



Office of Child
and Youth Success

**Parks and Recreation Board
September 21, 2023
Information Item 203**

Update: Outdoor Preschool Nature Camps

BACKGROUND

The Office of Child and Youth Success aims to address child care scarcity and increase recreational and engaging programs for young children and their families in San Diego through alignment with the City's strategic plan.

PROTECT & ENRICH EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD

Increasing child care supports building neighborhood assets that anchor community life, foster interaction, and promote well-being.

Increasing options for recreational programs for young children, contribute to accessible, convenient, safe, and comfortable recreational spaces in communities.

FOSTER REGIONAL PROSPERITY

Increasing child care options supports San Diego residents to engage in a strong local community, with well-paying jobs, economic activity, and opportunities for their community

The City's pathway for career growth and development must include increasing the supply of affordable and accessible options for child care.

PRE-KINDER CAMPS & CHILD CARE MODELS

OUTDOOR PRESCHOOL NATURE CAMPS

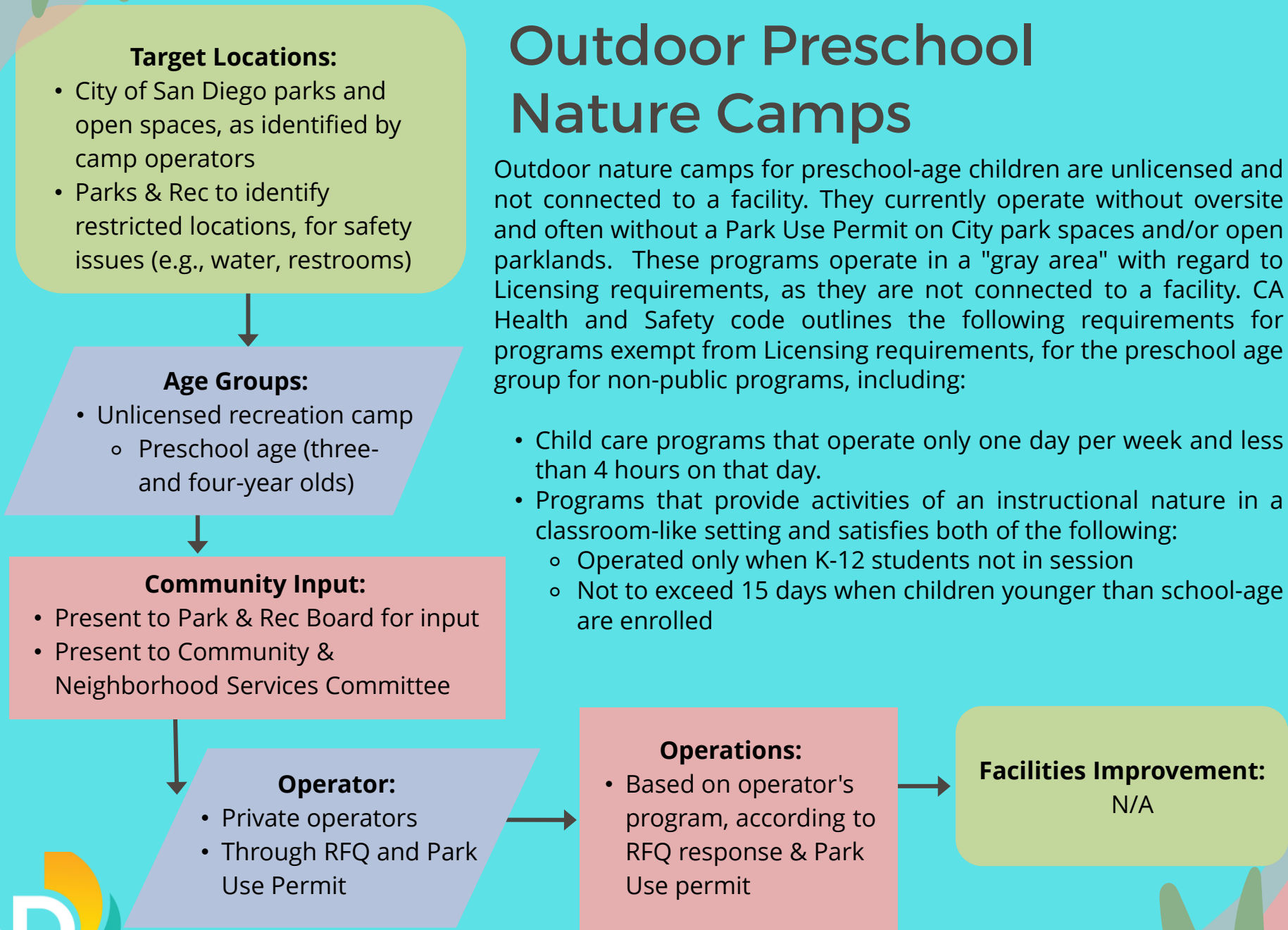
Outdoor nature camps for preschool-age children are unlicensed and not connected to a facility. They currently operate without oversight and often without a Park Use Permit on City park spaces and/or open parklands.

To ensure the health and safety of children participating and a clear process, operators will be required to be "pre-qualified" through an RFQ and will then complete the existing Park Use Permit process.

Outdoor Preschool Nature Camps

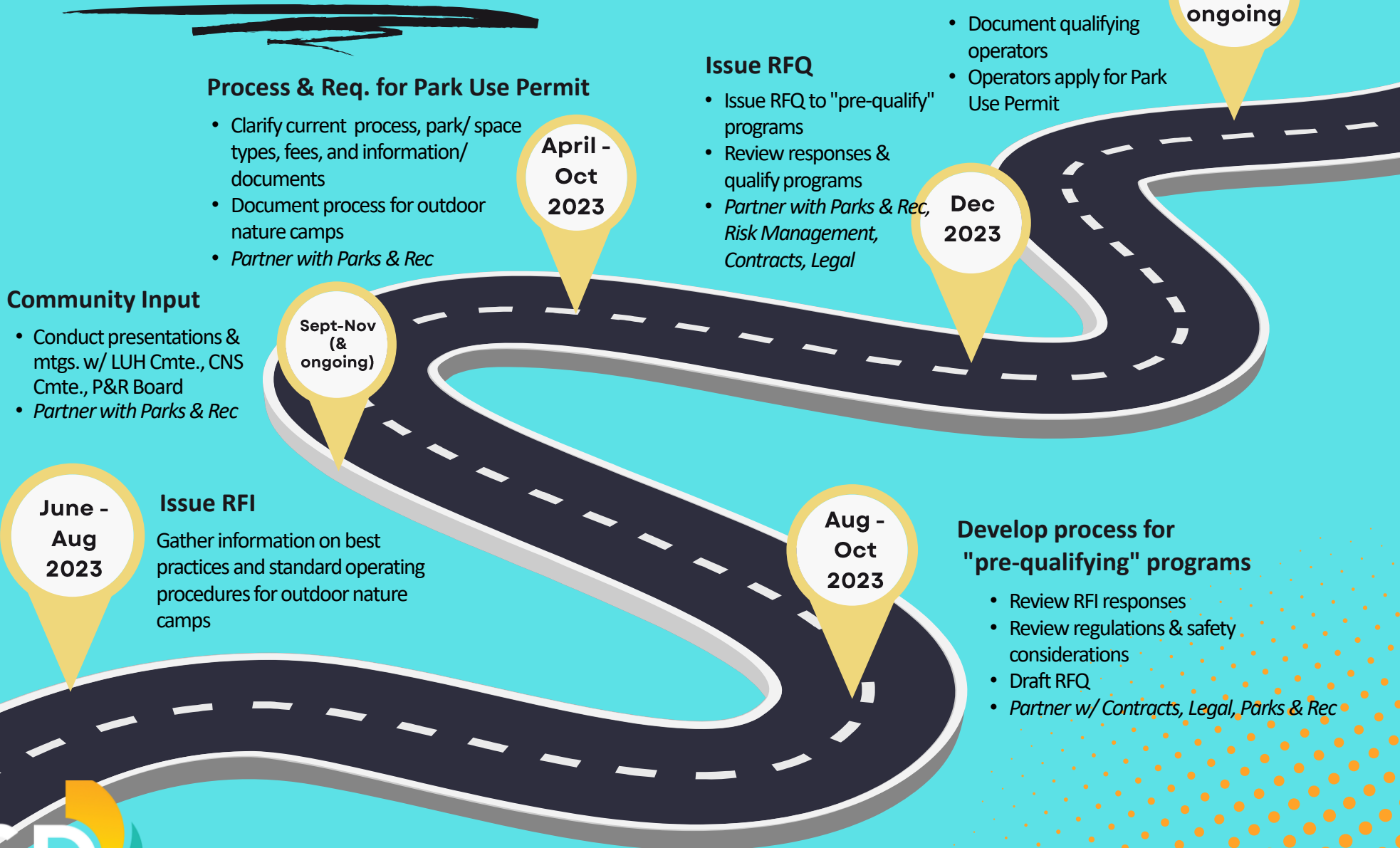
Outdoor nature camps for preschool-age children are unlicensed and not connected to a facility. They currently operate without oversight and often without a Park Use Permit on City park spaces and/or open parklands. These programs operate in a "gray area" with regard to Licensing requirements, as they are not connected to a facility. CA Health and Safety code outlines the following requirements for programs exempt from Licensing requirements, for the preschool age group for non-public programs, including:

- Child care programs that operate only one day per week and less than 4 hours on that day.
- Programs that provide activities of an instructional nature in a classroom-like setting and satisfies both of the following:
 - Operated only when K-12 students not in session
 - Not to exceed 15 days when children younger than school-age are enrolled



Project Timeline

Outdoor Preschool Nature Camps



Community Input

- Conduct presentations & mtgs. w/ LUH Cmte., CNS Cmte., P&R Board
- *Partner with Parks & Rec*

Sept-Nov
(& ongoing)

June -
Aug
2023

Issue RFI

Gather information on best practices and standard operating procedures for outdoor nature camps

Aug -
Oct
2023

Develop process for "pre-qualifying" programs

- Review RFI responses
- Review regulations & safety considerations
- Draft RFQ
- *Partner w/ Contracts, Legal, Parks & Rec*

Process & Req. for Park Use Permit

- Clarify current process, park/ space types, fees, and information/ documents
- Document process for outdoor nature camps
- *Partner with Parks & Rec*

April -
Oct
2023

Issue RFQ

- Issue RFQ to "pre-qualify" programs
- Review responses & qualify programs
- *Partner with Parks & Rec, Risk Management, Contracts, Legal*

Dec
2023

Park Use Permit

- Document qualifying operators
- Operators apply for Park Use Permit

Dec
2023-
ongoing



Project Timeline

Outdoor Preschool Nature Camps

Development of RFQ

- OCYS received 2 responses to Request for Information (RFI)
- Information from RFI responses, Child Care Licensing regulations, license exempt requirements, and recreational camp (ACA) standards was documented across relevant operational categories
- Parks & Recreation will add existing and/or newly identified rules, regulations, or restrictions
- Draft Request for Qualifications will be created

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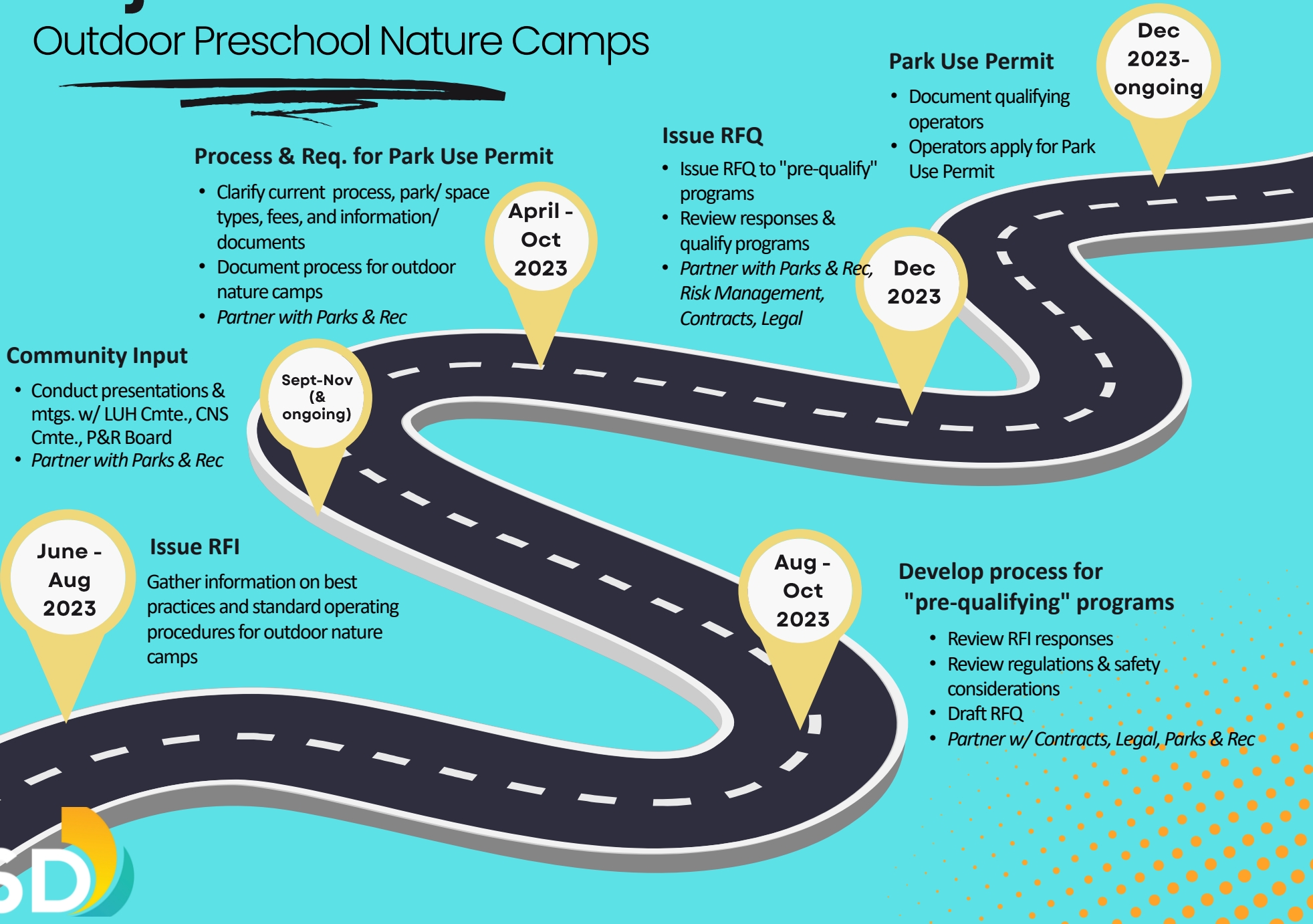
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Development of RFQ

- OCYS to continue conversations with Parks & Recreation to define a permit process specific to outdoor preschool nature camps
- Considerations include: camps operating at multiple locations, specific use of space, types of spaces, recurrent use, etc.
- Process for communicating pre-qualified programs (RFQ process) to Parks & Rec to apply for Park Use Permit to be determined

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