

**City of San Diego**  
**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 20, 2025**

*“TO PROVIDE HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, AND ENRICHING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL”*

**Meeting Held by In Person and Teleconference:**

This meeting was held at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom and remotely using the Zoom Webinar platform and was streamed online. The public was invited to join the meeting by phone or computer, as well as invited to submit “Public Comments” in writing via a webform. The form was made available on the Parks and Recreation website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/boards>.

NOTE: Both verbal and written communication were used by Board Members, City staff, and presenters during the meeting. City staff also used the screen-share function to allow viewers to view content shared by the speaker which included PowerPoint presentations and websites.

Before the meeting was called to order, City staff read instructions to the public regarding technical procedures for making live public comment during the webinar.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>City Staff Present</b>
Nick Anastasopoulos Marcella Bothwell (Chair) Dr. Andrea Dooley Shaina Gross Daniele Laman Dr. Judith Munoz Evelyn Smith Allison Soares Agatha Wein	Martin Armstrong Rick Gulley (Vice Chair)	Ryan Barbrick Gordon Bordson Benjamin Cartwright (Virtual) Karen Dennison (Virtual) Gina Dulay Kyle Elser Sarah Erazo Erika Ferreira Patrick Hadley (Virtual) Matthew Helm Maricris Lumibao Salome Martinez Louis Merlin Justin Nguyen Danielle Nourie-Burns Elvi Ricafort Gabriela Verendia

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Bothwell at 2:04 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2025**

**MOTION/SECONDED:**

**Ms. Laman/Mr. Anastasopoulos**

A motion was made by Ms. Laman to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. Anastasopoulos. The motion was approved 8-0-1 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Dr. Andrea Dooley, Shaina Gross, Daniele Laman, Dr. Judith Munoz, Evelyn Smith, Allison Soares, and Agatha Wein. Recused: None. Abstained: Allison Soares. Not Present: Martin Armstrong, and Richard Gulley.

**Public Comments:**

No public comments on the meeting minutes.

**Board Comments:** None

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Sandra Dryden**, with Power Up With YOUth Trail Force Initiative, wants to gain support for Chollas Creek Master Plan and Trail Force Initiative (see attached email and supporting documentation). Students would like to restore and enhance the Encanto section of Chollas Creek and transform it into a vibrant space for families and visitors to enjoy, particularly the Encanto Neighborhoods Trail at 5505 Stevens Way and adjacent Chollas Creek. Beyond local benefits, would like to make the Chollas Creek trail into an attraction for tourists via the trolley. Students have been engaged in writing letters to City Council members and conducting community surveys. Insight from survey results is planned to be incorporated into comprehensive proposal. and Molly White, a young YOUth ambassador, has been involved with the program and wrote a contest-winning essay on her experience. The public can learn more about Molly and the Power Up With YOUth program by visiting their website, <https://www.powerupsd.org/>. Ms. Dryden asked for guidance on implementation and would like to bring a formal proposal to next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting. **Related materials are attached to the minutes (Attachment # 1)**

**Erik Anderson** from Rolando completed Get It Done request for Wi-Fi at Clay Park 19 months ago in July 2023, and the ticket was closed next day. Mr. Anderson assumed the Wi-Fi issue was occurring everywhere but found about a month ago that it was still functioning at several other parks around the City. Per the City website, Clay Park was supposed to have the San Diego (SD) Access for All Wi-Fi available. Mr. Anderson forwarded his Get It Done request to his Councilmember last week and is hoping it will be fixed soon. If the SD Access for All project is cut due to budget considerations, Mr. Anderson would like to remind the Board that Clay Park is owed 19 months of access for the issue that was not resolved.

**Maria Corbitt and Liz Ponce (on behalf of Joseph Reyes)** representing members of Mountain View Sports and Racquet Club. Ms. Corbitt and Ms. Ponce have been members for years and talk highly of the club and its events. They brought forth concerns about issue in October 2024, Director Joseph Reyes was asked to host a Latin American Tennis Festival at the club for the first time and brought in Mariachi band from a high school to play. They were asked to display a banner, and after the festival the former President (who was currently the

Chairperson) ordered the Director to remove the banner and stated that Mr. Reyes was making the club too Latino. Mr. Reyes wanted to promote tennis, diversity, and inclusion for everyone, but this created a divide. Since the chairperson ordered the banner's removal, there has been harassment toward Director Reyes to the point that he feels unsafe and he and the Coach plan to resign as a result. The current President is supporting Reyes and is now also facing harassment, being called derogatory racial names. Around 80 parents have signed a petition to ask the City to investigate, and to keep Reyes on board. Ms. Corbitt, Ms. Ponce, and other parents would like the Chairperson/former President to be removed for the toxic environment she has created and help in choosing a new Chairperson. Parents and members are afraid of retaliation and having kids be excluded from participation, and the parents have decided they would leave and follow Reyes and the Coach if they left the Club. Apart from this issue, community is happy with the program. Chair Bothwell explained that she read the email and confirmed that it is under investigation.

**John Fernandez** attended Park Board several months ago to request curfew at Pasa Tiempo Open Space and Park. Community is grateful for support, curfew, and signage for closure after 5pm in the Winter. While signs are appreciated, the community would like more done. There are still people smoking on site with open flames. Calling the Police Station is not fixing the issue. Community requested Ranger support and the answer was voluntary compliance requests. Mr. Fernandez stated this is not working and simply asking to have cigarettes put out is not going to solve the problem. He is asking for direction to Ranger staff to issue citations because smoking leads to fire danger in the area. Mr. Fernandez reported that remediation effort occurred to cut brush last month and the requirements in Zone 1 and Zone 2 are for 50% to be cut down to less than 6 inches. However, Mr. Fernandez states he has photos showing that nothing was touched outside of Zone 1 on the north side of the lot and that the Aztec contractors were sleeping outside of their break times. He asked who to reach out to for follow up, Louis Merlin referred him to Open Space Deputy Director Erika Ferreira. Mr. Fernandez has already been in touch with Ms. Ferreira, Mr. Merlin confirmed that Parks and Recreation will be in touch with him.

**Sue Richardson** of Colina Del Sol has submitted Get it Done requests for some of the lights that are out at Colina Del Sol's pickleball and tennis courts, and she has been waiting over a year for them to be fixed. Tennis and pickleball courts are busy into the night and patrons are asking for P&R to help put pressure on Streets Division to complete the light replacements.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Area Committee – There is no representative for the Community Parks Committee yet.
- Balboa Park Committee – Ms. Soares reported that they had a great Balboa Park meeting this month, a highlight was the report regarding the City and Department associated with Valentino Police, they overviewed the Police Department (PD) and

claims that individuals make against activity with the PD. Annual meeting is coming up again in March.

- Mission Bay Park Committee – No report given.
- Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee - Mr. Gulley was absent, no report given.
- San Diego Parks Foundation – Chair Bothwell reported that the San Diego Parks Foundation was established because parks are an essential service and utility for the people of San Diego. The purpose of the foundation is to bring outside revenue into the City in lieu of the budget crisis, and this is more important than ever. Citywide Internship Program is on hold, but Foundation continues to fund 23 park ambassadors using outside resources, their program started last Wednesday. These Park Ambassadors will serve critical role of filling staffing gaps at Recreation Centers. Parks After Dark has been successful with high attendance, serving hundreds of thousands of people. The Foundation (along with donors) plans to go full speed ahead with this program that serves communities of concern, activates parks, and decreases crime and homelessness in the respective park areas. They just had a conversation with Captain Wahl who is in full support and speaks to increase in public safety brought about by the program. I Love My Park Day is planned for May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Martin Luther King Jr. Park, which will kick off the summer season. The primary fundraising event, the Undertow Golf Tournament, has raised approximately \$120K which will be put into park improvements that are both capital and programming in nature. The Foundation continues to be concerned about budget crisis and urges that any cuts to parks do not overburden communities of concern and frontline staff in the Recreation Centers are prioritized.

**CHAIR COMMENTS:**

See San Diego Parks Foundation report, reports were given together as one.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Ms. Laman** shared praise for Parks and Recreation staff who attended the Community and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting yesterday (Salome Martinez, Sarah Erazo, Shannon Scoggins, and Tom Tomlinson), the meeting was excellent. Ms. Laman shared QR codes for the Bikeway Plan and Sunshine Berardini Field Renovations, which are both for the Chollas Creek area. Groundworks created and shared the QR codes with the community. She also invited everyone to a City Heights event at Henwood Park that is scheduled for Saturday 2/22/25 at 11am, it is a Multicultural Festival of Love. **QR codes attached to the minutes (Attachment #2).**

**Evelyn Smith** shared that the courts at Emerald Hills Park have been redone, both the tennis courts and basketball courts. This is a great and overdue improvement to the park. She thanked the Park Board for listening to continued complaints and getting courts done, they were completed quickly.



**Dr. Judith Munoz** commented on the De Anza Cove parking lot. The striping is not done well and during the winter there are no boats parked there. Most of the parking lot is taken up with boat trailers. She recently got a parking ticket for being in the wrong spot because the striping was unclear. Dr. Munoz recommended changing the rules during the winter to allow park patrons to park there since there are no boats and a lot of park visitors without parking options.

**DIRECTORS REPORT:** Deputy Director Louis Merlin (on behalf of Director Field) provided the Board with the following updates:

Andy Field is out on medical leave, and is doing well. Parks & Recreation is in the middle of budget development season. Parks and Recreation has started a monthly newsletter and it will be on Constant Contact email beginning next month.

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE:** None

**CONSENT ITEMS:** None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**101. Re-naming Clay Neighborhood Park to Dr. Bertha O. Pendleton Park**

Deputy Director Gina Dulay presented the Re-naming Clay Neighborhood Park to Dr. Bertha O. Pendleton Park.

**MOTION/SECONDED:**

**Ms. Laman/Ms. Smith**

Ms. Laman moved to approve the staff recommendation and seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion was approved 9-0-0 and passed unanimously with the following vote: Yea: Nick Anastasopoulos, Marcella Bothwell, Dr. Andrea Dooley, Shaina Gross, Daniele Laman, Dr. Judith Munoz, Evelyn Smith, Allison Soares, and Agatha Wein. Nay: None. Recused: None. Abstained: None. Not Present: Martin Armstrong and Rick Gulley.

**Public Comments:**

**Joyce Suber** of the First African American Sorority, formed in 1908 at Howard University, which dates back to 1935 in San Diego. Dr. Pendleton is a member of the Sorority who are dedicated to community service and helping all mankind. Ms. Suber is happy that Dr. Pendleton is being recognized. Dr. Pendleton came to San Diego in 1957 and is a trailblazer who knows what it means to give to others. Ms. Suber is proud to be a San Diegan today.

**Letter of Support for Item 101 is also attached to the minutes (Attachment #3).**

**Brian Jenkins** is a parent in the Rolando Neighborhood and a middle school history teacher. He started on this project three years ago to change the school and park name and is appreciative to have this motion heard. He believes the community deserves to honor and reflect someone who they are proud of and who reflects the values of the community.

**Jerrold Tucker**, parent of Elementary students and resident of Rolando Neighborhood, is an organizer of the “Not Okay with Clay” group. He is thrilled that the name is being changed from honoring Clay to Dr. Pendleton. The community has had to learn what Clay

represented, and is thrilled to have Dr. Pendleton represent their community instead. Mr. Tucker thanks the Board.

**Sabrina Young**, teacher at Pendleton Elementary, has been working with Brian Jenkins and Jerrod Tucker and helped organize “Not Okay with Clay” committee. She thanked Jerrod Tucker for adding Dr. Bertha Pendleton’s name to the list and thanked Sean Elo-Rivera for supporting their efforts. Thankful to all involved in the name change including the Colina Del Sol Recreation Group and the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) Board Members.

**Erik Anderson** is a resident near Clay Park who supports renaming of Clay Park. He encourages the Board to ensure all existing signage is taken down and has witnessed other locations where new signage was added to reflect name change but old signage was not removed.

**Sue Richardson**, Chair of the Camino Del Sol Recreation Group and Secretary of the College Area Community Planning Group, both groups unanimously supported the renaming of the park to Dr. Bertha O. Pendleton to align with the school’s new name. Many people in the College Area Community use the park due to lack of park acreage in their area. They would like to encourage construction of the redevelopment of the project as soon as possible, and she supports the renaming and redevelopment of the park.

**Sorority members (Maxine Gerard and others)** of the audience shared how proud they are of this decision for renaming Clay Park after Dr. Bertha O. Pendleton. They shared that Dr. Pendleton is very appreciative of the community and the work they are doing, commending Parks and Recreation for making this motion, and stating that it is good for the school and the whole community.

**Board Comments:**

**Evelyn Smith** is proud to have met Dr. Bertha O. Pendleton with her daughter when her daughter was a senior in high school. Dr. Pendleton took Ms. Smith’s daughter under her wing and mentored her, encouraging her to follow her dreams which led to her acceptance to an all-girls school.

**Shaina Gross** has been critical of some renaming presentations, but supports this renaming which is diverse and representative of the community.

**Nick Anastasopoulos** asked if anyone has contacted Dr. Pendleton to notify her that the park would be named after her, a member of the audience member is in close contact with Dr. Pendleton and mentioned she is ill and living in a care facility, but she will visit her this week. Several other members of the First African American Sorority who have known and worked with Dr. Pendleton shared comments.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**201. Gas Tax Median Maintenance Program**

Deputy Director Erika Ferreira presented the Gas Tax Median Maintenance Program.

**Public Comments:** None

**Board Comments:**

**Danielle Laman** asked if the newly added medians were from 2024, Ms. Ferreira explained that most are from 2024 and some may be from late 2023. Ms. Laman also asked when changes occurred to frequency of maintenance, Ms. Ferreira explained that they occurred at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2025 because we received a little more funding than usual.

**Chair Marcella Bothwell** asked if the City's general fund receives funding from the proceeds and how much. Ms. Ferreira explained that there is a large chunk of money, but most goes to Transportation for streets and potholes and that Parks and Recreation Department (P&R) only gets a small portion. Ms. Ferreira added that we have been receiving about a half million per year per the last contract, but with additions and increased frequency we are going out for Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP is not complete, but P&R should receive more than \$500K per year.

**202. Community Recreation Needs Assessment Update**

Program Manager Salome Martinez presented the Community Recreation Needs Assessment Update.

**Public Comments:**

**Lynn Kramer** is the head coach and Treasurer of La Costa Racing Team, a non-profit with a mission to promote a healthy lifestyle through Slalom Skateboarding, provide Slalom Skateboard events, and offer community service opportunities for all. Slalom is one of the oldest types of skateboarding and is included in the World Skate Games, but has been an oversight. They have no place to practice in San Diego City or County that is not open to traffic. They would be better served if there were space dedicated to Slalom Skateboarding and need an area between 500ft long by 8ft wide to 1/4 mile long by 30ft wide to offer clinics, practices, and races. Areas including South Shores concrete bayside walk could be an ideal space for Slalom Skateboarding, with changes like removing bricks. Will be participating in community outreach via QR code.

**Orion Lehrmann** from Slalom Skateboarding community, need an official place to practice without cars on the road. Mr. Lehrmann thinks the program is a great addition to the community because it is half athletic and half engineering, so an individual can compete against people much stronger by utilizing a mind-body connection, and still have opportunity to succeed.

**Board Comments:**

**Danielle Laman** asked if consultant was hired by P&R or Planning Department, Ms. Martinez explained that the RFP process was completed, and consultant was hired by P&R staff via this process.

**Chair Bothwell** asked how much we are paying consultant and why they are needed. Ms. Martinez explained that we don't have the staff or expertise to complete this work, and that it was about \$150K for the consultant.

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**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Copies of the reports, attachments, PowerPoint presentations, and audio-video recordings can be found on the Parks and Recreation Department website at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/reports>.

**Next Calendared Meeting: February 20, at 2:00 p.m.**

Submitted by,

Louis Merlin  
Deputy Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Additional Materials from Sandra Dryden
2. QR Codes from Board Member Daniele Laman
3. Letter of Support for Item 101

**From:** [NoReply\\_sdgovweb\\_svc](#)  
**To:** [Commissions Public Comment](#); [Ricafort, Elvira](#); [Barbrick, Ryan](#)  
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[trail-hole-in-fence-end\\_img\\_6293.jpg](#)  
[trail-in-2003.png](#)

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Submitted on Mon, 02/17/2025 - 20:50

NAME:  
SANDRA DRYDEN

EMAIL:  
powerupwithyouth@gmail.com

ADDRESS:  
1210 La Mesa Ave  
spring Valley, California 91977

PHONE NUMBER:  
(619) 806-1959

BOARD OR COMMISSION:  
Park & Recreation Board

MEETING DATE:  
2025-02-20

COMMENT TYPE:  
Non-Agenda Comment

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:

COMMENTS:  
Subject: Power Up With YOUth Collaboration for Enhancing Encanto  
Neighborhoods Trail & Adjacent Chollas Creek

I am writing on behalf of Power Up With YOUth, a student-led, nonpartisan initiative dedicated to empowering 10–17-year-old youth to learn about the democratic process, take leadership roles, and actively participate in shaping the present and future of their neighborhoods.

As part of our hands-on civic engagement efforts, we are particularly interested in enhancing the Encanto Neighborhoods Trail at 5505 Stevens Way and adjacent Chollas Creek. We are working collaboratively with community residents and organizations and our elected officials. We want to work with the responsible departments to explore improvements that would make these areas safer, more accessible, and more engaging for the community. We envision the trail as a sustainable and healthy exercise, recreation, commuting and cultural space reflective of community desires and tourists' interests.

What We Want to Do

We would like to submit a proposal with our vision for the space that will:

1. Enhance Safety & Accessibility - Advocate for improved lighting, security measures, path materials and clear signage to ensure that the trail, adjacent areas and the creek area are welcoming and safe for all users.
2. Incorporate Sustainable Landscaping - Explore opportunities to plant native, drought-resistant plants that beautify the space while reducing maintenance costs and supporting local biodiversity.
3. Create Engaging Public Spaces - Propose community art installations, educational signage, and potential gathering spaces that reflect the cultural identity of the neighborhoods.
4. Encourage Community Ownership - Develop youth-led initiatives such as clean-up days, art installations, educational workshops, and periodic trail maintenance assessments that foster long-term stewardship of these public spaces.
5. Identify Naming & Sponsorship Opportunities - Work with the city to explore how local businesses and community leaders can support improvements through sponsorships and dedications.

#### What We Would Like to Know from You

To better understand how to proceed, we would appreciate guidance on the following:

Planning & Approval Process: What are the necessary steps, permits and approvers required for improvements we plan to recommend ?

Funding & Partnerships: Are there existing city programs, grants, or community partnerships that could support these efforts?

Ongoing Maintenance: What city resources are allocated for maintaining the trail and creek area, and how can community volunteers contribute?

Public Engagement: How can youth and community members effectively participate in decision-making processes related to these public spaces?

Upcoming Meetings: What are the relevant Parks & Recreation and other decision maker meetings where we can present our ideas and get involved?

We would love the opportunity to meet with your team to discuss your guidance and these ideas further. Please let us know how we can collaborate to make the Encanto Neighborhoods Trail and Chollas Creek area safer, greener, and more vibrant space for the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working together to enhance these valuable public spaces.

Best regards,  
Sandra Dryden  
powerupwithyouth@gmail.com  
powerupsd.org

#### ATTACHMENTS:

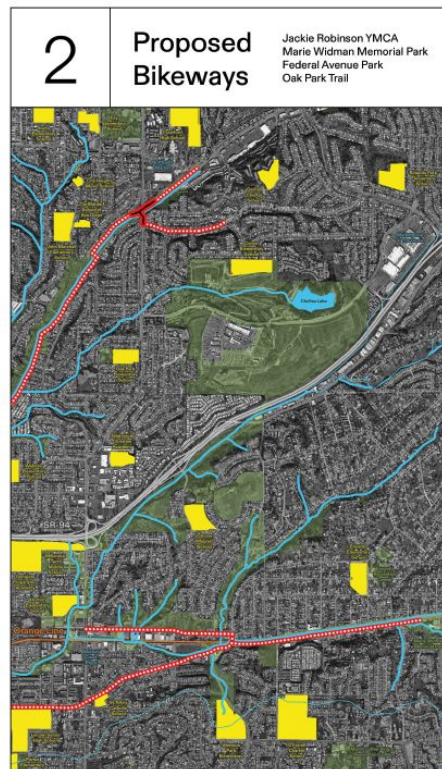
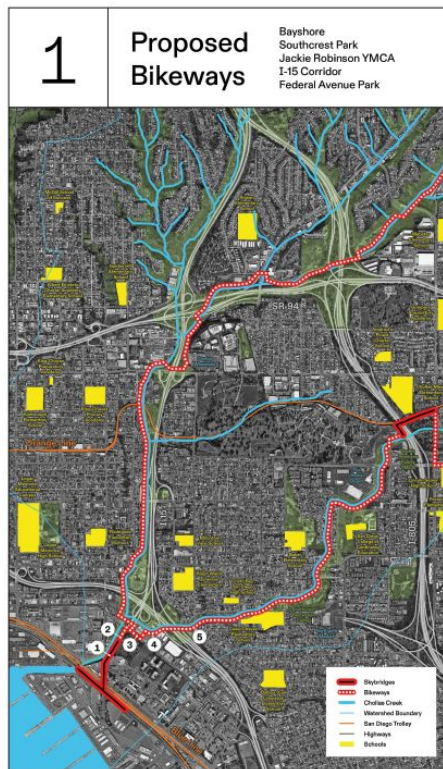
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# Scan to have your voice be heard!

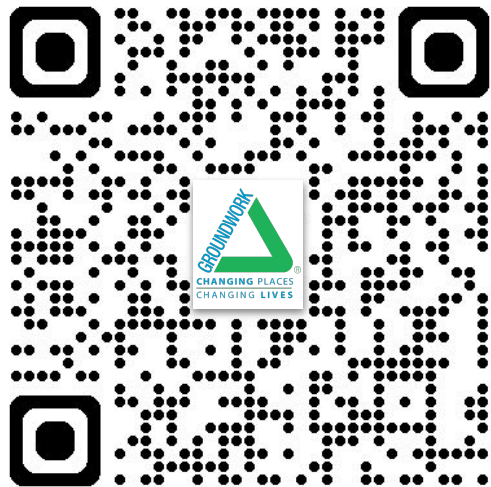


## Chollas Creek Bikeway Plan

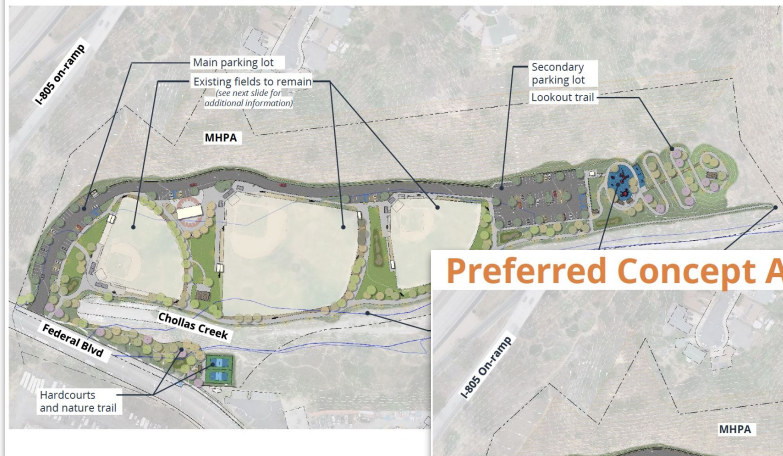




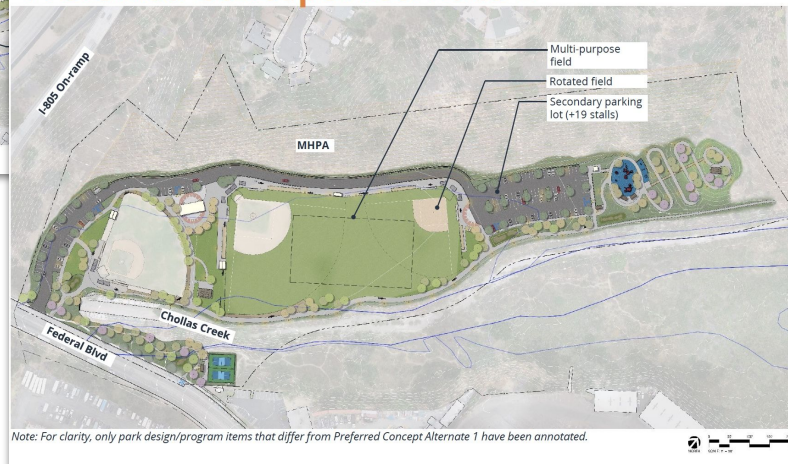
# Scan to have your voice be heard!



## Preferred Concept Alternate 1



## Preferred Concept Alternate 2



# Sunshine-Berardini Field Renovation

November 12, 2024

To Whom it May Concern.

**Recommendation:** Approval of the renaming of Henry Clay Park, to Dr. Bertha O. Pendleton Park, following the renaming of Henry Clay Elementary School, to Dr. Bertha O. Pendleton Elementary School.

**Rationale:** Dr Bertha O. Pendleton is a local trailblazer with a stellar record, a dynamic personality and an achievement studded -career. Her work in the San Diego Unified School District was outstanding as was her work in the community. While there is no doubt that there should not be slave owners recognized as anything other than historical figures, they should not be recognized with the honor of a school or any public place in their name. Dr. Bertha O. Pendleton not only exemplifies the characteristics of a great leader, but the personality as well.

**History:**

Dr. Bertha Pendleton arrived in San Diego in 1957, at the beginning of the civil rights movement from Knoxville, Tennessee. A native of Alabama, Bertha Pendleton was very aware of the segregation and had been a part of the system that discriminated against African Americans for all her life. She graduated from Knoxville College in Tennessee as a biology major and began teaching third grade. In San Diego, Bertha Pendleton began teaching math and science at the middle school levels. She acquired California teaching certifications and advanced degrees while working and simultaneously advancing in the San Diego Unified School District. She worked as a parent counselor, vice principal, principal, coordinator and eventually a director, assistant superintendent and superintendent. In 1993, Dr. Bertha Pendleton became the first woman and the first black person to be named superintendent, which was at that time, the eighth largest district in the country.

Known for her advocacy of equity and reform policies, Dr. Pendleton influenced state trends in education, and improved student achievement. Under her leadership, the district expanded and added 14 more schools to address overcrowding and new home developments in various communities. In San Diego she was also known as a community volunteer. Whether at her church, or her beloved sorority Epsilon Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Dr. Pendleton dedicated her life to serving others. She founded the Association of African American Educators and was a member and leader of many other local and national organizations, committees and associations. She retired in 1998 and continued her volunteer efforts for many years.

Dr. Bertha Pendleton has an indelible legacy of accomplishments and service in San Diego Unified School District and the San Diego community.

San Diego and the local neighborhood surrounding the current Henry Clay Park, would be well served by renaming the park, Dr. Bertha O. Pendleton Park. It will be a point of pride for all.

Emma Turner

Emma Turner, President. Epsilon Xi Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.