



The City of San Diego

Staff Report

DATE ISSUED: November 30, 2021  
TO: City Council  
FROM: Planning Department and Parks and Recreation Department  
SUBJECT: Parks for All of Us – Parks Master Plan Implementation Framework

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Council District(s): Citywide

OVERVIEW:

To address the inequities in the City’s park system, on August 3, 2021, the City Council adopted the Parks for All of Us initiative, which included the Parks Master Plan, an amendment to the General Plan Recreation Element, an updated Citywide Park Development Impact Fee to replace all current community planning area–based existing park impact fees, and the designation of the Chollas Creek Watershed as a Regional Park. Parks for All of Us is focused on addressing park system inequities so that everyone has access to safe, clean, and thriving park spaces. Under Parks for All of Us, park investments are prioritized in the areas where the needs are the greatest.

The City Council motion to adopt the Parks for All of Us initiative included a request for a presentation on the timing for the Parks for All of Us implementation items. This staff report describes the progress that the Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments have jointly made to date and outlines planned and needed future steps to achieve the Parks for All of Us vision.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

No action required; this item is informational.

DISCUSSION:

The 2008 General Plan identified the need for a new Parks Master Plan. The last Parks Master Plan was approved in 1956, when San Diego was considerably smaller and less diverse. On August 3, 2021, the City Council adopted the Parks for All of Us initiative, which included a new Parks Master Plan (“Plan”) focused on addressing inequities in the City’s park system. The Parks for All of Us initiative also included an amendment to the General Plan Recreation Element, the adoption of an updated Citywide Park Development Impact Fee, as well as the formal designation of the Chollas Creek Watershed as a Regional

Park. At the City Council hearing, the motion to approve Parks for All of Us included a request to return to City Council to provide an update on future implementation, including projected timelines and a prioritized list of actions.

With the adoption of Parks for All of Us, the City’s focus has shifted to implementing the Parks Master Plan’s vision in accordance with the Plan’s future implementation framework. The complete realization of the Plan’s vision will take many years of concerted and collaborative effort between park stakeholders, members of the public, and various City departments. While this effort will require additional budgetary and staffing resources, staff is excited to have taken the first steps to implement the Plan. The table below identifies each of the prioritized implementation action items identified in the Plan, including projected timelines. As noted below, completion of each of these tasks is contingent upon future staffing and budget levels for both the Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments. With appropriate staffing and funding in the coming budget years, the Departments are committed to implementing this important and landmark Plan.

Implementation Action Item	Description	Current Status	Potential Schedule	Planned Next Steps
Park Condition Index	A condition assessment of park assets Citywide	Completed; additional evaluations can be scheduled in future years	FY22	Plan to incorporate completed report findings into future planning and project prioritization
Citywide Recreational Value Assessment	Evaluation of parks Citywide to determine the total recreational value within the City's park system.	Preliminary planning	Short-Term (FY22 - FY23)	Underway, and ongoing
Park Project Priority Implementation List	Evaluation of community plans, unfunded park improvement list, unfulfilled general development plans, and public input to develop a comprehensive prioritized list of park projects.	Preliminary planning	Short-Term (FY22 - FY23)	Kickoff project early 2022
PMP Equitable Stakeholder Engagement Framework and Non-profit Programing Working Group	Development of a public outreach program centered on park equity to ensure the involvement of local stakeholders during Parks Master Plan implementation.	Preliminary planning	Short-Term (FY22 - FY23)	Kickoff project early 2022
Update Council Policy 600-33 - Public Notification and Input for Citywide Park Development Projects	Update Council Policy 600-33 with input from stakeholders to ensure greater public involvement and to streamline the park development process	Preliminary planning	Short-Term (FY22 - FY23)	Kickoff project in early 2022; coordinate with Equitable Stakeholder Engagement Framework effort
Parks Need Index	Systematic evaluation of park metrics related to quantity, quality, safety, and accessibility to develop an index identifying areas of the City with the greatest park needs.	Preliminary planning	Short-Term (FY22 - FY23)	Kickoff project in early 2022
Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan	Development of the Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan	Preliminary planning	Short-Term (FY22 - FY24)	Plan to develop scope of work and conduct preliminary engagement to ensure immediate kickoff in Fiscal Year 2023

Implementation Action Item	Description	Current Status	Potential Schedule	Planned Next Steps
Citywide Trails Master Plan	Comprehensive plan to guide trail and open space park planning which compliments the City's MSCP commitments	Preliminary planning	Short-/Medium-Term (FY22-FY25)	Plan to begin internal City Department engagement and coordination
Updates to critical Resource-Based Park and National Historic Landmark Master Plans	Update 1 to 2 resource-based Park Master Plans, with a focus on increasing equitable access to these resources	Preliminary planning	Ongoing/To be informed by short-term actions	Plan to begin to review adopted parks master plans and conduct public outreach to identify which plans should be prioritized for updates
Park Design Review Board Feasibility	Evaluate the feasibility and actions needed to form a Citywide Park Design Review Board	Preliminary planning	Ongoing/To be informed by short-term actions	Plan to pilot design review boards with Balboa Park Committee currently under development
Park Funding Prioritization Policy and Forecast	Strategy to guide specific prioritization of park funds based on the evaluation of park-related metrics, to ensure that park investments in the areas with the greatest needs are prioritized. 5-year park funding forecast to ensure taxpayer funds are being allocated in line with Citywide goals.	Update to Council Policy 800-14 underway	Short-/Medium-Term	Engineering & Capital Projects is currently completing update to Council Policy 800-14. The Park Needs Index will continue to inform the completion of this item.
Alternative Park Funding Mechanism Analysis for Capital Park Projects	Review of all possible funding strategies including grants, bonds, and tax measures for capital park projects	Not yet underway	To be informed by short-term actions	None yet
Alternative Park Funding Mechanism Analysis for Maintenance and Operation	Review of all possible funding strategies including grants, bonds, and tax measures for park maintenance and operation.	Not yet underway	Ongoing/To be informed by short-term actions	None yet
Parks & Programming Communications Plan	Development of a communication plan to ensure all San Diegans are aware of the parks, programs, and facilities.	Not yet underway	To be informed by short-term actions	None yet
Amend Consultant's Guide to Park Design and Development	An update to the Consultant's Guide bringing it in line with the polices and goals outlined in the Parks Master Plan	Not yet underway	To be informed by short-term actions	None yet
Recreation Center and Aquatic Complex Equity Tool	Comprehensive review of the City's Recreation Centers and Aquatic Complexes to ensure better access for all San Diegans	Not yet underway	To be informed by short-term actions	None yet

City Strategic Plan Goal(s)/Objective(s):

Goal #1: Provide high quality public service

Objective #1: Promote a customer-focused culture that prizes accessible, consistent, and predictable delivery of services

Objective #2: Improve external and internal coordination and communication

Objective #4: Ensure equipment and technology are in place so that employees can achieve high quality public service

Goal #2: Work in partnership with all of our communities to achieve safe and livable neighborhoods

Objective #2 Reduce and prevent crime

Objective #3 Invest in quality infrastructure

Objective #4 Foster services that improve quality of life

Objective #5: Cultivate civic engagement and participation

Objective #6: Decrease unsheltered homelessness

Goal #3: Create and sustain a resilient and economically prosperous City

Objective #1: Create dynamic neighborhoods that incorporate mobility, connectivity, and sustainability

Objective #2: Increase water independence

Objective #4: Prepare and respond to climate change

Fiscal Considerations:

This item is an information only item and there is no immediate fiscal impact. However, as noted above, additional annual staffing and funding will be required in future budget years to ensure that the vision set forth in the Parks Master Plan is achieved.

Charter Section 225 Disclosure of Business Interests:

N/A; there is no contract associated with this action.

Environmental Impact:

This activity is for informational purposes only, and as such, is not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2), as this activity would not result in any direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment.

Equal Opportunity Contracting Information (if applicable):

This item is exempt from EOC review per the memo dated August 7, 2019.

Climate Action Plan Strategies:

The Parks Master Plan Implementation Framework includes various projects which helps the City meet its CAP targets, specifically the framework address strategy 3 and 5 directly. The development and implementation of a Citywide Trails Master Plan will lead to a larger more diverse trail system enabling residents to use the trail network to commute. The expanded trail networks will contribute to the City's CAP goal of achieve a walking commuter mode share of 4% by 2020 and 7% by 2035 in Transit Priority Areas.

The Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan and any updates to resource-based regional park master plans will be guided by the recently adopted Parks Master Plan, a plan that includes policies aimed at increasing and expanding the City's urban tree canopy. These regional park master plans will help the City meet its CAP goal of 35% urban tree coverage by 2035.

Previous Council and/or Committee Actions:

On July 14, 2021, the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods City Council Committee voted unanimously to recommend adoption of Parks for All of Us with amendments.

On August 3, 2021, The City of San Diego City Council heard the Parks for All of Us initiative and voted 8 to 1 to:

Adopt a resolution (R-313685) adopting the Addendum to Environmental Impact Report No. 104495/SCH No. 2006091032, which was finalized on May 8, 2020, and adopting the Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program.

Adopt a resolution (R-313686) approving an amendment to the General Plan Recreation Element.

Adopt a resolution (R-313687) adopting the City of San Diego Parks Master Plan.

Adopt a resolution (R-313688) adopting a Citywide Park Development Impact Fee to update and replace the existing park component of Community Planning Area-based Development Impact Fees, including a 5 percent administrative fee.

And introduce an ordinance designating the Chollas Creek Watershed as a San Diego Regional Park pursuant to San Diego Charter Section 55.2(a)(9).

On September 14, 2021, the City of San Diego City Council voted 8 to 1 to adopt the Ordinance (O-21372) designating Chollas Creek Watershed as a San Diego Regional Park pursuant to San Diego Charter Section 55.2(a)(9) which was introduced on 8/03/2021.

Key Stakeholders and Community Outreach Efforts:

The Planning Department, along with the Parks and Recreation Department, has conducted major public input activities as part of the Parks for all of Us initiative. The public input activities included workshops, online engagement activities, pop-up community events, a statistically valid survey, and stakeholder outreach. These activities were used to inform the Parks for all of Us implementation framework.

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