

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Date: June 4, 2020

To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Nicholas J. Calderon, Parks Director  
Subject: Director's Report

**Reimagine Flood Park**

At the November 5, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Department presented the Flood Park Landscape Plan and Final Revised Environmental Impact Report ("Final EIR") to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. During public testimony, several neighbors expressed concerns regarding the location of the mixed-use soccer/lacrosse field and the accuracy of the data included in the Final EIR. Based on this feedback, the Board directed the Department to revise the Landscape Plan so the mixed-use field is not along the Del Norte fence line, make any changes to the Final EIR that may be required because of the revisions to the Landscape Plan, and present the revisions to the Board for consideration as soon as possible.

The Department revised the Landscape Plan in accordance with the direction given by the Board. The primary change to the Landscape Plan is that the mixed-use soccer/lacrosse field has been moved away from the Del Norte fence line and toward Bay Road. Also, a second mixed-use soccer/lacrosse field has been overlaid in the outfield of the baseball field. To accommodate these changes, the tennis courts were relocated to the south-east portion of the park. The pump track has also been moved to the south-east corner of the park by the Iris Lane Gate. All recreational amenities are located outside of the 100-foot buffer, as required by the Final EIR. The project's environmental consultants have determined that no revisions are needed to the Final EIR.

**Off-Leash Dog Policy and Pilot Program**

At the February 2020 Parks Commission meeting, the Commission voted to have the Department present both the Dog Work Group's recommendation for an off-leash pilot program and the Department's recommendation for an off-leash pilot program to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. The Commission also directed the Department to include in its staff report to the Board the difference between the Department's recommendation and the Work Group's recommendation. It was the Department's intention to present this matter to the Board upon completion of the CEQA review.

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department's environmental consultant completed the first draft of the Initial Study, which was prepared to identify any possible

environmental impacts that may occur because of legalized off-leash dog recreation at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff. The first draft was reviewed by Department staff, and the Initial Study is being revised by the consultant based on Department feedback. Once the Initial Study has been revised, it will inform the Department what level of CEQA review is necessary, if any, to commence an Off-leash Dog Pilot Program.

The Department will not be presenting the recommendations for an off-leash pilot program to the Board for consideration until such time as the CEQA review is complete and the COVID-19 pandemic is under greater control. This decision has been made so the Board can focus on responding to the global public health pandemic and financial downturn.

### **Tunitas Creek Beach Improvement Project**

To date, the project team has prepared an existing conditions analysis, an opportunities and constraints analysis, and a first draft of the project alternatives. The first draft of the project alternatives is being revised based on feedback provided by the Department, Public Works, POST, and Coastal Conservancy. Once the project alternatives have been revised, a virtual community engagement session will occur to solicit feedback from the public.

The Department continues to work with POST and Coastal Conservancy to develop a community engagement plan. Because of COVID-19, the entire community engagement process will be conducted using videos, virtual workshops, and online/paper surveys. No in-person engagement is anticipated.

Once the project alternatives have been reviewed by the public and refined to accommodate public input, the preferred alternative will be presented to this Commission for consideration. There is no estimate at this time as to when this will occur.

### **Memorial Park**

The projects at Memorial Park continue to progress. In total, there are four projects occurring simultaneously: the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, the Restroom and Shower Room Replacement Project, the Wastewater Collection System Project, and the Campground Improvement Project. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Project is under construction, and is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year. The subsurface work has been finished, and the aboveground infrastructure is being assembled.

At the March 24, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board authorized an agreement with Romtec Inc. for the design, permitting, and construction of the restrooms and shower rooms. To date, Romtec Inc. has prepared the designs for the restrooms and shower rooms and submitted them to County Planning and Building for approval. Once the permits have been obtained, construction will commence. It is anticipated that construction will take approximately four months to complete.

The Department is also working with Sherwood Design Engineers to redesign the entire Memorial Park Wastewater Collection System. The designs are at 60 percentage complete, and should be finalized this summer. Once completed, construction will commence. It is anticipated that construction will take three to four months to complete. The Wastewater Collection System Project and Restroom and Shower Room Replacement Project will likely be constructed concurrently, and all vendors are capable of working without interfering with one another.

The Campgrounds Improvement Project consists of various improvements to the individual campsites. These include new picnic tables, BBQ pits, fire pits, and parking areas. The Department is also constructing the first two ADA picnic sites in Memorial Park's Day Use area. This will enhance the Department's goal of being more inclusive.

### **Fuel Reduction**

Last year, the Department partnered with Cal Fire to treat approximately 160 acres of wildfire fuel in Huddart Park and Quarry Park. This year, the Department has prioritized monitoring and retreatment of these areas.

The Department hired Go Native to retreat approximately 80 acres in Quarry Park. Go Native will be responsible for retreating areas inundated with eucalyptus trees and other non-native vegetation.

In Huddart Park, the approximately 80 acres treated by Cal Fire is being actively monitored by Natural Resource Management staff. To date, native species, including the Kings Mountain Manzanita, coffeeberry, and toyon have thrived, and non-native vegetation has been slow to return. No retreatment work has been required.

### **5-Year Interpretive Plan**

The Department has decided to delay the 5-year Interpretive Plan until the COVID-19 pandemic has concluded. Much of the Department's interpretive program is based on interacting with the public and hosting in-person events. Until it has been determined how best to host in-person events, the Department is not comfortable setting a direction for the interpretive program.

### **Administrative and Fiscal Services**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Administrative and Fiscal Services Unit ("Unit") moved almost all its operations online. Staff within the Unit have been teleworking since March 17, 2020 and constantly adapting to change to meet the needs of the Parks Department ("Department") during this difficult time.

The Unit continues to prioritize the procurement of goods and services, especially personal protective equipment ("PPE"), for the health and safety of Department staff and park visitors. The Unit is also closely monitoring how the pandemic is affecting the Department's current finances. From March 16, 2020 through the end of the fiscal year (i.e., June 30, 2020), well over \$30,000 is projected to be spent on services and supplies related to the Department's response to COVID-19. Additionally, with the

closure of County parks from March 27, 2020 to May 4, 2020, and the partial closure of County parks from May 4, 2020 to the foreseeable future, the Department is expected to suffer revenue losses in excess of \$700,000 in FY 2019-20. The Department plans to absorb these unexpected costs and losses by cancelling non-essential projects and keeping unfilled positions vacant.

All reservations and special events have been cancelled from March 16, 2020 through June 30, 2020. The Department will continue to monitor the situation and periodically decide on whether to make additional cancellations beyond June 30, 2020.

#### FY 2020-21 Recommended Budget

Pending the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) approval, the Parks Department’s FY 2020-21 Recommended Budget is approximately \$52.03 million. This budget, submitted to the County Manager’s Office (“CMO”) on April 13, 2020, includes four distinct budget units: capital projects (\$26.41 million); operating (\$22.62 million); Coyote Point Marina (\$2.95 million); and Fish and Game (\$0.05 million).

The Department’s FY 2020-21 Recommended Budget also includes approximately \$7.09 million in Measure K appropriations, including \$4.36 million for capital projects and \$2.73 million for operations and maintenance. There are still 77 authorized positions within the Department, including three Coyote Point Marina positions.

It is important to note that the Department’s FY 2020-21 Recommended Budget does not include all the appropriations for projects from the prior year (i.e., FY 2019-20); these appropriations need to be “rolled” over to the new fiscal year to complete projects. Consistent with County policy, these appropriations will be added to the Department’s FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget.

As of May 25, 2020, neither the CMO nor the Board have provided County departments with information on possible reductions for FY 2020-21. The Board will review and vote on the County’s FY 2020-21 Recommended Budget, including the Parks Department’s budget, on Tuesday, June 23, 2020.