Community Meeting – Presentation Materials and Handouts

Date: November 1, 2016

1. Presentation
2. Hand out #1: Chapter 4
3. Hand out #2: Priority Project List
Community Meeting – Presentation Materials and Handouts

Date: November 1, 2016

Presentation
Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation Master Plan

Community and Stakeholder Workshop

November 1, 2016
Tonight’s Agenda

- Review Planning Process
- Master Plan Preview
- Review and Discuss the “Top 33” Priority Projects
Plan Purpose

To guide decision making for the future development of the parks, trails, natural open space and recreation system.
Elements of the System

- Parks, Trails and Natural Open Spaces
- Recreation Facilities
- Recreation Programs
Process

Phase 1: Analysis and Engagement

Phase 2: Project and Program Opportunities

Phase 3: Master Plan, Review and Adoption
Phase 1: Community Engagement & Technical Analysis
Phase 1 Recap

- Proactive community engagement process
- Comprehensive inventory and analysis
- Stakeholder meetings 1 & 2
- PRC collaboration and Council Study Session
- Basis for chapters 1-3 of the Master Plan
- Opportunities
Park Search Areas
Routes to Parks
Natural Systems
Areas of Focus

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Technical Assessment and Analysis

Needs and Opportunities

Areas of Focus
Improve, enhance and get more community benefit
Phase 2: Project and Program Opportunities
# Areas of Focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribute experiences</th>
<th>Improve accessibility</th>
<th>Explore new programs</th>
<th>Improve recreation spaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhance sports fields</td>
<td>Increase variety</td>
<td>Enhance comfort</td>
<td>Increase health and wellness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrate nature</td>
<td>Improve off-leash dog options</td>
<td>Offer more of existing programs</td>
<td>Expand the system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Principles

- Playful
- Healthy
- Sustainable
- Inclusive
- Accessible
- Flexible
- Balanced
- Nature
Goals

1. Provide high-quality facilities and services that are **accessible, inclusive, and distributed equitably** across Palo Alto.

2. Enhance the capacity, quality, and variety of uses of **the existing system** of parks, recreation, and open space facilities and services.
Goals

3. Create environments that encourage regular active and passive activities to support health, wellness, and social connections.

4. Preserve and integrate nature, natural systems, and ecological principles throughout Palo Alto.
Goals

5. Develop innovative programs, services and strategies for *expanding the system*.
6. Manage Palo Alto’s land and services *effectively, efficiently, and sustainably*, utilizing quantitative and qualitative measures.
Site Concept Plans

- Developed for all parks and community centers
- Potential enhancements
- Revised with community input
- Informed project and program lists in MP
Project and Program Prioritization

- Fill existing gaps
- Respond to growth
- Address community preferences
- Maximize public resources
- Realize multiple benefits
Phase 3: Master Plan Development
Draft Master Plan Document

- Chapter 1: Introduction

- Chapter 2: Elements of the System
  - Parks, Trails and Open Space
  - Recreation Facilities
  - Recreation Programs

- Chapter 3: Analysis and Assessment
  - Demographic and Recreation Trends
  - System Analysis of Parks, Open Space and Facilities
  - Geographic Analysis
  - Recreation Program Analysis
  - Community Engagement
Draft Master Plan Document

- **Chapter 4: Our Future**
  - Principles (8 total)
  - Goals (6 total)
  - Policies (41 total) and Programs (167 total)

- **Chapter 5: Implementation**
  - Prioritization
    - Implementation Timelines
    - Priority Projects
    - Action Plan
  - Funding Options
  - Evaluate Future Projects
  - Progress Reporting
Priority Projects

33 items have emerged as the highest community priorities

- Projects for additional study and funding
- Near-term projects
- Programs
Priority Projects for further study and funding

• Plan, design and construct 10.5 acre site in Baylands for park uses
• Plan, design and redevelop Cubberley Community Center
• Plan, design and construct a new public gymnasium
• Improve the Rinconada pool facility
Priority Projects for further study and funding

- Acquire new parkland in high need areas
- Incorporate 7.7 acre site into Foothills Park
- Enhance existing playfields
- Create wayfinding signage of safe routes to parks
Priority Short-term Projects

- Develop new dog parks in underrepresented areas
- Construct new restrooms in parks
- Develop new community gardens in underserved areas
- Enhance seating areas in parks
- Develop adult fitness areas in parks
Priority Short-term Projects

• Develop conservation plans for open space preserves
• Improve trail connections and access
• Integrate nature into urban parks
• Incorporate sustainable practices in the maintenance and management of parks, open space and recreation facilities
• Exceed Americans with Disabilities Act requirements in parks
Priority Programs

• Establish and grow partnerships and identify potential park donors
• Collaborate with school district to increase access to playgrounds, gyms, and other school facilities
• Expand aquatics programs
• Expand programs for seniors
• Expand non-academic programs for teens
Priority Programs

• Expand recruitment and training of coaches and instructors
• Provide intramural sports program for middle and high school students
• Expand programs related to health and wellness
• Expand community-focused special events
• Invest in staff training to enhance therapeutic and inclusive program development
Priority Programs

• Increase the variety of activities available in parks
• Encourage unstructured play at parks and community centers
• Connect youth, teens and families with nature
• Pilot temporary/pop-up programming in parks
• Offer cultural enrichment programs
Palo Alto Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan

Aspiring to make our community better for you and the next generation of Palo Altans! We need your help in charting the future of our parks, facilities and recreation program.

NEWS & EVENTS
Community Meeting:
Draft Master Plan Document Review
Tuesday, November 1
6:30p.m. - 8p.m.
Adobe Room
Mitchell Park Community Center

PLAN DOCUMENTS & MEETING MATERIALS

READ DOCUMENTS

Draft Master Plan
Access Draft Master Plan Document for Review

COMING SOON
Online Draft Plan Review

www.paloaltoparksplan.org

Draft Plan Feedback Form

This form collects feedback on the public draft of the Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation Master Plan. Your comments will be considered in the final review and adoption process as well as implementation. At the end of this form there is an opportunity to provide detailed comments (referencing page numbers in the document).

Draft Plan Comments and Edits Form

This form collects detailed comments about and edits to the Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation Master Plan. Your detailed comments will be considered by the project team, Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council for inclusion in the final plan. To make tracking comments easy, please complete one form for each comment.
Next Steps

- Online Master Plan Review
- Environmental Review
- PRC Approval of Draft Master Plan: December
- Environmental Review and Council Approval of Plan: January - March 2017
Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation Master Plan

November 1, 2016
Community Meeting – Presentation Materials and Handouts

Date: November 1, 2016

Hand Out #1
THROUGH THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS, THE PALO ALTO COMMUNITY HAS DEFINED A FUTURE FOR PARKS, TRAILS, NATURAL OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION. Distilled community input and themes from the analysis process result in principles, goals and system-wide concepts that describe the community’s long-term vision for the future system.

The principles and goals will be realized through the recommended programs described in this chapter. The recommendations were developed through an assessment of community input and an analysis of needs and opportunities. These recommendations reflect both changing needs and evolving demands for parks, trails, natural open spaces and recreation. They are organized within the framework of the eight principles and six goals, with policies and programs following each goal.
A multi-layered system of park lands and connections that serve both people and natural systems.
Principles

Building on our assets, our vision for the continuing evolution of the park system is encapsulated in the following eight principles:

- **Playful**: Inspires imagination and joy.
- **Healthy**: Supports the physical and mental health and well-being of individuals as well as the connectedness and cohesion of the community.
- **Sustainable**: Stewards natural, economic and social resources for a system that endures for the long-term.
- **Inclusive**: Responsive to the entire Palo Alto community, all ages, abilities, languages, cultures and levels of income.
- **Accessible**: Easy for people of all abilities to use year-round and to get to by all modes of travel.
- **Flexible**: Supports multiple uses across time with adaptable spaces that can accommodate traditional, emerging and future uses.
- **Balanced**: Is not dominated by any one type of experience or place, and includes both historic elements and cutting-edge features, highly manicured and more organic spaces, and self-directed and programmed activities.
- **Nature**: Incorporates native species and habitat corridors, and creates opportunities to learn about and interact with nature.

Together, these principles provide the foundation for the Master Plan.

Master Plan Goals

The input from the community, including all twelve Areas of Focus, form the long term direction for the City’s park and recreation system. The following six goals state the outcomes and provide an organizational structure for the policies, programs and projects that form the recommendations of this plan:

1. Provide high-quality facilities and services that are accessible, inclusive, and distributed equitably across Palo Alto.
2. Enhance the capacity, quality and variety of uses of the existing system of parks, recreation, and open space facilities and services.

3. Create environments that encourage regular active and passive activities to support health, wellness and social connections.

4. Preserve and integrate nature, natural systems and ecological principles throughout Palo Alto.

5. Develop innovative programs, services and strategies for expanding the system.

6. Manage Palo Alto’s land and services effectively, efficiently and sustainably utilizing quantitative and qualitative measures.

**Recommended Programs**

The goals, policies and programs are intended to be a guide for decision making. Choices will need to be made annually through the City budget process, recognizing the City has limited resources, multiple priorities and competing resource needs. The goals, policies and programs that follow represent a path to a preferred future, it is aspirational, while also tangible, providing a specific menu of potential investment and resource allocation opportunities for the Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation system. Chapter 5 provides tools and recommendations on how the community and City can effectively evaluate options and make sound and reliable choices to improve the Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation system.

Each goal is numbered, and under each goal a list of related policies is provided. The policies are numbered according to goal and ordered by letter for easy reference (1.A, 1.B, 1.C, 2.A, 2.B, etc.). Most policies are followed by a list of programs, which have complementary numbering (1.A.1, 1.A.2, 2.A.1, etc.). The numbering is for reference only. Prioritization is covered in Chapter 5.
Goal 1: Provide high-quality facilities and services that are accessible, affordable, inclusive and distributed equitably across Palo Alto.

Policy

1.A Emphasize equity and affordability in the provision of programs and services and the facilitation of partnerships, to create recreation opportunities that:

- Advance skills, build community and improve the quality of life among participants, especially Palo Alto youth, teens and seniors; and
- Are available at a wide range of facilities, at an increased number of locations that are well distributed throughout the city.

PROGRAMS

1.A.1 Periodically evaluate the use and effectiveness of the Fee Reduction Program for low income and disabled residents.

1.A.2 Develop free or low cost teen programs that develop life skills and developmental assets, such as leadership, community service and health.

1.A.3 Develop a teen advisory committee to provide feedback on newly proposed parks, recreation and open space projects and programs.

1.A.4 Partner with local recreation providers to relocate existing programs or offer new programs in Palo Alto parks.

1.A.5 Recruit or develop programs for additional and alternative sports that can take place in existing parks and make use of existing outdoor recreation facilities. Examples include cross country running, track and field, rugby and pickleball.

1.A.6 Expand offerings of preserves’ interpretive facilities to area schools through curriculum packages (backpacks, crates, etc.) that can be brought into the field or the classroom.

1.A.7 Evaluate the geographic distribution of program offerings and make adjustments to equally offer programs throughout the City.
Policy

1.B Expand parkland inventory using the National Recreation and Park Association standard as a guide (see sidebar) for park development in Palo Alto’s Urban Service Area. New parkland should be added to meet and maintain the standard of 4 acres/1,000 residents. Parkland should expand with population, be well distributed across the community and of sufficient size to meet the varied needs of neighborhoods and the broader community. Maximum service area should be one-half mile.

PROGRAMS

1.B.1 Develop design standards for privately-owned public open spaces (POPOS) that clearly set the expectation for public access, recreation activities and natural elements.

1.B.2 Establish a system in the City’s real estate office that identifies land being sold and reviews it for park potential, prioritizing review of land within park search areas. (See Figure 8: Park Search Areas).

1.B.3 Review all city owned land and easements (starting in park search areas) for potential parkland development or connection locations. (See Figure 8: Park Search Areas and Figure 9: Bikeways and Pedestrian Routes to Parks and Recreation Facilities).

1.B.4 Examine City-owned right-of-way (streets, which make up the biggest portion of publicly owned land) to identify temporary or permanent areas for improvements that connect or add recreation activity space. (Examples: California Ave., Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Parklets).

1.B.5 Identify and approach community organizations and institutions that own land in park search areas to create long-term agreements and improvements for public park space. (Examples: Friendship Sportsplex, New Riverside Park).

1.B.6 Create usable park space, or other recreational opportunities, on top of utilities, parking or other infrastructure uses. (Examples: Anaheim Utility Park, UC Berkeley Underhill Parking Structure, Portland’s Director Park, Stanford University Wilbur Field Garage).

POPULATION STANDARDS

Formula for calculating level of service:
Acreage/Population x 1,000

Example:
City park acreage: 174
Population (2013): 66,368
174 acres/66,368 people x1,000 = 2.62 acres/1,000

Privately-Owned Public Open Spaces (POPOS) are built and managed by private entities and are required to allow public access.
1.B.7 Monitor properties adjacent to parks that are smaller than the minimum recommended size for potential acquisition to expand existing parks.

1.B.8 Increase collections through revised or alternative park impact fee structures that are sufficient to expand inventory. Develop a system to reserve funds for parkland acquisition and proactively pursue strategic opportunities for expansion.

1.B.9 Acquire and develop a new neighborhood park in each park search area, starting with the most underserved areas and targeting a central and well-connected location to maximize access.

1.B.10 Develop a creek walk along Matadero Creek that links parks and creates open space and habitat corridor.

1.B.11 Incorporate other underutilized City-owned outdoor spaces for park and recreational programming.

1.B.12 Identify and dedicate (as parkland) City-controlled spaces serving, or capable of serving, park-like or recreational uses, where appropriate (e.g., Winter Lodge, Gamble Gardens, Rinconada Community Gardens, GreenWaste Facility at the former PASCO site, former Los Altos Sewage Treatment Plan, Kingsley Island).

Policy

1.C Ensure the maximum distance between residents' homes and the nearest public park or preserve is 1/2-mile, 1/4-mile preferred, that is evaluated using a walkshed methodology based on how people travel.

PROGRAMS

1.C.1 Maintain the City’s digital map developed during this Master Plan process, updating for new activities and access points.

1.C.2 Establish a review step in the Planning and Community Environment Department for any major redevelopment or the purchase/sale of any City land in the park search areas.
Policy

1.D  Adopt the wayfinding signage used at Rinconada Park as the standard for Palo Alto parks and provide standardized directory signs for all large parks, preserves and athletic field complexes.

PROGRAMS

1.D.1  Create and implement a signage and wayfinding program that conveys the park system identity, incorporates art, connects bike paths to parks and enhances the experience of park visitors.

1.D.2  Install directional signs at parks that include the walking time to the next nearest park or parks.

Policy

1.E  Apply universal design principles as the preferred guidance for design solutions in parks, striving to exceed Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

PROGRAMS

1.E.1  Create a process to address adaptive program requests for individuals with cognitive, sensory, and physical disabilities (to be coordinated with upcoming ADA Transition Plan).

1.E.2  Adopt a standard of universal park design for accessibility and/or upgrade play areas and picnic facilities to meet or exceed the standard. (Note: a source and reference will be added.)

1.E.3  Upgrade Open Space trails to be more universally accessible where environmentally appropriate.

Policy

1.F  Maintain a Field and Tennis Court Brokering and Use Policy as well as the Gymnasium Use Policy (as well as any subsequent updates) to guide the allocation of these recreation facilities with a preference for youth and Palo Alto residents.

PROGRAMS

1.F.1  Periodically review the existing Field and Tennis Court Brokering and Use Policy and Gymnasium Policy and update as needed.
1.F.2 Develop an annual field usage statistics report, including number of prime timeslots that were unused due to field condition/resting and the number of requests for field space that were unfilled due to capacity.

Policy

1.G Encourage walking and biking as a way of getting to and from parks, supporting implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan.

PROGRAMS

1.G.1 Select parks as destinations along routes for “Ciclovia” or “Sunday Streets” type events where streets are closed to traffic and opened up for citizens of all ages to interact with each other through exercise, entertainment and fun.

1.G.2 Provide bike parking for cyclists as a standard feature at parks, open spaces, preserves and community centers.

1.G.3 Provide, identify and mark “Safe Routes to Parks” from locations such as schools, shopping centers, libraries, after-school programs, community centers, and residential neighborhoods;

1.G.4 Educate residents about the city’s Bike Boulevards – streets prioritized for bicycles – to promote greater use, and plan new Bike Boulevard projects that connect parks, open spaces and recreation facilities.

1.G.5 Identify gaps in the walking and cycling network to improve access to parks, open spaces, preserves and community centers, including sidewalk repairs, easements, trail improvements/repair and improved pedestrian visibility.

1.G.6 Collaborate with school communities to enhance routes to schools, especially where they pass through parks.

1.G.7 Develop a regular bicycle and walking tour of Palo Alto parks and preserves as a new recreation program. Develop online materials for self-guided tours.

1.G.8 Improve trail connections to neighboring communities (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Stanford University, Portola Valley, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, East Palo Alto, etc.)
Policy

1.H Incorporate cultural diversity in projects and programs to encourage and enhance citizen participation.

PROGRAMS

1.H.1 Conduct a survey at least every two years of cultural groups to identify gaps/barriers to access, preferred design, and awareness in recreation programming.

1.H.2 Provide multi-cultural and multi-lingual recreation programs, signage, and educational information.

1.H.3 Encourage and provide opportunities for civic engagement by directly connecting with cultural groups.

Policy

1.I Increase stewardship and volunteerism by creating and promoting opportunities for youth and adults to participate in parks, recreation, open space events, projects and programs.

PROGRAMS

1.I.1 Create a robust volunteer recruitment and management program.

1.I.2 Continue to offer volunteer habitat and landscape improvement projects, and support partnership organizations that offer volunteer programs in Parks and Open Space areas.
Goal 2: Enhance the capacity, quality and variety of uses of the existing system of parks, recreation and open space facilities and services.

Policy

2.A Sustain the community’s investment in parks and recreation facilities.

PROGRAMS

2.A.1 Collaborate with Palo Alto Unified School District to develop and implement a vision and master plan for the future of the Cubberley Community Center.

2.A.2 Continue to program and prioritize projects for existing facilities as identified in the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission report, and plan the keep up of new facilities as they come on line, recognizing their expected lifespan and revised based on real-world experience.

2.A.3 Research best practices to design park and recreational facilities that can be maintained with existing or lower budgets.

2.A.4 Encourage residents to organize and participate in park maintenance and cleanup events to foster a sense of ownership, establish social connections, and reduce maintenance costs.

2.A.5 Develop a proactive Asset Management Program to maintain existing park and recreation infrastructure.

2.A.6 Provide additional lighting to enhance park safety and expand park use to dusk while minimizing impacts to wildlife.

2.A.7 Find ways to mitigate conflicts between different trail user groups, particularly in the Pearson-Arastradero Preserve where bicyclists, equestrians, and hikers share trails.
Policy

2.B Provide opportunities for creative expression in park and recreation facilities and programs.

PROGRAMS

2.B.1 Incorporate artists and art into youth recreation programming, particularly day camps, utilizing the expertise of the Arts and Sciences Division.

2.B.2 Create outdoor studios and program spaces for creating art in parks (coordinated with the Public Art Master Plan).

2.B.3 Encourage the community to participate in more expressive projects led by the department, such as community mural projects in facilities, pop-up open mics or chalk art programs in parks.

2.B.4 Continue to provide “maker” space to Palo Alto teens to encourage creative thinking and expression.

Policy

2.C Design and maintain high quality natural and synthetic turf fields to support maximum use in parks by multiple local organized sports and casual users with areas large enough for practice or play.

PROGRAMS

2.C.1 Conduct an athletic field condition and maintenance assessment of the City’s natural turf fields, and upgrade fields at select parks to high quality natural turf standards including irrigation system upgrades, drainage improvements, etc. The field assessment report should include analysis and recommendations regarding the soil profile, agronomy, irrigation systems, field slope, drainage, field-use demand, and maintenance.

2.C.2 Actively monitor and track industry developments and the latest reputable scientific studies regarding synthetic turf to understand the environmental and human safety impacts of our existing synthetic turf fields.

2.C.3 Assess the type of turf (new synthetic turf product or natural turf) that should be used when replacing an existing synthetic turf field that is due for replacement.
2.C.4  Synthetic turf fields should be striped for multiple sports to maximize use. Whenever possible, synthetic turf playing fields should have lights in order to maximize use of the field.

Policy

2.D  Actively pursue adding dedicated, fenced dog parks in multiple neighborhoods, equitably distributed between north and south Palo Alto. The size of the dog parks will vary, but should strive to be at least .25 acres. Dog parks should not be placed in Open Space Preserves.

PROGRAMS

2.D.1  The City will evaluate and select at least six dedicated, fenced dog parks, equitably distributed across north and south Palo Alto, from the following list of potential locations:

- Eleanor Pardee Park (North, .41 Acres)-Near Term
- Bowden Park (North, .37 Acres)-Near Term
- Greer Park (Improve existing) (South, .87 Acres)
- Peers Park (North, .73 Acres)
- Hoover Park (Improve existing) (South, 1 Acre)
- Robles Park (South, .47 Acres)
- Mitchell Park (Expand existing) (South, 1.2 Acres)
- Kingsley Island Park (North, .27 Acres)
- Werry Park (North, .31 Acres)
- Juana Briones Park (South, .47 Acres)
- Heritage Park (North, .27 Acres)

*We acknowledge that Hoover and Greer’s current dog parks are inadequate in terms of size, and they should not be counted in their current configuration towards the minimum of six dog parks recommended in this program.

2.D.2  Develop rules and regulations specific to dog parks focusing on safety and limits of use.
Policy
2.E The City will actively pursue adding park restrooms in parks that are approximately two acres or larger, have amenities that encourage visitors to stay in the park, have high level of use, and where there are no nearby public restrooms available.

PROGRAMS
2.E.1 Develop a restroom standard, in collaboration with the Architectural Review Board, for neighborhood parks.
2.E.2 The City will actively pursue adding park restrooms at the following potential locations:
   - Bol Park
   - Bowden Park
   - Eleanor Pardee Park
   - Johnson Park
   - Ramos Park
   - Robles Park
   - Terman Park

Policy
2.F Develop additional community gardens focusing on underrepresented areas of the City, and provide community engagement opportunities around gardens.

Policy
2.G At least every five years, quantitatively evaluate demand and capacity of major recreation facilities including pools, gyms, tennis courts, and teen centers with appropriate attention to geographical distribution in the city. Adjust plans as appropriate to accommodate significant demographic or demand changes.
**Goal 3:** Create environments that encourage active and passive activities to support health, wellness and social connections.

**Policy**

**3.A** Implement the Healthy City Healthy Community resolution with the community’s involvement.

**PROGRAMS**

3.A.1 Convene and lead a Healthy City Healthy Community stakeholder work group consisting of other agencies, nonprofit organizations and citizens that supports building a healthy community.

3.A.2 Develop an annual plan that supports implementation of the resolution.

3.A.3 Achieve designation as an Age-Friendly Community.

3.A.4 Add drop-in programs (free or BOOST!) focused on physical and mental health in settings that are near home/work and maximize the health benefits of being outside and surrounded by nature.

3.A.5 Connect walking paths within and between parks to create loop options of varying length that encourage walking and jogging.

3.A.6 Enhance seating areas to take advantage of quiet spaces or to create opportunities for social interaction.

3.A.7 Promote and enforce the ban on smoking in Palo Alto’s parks through a marketing campaign and signage program.

3.A.8 Upgrade or add drinking fountains with water bottle filling and water for dogs.

3.A.9 Develop adult fitness areas in parks including exercise areas for the exclusive use of older adults (seniors).

**Policy**

**3.B** Incorporate art into park design and recreation programming (consistent with the Public Art Master Plan).
PROGRAMS

3.B.1 Promote temporary public art installations in local parks.

3.B.2 Promote interactive public art features that also serve as play features (i.e. climbable sculptural elements integrated into the natural environment that invite touch and exploration).

3.B.3 Update park design policies to incorporate artistic elements consistent with the Public Art Master Plan.

3.B.4 Commission artwork that interprets local history, events and significant individuals; represents City core values of sustainability, youth well-being, health, innovation.

3.B.5 Bring in performance-based work, social practice, temporary art and community art.

3.B.6 Explore suitable art for preserves and natural areas.

3.B.7 Incorporate public art in the earliest stages of the design of parks and facilities that may utilize wind direction, sunlight and ambient sound (Coordinated with the Public Art Master Plan).

3.B.8 Install permanent and temporary installations and exhibits in well-trafficked parks and plazas, following the guidance of the Public Art Master Plan.

3.B.9 Integrate functional public art into play areas, seatwalls and other built features in parks across the system.

3.B.10 Integrate art and nature into bike lanes, routes and paths as appropriate.

Policy

3.C Require that proposed privately owned public spaces that are provided through the Parkland Dedication Ordinance meet Palo Alto design guidelines and standards for publicly owned parks, allow public access, and are designed to support recreation, incorporate natural ecosystem elements and comply with the policies of the Urban Forest Master Plan.

PROGRAMS

3.C.1 Develop and apply clear expectations and definitions of public access (hours, rules) for privately owned public spaces.
Goal 4: Protect natural habitat and integrate nature, natural ecosystems and ecological principles throughout Palo Alto.

Policy

4.A In Natural Open Space, ensure activities, projects and programs are compatible with the protection of nature.

PROGRAMS

4.A.1 Develop comprehensive conservation plans for Baylands Preserve, Foothills Park, Esther Clark Park, and Pearson-Arastradero Preserve to identify strategies to balance ecosystem preservation, passive recreation, and environmental education.

4.A.2 Continue to work with partnership organizations to remove invasive weeds and plant native plants and trees in riparian and natural open space areas.

4.A.3 Update the Arastradero Preserve Trail Master Plan (March 2001) and the Foothills Park Trail Maintenance Plan (January 2002), and incorporate into in the Foothills Park, Pearson-Arastradero Preserve, and Esther Clark Park Comprehensive Conservation Plan Project.

Policy

4.B Connect people to nature and the outdoors through education and recreation programming.

PROGRAMS

4.B.1 Expand access to nature through elements and interpretive features that explore ecological processes, historical context, adjacent waterways, specific plant/animal species that can be encountered onsite and elements tailored to be of interest to youth as well as multiple ages, cultures and abilities.

4.B.2 Update or rebuild interpretive centers with modern interactive exhibits.

4.B.3 Improve and increase access to creeks for learning and stewardship experiences by designing access points that minimize impact on the waterway.
4.B.4 Expand programs such as Foothills camps to connect youth with parks year-round.

4.B.5 Partner with boys/girls scouting organizations for outdoor education programs and/or the Junior Rangers program.

4.B.6 Expand and increase events that educate and promote native plants, species and wildlife.

4.B.7 Provide shade for play areas using shade trees as the preferred solution.

4.B.8 Update and improve the Toyon Trail Interpretive Guide to make it more engaging and educational.


Policy

4.C Connect natural areas, open spaces, creeks and vegetated areas in parks and on public land to create wildlife, bird, pollinator and habitat corridors by planting with native oaks and other species that support pollinators or provide high habitat values.

PROGRAMS

4.C.1 Develop a map that identifies locations for habitat corridors including the appropriate plant palette for each corridor.

4.C.2 Work with local environmental groups to grow native plant species and utilize their network of volunteers to install and maintain planted areas.

4.C.3 Establish low-impact buffer zones with native plant species along creeks to enhance habitat value.

Policy

4.D Promote, expand and protect habitat and natural areas in parks and open space.

PROGRAMS

4.D.1 Identify and pursue strategies and opportunities to expand native trees and planting areas in urban parks.

4.D.2 Integrate and implement the Urban Forest Master Plan Policies and Programs as applicable to parkland in Palo Alto.
4.D.3 Update the preferred planting palette and approved tree species list.

4.D.4 Collaborate with habitat restoration organizations such as Save the Bay, Canopy and Acterra.

4.D.5 Replace low-use turf areas with native shrubs and grasses, incorporating educational elements about native habitats.

4.D.6 Support regional efforts that focus on enhancing and protecting significant natural resources.

4.D.7 Utilizing volunteers, expand programs to remove invasive species, and to plant native vegetation in open space, parks, and creek corridors.

4.D.8 Collaborate with regional partners to control the spread of invasive species and plant pathogens.

**Goal 5:** Develop innovative programs, services and strategies for expanding the park and recreation system.

**Policy**

5.A Identify and pursue strategies to activate underused parks and recreation facilities

**PROGRAMS**

5.A.1 Implement short-term placemaking improvements (flexible, small scale interventions such as seating, art, programming or planters that have minimal capital cost) to attract users and experiment with potential longer-term options.

5.A.2 Emphasize flexibility and layering uses (allowing for different uses at different times of day, week, etc.) in parks over installing fixed-use equipment and single-use facilities.

5.A.3 Expand Day Camp program opportunities, utilizing all preserves and more local park sites and additional topic areas, to meet excess demand.

5.A.4 Leverage social media and develop marketing materials to encourage “pop-up” recreational activities in rotating parks.
5.A.5 Create small (10-12 people) and medium-sized (20-25 people) group picnic areas that can be used for both picnics and programming.

5.A.6 Assess high-demand park features and identify those that can be added or relocated to low use parks.

Policy

5.B Support innovation in recreation programming and park features and amenities.

PROGRAMS

5.B.1 Review program data based on clearly communicated objectives for reach, impact, attendance and financial performance.

5.B.2 Retire, end or refresh programs that require staff, facility and financial resources but do not achieve program objectives, thereby freeing up resources for new programs.

5.B.3 Actively develop a small number of pilot programs each year to test new ideas, locations and target audiences.

5.B.4 Build on partnership with Avenidas to expand intergenerational programming as well as additional older adult programming.

5.B.5 Expand BOOST!, the pay-per-use exercise class system to cover fees for any drop-in classes or facility use (lap swim, drop-in gym time, new programs in parks).

5.B.6 Set goal of 10% new program offerings each season; new programs should be offered based on needs assessment, industry trends, and/or class evaluation data.

5.B.7 Create a robust marketing and outreach program to highlight new and innovative programs to community.

5.B.8 Develop short-term recreation access strategies (such as temporary use agreements for vacant or park like property) and seek long-term or permanent park and recreation space in each park search area. Actively recruit property and facility owners to participate in the development of the short- and long-term strategies.

5.B.9 Explore addition of intramural sports for middle and high school students through a partnership with Palo Alto Unified School District.
Palo Alto Parks, Trails, Open Space, & Recreation

GOALS, POLICIES, PROGRAMS

5.B.10 Provide opportunities for “pickup” or non-league sports activities at City parks and recreation facilities.

Policy

5.C Expand the overall parks and recreation system through repurposing public land, partnering with other organizations for shared land, incorporating public park spaces on parking decks and rooftops, if appropriate, and other creative means to help address shortages of available land.

PROGRAMS

5.C.1 Explore a process to utilize and reserve select public and private lands for “parklike” functions that allows for more flexibility than formal park dedication.

Policy

5.D Explore alternative uses for newly acquired parkland to optimize for long-term community benefit.

PROGRAMS

5.D.1 Determine optimal usage for Foothill Park’s 7.7 acres of parkland.

5.D.2 Evaluate optimal usage, including open space, for 10.5-acre land bank created by golf course reconstruction.

5.D.3 Evaluate feasible uses for the south end of El Camino Park.

Policy

5.E Explore and experiment with parklets and other temporary park spaces for both long and short-term uses.

Policy

5.F Enhance partnerships and collaborations with Palo Alto Unified School District and Stanford University to support access and joint use of facilities, where appropriate for effective delivery of services and programs.

PARKLET:
An inexpensive infrastructure investment that creates a public gathering space or small park from on-street parking spaces.

Parklet on Noriega Street in San Francisco
PROGRAMS

5.F.1 Partner with PAUSD to open middle and high school recreation facilities for community use (basketball, badminton, indoor soccer, swimming pools, tennis courts) during the evening, weekend, and summer hours.

5.F.2 Develop a steering committee that consists of key officials from the City, PAUSD and Stanford to develop partnership agreements and connect facility managers and programmers.

5.F.3 Increase access to PAUSD public schools (outside of school hours) to increase the availability of recreation activity spaces. Target school sites that are within or adjacent to “park search areas.”

5.F.4 Partner with Stanford to create or increase access to athletic facilities and other recreational facilities for Palo Alto residents.

5.F.5 Develop a common reservation system for community access to shared facilities.

Policy

5.G Pursue other/private funding sources for recreation programming, capital improvement projects and facility maintenance.

PROGRAMS

5.G.1 Encourage foundations to assist with soliciting sponsorships and grants.

5.G.2 Create a more formalized annual or one-time sponsorship program that provides the donor with marketing and promotional opportunities.

5.G.3 Contract or add job responsibilities for managing fundraising and developing donors for the park system to pursue funding opportunities and sponsorships.

5.G.4 Engage nonprofit friends groups to seek donor funding, including foundation grants, corporate giving and small and major philanthropic gifts by individuals, for priority projects and programs.
Policy

5.H Partner with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and other land conservation groups to expand access to open space through new acquisitions and improved connections.

Goal 6: Manage Palo Alto’s land and services effectively, efficiently and sustainably utilizing quantitative and qualitative measures.

Policy

6.A At least every five years actively review demographic trends and interests of city population by segment for critical drivers of facility usage including schoolchildren, teens, seniors and ethnic groups, and adjust programs and plans accordingly.

PROGRAMS

6.A.1 Create pilot recreation programs to test the public’s interest in new types of classes, events and activities utilizing an evaluation process.

6.A.2 Initiate a community-wide focus group on an annual basis to provide feedback on programs, facilities and long-term roadmaps.

6.A.3 Create a streamlined and effective quarterly survey system that solicits feedback from customers, including program participants, facility renters, and the general community.

Policy

6.B Continue to implement the Cost Recovery Policy for recreation programs, refining the cost and fees using the most current information available.

PROGRAMS

6.B.1 Periodically benchmark the City’s Cost Recovery Policy against other cities’ cost recovery models.

6.B.2 Invest in and market city facilities to increase revenue for cost recovery.
Policy

6.C Limit the exclusive use of Palo Alto parks (booking an entire park site) for events by outside organizations that are closed to the general public.

PROGRAMS

6.C.1 No exclusive use of parks by private parties is permitted on peak days (e.g., weekend, holidays) or peak times (e.g., evening hours on weekdays, 10 am – 6 pm on weekends) as defined by Community Services staff unless approved in advance by the Director of Community Services. Exclusive use of certain sites and facilities within parks, such as reservable spaces like picnic areas, is generally permitted during peak days and times.

6.C.2 Exclusive use of parks for locally focused events that allow registration by the general public (e.g., races, obstacle course events, triathlons, etc.) may be considered by staff if consistent with this Master Plan.

6.C.3 Private events that are closed to the general public (e.g., corporate events, private weddings) and are intended to use an entire park (rather than a reservable space in excess of capacities as defined in the Special Event Permit procedures) may only be considered outside of peak days and times as defined by Community Services staff. These events should recover 100% of all associated costs, including wear and tear on public parks and facilities.

6.C.4 Events that allow public access are permitted, in accordance with Special Event Permit procedures.

Policy

6.D Periodically review and update existing guidance for development, operations, and maintenance of Palo Alto’s Parks, Trails, Natural Open Spaces, and Recreation system based on the best practices in the industry and this Master Plan, including:

- Park Rules and Regulations;
- Open Space Policy & Procedure Handbook;
Palo Alto Parks, Trails, Open Space, & Recreation

GOALS, POLICIES, PROGRAMS

- City of Palo Alto Landscape Standards;
- City of Palo Alto design guidelines and standards; and
- Tree Technical Manual.

Policy

6.E **Incorporate sustainable best practices in the maintenance, management, and development of open spaces, parks, and recreation facilities where consistent with ecological best practices.**

PROGRAMS

6.E.1 Increase energy efficiency in Palo Alto parks, including allocating funding to retrofit facilities for energy efficiency with increased insulation, green or reflective roofs and low-emissive window glass where applicable.

6.E.2 Conduct energy audits for all facilities, establish an energy baseline for operations, benchmark energy performance against comparable facilities, and implement energy tracking and management systems for all park facilities and operations.

6.E.3 Select Energy Star and equivalent energy-efficient products for Park equipment purchases.

6.E.4 Expand the collection and use of solar power (parking lots, roofs) and other renewable energy sources at parks and facilities (e.g. pools).

6.E.5 Provide convenient and well-marked compost and recycling receptacles throughout the park system, in recreation facilities and at special events.

6.E.6 Ensure that trash, recycling, and compost receptacles have covers to prevent wildlife access to human food sources.

6.E.7 Review purchasing policies and improve employee education to reduce overall consumption of materials throughout the system.

6.E.8 Procure environmentally preferable products (as required by the City's Environmentally Preferred Purchasing policy) as the "default" purchasing option.
6.E.9 Initiate composting of green waste within the park system.

6.E.10 Work with Public Works to replace the vehicle fleet with electric vehicles whenever practical.

6.E.11 Install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at park facilities with parking lots.

6.E.12 Enforce a "No Idle" program with vehicles and other gas-powered equipment.

6.E.13 Conduct water audits for all parks and recreation facilities and park operations.

6.E.14 Install high-efficiency urinals, toilets, sinks and showers in all facilities.

6.E.15 Extend recycled water use to more park sites.

6.E.16 Explore water capture opportunities in parks for irrigation and recycling.

6.E.17 Ensure any irrigation systems on public landscapes are run by a smart controller and/or sensors and that staff are trained in programming them.

6.E.18 Link all park facilities to a centralized irrigation management system to maximize water use efficiency.

6.E.19 Promote urban greening by integrating storm water design into planting beds, reducing irrigation and providing interpretive information about park contributions to city water quality.

6.E.20 Train City maintenance staff and include specific standards and expectations in maintenance contracts for the care of low-water, naturalized landscapes, natural play environments and other new types of features in the system.

6.E.21 Ensure project designs for new facilities and retrofits will be consistent with sustainable design principles and practices. This includes evaluating all projects for opportunities to implement Green Stormwater Infrastructure such as bioswales, stormwater planters, rain gardens, permeable pavers and porous concrete and asphalt.
6.E.22 Identify locations and develop swales, detention basins and rain gardens to retain and treat storm water.

Policy

6.F Strengthen the Integrated Pest Management ("IPM") policy as written. While some parks may be managed as “pesticide free” on a demonstration basis, IPM should continue to be Palo Alto’s approach, grounded in the best available science on pest prevention and management.

Programs

6.F.1 Periodically review and update the IPM policy based on best available data and technology.

Policy

6.G Strategically reduce maintenance requirements at parks, open spaces, natural preserves and community centers while maintaining Palo Alto’s high quality standards.

Programs

6.G.1 Locate garbage and recycling receptacles in a single location that is easily accessible by maintenance staff and vehicles.

6.G.2 Explore high capacity, compacting and smart garbage and recycling receptacles that can reduce the frequency of regular collection.

6.G.3 Select standardized furnishing palettes for durability, vandal-resistance and ease of repair.
Policy

6.H Coordinate with and/or use other relevant City plans to ensure consistency, including:

- Baylands Master Plan;
- Urban Forest Master Plan;
- Urban Water Master Plan;
- Long-term electric acquisition plan (LEAP);
- Water Reclamation Master Plan;
- Recycled Water Project;
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan;
- Comprehensive Plan;
- Others adopted in the future; and
- Public Art Master Plan.

Policy

6.I Continue to engage other relevant City departments and divisions in planning, design and programming, drawing on the unique and specialized skills and perspectives of:

- City Managers Office;
- The Palo Alto Art Center;
- Library, including Children’s Library;
- Junior Museum and Zoo;
- Children’s Theatre;
- Public Art;
- Transportation;
- Urban Forestry;
- Planning;
- Public Works; and
- Palo Alto Youth and Teen Leadership.
Policy

6.J  Participate in and support implementation of regional plans related to parks, recreation, natural open space and trails, such as:

- 2014 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Vision;
- Clean Bay Pollution Prevention Plan; and
- Land Use near Streams in Santa Clara County.
Community Meeting – Presentation Materials and Handouts

Date: November 1, 2016

---

Hand Out #2
High Priority Needs and Opportunities

There are some projects and programs that we know today are high priority needs and/or opportunities. The list below was developed with feedback from the Parks and Recreation Commission, community, stakeholders, and City staff and includes a summary of planning effort, capital cost (funding), annual operating cost, time frame and urgency for each. All the projects and programs that appear on this list are a priority and are not arranged in any priority order.

The projects have been divided into two categories: 1) those projects that can be enacted upon and implemented immediately, usually of smaller scale and lower funding requirements and 2) large scale projects that will require more study including a planning and funding strategy. The projects were divided into these categories which recognize the achievement of large scale capital projects will occur in the long term, but require several steps in the near term.

Projects:

Projects needing further study and funding

- Enhance existing playfields
- Plan, design and construct 10.5 acre site in Baylands for park uses
- Plan, design and redevelop Cubberley Community Center
- Plan, design and construct a new public gymnasium
- Improve the Rinconada Pool Facility
- Incorporate 7.7 acre site into Foothills Park
- Acquire new parkland in high need areas
- Create wayfinding signage of safe routes to parks

Projects ready in the short term

- Develop conservation plans for open space preserves
- Develop new dog parks in underrepresented areas
- Construct new restrooms in parks
- Incorporate sustainable practices in the maintenance and management of parks, open space and recreation facilities
- Exceed Americans with Disabilities Act requirements in parks
- Improve trail connections and access
- Develop adult fitness areas in parks
- Integrate nature into urban parks
- Develop new community gardens in underserved areas
- Enhance seating areas in parks
Programs:

- Establish and grow partnerships and identify potential park donors
- Collaborate with school district to increase access to playgrounds, gyms, and other school facilities
- Expand recruitment and training of coaches and instructors
- Expand aquatics programs
- Expand programs for seniors
- Expand non-academic programs for teens
- Provide intramural sports program for middle and high school students
- Increase the variety of activities available in parks
- Encourage unstructured play at parks and community centers
- Connect youth, teens and families with nature
- Expand programs related to health and wellness
- Pilot temporary/pop-up programming in parks
- Invest in staff training to enhance therapeutic and inclusive program development
- Expand community-focused special events
- Offer cultural enrichment programs

Priority Programs and Projects

Each priority program or project is described and evaluated based on the following five factors:

1. **PLANNING EFFORT** represents the amount of time, effort and cost associated with planning the project and could include community outreach, budget and resource allocation, environmental review, and PRC and Council approval.

2. **CAPITAL COST** provides an indication of the magnitude of capital cost to implement the project, shown by dollar signs as follows:
   - $ (<$250,000),
   - $$ ($250,000 to $1,000,000),
   - $$$ ($1,000,000 to $5,000,000),
   - and $$$ (>$5,000,000).

3. **ANNUAL OPERATING COST** estimates the added annual operating cost once the project is in place, also indicated by dollar signs as follows:
   - $ (<$5,000),
   - $$ ($5,000 to $25,000),
   - $$$ ($25,000 to $75,000) and
   - $$ $$ ($>$75,000).
4. **TIMEFRAME** indicates whether project planning will be completed in the near, mid, or long-term. All of the following projects identified as priorities will require attention in the near term, although some are major projects and will not be completed for years. Some projects can be both planned and constructed in the same year, while others will take years longer to complete.

5. **URGENCY** indicates the level of need. All projects within this Master Plan have a demonstrated need, but the level of urgency varies based on the availability of a particular amenity or program as compared to the demand. Urgency can also be a consideration of time sensitivity. For example, if a project will influence or guide future operations, such as development of open space conservation plans, that project would have a high level of urgency. A project could also be considered high urgency if failure to act results in a missed opportunity, such as purchase of an available open parcel that could be dedicated as parkland.

**Projects:**
Projects that can be acted upon immediately:

**Develop conservation plans for open space preserves**

Comprehensive conservation plans are necessary to develop guiding principles and best management practices for holistic management of Palo Alto’s open space preserves and to balance ecosystem protection, environmental education and passive recreational uses. Conservation plans will be completed for the Baylands, Foothills Park, Pearson-Arastradero, and Esther Clark Preserves and will provide City staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council with clear direction on how to manage Palo Alto’s open space preserves using an ecosystem-based model that considers both conservation and recreation goals.

- PLANNING EFFORT = MEDIUM
- CAPITAL COST = $$
- OPERATING COST = $ - $$ (per findings)
- TIMEFRAME = NEAR TO MID
- URGENCY = HIGH

**Develop new dog parks in underrepresented areas**

There are currently three dog parks in Palo Alto, all of which are located south of Oregon Expressway. The lack of dog parks on the north side of the City, together with the prevalence of people allowing dogs to run off-leash outside of designated dog parks in parks and on school property, underscores the need for more off-leash dog parks in the near term. Locations for dog parks have been strategically selected at certain parks and planning efforts are underway. Existing park features such as native trees, public art and playground equipment as well as community feedback all will be considered when planning for the
construction of a dog park. The addition of dog parks will be phased and is proposed to occur in the near- and mid-term.

PLANNING EFFORT= MEDIUM
CAPITAL COST= $
OPERATING COST= $
TIMEFRAME= NEAR TO MID
URGENCY= HIGH

Construct new restrooms in parks

Through this planning process, the community generally came to a consensus that restrooms make sense in parks with amenities that draw people, especially children and seniors, and encourage them stay at the park for a span of time. Though there have been varying opinions regarding specific sites, additional review will be conducted to site restrooms and security measures such as automatic locking mechanisms and lighting will be included to address some of the concerns related to restrooms.

PLANNING EFFORT= MEDIUM
CAPITAL COST= $$
OPERATING COST= $
TIMEFRAME= NEAR TO MID
URGENCY= HIGH

Incorporate sustainable practices in the maintenance and management of parks, open space and recreation facilities

Staff responsible for the care of Palo Alto's parks and open spaces will commit to staying current with sustainable practices. As part of this effort, staff will develop a strategic plan for incorporating sustainable practices for maintenance and management of parks, open spaces and facilities, including updating current practices. As part of this effort, maintenance staff will consult with the City's Sustainability Department to discuss how they can help meet the sustainable goals of the Sustainability Master Plan (under development at the adoption of this Master Plan), and to develop measures for tracking the adoption of sustainable maintenance practices.

PLANNING EFFORT= LOW
CAPITAL COST= $ TO $$
OPERATING COST= 0 to $
TIMEFRAME= NEAR (STRATEGIC PLAN) ONGOING (IMPLEMENTATION)
URGENCY= HIGH

Exceed Americans with Disabilities Act requirements in parks
The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides regulations that inform and guide the amenities and design of parks, and requires an ADA Transition Plan to remove barriers that may prevent people with disabilities from fully enjoying the City's parks and recreation services. The ADA requirements represent the legal minimum that is required. Feedback from the community during the Master Plan process was supportive that Palo Alto seek, when possible, to exceed ADA minimums and strive for universal accessibility, where people of all abilities can utilize and enjoy parks. During all parks related capital improvement projects, staff will not only update amenities and design to current ADA standards, but will also seek opportunities to achieve universal access. This will occur in the near-term and will be on-going.

**PLANNING EFFORT= LOW**
**CAPITAL COST= $ TO $$$$**
**OPERATING COST= $ to $$**
**TIMEFRAME= NEAR TO LONG**
**URGENCY= MED TO HIGH**

**Improve trail connections and access**

Improving trail connections and access to parks and open space areas was identified as an important priority by the community. Linkages to parks also promote the "Green Necklace" vision for the City and allows regional connections to adjacent cities and opens natural areas. Staff will utilize existing capital improvement projects as a platform on which to improve trail connections into parks, access and connections between parks and between multi-modal trails and to provide linkages to regional trails and neighboring agency sites. In addition, staff will identify trail connections and improvements that will require new individual capital projects, and will propose those through the City’s CIP process.

**PLANNING EFFORT= MEDIUM**
**CAPITAL COST= $ TO $$$$**
**OPERATING COST= $ to $$**
**TIMEFRAME= NEAR TO LONG**
**URGENCY= MEDIUM**

**Develop adult fitness areas in parks**

Health and fitness is a priority for the Palo Alto community, and an important reason for park use. Palo Alto can help support health and wellness for adults and older adults, a population segment that is growing, by providing outdoor fitness options, especially in close proximity to playgrounds. These adult fitness areas can take on a variety of forms: from outdoor workout equipment areas (free weight and cardio machines) to simple open rubber surface areas for open activity (e.g., yoga, meditation, weight and cardiovascular training). These spaces will be designed for both individual use and group gathering and as a means of activating a park, and will be a high value, simple addition during park renovation projects.
Integrate nature into urban parks

This project includes converting areas in parks, usually turfgrass that is not used for recreation, into native plantings (e.g., riparian, grassland, or oak woodland) or a specific habitat planting (e.g., Pollinator, hummingbird or butterfly). This type of project may also include bioswales designed to maintain on-site drainage and create habitat, and may even include aspects of a natural play area.

PLANNING EFFORT = LOW TO MEDIUM
CAPITAL COST = $
OPERATING COST = $ (Reduction of overall maintenance)
TIMEFRAME = NEAR TO LONG
URGENCY = MID TO LOW (with continuous drought this may be considered a high urgency)

Develop new community gardens in underserved areas

Community gardens provide a place for healthy outdoor activity, social gathering, and community connections. Ultimately, community gardens should be evenly distributed throughout the park system. Staff will look for opportunities to add community gardens when parks are renovated, looking for underutilized turfgrass or planting areas as potential locations for community gardens. In addition, staff will seek to expand the variety of community gardening opportunities, by considering children’s or inclusive garden plots or even entire community gardens.

PLANNING EFFORT = LOW
CAPITAL COST = $
OPERATING COST = $
TIMEFRAME = NEAR TO LONG
URGENCY = LOW

Enhance seating areas in parks

Seating is an important part of creating a welcoming park environment, and was identified as a priority by community members during the outreach process. When park renovations occur, staff will identify opportunities to enhance the variety and comfort of seating areas or provide additional seating. These enhancements may include providing more seating, providing additional seating options (e.g., movable seating, artist-designed or embellished
benches), and creating enclosure to define the seating area as a low activity area used for urban retreat.

PLANNING EFFORT= LOW
CAPITAL COST= $
OPERATING COST= $
TIMEFRAME= NEAR TO LONG
URGENCY= LOW

Projects that need further study and funding

Enhance Existing Sport Fields

With current demands and projected future growth, improving and maintaining the cities large open play fields is an important aspect of the parks and recreation system. Current heavy use of the play fields, along with limited resources (water & maintenance budget) requires a clear plan to maintain quality and longevity.

The following steps are recommended for Enhancing Existing Sport Fields:

- Hire a sport field turf consultant, review and analyze the existing city sport fields and make recommendations on how to improve and maintain them to increase quality and use. (Near Term)
- Develop an on-going capital fund project that focuses on enhancing the fields identified by the field analysis study. (Near to Long Term)

Funding Options

- Capital Improvement Funds
- Outreach to sport field users and interested parties for private donations

PLANNING EFFORT= HIGH
CAPITAL COST= $$$
OPERATING COST= $$$
TIMEFRAME= Study and Planning-NEAR; Construction- NEAR TO LONG
URGENCY= HIGH

Plan, design and construct 10.5-acre site in Baylands for park uses

The development of the 10.5-acre Baylands site will require a long term planning and funding effort. As a built out city with limited areas to expand the park system the planning of the project should take into account the location of the site in the baylands and should start
in the near term to establish the site design and cost to complete this large project. The planning effort will focus on the design of the site with direct community input. Staff will strategize options of phasing and funding the project in the near term and establishing a schedule for implementation. Some of the possible concepts for the use of this site that came from the public outreach include athletic fields and native habitat.

The following steps are recommended for the Development of the 10.5-acre site

- Hire a consultant to study the location and provide a recommendation how to use the site for both athletic use and native habitat use. (Near Term)
- Establish a phasing plan for the project for implementation.
- Implement the recommendations of the study.

Funding Options

- Capital Improvement Funds
- Outreach to sport field users and interested parties for private donations
- Native habitat and restoration Grants

PLANNING EFFORT= HIGH
CAPITAL COST= $$$$ 
OPERATING COST= $$
TIMEFRAME= Planning/Design-NEAR; Construction- NEAR TO MID
URGENCY= HIGH

Plan, design and redevelop Cubberley Community Center

Cubberley Community Center currently sits on a 35-acre site, of which 8 acres is owned by the City and the remaining 27 acres owned by the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD). The City leases the PAUSD’s 27 acres and operates the community center on the combined 35-acre site. The City and the PAUSD have committed to jointly develop a plan for the future of the entire Cubberley Community Center site that represents the administrative, educational and community needs of the School District and the City. Planning and design of the site will require an assessment of the current and projected future needs of the community with respect to education and recreation. Information and data gathered as part of this Master Planning effort will help to inform the needs assessment for Cubberley. Future renovations will provide increased and enhanced services to the community.

The following steps are recommended for the future renovation and development of this site:

- The City and School District will formalize an agreement for future development and renovation of the site (Near Term)
• Prepare a comprehensive master planning study for the site, including a needs assessment (Near Term)
• Develop a funding strategy for implementation of the Master Plan (Near Term)
• Plan and develop a long range implementation plan (Near to Mid Term)
• Implement the master plan (Mid to Long Term)

Funding Options

• Capital Improvement Funds
• Outreach to the general community for private donations
• Consider the passing of a bond
• Grants

PLANNING EFFORT= HIGH
CAPITAL COST= $$ -$$$$
OPERATING COST= $$ - $$$$ 
TIMEFRAME= Planning/Design-NEAR; Construction- MID TO LONG
URGENCY= Planning/Design HIGH; Developing HIGH TO MEDIUM

Construct a new gymnasium

Currently the city of Palo Alto has no gymnasiums of its own. A gymnasium at the Cubberley Community Center is the main gym utilized by the City, but is owned by Palo Alto Unified School District and operated by the City through a lease agreement. The middle school gyms are used for middle school athletic programs while the Lucie Stern Community Center and Mitchell Park Community Center are utilized for a variety of physical and social activities. As of means of responding to growth and to maintain, expand and provide future programing a multi-purpose gymnasium is recognized as a community need.

The following steps are recommended in the future renovation and development of this site:

• As part of the planning effort for the Cubberley Community Center a gymnasium will be considered and determined if it is compatible with the development direction of the site or if another separate location should be considered (Near Term)
• Develop a funding strategy for implementation of the a new gymnasium (Near Term)
• Plan and design (Near to Mid Term)
• Construct a gymnasium (Mid to Long Term)
Funding Options

- Capital Improvement Funds
- Park development fees
- Outreach to the general community for private donations
- Consider the passing of a bond
- Grants

PLANNING EFFORT = HIGH

CAPITAL COST = $$$$ 

OPERATING COST = $$$$ 

TIMEFRAME = Planning/Design - MID; Construction - LONG

URGENCY = Planning/Design MED; Developing MED

Improve the Rinconada Park Pool Facility

The pool facility at Rinconada Park is the only city owned pool facility in the city. During its operational season the pool is in high demand from the community and local swim groups. To meet growing demand a subsequent programming policy to open the pool for a long season is being explored. With increased demand the ageing pool facility needs improvements. The existing lap pool is undersized to meet demand in both overall size and swimming length; falling a few feet short of a regulations lap pool. The existing looker room and restroom facilities are old and no longer meet the needs of the users. Overall pool facility improvements include: Expanding and reconfiguring the existing lap pool, full remodel of the existing looker room and restroom building with the addition a much needed community room for meetings and training and expanding the deck area around the pool for seating.

The following steps are recommended in the future renovation and development of this site:

- Develop a funding strategy for implementation of the a full pool remodel (Near Term)
- Plan and design (Near to Mid Term)
- Remodel Rinconada Pool (Mid to Long Term)

Funding Options

- Capital Improvement Funds
- Park development fees
- Outreach to the general community for private donations
Incorporate the 7.7-acre site into Foothills Park

The development of the 7.7-acre site at Foothills Park will require a long range planning and funding effort. The planning of the project should start in the near term to develop the site design and identify funding to complete this large project. The planning effort will focus on the design of the site with direct community input. As a precursor to the project, a hydrologic study of Buckeye Creek will be completed (September 2017) to understand how the solutions to the Creek's erosion problem frame the possible uses for the 7.7 acres. Staff will research options of funding the project in the near term and establish a schedule for implementation. Public recommendations for possible uses of the site ranged from restoring the site to developing it for some form of recreation.

The following steps are recommended in the future renovation and development of this site:

- Hire a consultant to recommend options and pricing for restoring the 7.7 acre site (Near Term)
- Establish a phasing plan for the project for implementation. (Near Term)
- Develop a funding strategy (Near Term)
- Implement the recommendations of the study (Near to Long Term)

Funding Options

- Capital improvement funds
- Park development fees
- Outreach to the general community for private donations
- Grants
Acquire new parkland in high need areas

Expand parkland inventory in Palo Alto’s Urban Service Area where gaps exist geographically as illustrated in the Park Search Areas System Concept Map (Figure 6).

While this is a long-term effort there are short term strategies and actions needed to achieve results. Following the goal, policy and program described in Chapter Four 1.B.1-12, some near term actions include a review all city owned land and easements (starting in park search areas) for potential parkland development or connection locations, and evaluate City-owned or controlled spaces serving or capable of serving, park-like or recreational uses and consider dedicating as parkland.

The following steps are recommended for acquiring new parkland:

- Build up funding in the short term for future parkland acquisitions.
- City staff to review all city owned property in the high needs areas for possible parkland.
- Collaborate with the school district to make school ground open space available for use by the surrounding communities during non-school hours.
- Plan, fund and maintain the construction of park elements in school grounds in collaboration with the school district to ensure community access, and provided need park amenities to high need areas.
- City staff to develop a review process of potential properties that come up for sale as possible parkland acquisition.
- Review options of increasing development fees to increase funding for future acquisitions.
- City staff to Identify undeveloped properties in high needs areas and pursue purchasing agreements with the owner.

Funding Options

- Capital Improvement Funds
- Park development fees
- Outreach to the general community for private donations
- Consider the passing of a bond
- Grants
Create wayfinding signage of safe routes to parks

Wayfinding signage is a means of connecting and expanding the park system. Wayfinding signage designed to direct the community to designated safe routes between parks will help provide linkages between all of Palo Alto’s open spaces, which will in turn expand the system. Community Services, Public Works and Transportation departments will work together to establish these safe routes and engage the community for wayfinding and route options. Future infrastructure development of these safe routes may also include the addition of park-like features along the length of the route to further expand the park system.

The following steps are recommended for wayfinding signage of safe routes to parks:

- Hire a consultant to put together a proposed signage design, layout and phasing for the project (Near Term)
- Work with city, the community and stakeholders to develop the overall safe routes to parks plan (Near Term)
- Develop a funding strategy for implementation (Near Term)
- Implement the design (Near to Long Term)

Funding Options

- Capital Improvement Funds
- Park Impact Fees
- Outreach to the general community for private donations
- Grants
Programs:

Establish and grow partnerships and identify and cultivate potential park and recreation donors

In collaboration with the Friends of Palo Alto Parks and the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation among other partners, Palo Alto will develop a marketing campaign to engage members of the public to volunteer and contribute financially to the improvement and expansion of Palo Alto’s parks, open space and recreation programs and facilities.

PLANNING EFFORT= Medium
CAPITAL COST= NA
OPERATING COST= $$
TIMEFRAME= NEAR
URGENCY= HIGH

Collaborate with school district to increase access to playgrounds, gyms, and other school facilities

City staff will work with PAUSD to increase access to playgrounds, gyms and other school facilities. Staff will concentrate on specific locations in the city with limited park space with the intent of ensuring access to school open areas and playground during non-school hours, and establishing a gym use agreement for additional city programs and activities in school gyms during non-school hours.

PLANNING EFFORT= LOW
CAPITAL COST= LOW
OPERATING COST= $
TIMEFRAME= NEAR
URGENCY= HIGH

Expand recruitment and training of coaches and instructors

Palo Alto staff will develop a system and strategies to broaden the recruitment and training of coaches and instructors, including exploring public/private partnerships, to meet the programming demands of the City and to ensure staffing of high quality, qualified coaches and instructors.

PLANNING EFFORT= LOW to MEDIUM
CAPITAL COST= $
Expand aquatics programs

Community feedback has consistently shown that residents want more pool access during the day and into the spring and fall seasons. Both recreational swimming and swim lessons are in high demand and added pool hours would allow more aquatics programs to occur. City staff will provide expanded programs and explore new aquatic programs, such as water polo and water fitness classes that would add to the diversity of programming.

PLANNING EFFORT = Medium
CAPITAL COST = NA
OPERATING COST = $$
TIMEFRAME = NEAR
URGENCY = HIGH

Expand programs for seniors

With the population of older adults and seniors in Palo Alto projected to be on the rise, Palo Alto will need to adjust program offerings to meet demand, especially programs tailored to the needs of active seniors. This may include both indoor and outdoor activities. Staff will also coordinate with Avenidas as an important part of the planning effort to ensure that redundancy is minimized and enhancements are based on needs and gaps in the current level of service.

PLANNING EFFORT = LOW
CAPITAL COST = NA
OPERATING COST = $
TIMEFRAME = NEAR
URGENCY = MEDIUM

Expand non-academic programs for teens

Palo Alto will implement recreation programs and services to provide additional opportunities for teens to explore a wide variety of non-academic interests in an accessible, relaxed and fun environment. Examples of current programs include the MakeX maker space, Bryant Street Garage Fund Grant program and the counselor-in-training program. Enhancing and expanding these types of programs is important to provide balance in the busy and demanding lives of teens.

PLANNING EFFORT = Low
CAPITAL COST = NA
Provide intramural sports program for middle and high school students

Intramural sports provide students with an after school activity that is both social and physical with less competition than formal school athletic programs. Intramural sports also provide the opportunity for children to learn a new sport, develops social skills, teamwork and builds friendships, and promotes an active and healthy lifestyle. Palo Alto will explore creating an intramural sports program for middle and high school students. Implementation of intramurals will require coordination with PAUSD and would require securing additional field and gym space.

PLANNING EFFORT= MEDIUM
CAPITAL COST= NA
OPERATING COST= $$
TIMEFRAME= NEAR TO MID
URGENCY= MEDIUM

Increase the variety of activities available in parks

When renovating parks, Palo Alto staff will explore adding both active and passive spaces and elements to increase the variety of activities that can be experienced in a particular park. Recommended additions to a park should consider the user groups of the parks as well as different age groups. Further engagement of the community should be considered. Examples of potential elements include: outdoor gathering areas, small scale active spaces (bocce, pickle ball courts), and quiet seating/retreat spaces.

PLANNING EFFORT= LOW TO HIGH
CAPITAL COST= $ TO $$
OPERATING COST= $
TIMEFRAME= NEAR TO LONG
URGENCY= LOW

Encourage unstructured play at parks and community centers

Providing spaces and programs, both indoors and outdoors where children can play in a less structured format, away from electronic devices encourages creativity and problem solving, and fosters social connections with other youth. Palo Alto will support unstructured play, such as providing space for “pick-up” games, providing sports equipment in parks and gyms, and offering programs with minimal direction and oversight.

PLANNING EFFORT= Low to medium
Connect youth, teens and families with nature

Parks and open space preserves provide a direct connection to nature. Connecting people to nature provides benefits to physical, emotional and mental health and encourages preservation and environmental education. Palo Alto will provide more programs that focus on nature or take place in natural settings, and that are geared toward specific age groups and families, enhances the community’s connection to nature.

PLANNING EFFORT = LOW
CAPITAL COST = NA
OPERATING COST = $
TIMEFRAME = NEAR
URGENCY = LOW

Expand programs related to health and wellness

In recent years, Council has identified healthy city and healthy community as a Council priority. Efforts underway include the Healthy City Healthy Community Initiative, an annual health fair, fitness classes and programs specific to teens. Palo Alto will develop additional programming to encourage a healthy city and community on an annual basis based on community need.

PLANNING EFFORT = LOW TO MEDIUM
CAPITAL COST = NA
OPERATING COST = $ TO $$
TIMEFRAME = NEAR
URGENCY = LOW

Pilot temporary/pop-up programming in parks

Palo Alto staff will develop a program series that would bring activities to parks. Further review to identify locations for potential pop-up programming sites will be carried out by Community Service staff, who will also schedule and promote pop up programs. Example of pop up programs include: play activities; fitness activities such as yoga or tai chi; nature-oriented programs such as bird watching and park tree walks, or arts-related activities such as painting or music.

PLANNING EFFORT = LOW TO MEDIUM
CAPITAL COST = $
OPERATING COST = $
Invest in staff training to enhance therapeutic and inclusive program development

The Palo Alto community highly values accessibility and inclusion. Community Services will expand therapeutic and inclusive programming, including increasing funding for staff training in this area.

PLANNING EFFORT= LOW
CAPITAL COST= $
OPERATING COST= $
TIMEFRAME= NEAR TO MID
URGENCY= LOW

Expand community-focused special events

Palo Alto will develop a yearly community survey to determine the popularity of current special events and explore possible new events. Staff will use survey results to pilot new events and determine the feasibility of continuing these in the future.

PLANNING EFFORT= Medium
CAPITAL COST= $
OPERATING COST= $
TIMEFRAME= NEAR TO LONG
URGENCY= LOW

Offer cultural enrichment programs

Community Services will develop cultural enrichment programs that celebrate the diversity of Palo Alto's community. This will create opportunities for the community to come together and share their distinct cultural backgrounds.

PLANNING EFFORT= MEDIUM
CAPITAL COST= $
OPERATING COST= $
TIMEFRAME= NEAR TO LONG
URGENCY= LOW