

City of Sacramento
Parks and Community Enrichment Commission Report
915 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814
www.cityofsacramento.org

File ID: 2022-02266

2/2/2023

Discussion Item 2.

Parks Plan 2040 Update

File ID: 2022-02266

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Informational.

Contact: Brianna Moland, Associate Planner, (916) 808-6188, bmoland@cityofsacramento.org, Raymond Costantino, Park Planning Manager, (916) 808-1941, rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Presenter: Brianna Moland, Associate Planner, (916) 808-6188, bmoland@cityofsacramento.org, Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment; Cindy Mendoza, Principal/Director of Parks and Recreation, (503) 297-1005, MIG, Inc.

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

Additional Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: The development of the Parks Plan 2040 as a guiding document will identify the community's vision and priorities, along with the standards, recommendations, and implementation tools to manage and guide the City's parks and recreation system. The Parks Plan 2040 is being developed through a multi-year phased effort that corresponds to the timing of the City's concurrent 2040 General Plan update.

Currently, we are in the Phase 3 of the planning process. With the analysis of YPCE's previous policies and guidelines, the examination of the existing system conditions, and insights from the extensive outreach and engagement process that the project team conducted in the first two phases of the process, the project team has developed six key directions to share for input. These key directions provide an overview of what should change or be improved in the City's parks and recreation system and why it is important to do so. The key directions were previously shared with the Parks Plan 2040 Technical Advisory Committee on November 30, 2022 and with the Sacramento Youth Commission on December 5, 2022 for input. The final phase of the Parks Plan 2040 development incorporates all of the previous work into an implementation strategy, that when adopted will support park and recreation enhancements citywide.

Policy Considerations: Updating the Parks Plan is an implementation task of YPCE's Strategic Plan, the Citywide Youth Development Plan, and the City's General Plan. Per the 2018 Strategic Plan, staff have been instructed to increase outreach to engage community members in park planning and design and increase youth participation to meet the needs of current and future residents. The updated Parks Plan 2040 will incorporate those supporting goals and policies as well as input from community outreach and engagement into a comprehensive Parks Plan policy document that will guide department programs and investments for the next 20 years.

Economic Impacts: None.

Environmental Considerations: No project is being proposed at this time. Staff is presenting information and seeking Commission input. Environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will be conducted prior to the adoption of the Parks Plan 2040.

Sustainability: The City's Sustainability Master Plan (December 2007) and the Department's Sustainability Plan (August 2008) were incorporated into the current Master Plan policies. These policies will be reviewed for incorporation into the update of the Parks Plan. Additional policies pertaining to sustainability will also be considered from the City's 2040 General Plan and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan during the update process.

Commission/Committee Action: The Parks Plan team has met with the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission on April 4, 2019, August 6, 2020, and December 7, 2020, and joint meetings with the Sacramento Youth Commission on October 4, 2021, June 4, 2020, for informational presentations regarding Parks Plan 2040 progress.

Rationale for Recommendation: Not applicable.

Financial Considerations: The Parks Plan 2040 update will include information about a range of funding options and an overview of funding needs to implement the Parks Plan, which may be considered when providing additional resources necessary to implement the Park Plan. Approval of the Parks Plan update does not include approval of any major new financing initiatives; rather, it may provide guidance for development of estimated costs, feasibility analysis and work plans to develop the mechanisms to finance implementation of the Parks Plan, subject to City review and approval.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.

Background



Parks Plan 2040 Project Update

The City of Sacramento has one of the most extensive parks and recreation systems in the nation. Residents have access to more than 4,300 acres of parks and 115 miles of parkways that provide safe and engaging places to gather, play, and relax. Our parks accentuate our urban tree canopy, preserve habitat and biodiversity, protect greenspace along the American and Sacramento rivers, and help mitigate heat and the related impacts of climate change. Our recreation amenities and facilities support sports, swimming, outdoor recreation, indoor programs, and connections to our cultural heritage. Additionally, our staff pay close attention to creating opportunities that ensure our children and youth can play, learn, and grow - cultivating our leaders and citizens of tomorrow.

This extensive infrastructure and activity - integral to the success and health of our city - is managed by Sacramento's Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment (YPCE). YPCE stands ready to lead citywide efforts to create an integrated and accessible park and recreation system that serves all residents and neighborhoods across the city.

To maintain and manage this park and recreation system in the future, YPCE and the City together will:

- Secure and sustain the assets, programs, staff, and resources needed to support equitable recreation benefits for all residents;
- Expand the resources and assets associated with parks, recreation, and youth development as our city diversifies and grows;
- Address the increasing demand for parks and healthy lifestyles that have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic years; and
- Identify a strong investment strategy that increases capital and operations funding and/or reallocates existing funds to support equity-based system of parks, facilities, programs, and services.

YPCE is keeping these needs in mind as it defines a new strategy for investing in parks, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and services over the next 20 years. Aligned with community priorities, the Parks Plan will identify the standards, recommendations, and implementation tools to manage and enhance the City's parks and recreation system.

1. Planning Process and Plan Update

The Parks Plan 2040 is being created through a multi-year planning effort that corresponded to the timing of the City's concurrent 2040 General Plan update. Currently we are in Phase 3 of the planning process (see figure on next page).

The January 5, 2023 Parks Plan update will provide an overview of six key directions identified through community outreach and technical analysis. PCEC insights will help refine these key directions that will be evaluated through a random-sample prioritization survey to inform the implementation plan.



Outline of Parks Plan 2040 Document

Chapter 7 of the Parks Plan 204 will summarize the Key Directions, which will be refined based on input from the project's Technical Advisory Committee, Sacramento Youth Commission, Parks and Community Enrichment Commission, and Prioritization Survey. The contents of the Parks Plan are outlined below.

Executive Summary (multi-lingual)

Chapters

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Planning Context
- Chapter 3: Park Assets and Services
- Chapter 4: Community Voices
- Chapter 5: Park Access and Equity
- Chapter 6: Level of Service and Needs
- Chapter 7: Key Directions
- Chapter 8: Implementation

Appendices

- A. Park and Facility Inventory
- B. Programs and Services Matrix
- C. Park Development and Renovation Guidelines
- D. Capital Project Costs

- E. Project Prioritization and Sequencing Tool
- F. Partnership Protocols
- G. Funding Resources

Key Directions

Six Key Directions describe **what YPCE will change or enhance** in managing the City’s parks and recreation system and **why it is important to support these new directions**. They will be summarized in Chapter 7 to build support and buy-in for reallocating the City’s investment to support these community priorities. The chapter will highlight the actions that YPCE should take to bring about these shifts. These key directions are summarized below for discussion in the January PCEC meeting. They include highlights from the community engagement process as reminders of public support for these initiatives.



Key Direction #1:

PRIORITIZE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PARKS AND PROGRAMS

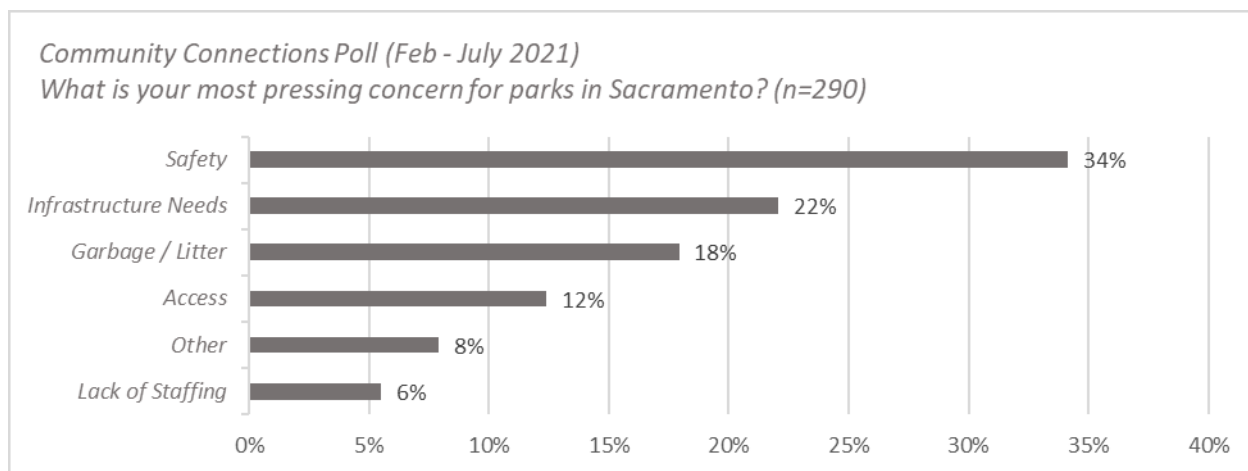
All residents should have convenient access to parks and recreation programs, with a targeted focus on improving conditions in park deficient or underserved residential areas. When prioritizing projects and programs, YPCE will factor in residential density, health vulnerability, ADA accessibility, crime, and other factors that influence severity of need.



Key

**Direction #2:
PROMOTE SAFE,
WELL-
MAINTAINED
PARKS AND
FACILITIES**

The City should invest in park safety as well as in routine, preventative and deferred maintenance to ensure that parks are welcoming, inviting, and safe for use. The investment must consider the true costs of park management because of increasing crime, vandalism, and homelessness. YPCE will continue contributing to community and youth safety through its programs and initiatives.



Key Direction #3:

RE-ENVISION AND DEVELOP QUALITY PARKS

Recognizing disparities in the size, level of development, and condition of parks and facilities across the city, YPCE will redefine “quality” parks by developing new guidelines and standards for level of service, acquisition, investment, improvements, and design enhancements. The Department will target “deficient” sites for investment based on holistic assessments of the citywide park system.

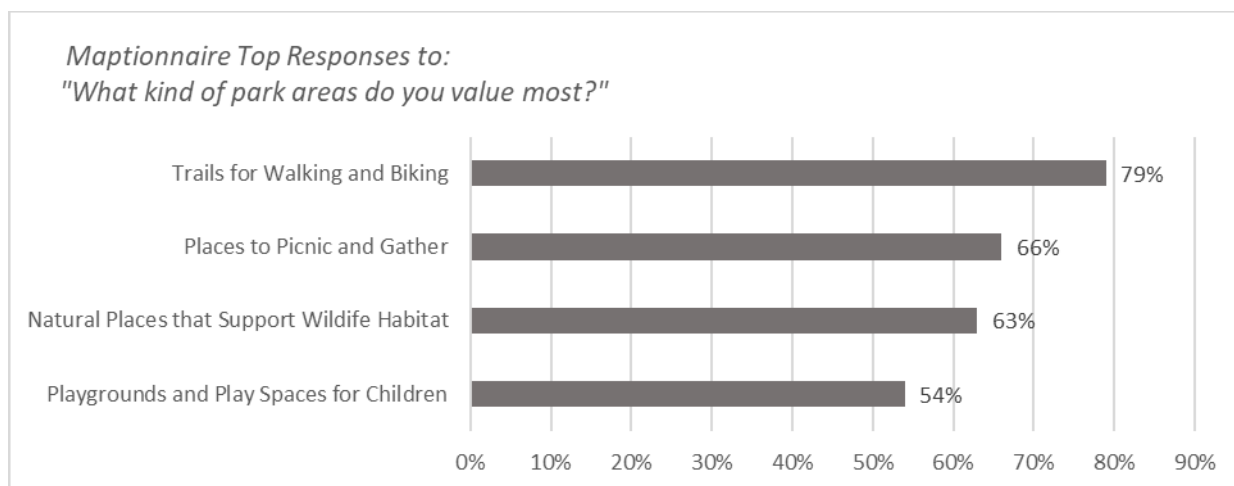


Key

Direction #4:

**COLLABORATE TO
ENHANCE
CONNECTIONS TO
NATURE AND TO
TRAILS**

Trail connectivity and access to nature are key community interests, as well as the protection and management of natural areas to support climate resiliency. However, various City departments and other partners share responsibilities for natural resources and pedestrian and bicycle paths and routes. YPCE will play a stronger role in coordinating with other City departments and entities to improve park access, parkway use, and recreation via trails. New projects, programs and policies may be needed to support natural resource protection in parks, parkways, and open space, including increasing urban greening and enhancing the urban tree canopy.



Key Direction #5: STRENGTHEN YPCE’S LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION IN YOUTH, PARK, AND RECREATION INITIATIVES

Parks, recreation facilities, and youth programs not only support the community’s quality of life, but they also provide greater benefits tied to other City initiatives. The City Council and Mayor of Sacramento have been working to advance recreation tourism and professional sports; parks in redevelopment areas such as the River District; and increased investments in children and youth health and safety. Given YPCE’s expertise in related services, YPCE staff will join discussions on how the Department can both lead and support relevant City services and implement related projects. At the same time, the Department will build on the community connections established during the Parks Plan process and strengthen relationships and communication with partners, facility operators, community leaders, and volunteers to leverage citywide resources and networks to better serve community needs.



Key Direction #6: RE-ALIGN THE CITY’S PARK INVESTMENT

Implementing projects from an equity perspective will require a new investment strategy that addresses funding needs for capital projects, maintenance, operations, and programs. It requires balancing new park development with improvements, understanding where a higher level of service is needed, rethinking the financial sustainability of high-cost facilities, updating Park Impact Fees (PIFs) and Quimby requirements, and improving public relations to garner trust and support for projects.