



## PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

**To:** Palo Alto Youth Council (PAYC)

**Cc:** Peter Jensen, Elizabeth Ames, Daren Anderson, and Rob deGeus

**From:** Ryan Mottau, Lauren Schmitt and Ellie Fiore, MIG

**Re:** Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan (PTOSR Plan)

**Date:** March 23, 2015

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### Overview of the Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan

The City of Palo Alto is creating a master plan for its parks system. The goal of the Plan is to provide clear guidance and recommendations on how the City can meet the demands for recreational, programming, environmental, and maintenance needs over the next 25 years. The Plan will also establish priorities for future park renovations and facility improvements. The priorities may range from improving pedestrian and bicycle paths to incorporating new activities into Palo Alto's parks, whether its ping pong or simply better places to hang out.

The planning process has been underway for more than a year. Thus far the process has included data collection and community input, identifying applicable best practices, observing existing conditions and identifying opportunities for Palo Alto's park and recreation system. Data analysis has included geographic analysis using GIS, an analysis of Palo Alto's population trends, a revenue analysis and an inventory of parks, facilities and programs. We have also reviewed the sustainability of existing parks policies. Community input has been collected through on-the-ground intercept surveying, an interactive online map-based survey, an online community survey and community workshops. A total of about 2,000 community members have provided their input. An analysis of the data in combination with community input reveals needs and priorities for Palo Alto's parks and recreation system. These priorities will become recommendations in the Master Plan.

The planning team would like the Youth Council's input to help us shape these priorities. One need that has been identified is a lack of park facilities designed for teens. We would like you to help us think about how Palo Alto's Parks and Recreations system can be a better resource for you and your peers and future generations of Palo Alto teens.

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