



24/25 Parks and Recreation Commission **Accomplishments**

Project/Goal 1: Master Plan

Review the process for planning and implementation of the Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space, and Recreation Master Plan (Parks Master Plan) for consistency and coordination with the annual CIP process. Work with staff to conduct a review of the existing policies and progress to inform planning efforts, enhance interdepartmental coordination, and implement best practices.

- The ad hoc met with staff on December 3, 2024, to review the FY 2025 - 2029 CSD Capital Plan for Parks, Open Space, and Golf projects.
- The ad hoc recommended updates to the CIP project list and provided input.
- The PRC reviewed and provided feedback on the CIP plan on December 18, 2024. Based on direction, the CIP plan was brought back for review and discussion again on January 28, 2025.

Project/Goal 2: Park Dedication FY25

Pursue and evaluate top priority potential sites and identify potential new sites to recommend dedicating as parkland within our community

- Worked with staff reviewing a prioritized list of 7 potential locations for parkland dedication suitability.
- (Will) present and discuss 2 sites to (potentially) recommend for partial parkland dedication.
- Updates for Tower Well Site, dedicated as parkland in March 2024:
 - As directed by City Council, reviewed and then supported recommended name change of Tower Well Park to Frederick Eyerly Park in May 2024.
 - Ribbon-cutting ceremony in April/May 2025.

Project/Goal 3: Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan (BCCP) Update

- Working to revive the BCCP effort that began in October 2017 and stalled on several occasions
- Met on multiple occasions with staff to determine a path forward including an estimated timeline
- Review of multiple chapters in progress, including:
 - Work to update the draft to reflect current conditions
 - Work to define scope of modifications to the existing draft plan along with recommendations for future amendments and/or plans
 - Work to highlight environmental stewardship and sustainability
 - Considerations of work flow and best practices for managing facilities and human impact



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Project/Goal 4: **Nature Preserve Access Policy**

- Met on multiple occasions with staff, including supervising rangers, to review current policy and visit open space preserves (OSPs). This included evaluating the current Access Policy implementation and acceptance, and potential trail access changes at the Baylands and Pearson-Arastradero Preserves:
- Baylands Nature Preserve: analysis and recommendations (to be) shared with the PRC in April, 2025. [Details to follow]
- Pearson Arastradero Preserve: analysis and recommendations (to be) shared with the PRC in April, 2025. [Details to follow]
- Recommendations shared with PABAC for feedback in April, 2025, prior to discussion at PRC.
- Collaborated with staff to identify areas in need of increased signage.
- Worked with staff to pinpoint locations that would benefit from the installation of additional bicycle racks.

Project/Goal 5: **Recreation Wellness Center**

Work with staff to facilitate progress on the Palo Alto Recreation Wellness Center.

- Worked with staff reviewing a prioritized list of 7 potential locations for parkland dedication suitability.
- (Will) present and discuss 2 sites to (potentially) recommend for partial parkland dedication.
- Updates for Tower Well Site, dedicated as parkland in March 2024:
 - As directed by City Council, reviewed and then supported recommended name change of Tower Well Park to Frederick Eyerly Park in May 2024.
 - Ribbon-cutting ceremony in April 2025.

Project 6: **Playing Fields and Raquet Sports**

Review the recommend updates to playing fields and Racquet Sports policies, including synthetic turf replacement strategy, including tennis and field reservation policies.

- Policy and Best Practices Review:
 - Supporting staff by reviewing regional best practices and making general policy cleanup recommendations.
 - Completed an initial review of the field use policy, identifying areas for further stakeholder engagement and review.
- Field and Turf Initiatives:
 - Recommending a synthetic turf replacement strategy for upcoming work at El Camino Park and the Stanford/Mayfield Soccer Complex.
 - Planning a community meeting to update field users on tournament clean-up responsibilities, goal storage, and stakeholder communications.
- Tennis Court Management:
 - Reviewed CPA reservation policies and proposed reserving a specific percentage of court usage for Palo Alto residents.



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- Organized community outreach with a tennis meeting scheduled for April 8, 2025, and explored ways to extend the use of existing courts (e.g., lights, additional porta potties).
- Gathered and reviewed best practices for court reservation systems from neighboring cities to support local access.
- Pickleball Initiatives:
 - 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.
- Coordination Efforts:
 - Coordinating with staff on the timeline for the racquet sports joint task force.

Project/Goal 7: **Middle School Athletics**

Evaluate the middle school athletics programs and recommend approaches to align with the current program with universal access for students and state law and evaluate outsourcing middle school athletics to nonprofits.

- Ad Hoc met January 29 to create work plan.
- Reviewed of history of MSA, reviewed research and background gathered by staff.
- Options included
 - 1) city remains the provider, with financial support to offset costs
 - 2) MSA contracts with outside organization to operate the program or contracts out individual sports to specific non-profits.
- Staff's goal was to reach agreement/decision by school start August 15, 2025
- Staff researched information regarding possible vendors
- Staff working with purchasing about required process for MSA third party vendors.
- Ad Hoc scheduled meeting March 28 with Mr. Tom Haxton and colleagues to listen to his vision for MSA
- Ad hoc and staff to continue to collect information on options including a timeline for presentation to Commission and report to City Council.