



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

October 14, 2021
Item 5

TITLE: REVIEW AND DISCUSS PARKS MAINTENANCE DIVISION REPORT JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2021

SUMMARY

The Parks Maintenance Division typically submits a semi-annual report that summarizes Division highlights and activities. The report provides the Commission an overview of maintenance activities and project work accomplished from June to September 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Review and discuss the Parks Maintenance Division report for June to September 2021.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

None.

BACKGROUND

The Parks Division has five park maintenance crews and one median, trails and open space crew. The “park” crews are comprised of four to five full-time employees that are responsible for all aspects of park maintenance in a geographic area. The “median” crew is comprised of two full-time employees with responsibilities throughout the entire city. Each crew submits monthly reports of significant maintenance events in their respective areas. This report is a summary of those events.

DISCUSSION

Routine maintenance activities for June to September 2021 included: as-needed turf mowing, pesticide applications, fertilizer applications, mulch installation, tree removals, irrigation system repairs and programming, turf renovation, tree installation, plant installation, stump grinding, equipment maintenance, ball field preparation, bocce court maintenance and weekly play area safety inspections.

Project work for this time period included: Removal and replacement of four dugout roofs at Ken Mercer Sports Park, fence repairs on two fields at the Softball Complex, large tree removals at Civic Park, planter renovations at Stoneridge Creek Park, completing pesticide posting sign installation and beginning pesticide posting protocols. The integrated pest management (IPM) webpage was also completed.

The City’s tree trimming vendor, West Coast Arborist (WCA), worked in District 3, which includes southwest Pleasanton.

The street median maintenance contractor, Terra Landscape, Inc., focused their efforts on regularly scheduled maintenance and Main Street color bowl plant replacement.

Listed below are highlights of additional work performed by Parks staff during this period:

Val Vista Park

- The Val Vista soccer fields were aerated, seeded, and topdressed with sand. This year staff utilized a demo core harvested on the fields. This piece of equipment removes the soil cores that are generated by the aerator. The cores are removed from the field and the voids are filled with fresh sand. Parks staff will look at purchasing a core harvester for future field renovations at Val Vista.
- With the assistance of a plant pathologist, staff confirmed the presence of rhizoctonia and pythium fungi on soccer fields two and three at Val Vista. These fungi cause patchy turfgrass decline. Increasing the mow height along with a fungicide application has improved turfgrass quality. Staff will continue to monitor for these fungi.

Amaral Park

- The area one crew spread woodchips throughout the entire park in preparation of Mohr Elementary School opening.

Cubby's Dog Park

- Seven additional self-closing gate hinges were replaced. This completes the replacement of all self-closing hinges at the park. The new hinges are easier to adjust and maintain.

Oakhill Park

- A large eucalyptus tree at the park was removed after a park user noticed a large split in the trunk. Park staff removed the weight from the limbs that day and WCA removed the rest of the tree the next morning.

Amador Valley Park

- WCA removed a large dead Monterey pine tree near the Gingerbread preschool.
- The area three staff did a fantastic job refurbishing the horseshoe pits. Staff received many compliments on their efforts from the group of regular weekend horseshoe players.

Stoneridge Creek Park

- A large planter near the entrance to Stoneridge Creek Park was renovated. The crew removed the declining olive trees and shrubs and planted seven new trees and twelve multi-trunk crape myrtles. The irrigation in this area was also converted from overhead spray to drip to reduce water use and focus the water on individual plants.

Ken Mercer Sports Park

- Seven new trees were installed.
- The playgrounds at Phase 5 and Phase 3 were completed.
- Staff power-washed and painted seven backstops.
- Four dugout roofs were removed and replaced. The roofing shingles still need to be installed.
- Early July brought our first soccer tournament since 2019. Staff dedicated a lot of time to lowering the mow height for the tournaments by half an inch. This small adjustment took weeks to implement as excess grass had to be vacuumed from the fields and placed into a dumpster for greenwaste recycling. Approximately 100 cubic yards of grass clipping were removed. Staff also mowed the fields on Friday evening and Saturday evening during the tournament. Overall, 115 staff hours were spent on the mow height adjustment.

- Fencing was replaced on two softball fields at the Softball Complex. An extra lower rail was installed to prevent the fence from bowing out from use.

Bernal Community Park

- The synthetic turf fields were deep cleaned by staff. The original installer carried out yearly maintenance on the synthetic turf by using a more aggressive sweeper to help stand the turf fibers up to improve player traction.
- 168 cubic yards of mulch was installed throughout the park.

Civic Park

- Four large elm trees were removed at Civic Park. The trees finally succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease. A large crane was used to facilitate the removals.

Tawny Park

- The playground replacement was completed.

Vintage Hills Park

- The playground replacement was completed.

Agustin Bernal Park

- Replaced over six no biking signs at various locations along the Pleasanton Ridge due to ongoing vandalism.

Callippe Preserve Open Space

- A new pressure switch was installed for the solar powered pump station at Callippe. This system pumps water uphill to troughs that provide water to the cattle that graze in the open space. Staff is looking into system replacement options for this critical piece of grazing infrastructure.

Medians

- Replaced three irrigation controllers along Stoneridge Drive, Springdale Drive and Foothill Drive.
- Collaborated with the Streets Division to complete two rounds of root pruning for sidewalk repairs. Ten locations were addressed.

Water Conservation

Planning and implementing water conservation strategies was a major focal point this review period. Changes were made in our irrigation software settings and staff proactively looked for areas to reduce water use.

Staffing Updates

- The Park Landscape Maintenance Worker I recruitment was completed with the final round of interviews taking place on September 23, 2021. Six applicants were selected to move forward in the hiring process. There are six current vacancies.

Although staffing was impacted for most of this reporting period, Parks staff and City contractors remained productive and completed numerous projects and maintained the City's parks and trails system.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

Any other action as determined by the Commission.

Submitted by:

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