



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #1

June 25, 2014 – Cubberly Community Center, Room H1
Meeting Summary

The PTOSR Master Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group held the first of three meetings to identify issues, challenges and opportunities to be explored in the planning process; and to discuss community engagement efforts and strategies. Twenty-four community members were in attendance, representing a range of interests and organizations.

The following were discussion topics and key points.

Preliminary Issue Identification

- Nature is integral to Palo Alto and should be reflected in the name of the plan and throughout the process; nature education is also important
- Connectivity is a key issue, particularly for non-auto traffic, youth and seniors
- More enclosed spaces for young children (0-5) are desirable
- Careful use of small parks and places is important since the City is built out
- Consider and include seniors and the upcoming demographic shift in Palo Alto; think about accessibility.
- Maintenance, upkeep and repair are key challenges
- Address user conflicts, especially to improve safety
- All bathrooms (for both genders) should have diaper changing stations
- Look at the distribution of parks throughout the City and consider under-served neighborhoods
- Planning efforts and projects along California Avenue and El Camino Real may provide opportunities
- There is high demand and no new space or land, which leads to competing objectives and interests
- Expansion of the system may be possible through a mix of uses
- Partnerships are critical, especially for implementation, operations and maintenance
- Recognize the larger system of Foothills Trails including those on Stanford campus
- Revisit the Foothills Park exclusive use policy
- Move beyond simply complying or mitigating damage and look for opportunities to achieve multiple benefits, particularly relevant to accessibility and natural systems
- The “likes” of the community need to be balanced with what might be added

- Consider how dogs fit in, with regard to trails and facilities
- Consider adding accessibility and dog amenities to the inventory
- Help the public find activities by park; look to the New York City Parks website as an example
- Look at “Safe Routes to Parks” building on the safe routes to schools work already completed

Community Engagement

- Outreach Opportunities:
 - Twilight Concert Series
 - Art & Wine Festival
 - Terminal Way / Baylands
 - Senior Friendship Day
- Groups and Organizations
 - Neighborhood associations / Palo Alto Neighborhoods
 - PTA E-News Network
 - Envision Shelter
 - Palo Alto Housing Corporation
- Target Populations
 - Linguistic and cultural communities
 - Teens
 - Mentally Ill
- Share event dates through Our Palo Alto
- Avoid overlapping with the Fall auditor survey
- Consider translation and interpretation in languages other than Spanish, especially Russian or Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese)
- Don't attach documents to emails
- Where do businesses and employers fit in?
- Be aware of the north / south community division
- Foothills Park serves unique community groups and very diverse users