



PARK DEDICATION ORDINANCE FOR MEASURE E SITE

APRIL 3, 2023

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (PRC)

Current Workplan – Parks and Recreation Commission

“Identify, review, and recommend potential sites within our community to dedicate as parkland”

- The high priority goal is to review and make recommendations regarding potential dedication of the 10-acre Measure E site at Byxbee Park.

June 2022 – PRC began work on Measure E recommendations

MEASURE E SITE



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MEASURE E SITE



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BALLOT MEASURE E

- April 5, 2010, City Council directed staff to initiate a feasibility study for an Energy/Compost Facility
- October 3, 2011, a Feasibility Report noted that if 10 acres at Byxbee Park becomes available through the passage of Ballot Measure E, then the City should take further actions to consider anaerobic digestion and other technologies for managing the City's food scraps, yard trimmings, and biosolids at the site
- In November 2011, Palo Alto voters passed Measure E, which undedicated the 10-acre parcel for a 10-year term
- On December 8, 2014, City Council directed staff to not pursue the development of a compost facility

BALLOT MEASURE E — KEY SECTIONS

- Shall ten acres of existing parkland in Byxbee Park be undedicated for the exclusive purpose of building a processing facility for yard trimmings, food waste and other organic material?
- The Property shall be removed from dedication as parkland, for the exclusive purpose of building a facility (“Facility” herein) for converting yard trimmings, food waste, other municipal organics and/or sewage sludge from the regional wastewater treatment plant by biological and/or other environmentally equally protective technology.
- Ten years from the passage of this Initiative, the City Council may rededicate any portion of the Property not utilized for the purposes of this Initiative to parkland.
- Any other new use would require approval of a new ballot initiative by Palo Alto residents.



DISCUSSION WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS

- Met with Public Works (PW) staff to tour the site
 - PW has no projects or proposals for the Measure E site
- Met with Utilities Advisory Commission Chair and staff liaison
 - Utilities has no plans for the Measure E site





PRC DISCUSSION

- September 25, 2022, PRC discussed dedicating the 10-acre Measure site
- October 25, 2022, PRC voted 4-2 to recommend that Council dedicate the Measure E site as parkland

PRC: BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- The Measure E site can only be used for the exclusive purpose of building a processing facility for yard trimmings, food waste and other organic materials
- Any non-parkland use, other than the one exactly specified in Measure E, would require a new ballot initiative and vote of Palo Alto residents
- No existing City plans for the Measure E site

PRC: BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- The Measure E site provides habitat for wildlife, a wildlife habitat corridor between Renzel Wetlands and the Bay, and a trail connection for loop around Byxbee Park
- As dedicated parkland, it may be more competitive for grants
- As dedicated parkland, the Measure E site would be limited to “park, playground, recreation, or conservation purposes”. Dedicated parkland can't be used for non-park purposes unless a majority of the city's voters vote to un-dedicate the land.

PRC RECOMMENDATION (4:2)

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that:

1. City Council adopt a Park Dedication Ordinance to dedicate the 10-acre parcel at Byxbee Park, also known as the Measure E site, as parkland.

Alternatively, if the City Council would like to further evaluate uses of the site:

1. City Council to direct staff to return with analysis on scope and timeframe to evaluate other uses consistent with Measure E.



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