



# REPORT

## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

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DATE ISSUED: November 21, 2019 REPORT NO. 202

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board  
Agenda of November 21, 2019

SUBJECT: CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON PART OF THE BOARD.

### BACKGROUND

The City of San Diego Parks Master Plan (PMP) is a citywide planning effort intended to guide the City's vision for a sustainable balance of parks and recreational opportunities throughout the city. This three-year planning effort has included extensive citywide public outreach to develop the policy framework, identify recreational programming needs, connectivity and strategies to be included in the PMP.

### DISCUSSION

The purpose of informational item is to provide the Park and Recreation Board with an update on the City of San Diego PMP efforts to date and to solicit input from the Board as the Planning Department finalizes the draft PMP.

### Stakeholder Input

The Planning Department, along with the Parks and Recreation Department, has conducted major public input activities that are part of the initial information gathering phase, including 10 regional workshops in each Council District and Downtown, an online engagement activity, pop-up community events, and more than a dozen stakeholder interviews with representatives of other jurisdictional entities and non-profit organizations. The feedback has been integrated into the benchmarking and technical analyses to identify needs and priorities across the City's parks and recreation system.

A statistically valid survey of more than 1,800 randomly selected residents was also conducted to gauge recreational use, interests, and needs. The results identified priorities for park, facilities and programming investments. The top priorities were similar across all City Council Districts. The top recreation facility priorities are; beaches and shoreline parks; small pocket or neighborhood parks; open space and trails; off-leash dog parks; and aquatic complexes. Just over two-thirds (67%) of residents were satisfied or very satisfied with the City's Parks and Recreation Facilities/Programs.

### PMP Status Update

The Planning Department is currently developing the PMP to provide a plan for an interconnected Citywide parks system with opportunities for everyone to get outside and play while fostering social interactions, cultural, activities, and exercise, as well as providing urban respite, enjoyable transportation options, and an increased tree canopy cover. Additionally, a key component of the PMP is equity and access-based goals that prioritize areas with park standard and park service gaps. An equity-driven framework will prioritize capital investments to identified communities of concern.

The PMP is also intended to address our changing City, where new growth is anticipated to be accommodated largely within the City's developed urbanized areas at greater densities than seen in the past. This new pattern of growth requires new policies to meet the needs of existing and new residents, workers, and visitors within the City. Highlights of opportunities for new parks facilities that can serve these higher density areas include linear parks, green streets, urban plazas and promenades, as well as other opportunities for creative joint uses.

The PMP will identify policies and strategies to achieve its vision of providing opportunities for everyone to play everywhere. Additionally, while the PMP will be a policy document, it will guide future implementation of the PMP and to that end, specifically will identify implementation strategies and funding options.

As part of the PMP effort, the Planning Department is looking at the City's existing park standard of 2.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents that is currently in the City's General Plan, and considering the following alternatives to that standard: 1) updating the General Plan acreage-based standard to include more types of parks, such as regional parks, 2) developing a new park standard based on recreational value, rather than acreage alone, and 3) developing a hybrid standard that merges acreage-based metric with a recreational value-based metric. A recreational value-based standard could allow flexibility to accommodate the community's values, needs, and available of physical space.

### Next Steps

Over the next few months, staff will review and summarize Park and Recreation Board comments as well as other input from the community. Existing conditions and the findings of the analysis underway will be available before the end of the year and will be used to inform the PMP vision, policies, and strategies for the draft of the PMP. Staff plans to return to the Parks and Recreation Board in early 2020 for the Board's recommendation as an action item. Following a recommendation from the Board, the Planning Department plans to bring the PMP to the Planning Commission, Council Committee, and then City Council by the end of Fiscal Year 2020. These dates are preliminary and subject to change.

Respectfully submitted,



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