

# **City of Goleta City Council**

**March 3, 2020**

## **Item A.5 – 2019 General Plan Update**

Open Space Element Replacement Pages

Page 11-12 of the Annual Progress Report (“Big Pages” 27-28)

These replacement pages include a minor text correction to the date the City Council heard the Parks, Facilities, and Playgrounds Master Plan. The report incorrectly listed the year 2019, when it should have listed 2020.

interest methods such as conservation easements, purchase of development rights, and low or no-cost preservation programs.

**Summary 2019:** Existing revenue sources are used to maintain the open spaces. These sources include Park Development Impact Fees, Open Space Acquisition Reserves, and outside grant funding. The City has purchased 7 of the 18 parcels in the City's Open Space Overlay, located adjacent to Ellwood Mesa Open Space and is currently in negotiations with other property owners to acquire more properties. The City was able to secure partial funding in 2018 for the purchase of an 8<sup>th</sup> parcel in the Overlay (APN 079-554-031) and applied for and received a Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) Grant in 2019 for the remaining funds that were needed. The City expects to close escrow on the property in early 2020. If in the future these revenue sources are not sufficient to acquire, preserve, and maintain the City's open space, then a study as identified in this policy may be initiated. However, the City continues to actively seek other funding sources for additional open space acquisitions.

**OS-IA-4 Preparation of Park System Master Plan.** A Park Master Plan developed for the system of municipal park facilities would provide a framework to meet existing and future park and recreation service needs. Such a plan may be used to determine resource development, expansion, maintenance, operation, or capital improvements appropriate for these city facilities and as a basis for pursuing funding opportunities.

**Summary 2019:** In December of 2017, the Council authorized the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement between the City and a consulting firm (KTU&A) to prepare a Parks, Facilities, and Playgrounds Master Plan. Throughout 2018 and 2019, work was completed on this plan, with the members of the public and the Parks and Recreation Commission providing comments and direction. The City Council is scheduled to consider adoption of the Parks, Facilities, and Playgrounds Master Plan in January of 2020. The scope of work largely includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Data Collection: Historical information and inventory; Incorporate other City plans and previous studies; Update demographic information, and; Inventory of all parks, open space, amenities, facilities and playgrounds.
- Analyze Existing Conditions: Compare nationwide trends; Compare similar communities; Determine a standard "Level of Service"; Identify deficiencies; Develop maintenance standards and tools to measure efficiencies, and; Develop a master sign policy/sign replacement with cost analysis for branding of City parks.
- Future Plans and Funding: Develop a lifecycle maintenance and replacement plan for buildings and amenities; Prioritize all future projects; Identify locations and costs for future facilities, and; Identifying community need for specific park types, such as athletic fields, pocket parks, and/or playgrounds.

Additionally, on March 20, 2019, all members of City Council participated in a grand opening event held for the new Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park. The park is located in an area of Old Town Goleta that is marked in the City's General Plan as both a Planned

Future Park Site (Figure 3-2) and an Active Park Open Space (Figure 3-5). The park is now open to the public and helps support the surrounding neighborhoods and further serve the needs of existing and future residents and employees of the area. Lastly, all members of City Council also attended a ground breaking ceremony on June 19, 2019 for the renovation of the athletic field behind the Goleta Valley Community Center and adjacent to the Boys and Girls Club. This project was in response to the information from the 2015 Recreation Needs Assessment regarding the renovation of multi-use field space and also includes additional amenities, such as a fitness path and fitness station. On October 2, 2019, members of the City Council celebrated with the community as the ribbon was cut and the site was open to the public.

**OS-IA-5 Preparation of Individual Park Development and/or Management Plans.** A development and/or management plan for individual parks, particularly the largest park sites, may be prepared to match resource needs to individual park sites. Similar to the park master plan, these plans are intended to be used to determine resource development, expansion, maintenance, operation, or capital improvements as appropriate and as a basis for pursuing funding opportunities for individual parks.

**Summary 2019:** The City's two largest open space sites are the Ellwood Mesa/Sperling Preserve and the Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historical Preserve. Although there are no current individual park plans, general maintenance and management plans for these two sites are implemented on a regular basis. The City had submitted an application to the California Coastal Commission in 2016 for trail improvements and habitat restoration at the Ellwood site. The application was finally determined to be complete on August 20, 2019 and subsequently approved on October 17, 2019. As for Lake Los Carneros, the management plan for the site was identified in 2017 as being outdated and requiring restudy by the City in the near future.

Also of note was the September 27, 2017 issuance of an Emergency Permit (Case No. G-4-17-0048) by the California Coastal Commission to the City for the removal of 29 Eucalyptus trees on Ellwood Mesa that posed an immediate threat to public safety as well as the restoration of habitat. Between September and December of 2017, twenty-seven of the 29 trees were removed and the remaining two were pruned. The City submitted the application for the follow-on Coastal Development Permit on December 10, 2018 to legalize the work that was performed and to allow the implementation of the conditions of approval of the Emergency Permit. After determining this application complete, the Coastal Commission also granted the City approval for this project on October 17, 2019, which will allow the City to perform the much-needed work outlined in the 2018 Implementation Plan for the Ellwood North area of the Eucalyptus grove.

The grove of Eucalyptus trees serves as habitat area and aggregation site for the Monarch Butterfly, which also serves as one of the City's most popular recreation destinations. With 1,260 trees in the area surveyed as dead or dying and 247 of these trees located within falling distance of public designated trails, several trail segments have been temporarily closed throughout the area until a habitat management plan can be