



TO: Chair and Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: JoAnne Plummer, Neighborhood Services Director

CONTACT: Justin Wilkins, Parks and Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Manager Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file a report regarding recent activities and initiatives in the Parks and Recreation Division.

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation division is responsible for a variety of park-related Capital Improvement Projects (CIP's), the daily operation of the Goleta Community Center (GCC), supports a variety of CIP's at the GCC, the facilitation of all facility and park rentals, and a variety of volunteer and recreational programs, among a variety of other administrative and managerial functions and roles.

DISCUSSION

PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mathilda Park Improvement Project

The Mathilda Park Improvement Project consists of a playground, irrigation, turf, and walkway renovations to improve park function, drainage, and meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements. The construction is managed by the Public Works Department, and started in late January 2026, however, due to rain, has temporarily been halted again while the site dries out. The project site suffers from extraordinary water retention from the spate of recent storms. Work completed to date includes site demolition, clearing and grubbing, and rough grading. The anticipated completion date of the end of March is likely to change due to the weather delays and unsuitable site conditions.



GOLETA COMMUNITY CENTER (GCC) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Pickleball Entry Improvement Project

The Pickleball Entry Improvement Project plans are nearing completion and are being prepared to move into the permitting stage. Additionally, staff have been provided with updated project renderings, which will be shared with the community during upcoming community outreach sessions (see 'Outreach & Planning'). Current cost estimates for the project have resulted in a budgetary shortfall and the project team is exploring options to address the cost concerns.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION GENERAL UPDATES

LEAD Academy

On January 29th and February 19th, Parks and Recreation staff presented to 32 LEAD Academy participants, sharing the work of the division in terms of park and GCC improvement projects, event and permitting, rental and facility management, and recreation, camps, classes, and on-going programming. The LEAD Goleta Community Academy is a free, 6-week, award-winning program designed to educate residents about local government operations. The goal of the Parks and Recreation Division's participation is to foster appreciation for City parks and facilities, promote awareness of division programs and services, and encourage participation in volunteer and civic engagement opportunities.

GCC Pickleball Community Outreach & Planning

As reported during the January 14, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the City of Goleta assumed programmatic management of the Pickleball Reservation System at the GCC, effective January 1, 2026. Operations remained status quo during the transition to minimize impacts for the players. To be responsive to all users of community resources, the team will be assessing the needs of the users of the courts to determine the best approach to programming in the future. As stated, staff have

planned a series of community listening sessions to obtain feedback from residents and court users.

Community listening and feedback sessions will be planned for varied days/times so that interested parties can attend one that works for their schedule during the months of March and April. Community outreach sessions, to be held at the GCC, are planned for:

Tuesday, April 7th - 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 9th - 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 12th - 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

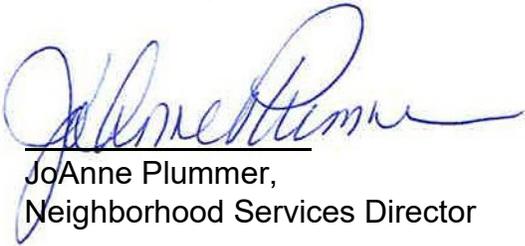
After the community listening sessions, staff will determine the next steps to determine the programming and operational direction for the pickleball courts at GCC moving forward.

4th Annual City of Goleta Senior Expo

The City of Goleta Parks and Recreation Division is pleased to host the 4th Annual Senior Expo on April 23rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Goleta Community Center. This is a free community event for seniors, family members, caregivers, community providers and volunteers.

Senior Program Classes, Events, and Activities: For a monthly calendar Senior Program events, class descriptions, and additional information, please visit the Parks and Recreation [Senior Program Website](#).

Approved By:



JoAnne Plummer,
Neighborhood Services Director