

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION QUESTIONS

March 9, 2022 MEETING

### February Monthly Report

1. What trees are planted as part of the HVAC Offset Project and how are they chosen?  
*The tree species are selected for the HVAC Offset Project based on site conditions, allowable planting space, park landscape plans, nearby trees and nursery availability. Seventeen different tree types have been selected for the Park plantings portion of the HVAC project with more selections to be determined for the Right of Ways portion of the project.*
2. Has the information on the Google Landings project been shared with the community?  
*Forestry staff shared the Google Landings project efforts with the PRC through the monthly report as the project is coming to completion. To date information on this effort has not been shared with the larger community. Forestry division staff is looking at ways to communicate tree plantings, community tree master plan status, etc. with the broader public. The City is currently in the process of upgrading its website. As resources and opportunities become available, we will look to enhance our outreach and engagement efforts.*

### Item 5.1 – Heritage Tree Appeal – 251 Monroe Drive

1. Why was the removal approved two years ago, and did it include the California Pepper tree mentioned in the 2022 application?  
*The Italian stone pine was approved for removal two years ago based on poor structure, including bark and heavy lean over the structure. The application two years ago did not include the California pepper tree.*
2. Why did the homeowner not remove tree after they received permission to do so the first time in 2018?  
*The homeowner stated the reason they did not remove the tree was due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
3. Has there been a recent deterioration in the condition of the tree?  
*The primary Forestry staff who originally assessed the tree is no longer with the City. The secondary Forestry staff who was involved in the original assessment of the tree did not notice any recent deterioration.*
4. What is the replanting plan?  
*Staff required one (1) 15 gallon tree to be planted on the property for the removal of the stone pine.*
5. What is the physical lifespan of an Italian Stone Pine in this setting?  
*The lifespan of this tree would be between 75-150 years.*

6. Would removing a significant amount of weight from the trunk branches on the side overhanging the home potentially work as a mitigation, or would that leave the tree scarred and be insufficient to resolve the risk of trunk failure?  
*Weight reduction from limb removal on the side overhanging the home would be helpful, but the risk of trunk failure would still remain.*
7. What was the decision on the California Pepper tree that is also listed in the removal application?  
*The approval of the pepper tree was based on staff finding advanced decay at the base of the tree and past branch failure.*
8. Were the original application and staff findings in 2018 the same as the 2022 application and staff findings?  
*Yes, the original application and staff findings remained the same.*

## **Item 5.2 – Northbound Shoreline/101 Off-Ramp Realignment and Computer History Museum Driveway Phase, Project 20-37 – Heritage Tree Mitigation**

1. Municipal Code Section 32.33 states, “City capital improvement projects which propose the removal of any heritage tree shall be submitted by the city project staff to the city's arborist for review and recommendation of appropriate mitigation measures. The arborist’s recommendations shall be forwarded by city project staff to the urban forestry board for their recommendation on the number, size and location of replacement trees,” is it to be inferred that the purview of the Urban Forestry Board in this case is limited to the “number, size, and location of replacement trees”, and does not extend to the removal decision?  
*Correct, the Urban Forestry Board’s recommendation is not extended to the removal decision in this case.*
2. What is the approximate age of the trees being removed?  
*Most of the trees fall into the 20-30 year old category.*
3. Does the proposed new driveway result in any net gain or loss of Computer History Museum parking?  
*The new driveway will result in a loss of five parking spaces within the museum parking lot. However, the project will create three new parking spaces in the cul-de-sac area created by the closure of the driveway off La Avenida, thus resulting in a net loss of two parking spaces.*
4. What are the plans for the existing driveway? Will it remain as an internal access road, or might it be redesigned for landscaping or additional parking?  
*The existing driveway will remain as an internal access road and provide parking lot*

*circulation to the southernmost rows of the parking lot. The project will create three new parking spaces in the cul-de-sac area created by the closure of the driveway off La Avenida.*

5. What is the Tree Mitigation Fund used for? Who decides where and when to expend these funds? How much money is currently in the Tree Mitigation Fund?

*The Tree Mitigation Fund is comprised of penalty fees and replacement fees related to heritage tree removal. The funds are used by the City for projects related to the goals in the Community Tree Master Plan. The current balance of the Tree Mitigation Fund is \$190,501.63.*

### **Item 5.3 – Shoreline Wildlife Management Plan Introduction**

1. Was an option entertained to broaden the boundaries of the plan? How was the decision made to have restrictive boundaries?

*The direction to make the Shoreline Wildlife Management Plan (SWMP) applicable to the boundaries of Shoreline Park was confirmed by Council when the item was adopted as part of their Council Goal Work Plan for fiscal years 2019 – 2021, and again as part of the Strategic Roadmap for fiscal year 2021-22.*

2. Will the plan address the impacts and interplay between wildlife management and the potential plans for mitigating sea level rise in the Shoreline section of the bay?

*The SWMP will consider potential effects of sea level rise on wildlife at Shoreline and will address sea level rise through recommendations for habitat enhancements and management for tidal marsh species whose habitat may be affected by sea level rise.*

3. Was there any consideration to having one of the “umbrella species” be outside of the bird family? Are there any non-bird protected species present at Shoreline?

*Staff and the consultant have considered adding umbrella species other than birds, such as Monarch Butterfly, Western Pond Turtle and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. However, the umbrella species are intended to be species whose habitat preservation and enhancement benefit many other species found at Shoreline without overlapping on management practices. For instance, the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse benefits from the same habitat requirements as the listed umbrella species, California Ridgeway’s Rail. In addition, this plan is going to be a complementary plan to the Burrowing Owl Preservation Plan (BOPP). The BOPP addresses grassland habitat in great detail, which is the majority of habitat at shoreline. The selected umbrella species in the SWMP were intended to address other types of habitat found at Shoreline to the greatest extent possible. As staff and the consultant develop the plan further, the types of habitat and species will be continuously evaluated to determine if an additional umbrella species should be added to cover more habitat in Shoreline. The selected umbrella species habitat enhancements are intended to benefit numerous species located at Shoreline without overlapping habitat requirements.*

4. Who will provide the annual summary report? Will the report be in a format that sets specific goals which are actionable within a manageable time horizon?

*The City of Mountain View's biologist will provide the annual report and currently collects all of the relevant data for the species observed within the boundaries of Shoreline, including breeding success. The plan will address specific goals and include adaptive management to achieve those goals within reasonable timelines.*

5. Could there be a "Cliff's Notes" version of the finished plan, so that interested members of the public can get high level information without being dragged into the weeds or overwhelmed by a lengthy document with technical jargon?

*The "Introduction" section will provide an overview of the plan at a high level. The rest of the plan is structured to enable staff, contractors, stakeholders and the public to use it as a reference guide depending on the information that is desired.*