data. As I recall, there was no significant difference.

Please prioritize a bathroom for Eleanor Pardee Park! We need it!

Thank you for your hard work serving Palo Alto!

Sincerely,
Penny Proctor

On May 5, 2024, at 10:04, Penny Proctor <plumbago1927@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the City Council, Finance Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee, and City Staff;

Please add Eleanor Pardee Park to the list of parks in line to get a restroom in the next 5 years. We really need one!

Eleanor is Palo Alto's second largest neighborhood park, and is enjoyed by large numbers of individuals and groups. The field has kids soccer and other games, and the large picnic area has many birthday parties and other groups. There are two busy children's play areas.

I have been a community gardener for 36 years. It is Palo Alto's second largest community garden, after Rinconada, which is near the library bathrooms. We have 94 plots, and 63% of the gardeners are over 60. Some have young children. Many of us come from across town to garden. One of our handicapped gardeners gave up her plot of 27 years, that she loved, because she could no longer manage with no bathroom. Another gardener, with a medical issue, built a tiny tent in her plot for privacy to use her camping toilet. Otherwise she could not garden. She lived in an apartment, and adored her garden.

The Master Gardeners come from all over Palo Alto and surrounding cities to volunteer for hours every week. Their free classes for the public are attended by people from a wide area. They would like to

have school programs, but cannot, because a bathroom is required.

As part of our community garden workdays maintaining the area outside the fences, near our gardens, we weed and pick up trash. There is frequently toilet paper and human solid waste. Most unhealthy!

I was a toddler when my mother, Helen Norman Proctor, designed the park. She wanted to include a restroom then, but was told no.

With lots of children and old people, many large picnic parties, and large numbers of people coming to the park from across town for hours, Eleanor Pardee Park desperately needs a bathroom!

Thank you for all the work you do to keep Palo Alto a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,
Penny Proctor

From: [Barbara Platt](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Fire Department services
Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 8:17:22 PM

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Dear Council of Palo Alto

I am a resident of Palo Alto residing in the Green Meadow area Since 1990.

I am extremely concerned about lack of fire department coverage. I have recently learned that our city fire department staff and equipment are currently less than is needed to respond to a fire in one of the homes in my area.

It is widely known that our houses are not well insulated, have some highly flammable material and are known to be a quick burn—approximately three minutes for total loss.

It is urgent that the Council respond to the lack of personnel and equipment to serve our area immediately by expending every effort to grow the fire department personnel and acquire appropriate fire response equipment.

I look forward to learning that this matter will be taken under advisement urgently.

Thank you for your attention

Barbara Platt
490 El Capitan Pl., Palo Alto
Plattbs@gmail.com

From: [Evan Reade](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [Stone, Greer](#); [Kou, Lydia](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Lauing, Ed](#); [Lythcott-Haims, Julie](#); [Tanaka, Greg](#); [Veenker, Vicki](#)
Cc: [Shikada, Ed](#); [Do, Lam](#)
Subject: Fw: Restrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park
Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024 3:47:48 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from evanreade@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Resending to correct City Council address, individual Council members, and Mr. Do in lieu of Mr. Anderson.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Evan Reade <evanreade@aol.com>
To: citycouncil@cityofpaloalto.org <citycouncil@cityofpaloalto.org>
Cc: Ed Shikada <ed.shikada@cityofpaloalto.org>; daren.anderson@cityofpaloalto.org <daren.anderson@cityofpaloalto.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2024, 03:31:54 PM PDT
Subject: Restrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park

Dear Members of the Palo Alto City Council:

Please add our names to the list of neighbors who are firmly opposed to installing restrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park. Our home backs up directly to and shares a fence with the park. Our reasons for opposing the installation of restrooms include the following:

1) The park was intended to be and designed as a neighborhood park, not a regional park. We are very happy to see the park used on a regular basis by people who come from beyond a several block radius (as evidenced by the number of cars sometimes parked on Channing, Center, and on other nearby side streets.) But installing restrooms would potentially bring people from even further afield changing the nature and use of the park.

2) As a former Palo Alto police officer, I've seen first hand the type of unintended activities that take place in and around restrooms in other parks. They attract the unhoused, including those with mental health issues. They can also attract people with criminal intentions, be it illicit narcotics use or worse. Unless these facilities are regularly monitored the potential for behavior dangerous to children, the elderly, and others exists. We have also seen recent examples of the city's inability or unwillingness to address the problem of unhoused individuals who decide to make public spaces their homes. Vans and RVs parked on our streets are but one example. And at the Lucy Stern Community Center just several blocks away, an unhoused woman basically took up residence for several months on a bench directly adjacent to the front door of the Children's Theatre. Calling this to the attention of both staff at the Community Center and to the Police Department resulted in no resolution for weeks. Prior to that, another person used to park her car in the Community Center's driveway and run an extension cord to a plug nearby. This went on for weeks. Again, complaints to the Police Department met with no discernible response. We cannot tolerate a similar situation in a neighborhood park. Once someone decides to make a picnic table their home, how long will it take for them and their belongings to be removed?

3) We believe the cost estimates we've seen in the newspapers reporting on this issue are inaccurate. Do they account for the daily maintenance, cleaning, and monitoring these facilities will require to keep them clean, sanitary, and inviting for use by children and others? How much will that cost, who will do it, and who will pay for this? The City has already cut way back or has contracted out routine

maintenance services such as landscaping in the parks, street sweeping, road maintenance/regular stripping, custodial services, etc., etc. Sadly, we have no confidence in the City's ability to adequately care for and maintain these facilities once they are installed.

4) We are doubtful that if installed they will even be used. Our residence is located very close to one of the very attractive playgrounds at the park with a large hedge nearby. The area between the hedge and our fence is a frequently used "relief station" for children using the playground. In fact, we've even seen a parent of one unfortunate young soccer player encouraging him to relieve himself in our neighbor's front yard! So you would think we would be strong supporters of installing a restroom. We are not. Even if the restroom is installed far from our property line, human nature will dictate that most parents if given the choice of telling their kids to trek across the park to use a restroom that may be locked or dirty or out of order or occupied or being loitered around will just opt to tell them to go behind the nearby bush. This situation is even all the more likely if the parent or sitter is watching several children and doesn't want to send one off alone or take the whole crew with him/her on an expedition to the restroom. Putting in a restroom will not lessen the number of kids who use the bushes.

Finally, we'd like to note our concern with this whole process. We've received absolutely no notification from the City that this issue is once again being considered. We get notices if a neighbor a block away wants to cut down a tree but hear nothing from the City on an issue that you know is of significant and immediate concern to us?!? We would be grateful to be notified of any hearings or meetings at which the subject of restrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park will be discussed so that we may appear in person to express our concerns and opposition. This includes hearings/meetings held by Commissions that might be discussing this matter.

Many thanks, and very sincerely,

Evan G. Reade
Mary Rose N. Reade

From: [Shannon Griscom](#)
To: [Council, City; Shannon Griscom](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter about Eleanor Park
Date: Friday, May 17, 2024 3:37:05 PM

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This is a copy of the letter I sent to each council member last February 2024, and also to the Palo Alto Online.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shannon Griscom** <shannonclosegriscom@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 21, 2024 at 9:19 AM
Subject: Letter about Eleanor Park
To: <swright@embarcaderopublishing.com>

Dear Editor:

I moved here in the summer of 1965, and I still have the same phone number that I received in that time. I have moved within the city, but always remained within Palo Alto, a place where I have raised my children, supported the schools, churches, and businesses. Because of my long affection for the city, I am writing to urge my fellow residents to plead for a bathroom at Eleanor Pardee Park.

I know that some of the surrounding neighbors opposed having a bathroom with the excuse that it would encourage unhoused people to stay in that park. However, I urge the elected members of our local government to be wiser and more generous in your decision to place a bathroom in that park. It is a large area, and also has a community garden adjacent to it. Many children and their parents and caregivers use the play area. Many others, especially the elderly local residents, use the walking areas. Many local residents use the community gardens. My Tai chi group, also elderly, use the paved circle area every Monday. In short, the many residents who use the park need a bathroom. Otherwise, without a toilet facility, children and others are forced to relieve themselves behind bushes and trees, an unhealthy, unnecessary alternative indeed.

Palo Alto has always prided itself as an enlightened, caring community. Please continue that culture in urging the city council to provide a basic facility that any local park or recreation area deserves, and please do it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Shannon Griscom

815 Melville Ave.

Palo Alto, CA 94301

From: [Keith Buck](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [Shuning Wang Buck](#)
Subject: Please prioritize bathrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024 11:33:27 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from buck.alex@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello councilmembers,

I hope you're doing well!

I am writing to implore you to prioritize bathrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park. My wife and I are homeowners in Palo Alto, and this is our closest park. We have a 2-year-old son who we are in the midst of potty training. Unfortunately, this situation is very difficult with no bathrooms available in this park, especially since the park is about a 20-minute walk away from our home. We very much enjoy the opportunity to visit this park and the opportunity for our child to play and socialize, but the lack of restrooms is a clear gap.

We hope you will consider this feedback prioritize/expedite bathroom facilities for those of us visiting this beautiful park.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Keith & Sophia
Crescent Park homeowners

From: [Chris Cummings](#)
To: [Evan Reade](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#); [Stone, Greer](#); [Kou, Lydia](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Lauing, Ed](#); [Lythcott-Haims, Julie](#); [Tanaka, Greg](#); [Veenker, Vicki](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Do, Lam](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: Restrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park
Date: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:28:03 AM

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If there is a more formal way to add our names, we are happy to, but for now, please count

Chris Cummings
Michelle Cooper

on list of opposed.

Thank you for the work you do. Best,
Chris

On Sun, May 19, 2024 at 3:47 PM Evan Reade <evanreade@aol.com> wrote:

Resending to correct City Council address, individual Council members, and Mr. Do in lieu of Mr. Anderson.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Evan Reade <evanreade@aol.com>
To: citycouncil@cityofpaloalto.org <citycouncil@cityofpaloalto.org>
Cc: Ed Shikada <ed.shikada@cityofpaloalto.org>; daren.anderson@cityofpaloalto.org <daren.anderson@cityofpaloalto.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2024, 03:31:54 PM PDT
Subject: Restrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park

Dear Members of the Palo Alto City Council:

Please add our names to the list of neighbors who are firmly opposed to installing restrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park. Our home backs up directly to and shares a fence with the park. Our reasons for opposing the installation of restrooms include the following:

1) The park was intended to be and designed as a neighborhood park, not a regional park. We are very happy to see the park used on a regular basis by people who come from beyond a several block radius (as evidenced by the number of cars sometimes parked on Channing, Center, and on other nearby side streets.) But installing restrooms would potentially bring people from even further afield changing the nature and use of the park.

2) As a former Palo Alto police officer, I've seen first hand the type of unintended activities that take place in and around restrooms in other parks. They attract the unhoused, including those with mental health issues. They can also attract people with criminal intentions, be it illicit narcotics use or worse. Unless these facilities are regularly monitored the potential for behavior dangerous to children, the elderly, and others exists. We have also seen recent examples of the city's inability or unwillingness to address the problem of unhoused individuals who decide to make public spaces their homes. Vans and RVs parked on our streets are but one example. And at the Lucy Stern Community Center just several blocks away, an unhoused woman basically took up residence for

several months on a bench directly adjacent to the front door of the Children's Theatre. Calling this to the attention of both staff at the Community Center and to the Police Department resulted in no resolution for weeks. Prior to that, another person used to park her car in the Community Center's driveway and run an extension cord to a plug nearby. This went on for weeks. Again, complaints to the Police Department met with no discernible response. We cannot tolerate a similar situation in a neighborhood park. Once someone decides to make a picnic table their home, how long will it take for them and their belongings to be removed?

3) We believe the cost estimates we've seen in the newspapers reporting on this issue are inaccurate. Do they account for the daily maintenance, cleaning, and monitoring these facilities will require to keep them clean, sanitary, and inviting for use by children and others? How much will that cost, who will do it, and who will pay for this? The City has already cut way back or has contracted out routine maintenance services such as landscaping in the parks, street sweeping, road maintenance/regular stripping, custodial services, etc., etc. Sadly, we have no confidence in the City's ability to adequately care for and maintain these facilities once they are installed.

4) We are doubtful that if installed they will even be used. Our residence is located very close to one of the very attractive playgrounds at the park with a large hedge nearby. The area between the hedge and our fence is a frequently used "relief station" for children using the playground. In fact, we've even seen a parent of one unfortunate young soccer player encouraging him to relieve himself in our neighbor's front yard! So you would think we would be strong supporters of installing a restroom. We are not. Even if the restroom is installed far from our property line, human nature will dictate that most parents if given the choice of telling their kids to trek across the park to use a restroom that may be locked or dirty or out of order or occupied or being loitered around will just opt to tell them to go behind the nearby bush. This situation is even all the more likely if the parent or sitter is watching several children and doesn't want to send one off alone or take the whole crew with him/her on an expedition to the restroom. Putting in a restroom will not lessen the number of kids who use the bushes.

Finally, we'd like to note our concern with this whole process. We've received absolutely no notification from the City that this issue is once again being considered. We get notices if a neighbor a block away wants to cut down a tree but hear nothing from the City on an issue that you know is of significant and immediate concern to us?!? We would be grateful to be notified of any hearings or meetings at which the subject of restrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park will be discussed so that we may appear in person to express our concerns and opposition. This includes hearings/meetings held by Commissions that might be discussing this matter.

Many thanks, and very sincerely,

Evan G. Reade
Mary Rose N. Reade

From: [Elizabeth Trumbull](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Restrooms needed at Eleanor Pardee Park
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 11:49:46 AM

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Palo Alto City Council,

Prompted by [Palo Alto Online's recent article about park restrooms](#), I am urging you to add restrooms to Pardee Park.

As a resident of the Crescent Park/Duveneck neighborhoods for the past 10 years, I find it embarrassing and shameful that we do not have public toilets available at Pardee Park.

Despite having play structures for both younger and older children, Pardee Park is aggressively unwelcoming to families and children since there are no restroom facilities available. Like other commenters, I also have witnessed children having to go in the bushes because it will take too long to return home.

Supposed security concerns seem like creative excuses to reduce the use of a PUBLIC park. We need restroom facilities at all PA parks with playgrounds for children, not only for families and children, but also to serve everyone who wants to enjoy our parks.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth Trumbull

From: [Sara Ajayi-Dopemu](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [City Mgr](#); [Parks](#); [Administrative Services](#)
Subject: Thank You for adding Eleanor Park restrooms to FY2026
Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 8:09:26 AM

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Dear Staff and City Council,

Thank You,

Restrooms at Eleanor Pardee Park are desperately needed by those of us who use the park everyday and those with special needs for restrooms close at hand. Thank you for adding restrooms at Eleanor park to the FY 2026 budget!

This is a win for full community inclusion at our city parks.

Thank you again,
Sara Ajayi-Dopemu
Community Gardener

From: [Nancy Kawakita](#)
To: [ParkRec Commission](#); [Council, City](#)
Subject: Thank you for the Pardee Park restroom to the CIP process
Date: Saturday, May 18, 2024 2:19:54 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from nancykawakita@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thank you City Council for adding Pardee Park to the community Outreach restroom process with plans to take the 2026 funding slot.

We were so happy to read this incredible news. Thank you. My bladder and many children's bladders thank you .

Nancy K