



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, February 5, 2018
7:00 pm
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS

III. CONSENT AGENDA (Action)

- A. Approve minutes from December 4, 2017Pages 2-3
- B. Consider Reports:
 - 1. Maintenance Section – Status ReportPages 4-5
 - 2. Facilities Section – Status ReportPages 6-7
 - 3. Planning Section – Status Report.....Pages 8-9
 - 4. Aquatics Section – Status Report.....Pages 10-12
 - 5. Recreation Section – Status Report.....Pages 13-17
 - 6. Volunteer Program – Status Report.....Pages 18-19

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission but not on today’s agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications.

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

VI. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Update on County Parks Strategic Plan (Pages 20-24)
- b. Commission By-laws revised with date adopted and approved by the Board of Supervisors

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Approve Parks and Recreation Commission 2016-2017 Biennial Report (Pages 25-29)
- b. Request for support of Proposition 68 on June 2018 Ballot (Pages 30-31)
- c. Approve change of location and time for June 4, 2018 Meeting to Bear Creek Country Club, 6-8p

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (None)

X. ADJOURNEMENT



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of December 4, 2017, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Bennett, Kate Minott, Jim Rapoza, Mariah Roberts
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Lynna Hemeryck, Eric Sturm

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:

Motion to accept agenda as presented. (Bennett/ Roberts 4/0)

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approved minutes from October 2, 2017. (Minott/ Bennett 4/0)
Accept and file items and reports. (Minott/ Roberts 4/0)

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Kari Olsen, a Soquel resident, expressed disappointment in the direction that the Farm Bridge project has taken. She feels that the input and opinions of the community members and property owners adjacent to the Farm Park have been disregarded in the iteration process.

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Roberts – The Chanticleer Park Project is ticking along. There was a successful fundraiser held on Friday, December 1st. Groups from every district have stepped up to support the project.
- Minott – Received complaints about insufficient number of pickleball courts. Pickleball remains a highly popular topic in Mid County.
- Bennett – Looking forward to getting community input on the bike track proposal at Pinto Lake Park. Expressed concerns about the hidden dog park, which seems to be in disrepair. There aren't many dog parks in District 4 with the exception of Franich.
- Rapoza – Great to see that there is a new roof on the restrooms at Highlands Park. Has also received reports from constituents that there are not enough softball fields or soccer fields. The field at Highlands Park was closed a week and a half before the end of the recreational soccer season for Scotts Valley/SLV. Request for coordination on this in the future.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Jeff Gaffney gave his report to the Commission.

- Jeff presented a proclamation to Jennifer Mead for her service to the Parks and Recreation Commission, signed by all of the Commissioners
 - Lynna Hemeryck was introduced as the new Secretary
- Pinto Lake Community Meeting on December 9th from 10-11am
 - To discuss proposed new bike pump track at Pinto Lake County Park
- Mike Pini promoted to Maintenance Supervisor
- At Board of Supervisor's Meeting on December 5th, there will be an Arts Commission presentation on the Felton Library Public Art Proposal
- Leo's Haven held a fundraiser on Friday, December 1st and raised over \$1 million dollars
- SB-5 will be on the June 2018 Ballot
 - \$4.1 billion bond measure, some of which is partitioned for small communities with underserved populations
- Live Oak Library Annex
 - Capital Improvements Project Manager is moving forward with a request for qualifications on December 12th
- Parks Department is currently examining areas to designate for drone use
- Rio Del Mar public land easement and walkway
 - Rental units have encroached on a portion of the Esplanade to Beach Drive
 - Working with Coastal Commission and State Parks to reopen the coastal trail to the end of Seacliff State Beach and connect with the stairway up to Kenneth Drive
- Moving forward with design & construction of Farm Park and pedestrian bridge
 - Bridge plans have been designed with ADA access in mind

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Direct Staff to revise Commission By-Laws with the date accepted and approved by the Board of Supervisors, 11/7/2017.
- b. A local resident donated \$10,000 to improve Hidden Beach and playground. There were matching funds and a fundraising event is being planned to reach a goal of \$100,000. (Santa Cruz County Trust Fund #134989)
- c. Direct staff to prepare report on the potential impact of the June 2018 Ballot measure on Santa Cruz County Parks.
- d. The date and time for a Special Commission meeting at Bear Creek Country Club will be determined at the next Commission meeting.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. The Commission approved the 2018 schedule of meeting dates. (Bennett/ Roberts 4/0)

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 p.m. (Minott/ Roberts 4/0)



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: December 2017 – January 2018
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Eric Sturm, Park Superintendent
Subject: Maintenance Section Status Report

OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE

- Maintenance has been busy with turf renovations at Anna Jean Cummings, Polo, Highlands, and Pinto Lake Park.
- Worker-II Austin Collins was reinstated back to employment. Welcome back!
- Sheriff Dept. led town hall meeting to discuss concerns about Moran Lake parking lot and other issues in Live Oak.
- New CAO Analyst assigned to Parks, Erich Friedrich, came out and rode with staff, visited park units, and began understanding our challenges and accomplishments.

NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Greyhound Rock, Davenport Landing, Bonny Doon, Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow, Scott Creek Beach)

- The deck and railing were repaired at Highland's house.
- New roof for daycare center at Highlands is being installed on 1/24.
- Constructed new wood bulkhead fence for Ben Lomond Park to replace the lost one from last winter's storm – FEMA Storm Damage.
- Repaired retaining wall and handrail adjacent to Historic Covered Bridge – FEMA Storm Damage.
- Fabricated and installed directional signage for Quail Hollow hiking trails.
- AmeriCorps Team doing trail maintenance at Quail and invasive plant removal at Highlands Park.
- Painted interior restroom at Highlands Park.
- Staff did a walk of Miller property to inspect habitat damage done by errant off-road motorcycle users. Signs were posted to discourage behavior.

MID-COUNTY PARKS (Government Center, Anna Jean, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, SC Gardens, Heart of Soquel Plaza, The Farm, and Mid-County beach access areas)

- 12/22: New tether ball pole installed at Jose Park. Well received by public.

- 12/28: Several trees at Emeline Complex were trimmed back from buildings and gutters.
- 12/29: Neighbor near Twin Lakes Park was dumping his trash on park property; Deputy admonished the subject to cease and desist.
- Multiple homeless encampments were removed at the southern end of Anna Jean Park.
- Worked with legal counsel and a private citizen to allow a short-term nativity display at 701 building around the holidays.
- Staff met with the Resource Conservation District to discuss a possible tree planting project at Moran Lake.
- Twin Lakes Park (7th Ave) got hit hard with graffiti. Took staff several days to clean.

SOUTH COUNTY PARKS (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascap, Aptos Village, South County, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Freedom Government Annex, Seacliff Village Park, and South-County Beach access areas)

- Aptos Village Park had the annual Run For Pie on Thanksgiving Morning.
- 12/14: Did major clean-up of Esplanade property in Rio Del Mar.
- 125 feet of split rail fencing installed @ Dolphin Sumner beach access.
- Clean-up and sorting of some Valencia Hall materials has begun.

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

- Sump pumps, gutters and other equipment checked for winter use.
- Kitchen hood and exhaust fan repaired.
- Building heating system (boiler) demonstrating sporadic fits; contractor being hired to fix.

SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER

- 12/26: Staff came to work this morning and found pool deck equipment stolen. Person of interest may be associated. Sheriff's Dept. is investigating.
- Parking lot solar arrays have started to be installed. Estimated time for completion is about two months.
- Additional pool lighting is being explored for better night time activities.
- Park staff met with the three swim teams to discuss lane allocations, improve efficiencies, and explore productive ways to use our limited pool space.





County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: January - February 2018
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Mary Chavez, Program Coordinator
Subject: Facilities Section Status Report

Summary for Reservations in the Parks:

*Please note that the Facilities section status report will now include reservation information for the Live Oak Community Rooms, which were previously excluded.

Attendance at Reserved Facilities

January and February have been typical for off season events with parties and a few weddings at park centers as well as picnic areas and meeting room use. Staff estimates that approximately 9,000 park visitors attended events in reserved facilities at County Parks in these two months.

Center and Meeting Room Rentals in January and February 2018:

January and February hosted 5 weddings, receptions and family events held at various Park Centers with rental revenues totaling \$1,885. January and February also included 105 meeting room rentals totaling \$3,950 (59 were scheduled in the Live Oak Community Rooms).

The Facilities office has been very busy with inquiries and bookings for weddings, receptions and special events in the park centers for 2018. The summer schedule is quickly filling up. The typical season of use is weekends (mainly Saturdays and some Sundays) May through October, with approximately 52 available dates (36 for Quail Hollow Ranch). At this time, Aptos Park is reserved 32% of all available dates (with only 10 Saturdays remaining available), Highlands Park is reserved at 35% (with only 12 Saturdays remaining available) and Quail Hollow is reserved at 55% (with only 7 Saturdays remaining available). Park centers continue to be popular wedding and event locations, with customers appreciating the picturesque and affordable venues for their special occasions while continuing to be a significant revenue source for the Department.

Picnic Rentals in January and February 2018:

There were 17 picnics in the reservable picnic areas with rental revenues totaling \$2,000.

Surf Contests and Surf Schools:

We are in the midst of another successful surf season. Non-profit organizations, school surf leagues and for-profit companies continue to hold contests at Pleasure Point Park and the Hook (41ST Avenue) overlook, which are favorite surf contest sites. July 2017 through June 2018 have a total of 14 days of contests, with revenues totaling \$3,200.

The Surf School pilot program is proving successful with four permits issued through March 2018, totaling \$2,650. Surf school permits for the remainder of the 19-month pilot program may be subject to a Request for Qualifications process, which will provide a basis for the report back to the Board of Supervisors in November 2018 with recommendations for a permanent program.

Garden Plots:

Garden plot renewals for Jose Avenue, Felt Street and the Farm Parks have been taking place during the past month. Jose Avenue has 14 garden plots, Felt Street Park has 17 plus 2 ADA garden plots, and the Farm has 10 plus 2 ADA plots. All plots have either been renewed or new gardeners will be given an opportunity to access those plots released during the renewal process. The new gardeners are excited about starting their gardening experience in County Parks. A waitlist is still being maintained for future park site Chanticleer Park. Garden plot revenues are approximately \$2,500 annually.

County Parks Special Events, Administration:

- Parks staff has completed its portion of the 2018-19 budget. The Facilities section continues to be a strong, consistent contributor to Department revenues. Staff is evaluating the expansion of concessions and concessionaires as both a generator of additional revenue and expansion of services to the public.
- Parks staff is currently working with the Boulder Creek Recreation and Park District in order to coordinate the rental of the Bear Creek Recreation and Community Center. Rental information, including reservation packets, website information, and advertising, has been updated to include the 15 Saturdays between May and September when County Parks will oversee the rental of the center and provide on-site staffing. Staff is also working to collaborate on a fundraiser event, the Founding Families Picnic, tentatively set for June 23, 2018.
- The Department is preparing to replace the registration software, Class, with Active Net, a fully hosted web-based application and industry leader in recreation management software. Staff is finalizing the contract negotiations and anticipates submitting the contract for Board approval in late February. The plan is for full development and implementation of the new system by summer.



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: December 2017 – January 2018
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Sheryl Bailey & Will Fourt, Planning Section
Subject: Planning Section Status Report

COUNTY-WIDE PROJECTS

County Parks Strategic Plan: Staff has continued progress on the development of a Strategic Plan for the County Parks Department. Staff has worked with management to refine draft priorities, goals and objectives for the plan, and has compiled an administrative draft Strategic Plan document.

ParkScore: Staff is working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) who has completed a ParkScore analysis of the parks in Santa Cruz County. Staff is currently working with TPL on some final revisions.

NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

Quail Hollow/Pace Property Trail Planning: The Board of Supervisors approved the Addendum to the Quail Hollow Ranch County Park Master Plan to include trails and restoration activities on the Pace Property and the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act on December 5, 2017. Staff submitted a development permit application to County Planning for the project. The hearing date with the Zoning Administrator related to this development permit has not yet been set. Staff met with the manager of the Habitat Conservation Fund grant program at the site as part of their review of the grant application for the project.

Felton Library: Parks staff has reviewed proposals from design firms and has a draft contract prepared for the design development phase of the nature discovery park. This design contract will require approval from the Board in February. Staff has also worked with the project biologist to prepare a riparian enhancement workplan for the removal of invasive species in the riparian zone. Parks staff met with the grant administrator for the grant application to the Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities grant program.

MID-COUNTY PARKS (AJC, Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Heart of Soquel Plaza, The Farm, Mid-County beach access areas)

Chanticleer Park: The Santa Cruz Playground Project has continued their fundraising efforts. The Board approved the final design contract in December and consultants are preparing the construction documents for Phase I.

Heart of Soquel Phase 2 & 3: The Heart of Soquel Phase 3 conceptual plans are being further refined and these plans propose to complete the trail and riparian restoration across the Soquel Elementary property to the existing pedestrian bridge on Main Street. Concurrently the Parks Planning staff is pursuing acquisition of portions of the Heart of Soquel Phase 2 and Phase 3 with a previously awarded State Parks acquisition grant.

Farm Phase 2: Planning staff is preparing to submit plans to the Planning Department for the proposed temporary and interim bike tracks at the Farm Park next week. Consultants are currently preparing 90% plans for the Farm Bike and Pedestrian Bridge and permit processing is underway. Parks Planning staff submitted a grant requesting \$10,000 from the People For Bikes organization.

Quail Hollow: Planning and Recreation and Programming staff are continuing to work together to complete the previously awarded Quail Hollow Brook Restoration grant, including developing concepts for three interpretive signs for the Discovery Loop Trail, organizing volunteer days for willow cutting and planting and removal of invasive non-native plants.

SOUTH COUNTY PARKS (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Seacliff Village Park, Freedom Government Annex)

Pinto Lake: Staff and two Board Supervisors held a community meeting on December 9, 2017 to discuss the proposed addition of a bike pump track. The project is supported by the community and staff has set up a purchase order with a civil engineer to do the storm water design and initiate the grading permit application for this project. Staff submitted a letter of interest to the People For Bikes grant program for the project, and is working with partners at the Resource Conservation District, City of Watsonville and volunteer experts in pump track design on designing the facility.

Special Events at the Pool

Polar Plunge – We held the first annual *Polar Plunge* event on New Year's Day where participants raised funds for learn to swim scholarships with a commitment to how many times they could *bear* to ride down the waterslide – unheated! Over 20 people participated helping raise over \$1500 for swim scholarships! Quite a successful start for the first year of this awesome annual event!

Aquatics Programs

Winter Swim lessons – Are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30am – 12:30pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.

Private Swim lessons are also available with either our Aquatics staff or one of our four private contractors.

Adult Fitness Swimming – Adult Fitness Swimming remains a very popular program at the Simpkins Family Swim Center. 90-minute coached swim workouts are offered Monday through Friday at 6:00am and 12:00pm, and weekends at 9:00am. A variety of coaches offer swimmers multiple workout choices.

In addition to the regular Adult Fitness program, we continue to offer an **Introduction to Lap Swimming and Adult Fitness** class on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am – 11:30am, and Saturdays from 10:30–11:30am.

Water Aerobics & Exercise – The water exercise classes this year continue to reach their highest capacity to date. Water exercise is an excellent way for people to meet their fitness goals without impact on the joints. Classes are designed to appeal to all levels of ability, including healthy, cross training fitness enthusiasts, pre-natal, seniors, and those rehabilitating. A monthly calendar is available with dates, times, and instructors' names. Previous swimming or water-exercise experience is not required for participation in any of the water exercise classes.

Child Care – The drop in child care program has now been open for over a year. Over the summer this program was being offered five days a week, Tuesday through Thursday and Saturdays and Sundays. This program is open to children 6 months and up and costs \$5 per child for up to two hours. It is currently staffed by both Aquatics and Recreation staff members.

Current fall hours are:

9:00 AM – 1:30 PM Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Saturday

Drop-in Water Polo – Sundays from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Participants must sign a waiver and be a member of USAWPA to participate in the program.

Lifeguard Training Exercises – The Aquatics staff February in-service training focused on first aid and care for sudden illnesses.

Total Guard Training- On March 4th Head Lifeguards and management staff will participate in the Total Guard Training, held at our facility. This training is lead by CPRS President Jim Wheeler, and focuses on developing deck supervisor and management tools while giving participants more skills and drills for effective in-service training sessions.

Red Cross Lifeguard/Title 22 Certification Courses – Two Red Cross Lifeguard Certification courses will be offered this winter. Participants who complete this course receive a Red Cross Lifeguard certification as well as a Title 22 certification. Additional courses will be offered in spring.

Pool Rentals

Swim Teams – Currently three swim teams: Aptos Cabrillo Swim Club, Santa Cruz County Aquatics, and Quicksilver Swimming renting lanes in the 50-meter pool. The swim teams offer school-age competitive swimming programs Monday through Friday from 4:00 to 7:30pm.

Other activities

Preventative Lifeguarding, Rescues and First Aid— With over 150,000 visits annually at the Simpkins Family Swim Center, on a busy day there can be well over 100+ preventative interactions between lifeguards and patrons. Some of the preventative measures lifeguards are responsible for are: recognizing non-swimmers before they get into the deep end, stopping patrons from diving, stopping children from rough housing, running, etc. However, even with the best prevention, rescues and first aid responses are also a part of the daily responsibilities of the lifeguards. So far this year the lifeguard staff have rescued 12 children in distress, and provided first aid care for 34 patrons.

Solar Array Installation in Simpkins Parking Lot – On Monday, January 22nd construction on the solar carport began in our parking lot. To make up for the loss in parking, patrons have been informed to park along the driveway and will be given access to the Boys and Girls Club parking lot during the day. Staff has been directed to park on El Dorado Avenue.

Pool Closures

On Monday, November 27th, 2017 the 50m pool was closed for replacement of one of the sand filters for the 50M pool. The warm pool stayed open during that time.

The pool was closed on Christmas Day – Monday, December 25th, 2017.



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

DATE: December 2017-January 2018

TO: Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator

RE: Recreation & Cultural Services Division Status Report

ARTS AND CULTURAL

Art Exhibitions

David Fleming's paintings are on exhibition at the Simpkins Family Swim Center / Parks office through mid-March.

Felton Library

Local glass artist Lea de Wit was approved as the public artist for the Felton Library public art project at the December 5, 2017 Board of Supervisors meeting. The proposed artwork for the project consists of 170 wall-mounted and suspended hand-blown glass butterfly sculptures. Varying in depth and width, the butterflies will flow through the library facility for 40-60 feet, from the entry towards the courtyard. The installation will have a vibrant color scheme, transitioning from traditional Monarch oranges to color interpretations of other native butterflies. Individual butterfly sculptures will measure approximately 6-9" W x 5-8" L. Additionally, the butterfly design will be incorporated into the courtyard with a glass and metal triptych; each element of the triptych will measure approximately 6'H x 2'W. The anticipated total cost is \$108,000.

Artist of the Year

Conductor Cheryl Anderson has been selected by the Arts Commission to receive the 2018 Artist of the Year Award. Cheryl is the Director of Choral Activities at Cabrillo College. She took up the baton as conductor of Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus in 1991. In her tenure at Cabrillo College, her ensembles have performed at all levels of the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association for Music Educators. She has led Interest Sessions at four Divisional Conferences, and she has served on the ACDA Western Division Board as National Repertoire and Standards Chair. Having served as Bay Area Representative, California, ACDA Executive Board and Chair of the Composition Competition, Cheryl Anderson has most recently served as President of the Western Division of the American Choral Directors Association.

In addition to her elementary and secondary school teaching, Cheryl Anderson has served on the faculties of Transylvania University, Colorado State University, University

of Northern Colorado, and University of California, Santa Cruz in choral/vocal music, music education, and music theory.

ADULT AND SENIOR PROGRAMS

Mall Walkers partook in their annual holiday potluck party on Friday, December 1st. Then on December 5th, trip-goers journeyed to San Francisco for shopping in Union Square and a guided tour of holiday lights in the City, including a stop on Treasure Island for a magnificent view of the skyline at night. Staff is working hard to develop new and exciting trips for 2018/19.

YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS

Mar Vista ACE

December began with “Holiday Lights Week,” inspiring projects such as paper light houses, egg carton “lights” and games such as *Hit the Light* and *What Time is it, Light Bulb?* Next was “Money Matters Week,” during which staff developed fun activities such as a version of *The Price is Right* game to teach program participants the value of a dollar and the concept of budgeting. Children made their own wallets and earned “ACE dollars” to spend in the ACE store. The highlight of the week was a field trip to Jump-N-Around. “Celebrations Week” featured games such as *Medic*, international winter games, and an obstacle course. Craft projects for the week included picture frames, candy cane reindeer, borax crystals and more.

Participants returned from Winter Break to “Into the Future Week,” which featured games such as *Future Moves* and *Pinball* and activities such as balloon rockets, future masks, Lego future construction projects and drawings of imagined future selves. The highlight was a collaborative project to create a life-sized martian statue. During “Sports Week,” we played games such as *Poison*, *Hula Pass* and soccer. Art and craft projects included mini skateboards, football projects and baseball lacing.

February will feature field trips to the Santa Cruz Roller Palladium and Anna Jean Cummings Park. Staff are also lining up some great special guests! Themes such as “Winter Olympics,” “Inspire Your Heart With Art,” “Your World” and “Mardi Gras” will lend to many fun and enriching activities for participants to enjoy.

Girls Paving the Way

December began with “Bird Week,” during which participants had the opportunity to eat like different birds, play *Migration Headache*, and hone camouflage skills with a game of *Eagle Eye*. We then dove deep into a project creating Dream Pillows. First, we harvested herbs around the school. While the herbs dried, participants received a tutorial in embroidery and began decorating their own pillow, which was later stuffed with rosemary, calendula, rose petals, and mint. Just before the holidays, we prepared a salve for use as a chapstick or moisturizer. Students learned about the properties of calendula, comfrey, plantain, and yarrow as they processed these plants and made oil infusions. The oil infusions were then mixed with beeswax and shea butter to make a salve.

As January comes to a close, students blew their way through “Bubbleology” by creating paint bubbles and fizzy bath bombs. This week’s theme of “Sculpting Your World” brings new twists on papier maché and Sculpty clay projects.

In the coming weeks, students will have the opportunity to make their own paper that will then be utilized for a fun suminagashi (Japanese paper marbling) project. They will also learn how to manipulate string into a versatile bowl. With fun outdoor activities such as *Steal the Treasure*, *Who’s That in the Hat*, *Over Under Game*, and the *Human Knot* included in each week, this cohort is learning more and more about one another!

La Selva Beach ACE Program

La Selva Beach ACE was off to a fabulous start to the New Year, which included Extra-fun Wednesdays, a New Year’s Potluck Celebration, a Pajama Day, and a field trip to the Santa Cruz Roller Palladium. Recent weekly themes included a “Welcome Back” theme, as we welcomed the children back after the long winter break. “Welcome Back” week included a quesadillas cooking activity, a game of hockey, a game of star wars, seas, shore, sand, an egg drop project, a game of soccer, a game of old school dodgeball and melty beads. The following week’s theme was “Dream Week” in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. We are continuing our partnership with the local La Selva Beach Library, with children receiving extra homework help on Tuesday afternoon and attending classes at the library on Thursday afternoons. We are also continuing our youth volunteer program with several youths from the local Aptos Junior High and Aptos High School volunteering their time after school to assist staff working with the children at La Selva Beach ACE. We are having a terrific January and look forward to the rest of the winter season.

Kinder Enrichment at Mar Vista

Winter break was December 25th through January 17th. Staff hit the ground running for Winter Camp on January 2nd and our first day back for kinder programming in 2018 was January 17th.

We started off the year with “Winter Polar Animals,” journal pictures, and writing about the polar region - the kids really enjoyed learning about penguins. The next week included the topic of dreams. We created a hand rainbow to show unity and togetherness. We also talked about our dreams for the world. The children had an activity to create a poster of what they dream for themselves and for the world. Many of them dreamed for the world to have a warm home to go to – which was very touching.

The last week of January is the first week of February combined. The theme for the week is “The World.” The children will draw up their world maps, be introduced to different countries through food and crafts known to a specific area. Of course February will include a “Valentine” theme week, where the children will let the important people in their lives know how much they are loved. The children will design and create crafts and exchange cards they’ve made themselves. It is also carnival season, so we have a week dedicated to the kid-friendly version of Mardi Gras, including mask-making and beading projects. Also we’ll learn about parades and the delight of the king cake. For the final week of February, we’ll celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. This author’s wild imagination lends itself well to creative crafts, including a red sock project and crazy machines. We’ll also talk about the protection of Earth’s resources after reading *The Lorax*.

QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS – January & February

The second half of January has seen a rise in programs and visitors after the slow holiday season. Broom bashes, field trips, and public education programs include star parties, bird walks, and history tours. Moving into February, Quail Hollow Ranch will host public educational programs every Sunday, with a few outliers on Saturdays.

Park Interpreter Dan Lazarus will be leading a hike on February 3rd, in partnership with the Coastal Watershed Council and the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History. This interpretive hike for all ages will be held at Highlands Park, and will focus on the San Lorenzo Watershed. Dan will be tabling at the Natural Bridge's migration festival in Santa Cruz to talk about the migratory species at Quail Hollow Ranch, and to promote the program held at the park. He'll also be attending the SLV Rotary Club meeting on February 28th to give a presentation about Quail Hollow Ranch .

Programs are being run both on site at Quail Hollow Ranch and off-site at a variety of different locations. Mar Vista ACE program has a visit from Dan every Thursday, their science day. Dan has also been bringing his guitar and giving the students music lessons during free play. School field trips and child birthday parties are being scheduled on a regular basis, bringing more students and teachers to Quail Hollow Ranch.

Recent Interpretive Programs and Activities:

- Volunteers came out and pulled large swaths of invasive broom from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on January 1, January 6 and January 13.
- Students from Tierra Pacifica Charter School came to Quail Hollow Ranch on January 17 to study habitats and plants with the park interpreter.
- Star and Moon Gazing at Quail Hollow took place on Friday, January 12, from 6:00 p.m. to midnight.
- Alex Rinkert was here with a large group of birders for our Beginning Birding program on Sunday, January 20, from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- Richard James captivated a small group of folks on Sunday, January 21, 1:00-3:00 p.m. for his Quail Hollow Ranch History Tour.

Upcoming Interpretive Programs and Activities:

- In Search of Herps: Reptiles and Amphibians at Quail Hollow Ranch- Saturday, February 3, 9:00- 11:00 a.m.
- Quail Hollow Ranch Broom Bash: Sponsored by California Native Plant Society- Saturday, February 3, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Beginning Birding with Jim Williams: Sunday, February 4, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- Quail Hollow Ranch Broom Bash: Saturday, February 10, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Basics of Rose Care: Sunday, February 11, 1:00- 3:00 p.m.
- Star and Moon Gazing at Quail Hollow: Friday, February 9, 6:30 p.m. – midnight
- Quail Hollow Ranch History Tour: Sunday, February 18, 1:00- 3:00 p.m.
- A SLV Homeschool group will be at the Ranch for a day of nature journaling with Park Interpreter Dan Lazarus on February 21.
- The Orchard School will be at the Ranch on February 22 with Park Interpreter Dan Lazarus to study American History, using QHR as a case study.

- Quail Hollow Ranch Broom Bash: Saturday, February 24, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Pruning Small Trees, Shrubs, and Perennials: Sunday, February 25, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: December 2017 – January 2018
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Subject: Volunteer Program Status Report

North County

Scott Creek Beach

The Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity volunteered on Sunday, January 14th to remove over 3 feet of sand that had accumulated on an ADA ramp and platform. Over 30 young men volunteered tirelessly from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm shoveling and hauling sand. The fraternity made a significant dent in the project and are scheduled to come back on Sunday, January 28th to finish the job. Thanks to their volunteer efforts, community members will now be able to access the ramp and platform for viewing.

Also at the Scott Creek Beach we have a new volunteer who will be organizing beach clean-up days and helping with keeping the bulletin board up to date and free of graffiti.

Our other volunteer on the North Coast continues to pick up trash in the parking lots and beach access points.

Quail Hollow Ranch

In December and January the Trail Crew Volunteers put in over 100 hours of trail maintenance and new construction on the trails to keep them accessible for hikers and equestrians. Two of our dedicated volunteers are training and working closely with the AmeriCorps Volunteer group.

The AmeriCorps Team will spend at least 6 weeks at Quail Hollow working on trail improvements, barbed wire removal, pruning, restoring vegetation and building new split rail fence lines.

The Broom Bash volunteers have started their seasonal removal of French Broom, an invasive plant, and logged over 100 hours thus far in December and January.

The December Stellar Experience hosted by volunteers with the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club (SCAC) engaged 23 community members in star gazing. Unfortunately the event ended early due to cloud cover. The January experience posed the same viewing problem but 4 community members came out to take a chance. The SCAC volunteers logged over 25 hours for December and January.

The Bird Nest Box Volunteers spent a day in January repairing and installing the nest boxes for the season. They have logged over 15 hours thus far in January and the season of nest box monitoring and bird watching officially starts on February 25th.

Dedicated volunteers Richard and Kathy James decorated the Quail Hollow House for the Holiday season, complete with a Christmas tree! Richard offers monthly history and house tours that are very well attended. He also performs regular upkeep and repairs to the house, and participates in trail crew maintenance. Kathy keeps the house and pathways clean and tidy. Richard and Kathy host the Visitor Center when called upon, and participate in the paint and beautification days. Together they logged over 30 hours in December and January.

Miller Property

The Miller Property has attracted some volunteers who will be stewards to the property and participate in Park Watch efforts and well as French Broom removal. Volunteers reported illegal motorcycle use on the property and staff have installed signs to discourage the activity.

Mid County

Ana Jean Cummings Park volunteer reported multiple homeless encampments in the riparian area of the park. The report led to a multi-agency clean-up effort.

A new volunteer, Jake Siegel, improved a path at the Hook by installing stepping stones and decomposed granite!

South County

Polo Grounds Park

Bike Pump Track Volunteers have been active, repairing damage to the jumps from the rain.

Pinto Lake Park

We have a new volunteer at Pinto Lake who will be devoting approximately 40 hours of volunteer time to graffiti abatement. We are pleased to have the help with this task as the park gets tagged regularly.



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

February 5, 2018

Parks and Recreation Commission
County of Santa Cruz
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

SUBJECT: County Parks Strategic Plan

Dear Commissioners,

As you are aware, the Parks Department has been engaged in a strategic planning process as part of our ongoing efforts to support a healthy, vital, connected, and culturally vibrant Santa Cruz County. As a department we designed a process and a document that would help determine community and departmental priorities, allow us to better communicate our value to the public, and create new systems to help us securely navigate an always uncertain future.

Since the last update to the Parks Commission in August, the Department completed an early draft of the County Parks Strategic Plan. This letter and attached materials provide your commission with an update on this process, and give some additional draft materials for your consideration.

Strategic Plan Priorities, Goals & Objectives:

Over the course of the last 12 months the staff project team and our Strategic Plan Working Group has developed a set of Draft Strategic Priorities, Goals, and Objectives for the department that align with the values and vision developed previously by this commission, and as part of this process by the staff, and the community of parks users. The County Parks Department's new Strategic Priorities and Goals are included in Attachment 1.

Based on the input of over 1,000 individuals received from a series of five community meetings held in April and May of 2017, from the results of an online public survey, collected from Parks staff through both formal and informal meetings, and from the ongoing work of the Strategic Plan Working Group, they represent a thoughtful investment in the department's future by all these individuals.

Annual (Internal) Operations Plans:

The 10-year goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan will be tracked and implemented on an annual basis through the development of internal operations plans. These operations plans will serve as internal work plans for Department staff and will include the necessary short and mid-term actions to meet Strategic Plan goals and objectives. The first Santa Cruz County Parks Department Operations Plan will be finalized in May, in time for Fiscal Year 2018/19.

Strategic Improvement Cycle:

The attached diagrams illustrate how the Strategic Plan and future operations plans are expected to work together to help the Department continually improve and meet its Strategic Plan goals. This new management system should help the department strategically align the work of each section with the broader goals of the department; to support interdepartmental communication and sharing; and to create efficiencies in operations across all sections.

Next Steps:

The next steps in our process will be to circulate a public review draft of the Strategic Plan document, to hold three community meetings (south, mid, and north-county) in March to present the draft Strategic Plan and get input from the public, to present the public draft before the Parks Commission on April 2, 2018, and finally, to present the final draft Strategic Plan to the Board of Supervisors in May.

We invite the Commission to provide your comments on the Draft Strategic Plan during the public review period and hope you will help us generate awareness of the public meetings among your networks. Public meetings will be held from 6PM to 7:30 as follows:

- **March 27** (Tuesday): Community Room at Simpkins Family Swim Center in Live Oak
- **March 28** (Wednesday): Highlands Park in Ben Lomond
- **March 29** (Thursday): Civic Plaza Community Room in Watsonville

We look forward to future collaboration with the Parks Commission related to the County Parks Strategic Plan and our ongoing work to translate this plan into meaningful actions for results in this community.

Warm regards,

Jeff Gaffney
Director of Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services

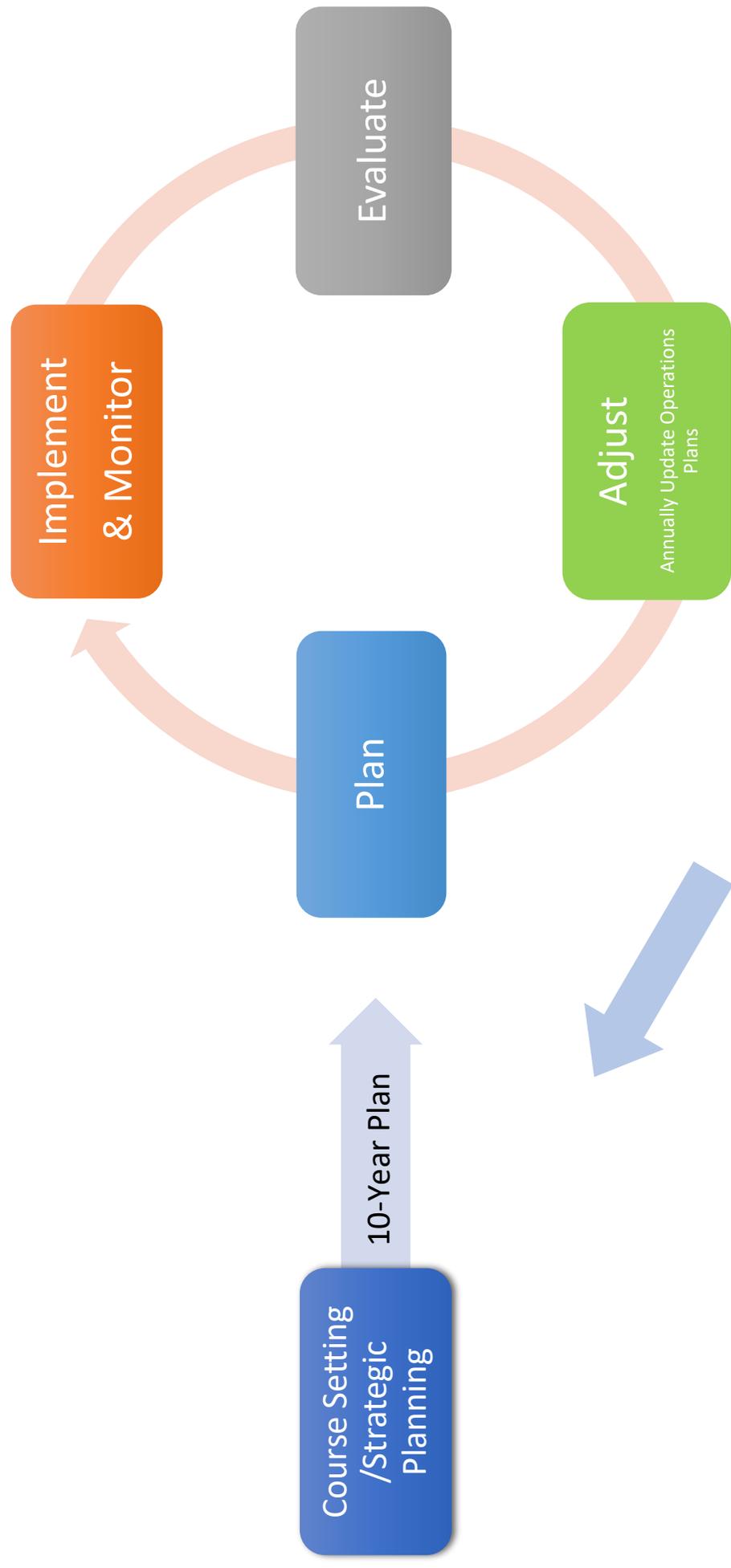
Attachments:

1. Draft Strategic Plan Priorities and Goals
2. Draft Strategic Improvement Cycle
3. Draft Strategic Management System

Table 3: Summary of Priorities and Goals

<p>1. MAINTAIN & ENHANCE QUALITY OF PARKS FACILITIES</p> <p>VALUES: STEWARDSHIP & WELL-BEING</p> <p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Maintain and update parks facilities to a consistently high standard 1.2 Ensure safety and cleanliness of parks facilities 1.3 Provide a variety of community-serving parks amenities 1.4 Lead, innovate and partner with other departments, agencies and organizations to better serve the community 	<p>2. ENSURE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND FISCAL STABILITY</p> <p>VALUES: RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Ensure department efficiency and effectiveness 2.2 Invest in staff development and promote excellence 2.3 Develop sources of sustained funding for operations and enhanced services 2.4 Institute improved systems for departmental management and operations planning 	<p>3. STEWARD AND PROTECT OPEN SPACES AND NATURAL, CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES</p> <p>VALUES: RESPONSIBILITY, SUSTAINABILITY</p> <p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Manage existing open spaces and natural resources for ecological function and multiple long-term environmental benefits 3.2 Protect and enhance cultural and historic resources 3.3 Increase awareness and appreciation of natural, cultural and historic resources through interpretive programs and opportunities
<p>4. PROVIDE A VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>VALUES: WELL-BEING</p> <p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Provide additional recreational programs and events to meet community needs 4.2 Support local families and youth by expanding after school and summer offerings 4.3 Cultivate the arts and strengthen the culture of the county through public art programs and events 	<p>5. ENGAGE LOCAL COMMUNITIES</p> <p>VALUES: WELL-BEING, EQUITY</p> <p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Conduct broad community outreach and engage all demographics regarding parks programs and facilities 5.2 Increase opportunities for volunteerism in parks facilities and programs 	<p>6. IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY OF PARKS AND PROGRAMS</p> <p>VALUES: EQUITY</p> <p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 Add additional parks, facilities and programs in underserved areas 6.2 Collaborate to improve walking, biking and public transportation connections to parks 6.3 Increase the number of facilities and programs accessible to people of differing abilities and financial resources

Strategic Improvement Cycle



5-Year (Internal) Cycle

Internal Plan Update

1-Year Cycle

Fiscal Year/Budget Cycle

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

Set Course

SET STRATEGIC DIRECTION - STRATEGIC PLAN

- Every 10 years...
- Conduct Internal & External Assessments
- Engage Public & Solicit Input
- Engage County Leadership
- Determine Objectives & Metrics
- Every 5 Years...
- Review Strategic Plan Goals & Metrics internally
- Publish updates

Plan

ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLANNING

- Update Annually ...
- Capital Improvement Plan Updates
- Program Budgets & Funding Projections
- Managers and Supervisors update Objectives /Actions for each Section
- Solicit public input via programs/website/ public meetings

Set Performance/ Goal Tracking Matrix

Implement & Monitor

CHECK POINTS/ BENCHMARKS

Establish & Track Performance Metrics Via...

- July Semi-Annual All-Hands Meeting (Fiscal Year Kickoff)
- Regularly scheduled staff meetings
- Regular Section Reports
- Weekly Email Updates

Track progress via Performance/ Goal Tracking Matrix

Evaluate

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS (How are we doing?)

Annual Review Cycle Via...

- Mid-Year - 2nd Semi-Annual All-Hands Meeting
- Semi-Annual Check In Process (by Section)
- Self-Assessment & Supervisors' Review

Complete Performance/ Goal Tracking Matrix (by Section)

Adjust

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT (How will we do better?)

- Goals & Performance Measures 'Reset' via...
- Annual Managers' & Supervisors' Meetings
- Report on Progress Toward Strategic Plan Goals
- Conduct Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis & Set New Priorities
- Adjust Operations Plan Accordingly

Update Performance/Goal Tracking Matrix (by Section)



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2016-2017 BIENNIAL REPORT

ROLE OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Assess the needs and resources of the County for Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services and recommend programs to satisfy those needs.

- I. Advise the Board of Supervisors on matters regarding parks, recreation and open space plans for the County.
- II. Advise the Board of Supervisors on the preservation of historical and cultural resources in the County.
- III. Review the annual budget for Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

MEETINGS AND STRUCTURE

The Commission meets on Mondays six times a year at 7:00 p.m., on dates determined by the Commission. Meetings are held at a park site or the Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Office, 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz.

The Commission is made up of five members, one nominated by each Supervisor, which operates using the Sturgis Rules of Order and a structure that includes a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. Staff support is provided by the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services.

COMMISSION STAFF

Jeff Gaffney, Director; Gretchen Iliff, Park Superintendent; Eric Sturm, Park Superintendent; Will Fourt, Park Planner; Jennifer Mead, Secretary; Lynna Hemeryck, Secretary

ATTENDANCE

Attachment A displays the attendance of the Commissioners for the past twenty-four months.

2016-2017 COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Considered proposals brought forward by members of the community:

- Proposal to add permanent pickleball facilities at Brommer Street Park
- Proposal for a Santa Cruz County Parks Ranger Program

Received reports on the status of various park improvement projects including:

LEO's Haven Playground at Chanticleer Park
Pickleball courts at Brommer Street Park
Highlands County Park Facility
Felton Library Project
Pinto Lake Bike Pump Track
Sediment Catchment Basin at Pinto Lake

Made a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to adopt the proposed addendum to the Quail Hollow Ranch County Master Plan.

Held two offsite meetings with informative presentations, one at Highlands County Park and the other at Muzzio Community Center in Watsonville.

Received regular reports regarding participation in and revenues received for various recreation programs and facility rentals.

Received regular reports on the activities of the Parks Maintenance, Planning, Aquatics and Volunteers sections.

Received updates regarding the Boulder Creek Recreational District.

Received updates from the Land Trust of Santa Cruz.

Received a presentation from the City of Watsonville Parks and Recreation Department.

Received a presentation from Watsonville Wetlands Watch.

Reviewed proposed Parks Division Budgets for Fiscal Years 2016/2017.

Appointed two members to the Board of Directors of the non-profit Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks (FoSCCP).

Participated in a series of workshops to determine Commission vision, values, goals, strategies, and develop a mission statement and Team Charter for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Issued a letter of proclamation declaring July Parks & Recreation Month.

Updated and revised Parks and Recreation Commission By-laws.

PROPOSED 2018-2019 COMMISSION GOALS

Park Facilities

Review and make recommendations regarding proposed park improvements for Felton Library Park.

Continue working with Boulder Creek Parks and Recreation on Bear Creek Estates Park and facilities.

Recreation Programs

Continue to consider and support public requests for programs.

Community Proposals

Review empirical data regarding off-leash dogs on County Beaches and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

General

Complete work on vision, goals and strategies with Commission working group.

Review the FY 2018/2019 Proposed Budgets and provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Prepare letter of support as necessary for various grant opportunities.

Support efforts to collaborate with volunteers and other partners to provide parks, recreation and cultural opportunities.

Support, collaborate and advise staff regarding community outreach opportunities, including, marketing and branding, for county parks and recreation programs.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE 2016

P = Present E = Excused Absence U = Un-Excused Absence V = Vacant R = Resigned C = Canceled Meeting

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
DISTRICT 1	No Meeting held in January												
Mariah Roberts	P	P	No Meeting held in March			P	No Meeting held in July			P	No Meeting held in November		P
DISTRICT 2													
Katharine Minott	P	P		P		P		P	No Meeting held in September			P	
DISTRICT 3													
Jim Lang / Alex Sibille (May 2016)		E		V		P		P		P		P	
DISTRICT 4													
Steven Bennett		P		P		E		P		P		P	
DISTRICT 5													
Jim Rapoza	V			P		P		P		P		P	

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE 2017

P = Present **E** = Excused Absence **U** = Un-Excused Absence **V** = Vacant **R** = Resigned **C** = Canceled Meeting

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
DISTRICT 1	No Meeting held in January											
Mariah Roberts												
DISTRICT 2	No Meeting held in March											
Katharine Minott												
DISTRICT 3	No Meeting held in May											
Alexandra Sibille												
DISTRICT 4	Meeting Canceled											
Steven Bennett												
DISTRICT 5	No Meeting held in July											
Jim Rapoza												
No Meeting held in September												
No Meeting held in November												



County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: February 5, 2018

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Jeff Gaffney, Director

Subject: Report on SB 5 Bond Measure (Proposition 68) on June 2018 Ballot

Summary

The state legislature has placed Senate Bill (SB) 5, a parks and water natural resources bond measure, on the June 2018 ballot as Proposition 68 for voters to approve. Proposition 68 could positively impact Santa Cruz County Parks by providing necessary funding for new parks, new amenities in parks, and parks deferred maintenance.

Background

On December 4, 2017, the Commission requested information on SB 5. The SB 5 Bond Measure is the first natural resources bond passed by the Legislature in fifteen years, and *the largest investment in natural resources and underserved communities in California history*. The \$4 billion bond would provide parks for disadvantaged neighborhoods and investments in the state's wildlife and ecological areas, water resources, and urban areas to help safeguard against climate change impacts, make cities more livable, and protect California's natural resources for future generations. The measure would also increase drought and flood protection, and supply clean water.

Possible Impact on Santa Cruz County Parks

If passed, Proposition 68 will provide funding for various grant programs that might not otherwise receive funding. Parameters and guidelines for the grant programs have not yet been published, so our potential eligibility for each of the grant programs remains uncertain. However, based on the information available at this time, Santa Cruz County Parks may be eligible to apply directly for grants in the following programs, with total Proposition 68 program funding of \$1.780 billion:

- \$725 million: creation and expansion of safe neighborhood parks in park-poor neighborhoods
- \$200 million: per capita grants to local governments for the improvement of local parks
- \$30 million: grants to regional park districts, counties, open-space districts, joint powers authorities, and eligible nonprofit organizations to restore and improve parks
- \$40 million: grants to local jurisdictions whose voters passed local measures between 2012 and 2018 to improve local or regional park infrastructure
- \$30 million: grants to local agencies, state conservancies, Native American tribes, joint powers authorities, and nonprofit organizations to promote new or alternative access to

- parks, waterways, outdoor recreation, and natural environments
- \$25 million: competitive grants to rural areas for recreational projects to support economic and health-related goals
- \$175 million: projects related to ocean, bay, and coastal protection
- \$30 million: protection and restoration of habitat associated with the Pacific Flyway
- \$25 million: stream restoration to benefit fisheries and wildlife
- \$60 million: improvement of wildlife and fish passage
- \$40 million: projects to assist coastal communities with adaptation to climate change, including projects that address ocean acidification, sea level rise, or habitat restoration
- \$50 million: projects that provide ecological restoration of forests, including projects to reduce fire risk
- \$60 million: competitive grants to protect natural, cultural, historic, and Native American resources; convert retired fossil fuel powerplant sites for open space, parks, or tourism; science centers; civic and athletic venues; cultural centers that recognize contributions of the state's ethnic communities; and nonprofit aquariums
- \$290 million: drought and groundwater investments, including groundwater recharge with surface water, stormwater, and recycled water and projects to prevent contamination of groundwater sources of drinking water

Santa Cruz County Parks may also be eligible to apply for grants in programs which may be created by other agencies with Proposition 68 funding of \$210 million:

- \$162 million: grants to conservancies and programs to protect urban creeks and streams
- \$18 million: Wildlife Conservation Board to provide wildlife corridors and open space, improve threatened and endangered species habitat, improve adaptation and resilience of natural systems to climate change, protect and improve existing open-space corridors and trail linkages, provide wildlife rehabilitation facilities, control invasive plants or insects, improve aquatic or riparian habitat, provide projects to benefit salmon and steelhead, provide hunting and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities through agreements with private landowners
- \$30 million: Department of Fish and Wildlife to improve conditions for fish and wildlife in streams, rivers, wildlife refuges, wetland habitat areas, and estuaries

It is anticipated that the majority of the grant opportunities will require matching funds, typically in a 50/50 ratio, and completion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) permits. In order to successfully compete for the various grant opportunities, Santa Cruz County Parks will need to have eligible and competitive projects, with the necessary CEQA permits and available matching funds.

Although it is impossible to predict how successful Santa Cruz County Parks may be in securing future grants, future grant opportunities for Santa Cruz County Parks are expected to be severely curtailed without the successful passage of Proposition 68. It is therefore recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission support Proposition 68.