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Discussion Item 3.

Parks Plan 2040 Update

2022-02022

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Informational.

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Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Parks Plan Update

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 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: Not applicable.

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 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.



PARKS PLAN 2040 PROJECT UPDATE

The City of Sacramento has one of the most extensive park 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 create 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). Despite the challenges and changes encountered over the last three years, YPCE stands ready to lead citywide efforts to create an integrated and accessible park and recreation system for our diverse city.

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

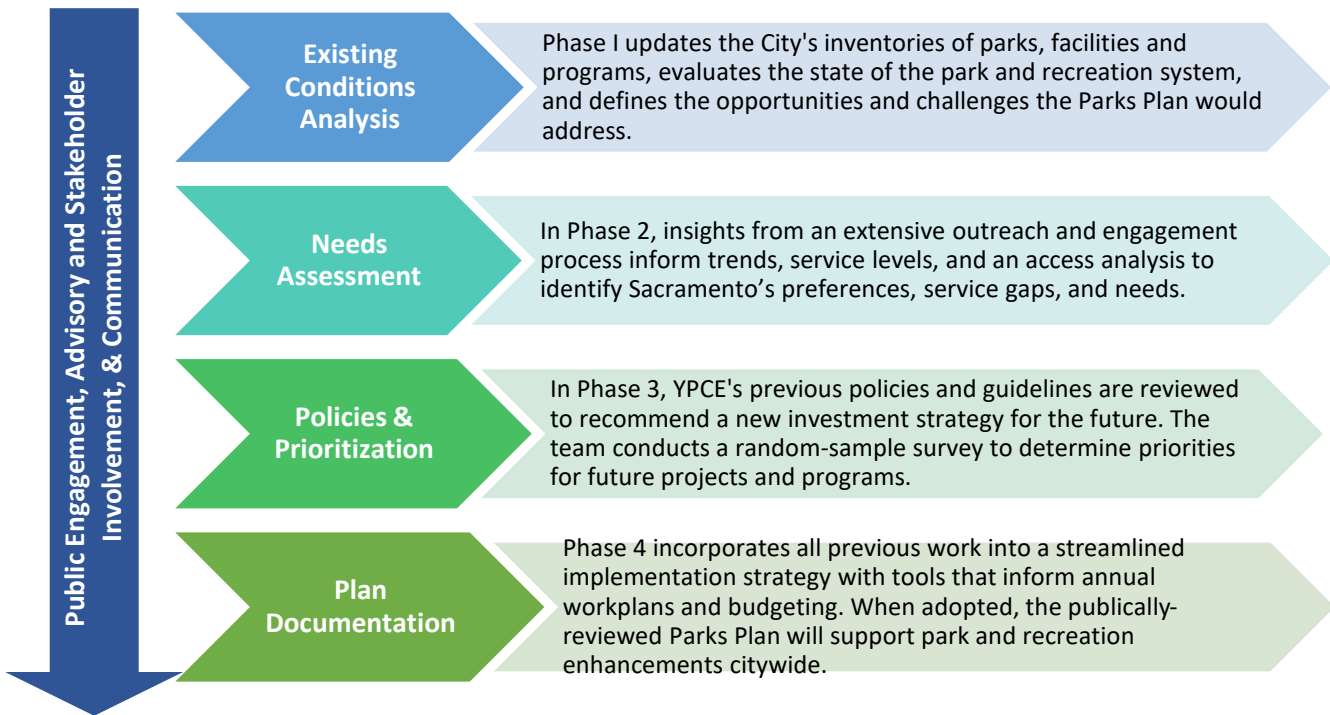
- Secure and sustain the assets, programs, staff, and resources needed to support equitable recreation benefits for all residents;
- Expand the resources and assets associated with parks, recreation, and youth development as our city diversifies and grows; and
- Address the increasing demand for parks and healthy lifestyles that have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic years.

Purpose of the Parks Plan

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. The Parks Plan will identify the community’s vision and priorities, along with the standards, recommendations, and implementation tools to manage and enhance the City’s parks and recreation system.

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 12/5 Parks Plan update will provide an overview of six key directions identified through community outreach and technical analysis. Comments will be used to create a list of key projects and programs that will be tested through a random-sample prioritization survey to inform the implementation plan.



OUTLINE OF PARKS PLAN 2040 DOCUMENT

They Key Directions noted in this memo will be highlighted in Chapter 7 of the Parks Plan. They build on the earlier findings and analysis documented in Chapters 1 through 6. The outline of the future Parks Plan is noted below for context.

Executive Summary (multi-lingual)

Chapters

- I. Chapter 1: Introduction
- II. Chapter 2: Planning Context
- III. Chapter 3: Park Assets and Services
- IV. Chapter 4: Community Voices
- V. Chapter 5: Park Access and Equity
- VI. Chapter 6: Level of Service and Needs
- VII. Chapter 7: Key Directions
- VIII. 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 provide an overview of **what should change or be enhanced** in the City’s parks and recreation system and **why it is important to do so**. They will be summarized in Chapter 7 to build support and buy-in for moving the Department in new directions. 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 December Youth Commission meeting. They include a few highlights from the community outreach and engagement process that also echo why these directions are important.



Key Direction #1: PRIORITIZE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PARKS AND PROGRAMS

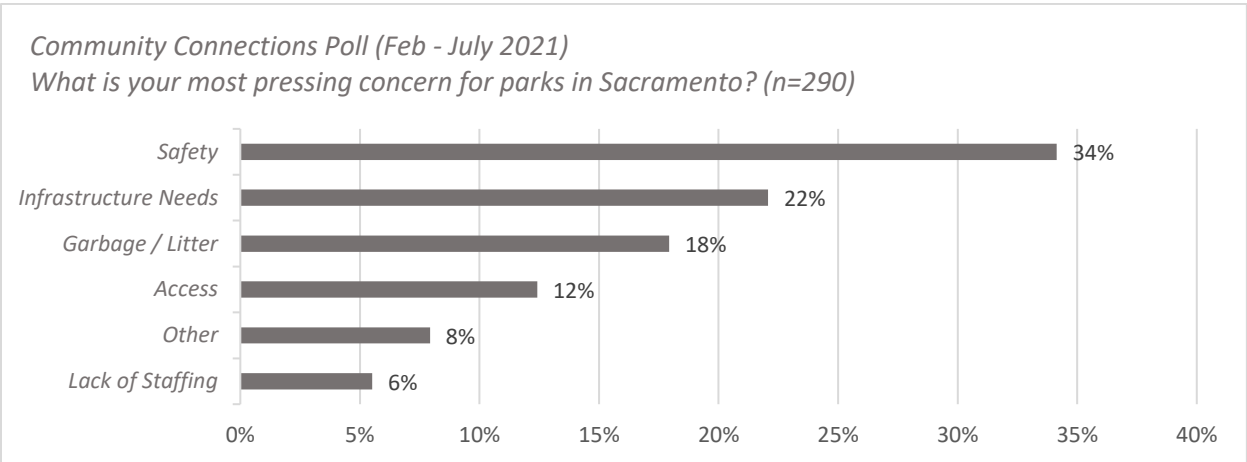
All residents should have convenient access to parks and recreation programs throughout the city, with targeted focus on improving conditions in unserved residential areas. When prioritizing park projects, the Department should factor in residential density, health vulnerability, and other factors that influence severity of need.

“There is an inconsistency behind investment across the city parks when it comes to programs and services. We need to make sure there is inclusive access and culturally relevant programs and services at the parks available to our most vulnerable populations and more specifically for our youth, especially right now.”
– Community Panelist, Mutual Assistance Network



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

The City’s investment in park safety as well as in routine, preventative and deferred maintenance must consider the true costs of park management as a result of increasing crime, vandalism, and homelessness. YPCE will continue contributing to community safety through its programs and initiatives.





Key Direction #3:

RE-ENVISION AND DEVELOP QUALITY PARKS

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.

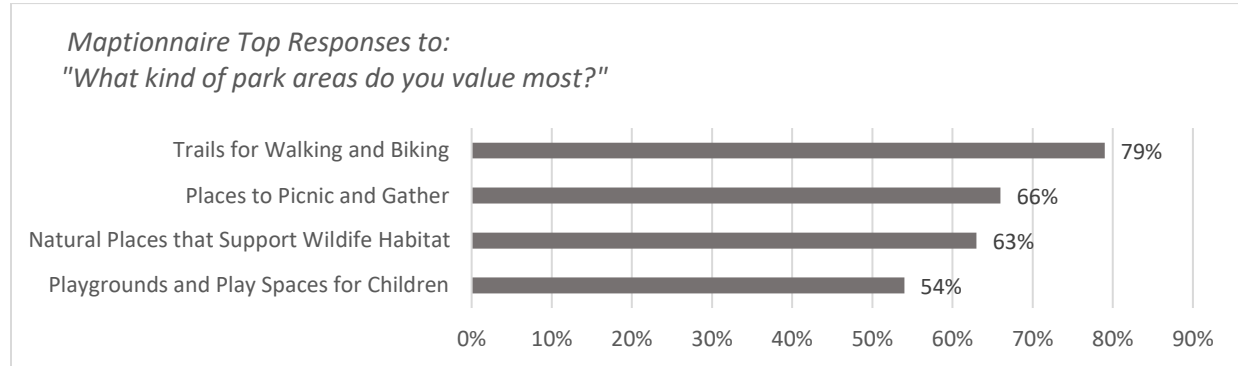
“The park used to be so unutilized, but then the basketball court got revitalized and has lights, and now you see kids playing all the time, day and night. It’s becoming more of a hub of activity!” – Community Panelist, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California



Key Direction #4:

COLLABORATE TO ENHANCE CONNECTIONS TO NATURE AND TO TRAILS

Trail connectivity and access to nature are key community interests. However, various City departments and other partners share responsibilities for natural resources and pedestrian and bicycles 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 project, programs and policies may be needed to natural resource protection, exploration and access through parks, trails, and enrichment activities, including increasing the urban greening and shade for a more comfortable experience.



Key Direction #5:

STRENGTHEN YPCE’S PARK AND RECREATION LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

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 lead discussions on how the Department can both lead and support relevant City services and implement related projects, such as

leading or guiding events in the community, tracking and monitoring recreational activities, expanding recreation facilities, and reinforcing and programs 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.

“What are the measures of accountability and transparency to ensure that the Plan is being referenced and community input is being solicited on an ongoing basis to ensure that we’re staying true to what we are saying that we’re doing?”
– Community Panelist, Mutual Assistance Network