

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
PARKS DEPARTMENT

DATE: December 5, 2019

**To:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**From:** Nicholas J. Calderon, Parks Director  
**Subject:** Update regarding Memorial Park Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Accept this staff report regarding the improvements being made to Memorial Park's facilities and infrastructure.

**BACKGROUND**

In 1924, the County of San Mateo opened its first park – Memorial Park. Situated among the redwood trees, Memorial Park is the primary campground for the San Mateo County park system. The park has 141 campsites including family, youth group, and large group areas. It also has a visitor center, an amphitheater, day use picnic areas, and almost seven miles of hiking trails.

During the 2018 camping season, Memorial Park served over 57,000 campers. This included families, church groups, non-profits, boy scouts and girl scouts, and visitors from across the country. In addition to camping, Memorial Park hosts special events, including Nature Hikes, Junior Ranger events, Movies in the Park, and more.

In preparation for the park's 100-year anniversary, the Department is undertaking a complete overhaul of the park's facilities and infrastructure. This effort includes construction of a new wastewater treatment plant, installation of new restroom and shower room buildings, replacement of the wastewater collection system, and improvement of campsites. In order to safely construct these projects, the Department will be closing Memorial Park's campgrounds for the 2020 camping season. The day use, Visitor Center, and hiking trails will remain open during construction.

**DISCUSSION**

*Wastewater Treatment Plant*

The new wastewater treatment plant, which is currently under construction, will allow the Department to more efficiently process and treat wastewater. Also, because the system's capacity will be increased from 30,000 gallons per day to 50,000 gallons per day, the Department will be able to add facilities to the system in the future, if necessary.

To date, the new system's concrete, subsurface storage tank has been constructed, and the next step is installation of an electronic monitoring system. The new wastewater system is estimated to be completed in July of 2020.

#### *Restroom and Shower Room Buildings*

Many of the restroom and shower room buildings have not been replaced since the 1970's. Given the harsh natural environment in Memorial Park and the constant demand on the structures during camping season, most of the restrooms and shower rooms have exceeded useful life. The Department is working with Capital Program Management, Inc. to procure and install new restroom and shower room facilities.

The restroom and shower room buildings to be procured and installed will be energy and water efficient, constructed of material that can best withstand the natural environment in Memorial Park, are able to be maintained to extend the useful life of the structures, and ADA compliant. Each structure will also be gender-neutral with single stall design, meaning each restroom and shower room has its own entrance and only serves one person at a time.

The Department will replace seven restroom and shower room buildings while the campgrounds are closed during the 2020 camping season. It is anticipated that a vendor to provide the restrooms and shower rooms will be selected in January 2020. It is the Department's intention that all remaining facilities that require replacement will be replaced at a later date, but before the 100-year anniversary.

#### *Wastewater Collection System*

The existing wastewater collection system is obsolete, and therefore, often breaks and leaks. As part of the effort to upgrade the park's infrastructure, the Department is replacing the collection system. Replacement of the entire system instead of spot-repairing will allow the Department to improve the integrity of the system, reduce storm water infiltration, map the location of subsurface collection lines, reduce wastewater leaking from the pipes, and save costs associated with rangers or contractors having to repair lines.

#### *Campsite Improvements*

While the campgrounds are closed in 2020, the Department will be making ADA upgrades, paving drive aisles and parking lots, and replacing barbeque pits, picnic benches, fire pits, and other amenities offered in the campsites. All seasonal campsites will be updated and improved for the 2021 camping season.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Appropriations for the design phase are included in the Department's FY 2019-20 Recommended Adopted Budget. The Department will collaborate with the San Mateo County Parks Foundation to raise additional funds as anticipated construction costs may exceed current budgeted amounts.