



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

April 14, 2022
Item 6

TITLE: REVIEW AND DISCUSS PARKS MAINTENANCE DIVISION REPORT OCTOBER 2021 THROUGH MARCH 2022

SUMMARY

The semi-annual Parks Maintenance report summarizes division highlights and activities. The report provides the Commission an overview of maintenance activities and project work accomplished from October 2021 through March 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Review and discuss the Parks Maintenance Division report for October 2021 through March 2022.

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 three to six full-time employees that are responsible for all aspects of park maintenance in a geographic area. The park crews maintain 46 sites, totaling 385 acres. The “median” crew is comprised of two full-time employees with responsibilities throughout the entire city. The median crew maintains 85 acres of medians, 23 miles of trails and trail heads, and 1,016 acres of open space. 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 October 2021 through March 2022 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, weekly play area safety inspections, and water conservation efforts including locating and repairing leaks, monitoring water use, and irrigation system adjustments.

Project work for this period included: planter renovations at Stoneridge Creek Park, Amador Valley Community Park, Moller Park, Meadows Park, Fawn Hills, Orloff Park and the Museum on Main; Greentree Ct. median renovation; irrigation controller and irrigation communication upgrades; trail repairs and fencing upgrades at Val Vista Community Park.

The City’s tree trimming vendor, West Coast Arborist (WCA), worked in District 4 and 5, which includes areas between West Las Positas and 580 Freeway as well as areas between Hopyard Rd. and 680 Freeway.

The street median maintenance contractor, Terra Landscape, Inc., focused their efforts on regularly scheduled maintenance.

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

Val Vista Park:

- The Val Vista soccer fields were deep tine aerated, seeded, and topdressed with sand
- A section of deer grass was removed from the east meadow to provide better pathway clearance
- The height of the fence at the south end of soccer field 1 was increased to prevent errant soccer balls from hitting playground users. This will help improve safety at the playground during games and practices.

Amador Valley Park:

- A new backflow prevention device was installed at Alameda Ct. as the old unit was not repairable
- The planters in the parking lot of the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center were renovated
- The soccer fields were aerated, seeded, and topdressed with compost
- Staff assisted in identifying underground irrigation infrastructure for the Utilities test well. Any damage caused to the grass will be repaired by Parks staff and is expected to be minimal.

Ken Mercer Sports Park:

- Staff finished installing the roofing shingles on four dugouts
- All fields were aerated, seeded, and topdressed with compost this year
- 120 cubic yards of infield mix was applied to the ball fields, the infields were turned over and leveled. Work was also done to the pitching mounds
- Six new irrigation controllers were installed to replace the aging units. This will improve communication to the controllers as they now use cellular and not radio communication. This will also improve the reliability of our rain gauge to automatically shut down our irrigation during a rain event.

Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park:

- Eight trees had to be removed following the October 24th storm event as they were damaged beyond mitigation by pruning
- A section of concrete was removed and replaced on the approach to the footbridge over the Pleasanton Canal in the northwest corner of the park. The concrete had shifted and was creating a tripping hazard.

Bernal Community Park:

- Selected planters were renovated in Phase 2 between the restroom and the practice field
- Staff applied 25 cubic yards of infield mix to the ball fields. The mounds were also renovated.

Museum on Main:

- A large Modesto ash tree was removed due to the positive identification of Armillaria root rot. The tree removal provided the opportunity to reconfigure the irrigation system and separate the watering of the color bowl planters from the lawn. This will avoid the over or under-irrigation of the color bowl planters. Following the irrigation work, the area was graded, and new sod installed.

Fawn Hills Park:

- The planter near the basketball court was renovated and new drought tolerant rosemary was installed.

Kottinger Community Park:

- Staff worked with an Eagle Scout candidate to install a U.S. Flag drop box. The Boy Scout and his troop helped install the concrete pad. They also supplied the drop box.

Moller Park:

- A section of seldomly used lawn was removed near the creek and was replaced by new trees. The irrigation system was modified to drip irrigation to focus water just on the new plantings. This renovation will save on water and maintenance.

Meadowlark Park:

- The planter along Regency Drive was renovated. The plants were in poor condition and in need of replacement.

Orloff Park:

- The plants located along Valley Ave. and Santa Rita Rd. were replanted with more contemporary and drought tolerant plants.

Agustin Bernal Park:

- Several repairs were made on the split rail fence around the parking lot area.

Stoneridge Creek Park:

- The planting area west of the tennis courts was renovated. The irrigation system was modified to drip irrigation to focus water on individual plants and new trees were installed.

Trails:

- The Callippe Preserve Trail was renovated along the driving range at the golf course to repair a large amount of damage caused by ground squirrels
- Erosion on the Preserve Trail caused by the October 24th storm event was repaired
- Vegetation was pruned back from the Arroyo Mocho trail from Santa Rita Rd. to Stoneridge Dr. as the vegetation was beginning to impede on trail use

- Four signs reading “Uneven Pavement” were installed along the Alamo Canal Trail to serve as a reminder that users need to be careful along this stretch of the asphalt trail. Staff is currently coordinating with Zone 7 on repairs to a section of asphalt trail behind the DSRSD water treatment plant
- A channel drain was installed at the beginning of the Centennial Trail at Rotary Park to reduce the amount of erosion occurring on the trail from runoff
- Owl box maintenance was carried out along the Martin Ave. Trail, Marilyn Kane Trail, and Bernal Community Park (eleven of the fourteen owl boxes were occupied)
- Following the steady rains and water released from Lake Del Valle at the end of December, the low flow crossing that connects the Centennial Trail to St. John Circle was severely damaged. The connecting ramp to the Centennial Trail collapsed resulting in an unsafe condition. The City’s on-call fence contractor installed a temporary chain link fence to discourage use of the collapsed approach to the crossing and keep users away from the uneven and eroded gravel pathway
- A section of the Martin Ave. Trail near Mohr Ave. required replacement due to undermining caused by a sink hole. The area was repaired with the assistance of the Utilities and Streets Divisions
- West Coast Arborists removed five dead Monterey Pine trees along the Martin Ave. Trail.

Medians:

- The small roundabout was replanted at Greentree Court, and all the roundabouts in this development have now been renovated
- Staff is addressing leaks as they are reported through the Utility Billing continuous consumption reports.

Callippe Preserve Golf Course:

- Repairs were completed to several wooden cart path bridges. After years of use some of the timbers needed replacement
- The tee signs at all the holes have been replaced. The new signs are made from recycled plastic and are a nice refresh.

Water Conservation:

- Implementing water conservation strategies is ongoing. 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 last fall was completed. Three new staff were hired. Three vacancies remained after the recruitment, and one staff member resigned, leaving a total of four vacancies
- A new Park Landscape Maintenance Worker I recruitment is in progress to fill the four vacancies. Four candidates have accepted conditional offers and are now in the background check process.

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.

Submitted by:

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