

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION QUESTIONS
June 9, 2021 MEETING

Item 5.1 – Public Parking Replacement at Pioneer Memorial Park

1. How many heritage trees are being removed as part of the overall 590 Castro project? Is there a proposed tree replacement (numbers?) mitigation plan for those trees? (For example, a certain # as part of the plaza, a certain number around the perimeter of the development, etc.)

The development project at 590 Castro Street includes a request to remove 9 Heritage trees due to poor structure and site development constraints. As a standard condition of approval the applicant will be required to provide replacement trees at 2:1 ratio with a total of 18 replacement trees. Majority of the replacement trees would be planted along the project perimeter and a few would be part of the Plaza tree planting. The proposed planting plan will be reviewed by City arborist before presenting to the City Council.

2. Does staff know how the many heritage trees in the ex-Wells Fargo parking area will be mitigated?

Please see response to Question 1.

3. Does the City encounter much difficulty in keeping artificial turf (when used as a seating/play area) clean, especially for items like gum or food/drink spills?

Using the artificial turf on the plaza at City Hall as the most relevant example, staff has not had to remove gum or perform extensive cleaning due to food and drink. If gum or food/drink spill occur, staff would attempt simple washing since the plaza turf does not use cork, sand, or rubber crumbs. If an extensive stain or section of turf is damaged, staff would cut and replace that section of turf. As part of the maintenance of Pioneer Park, the turf will be monitored and cleaned as needed.

4. Behind the cherry tree, in the park itself, is a grassy area with several benches, which are very popular with the public. How will this area be affected, particularly the bench closest to the cherry tree?

Staff anticipates a minimal impact both visually and physically to the area.

5. The parking lot is separated from the park by a line of shrubs that are not in particularly good shape. Can this low hedge be improved as part of this project - it will become more visible as the cherry tree is taken out.

There is a chance the Cherry tree can remain. In the event that construction necessitates its removal, staff will explore installing a new tree or plants to help screen the area from the park after an evaluation of the irrigation coverage in the area.

6. Behind the cherry tree, in the park itself, there is a very large pine tree that looks to my unprofessional eye in poor shape; across the path are some smaller trees,

also in poor shape. What are staff's plans for this area, which will gain visibility with the new layout?

This tree has Pine Pitch Canker and staff assumes that eventually turpentine beetle may move into the tree and finish it off. A large limb from the nearby Cedar took out some branches of this Pine contributing to its overall appearance. Staff would likely consider a Coast Live Oak or Valley Oak since they are common in the park to replace this tree when the time comes.

Item 5.2 - Rengstorff Park Maintenance and Tennis Building Replacement, Project 21-48

1. The new maintenance building is shown as a square on memorandum Figure 1, however Figure 3 shows a long and narrow building (18'x70'). Please clarify where the new maintenance building and outdoor yard would be located on-site. (A rough sketch or annotated photo would be sufficient.)

Figure 1 is reflecting a location and not intended to show the orientation. The presentation will have additional information regarding the layout. Below is an image of the slide.



2. The Tree Removal section of the memorandum does not mention the new maintenance building area. Are all trees retained?

The memorandum mentions 5 Monterey pines will be removed but neglects to mention the mitigation. This will be discussed in the presentation at the meeting on Wednesday and the total mitigation will be updated for the meeting.

3. The Green Space section discusses the overall net conversion of landscaped area to paved area / buildings. Could you please also comment on whether the proposal would result in changes to the overall experience for park visitors? (e.g. circulation, vistas, use areas)

In conjunction with the All-Inclusive Playground, staff anticipates that the improved restroom with the tennis building and the playground will cause a currently underutilized section of Rengstorff Park to become one of the more heavily used areas. In addition, the proposed maintenance building location by the BBQ parking lot is a currently less-used section of the park due to the well appurtenances. Therefore, locating the maintenance building here should not impact park users and also provide an additional restroom for the BBQ area rather than only having the Pool Restrooms on that side of the park.

The removal of the current maintenance building and installation of a drop off area will increase circulation in the Community Center parking lot since park users can now utilize that drop off area or the drop off area in front of the preschool in the Community Center. It will also increase visibility on this side of the park from the parking lot while minimally affecting visibility at the proposed location since the well appurtenances are currently located there.

4. Could staff detail (during the presentation to the PRC) how the plans have changed since the PRC last saw them?

Yes, staff will include in the presentation.

5. On Page 9 of the report, I see there is a 28% percent decrease in landscaping. Please put that in perspective: 28% of what?

The existing landscaping (green space) within the project footprint will be reduced by 28% at the completion of the project compared to what is present now. The design will include new landscaping for various areas within the project site but at completion less will be in place than currently exists.

6. Which side of the tennis building will the restrooms be on?

The restrooms will face the park.

7. The 15 proposed replacement trees seem to correspond to the trees being removed from the areas near the existing buildings and drop-off circle. If true, is there any replacement being planned for the 5 Monterey Pines being removed at the location of the new maintenance building?

The table does not include the Monterey Pines. A total of 23 trees are included for mitigation for the loss of all trees. Since the two dead trees need to be removed regardless of the project, those trees would be replaced at 1:1 and the other three at 2:1.

Item 5.3 – Community Services Department Budget Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021-22

1. What is the tree mitigation fund?

The Tree Mitigation Fund is a fund utilized by the Forestry Division to achieve the goals of the Community Tree Master Plan. Two of the primary uses have been to fund the Arbor Day tree giveaway and cover costs associated with updating the Community Tree Master Plan. The fund receives monies from tree mitigation fees covering penalties, security deposits, or replacements. For instance, as part of the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative, PG&E had to remove a number of trees near gas pipelines. As part of the mitigation, they paid the City replacement fees that went into the Tree Mitigation Fund and have been used to advance efforts of the Community Tree Master Plan. The City adopted this set of fees in the Master Fee Schedule in FY17-18 in conjunction with the creation of the Tree Mitigation Fund.

Item 5.4 – Fiscal Year 2021-22 Parks and Recreation Work Plan

1. On the "Fiscal Year 2021-22 Work Items" chart, should Item #1 ("Cuesta Fitness Cluster") list "Capital Project" in the far right "Current Status Notes" column? (This is minor...perhaps it helps City Council in review/approval).

Staff will add "Capital Project" to the finalized work plan to be consistent with other items in the work plan.

2. Given Council's strategic goal of defining biodiversity for plantings in town, what is the timeline for making appropriate changes to the street tree list and to requirements for planting in city parks?

Staff recently drafted an update to the street tree list to increase the variety of options for street trees on various streets to be considered in the Community Tree Master Plan update. Staff intends to consider options for including and defining biodiversity through the Community Tree Master Plan update and the creation of the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. Staff believes that working on these two plans with input from the community and stakeholders first will clarify the appropriate places to incorporate biodiversity, i.e. Street Tree Policy, Heritage Tree Policy, and/or parks plant palates.

May Monthly Report

1. After the most recent new gardener assignments, how long is the Community Garden wait list?

With the addition of Latham Community Garden, staff was able to exhaust the waitlist in summer 2019. It has since grown to a total of 274 waitlisted gardeners for the two non-Senior Community Gardens. Based on this number and the turnover that staff has seen in recent years at Latham and Willowgate Community Gardens, staff anticipates the waitlist is about three to five years at this point. Not all waitlisted gardeners will still be interested or meet the requirements (no longer reside in Mountain View) at the time staff reaches out to them, allowing staff to move through the waitlist more quickly. In addition, for Willowgate Community Garden, the larger plots are being split into two plots as they are vacated. To date, 46 full plots remain at Willowgate and over time those will be split allowing more gardeners into the program.

2. As Facility rentals ramp back up, if it's not too difficult, would it be possible to include 2019 facility rental numbers in the year-over-year comparison chart? This would help understand how close facilities are to returning to "regular" use...as opposed to only comparing against a "zero" from most of 2020 and early 2021.

Yes, staff will begin adding 2019 facility rental numbers with the next monthly report.

Other Questions

1. Separate from May Report - When were the escalators installed in the Shoreline Amphitheater parking lots?

The escalators were installed at the end of calendar year 2019.