



TO: Chair and Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Jaime A. Valdez, Neighborhood Services Director

CONTACT: JoAnne Plummer, Parks and Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Manager Project and Program Updates

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the Parks and Recreation Manager Report on progress for current Park and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects and associated programs.

DISCUSSION:

The Department of Neighborhood Services is responsible for a variety of park-related Capital Improvement Projects and specialty programs related to parks and recreation.

PROJECT UPDATES:

CIP 9074 – STOW GROVE PARK MASTER PLAN

The Stow Grove Park Master Plan and the Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration is scheduled to go before City Council for adoption on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at a regular City Council meeting. It will be at that same meeting that staff will request City Council direction on the solicitation of proposals for the development of the construction documents for the Stow Grove Park Master Plan.

CIP 9084 - COMMUNITY GARDEN, MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL AND ARMITOS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Construction on this project continues with a significant impact of delays of materials. Specifically, the fencing for the park and the shelter structure in the middle of the park are expected to ship in December.

Staff continue to work with the project team on options that would provide the public with the opportunity to enjoy the multi-purpose path and the new playground, even if the

components in the garden are not yet complete. This option would be considered only if it is safe to do so.

Applications for the community garden are likely to be released in December of this year, with the plots available to the users in February. Staff is currently working with the UCSB Master Gardeners to develop classes, workshops, and a consideration of a demonstration plot within the Community Garden. These educational opportunities would be held either at Armitos Park and/or the Goleta Community Center and designed for beginner gardeners and would be open to all residents in Goleta, not just those that rent a garden plot.

CIP 9111 – SPLASH PAD AND IMPROVEMENTS AT JONNY D. WALLIS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Earlier this year, the Splash Pad project broke ground, but was placed on a pause due to the lengthy procurement of the mechanical building that is to house the equipment for the splash pad. The project was expected to begin on November 1st, but staff has delayed this date to November 13th to allow for the area residents to enjoy the park before construction during daylight savings and a holiday weekend ahead.

Once construction does begin, closures of the park will happen in a phased approach. Staff will close down the south/eastern section of the park (pickleball, basketball, picnic rentals, bocce, yoga area, Bankshot and a portion of the parking lot). Phase two will close the entire southern section of the park, except for the skatepark. Phase two will not occur until Mathilda Park Playground can be available for public use.

The final phase will include the closure of the field for installation of the shade structures over the picnic areas. During this time, the entire park will be closed except for the walkway between the northern and southern section of the park and the skatepark. Staff is working closely with the project team and the Parks and Open Space maintenance team to coordinate field closures for the installation of the shade structures as well as some required turf maintenance. This field is very active throughout the year and is in dire need of rest and restoration.

CIP 9113 – MATHILDA PARK IMPROVEMENTS

On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, the Mathilda Park Improvement project was considered for authorization to bid for construction. If approved, staff anticipates this project will go out for a competitive bidding process from mid-November through mid-December, with anticipation of an award of contract on February 6th. This project should be completed within three months once the groundbreaking has occurred. This project

is funded through a grant from the State Office of Grants and Local Services, local Community Development Block Grant Funds and general funds.

GOLETA COMMUNITY CENTER:

Programs and Facility Management:

The documents related to the rental policies and procedures and other facility related policies are being presented to the Commission to seek input later in the agenda of this evening's meeting. It is anticipated that these items will be reviewed by City Council at their regular meeting on December 5, 2023, in preparation of re-opening the facility.

Construction Project: Construction commenced on May 30, 2023, and the team is hard at work. The area of work most noticeable to the public is the replacement of the roof and fresh paint on the main building. This work has been ongoing, including weekends, and will continue through the end of November. Once the construction is complete, there are still items that need to be addressed inside before the facility can open to the public such as new flooring, interior paint, etc. It is currently anticipated to bring back the programs that were displaced during construction in January for a soft opening and a full re-opening in February.

It is important to note that the seismic construction project is the first of two major projects taking place at the Goleta Community Center. The second project is slated to begin in mid-to-late 2024 and will focus on many of the improvements associated to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This project will allow the facility to primarily be open, with some disruption. These improvements, while functional, will also include noticeable elements to facility users. Improvements include the renovation of the restrooms, new pavers outside, new railings, etc.

ADOPT A PARK:

In October's Monarch Press edition, the Parks and Recreation Division created a promotional video and wrote an article for the Adopt-A-Park Program. This promotional effort encouraged the community to help preserve Goleta's Parks and Open Spaces by volunteering and served as an opportunity to thank the program's current volunteers over the past year. The promotional video was a tremendous success resulting in new adoptions and inquiries made from individuals, neighbors, schools, and organizations. Prior to the promotional efforts, the program had nine (9) Parks and Open Spaces adopted out of 24 available spaces. Now, with the release of the video, there are currently 16 adopted spaces with three additional inquiries pending confirmation.

As the Commission may recall, the Adopt-A-Park Program was piloted in 2019 at Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park with the Goleta Noontime Rotary and supported for recommendation to City Council in 2021. Mr. Mendoza-Diaz has been leading this effort and he continues to do an amazing job.

Promotional video and current adoptable spaces can be found on the City's website located on the link below:

www.cityofgoleta.org/adoptapark

Link to the Monarch Press Article can be found below:

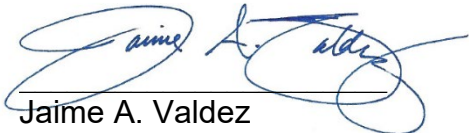
www.goletamonarchpress.com

PARKS AND RECREATION SOFTWARE

In May of 2023, staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit online facility booking/program registration system proposals for the City of Goleta. Nine proposals were received, five vendors were interviewed with three advancing to a final interview. Currently, staff is in contract negotiations with one of the finalists. Staff anticipates finalizing this contract before the end of the month, with the implementation process beginning immediately. Implementation can take four to six months, but due to our limited facility opportunities, staff anticipates a shorter timeframe.

This system will be used for facility booking of the Goleta Community Center, the group picnic areas and the community garden initially, expanding to other opportunities as they become available to the public.

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jaime A. Valdez", is written over a horizontal line.

Jaime A. Valdez
Neighborhood Services Director