



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

July 13, 2023
Item 5

TITLE: REVIEW AND DISCUSS PARKS MAINTENANCE DIVISION REPORT OCTOBER 2022 THROUGH JUNE 2023

SUMMARY

The semi-annual Parks Maintenance Division Report summarizes division highlights and activities. The report provides the commission an overview of maintenance activities and project work accomplished from October 2022 through June 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

Review and discuss the Parks Maintenance Division Report for October 2022 through June 2023.

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 2022 through June 2023 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, storm event response, and water conservation efforts including locating and repairing leaks, monitoring water use, and irrigation system adjustments.

The City's tree trimming vendor, West Coast Arborist (WCA), worked primarily in District 6, which includes areas bordered by Hopyard Road, West Las Positas Boulevard, Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue.

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:

Amador Valley Community Park

- The pump for the irrigation system at Amador Park stopped working. A rat damaged the VFD (variable frequency drive) electronics for the pump, causing approximately \$5,200 in damage.
- The three irrigation controllers that controlled much of the park were replaced with one new upgraded irrigation controller. The new controller utilizes cellular communication and will improve the reliability and make programming and irrigation inspections easier for staff.
- New trash cans were installed in the picnic area. Over the years the old cans were replaced with different colors and styles. They are now all consistent and the look of the picnic area is much improved.

Muirwood Community Park

- The tennis court, pickleball court and basketball court resurfacing work was completed.

- Parks staff assembled and installed six pickleball paddle racks and court selector at Muirwood Park to accommodate the many pickleball players using the new courts.
- Three new aluminum benches were added at the pickleball courts to accommodate more players. A fourth aluminum bench will be installed by Parks staff once it arrives. The fourth bench arrived damaged with the initial order.

Bernal Community Park

- An on-call contractor removed the two old concrete Patelco Sports Complex signs and the concrete footings. New footings were poured in preparation for the new signs. In March, parks staff installed two new Stanford Medicine Sports Complex signs.
- Four new gates were installed on the baseball fields to allow the fields to be closed for maintenance. Previously there was no way to close the fields to the public and damage would occur to the fields during wet conditions.
- New coated rubber infill was installed on all three artificial turf fields.
- A memorial bench was installed at the corner of Pleasanton Ave. and Tulancingo Way in honor of Bob Athenour. An event was held with a contingency from sister city Tulancingo to acknowledge the donated bench and the relationship between the two cities.

Bernal Community Farm

- Approximately one acre was deep ripped and 300 cubic yards of compost were spread over the area and tilled into the soil in preparation for the Master Gardener's cover crop.
- Work to install an irrigation water mainline and connect it to the backflow was completed. This will provide a connection for the future irrigation system for the Master Gardeners.

Ken Mercer Sports Park

- The infield 'lips' at the Softball Complex were leveled. This entails removing turf and infield mix to level the ground and then installing new sod and infield mix around the perimeter of the infield.
- A fencing contractor completed the fence replacement along on the first and third baselines at Softball Complex fields 1 and 2.

Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park

- Eight new park benches were installed.

Val Vista Community Park

- The Val Vista Community Park underdrain project began. The focus of the project is to capture recycled water draining from the sand base soccer fields and redirect it to the sanitary sewer system. Several corrugated metal drainpipes will also be relined. The impact to the park thus far has largely been in the parking lot and the north end of soccer field 1.
- The replacement of the 5 to 12 year-old and 2 to 5 year-old playgrounds located near the community garden area is currently underway.

Fawn Hills Park

- Park staff renovated the no-mow drainage swales. The plant material in the swales was deteriorating and was removed. The areas were regraded, and fresh no-mow sod was installed.
- New trees were installed to help provide shade the picnic table area.

Medians

- The annual median mulch replenishment cycle was completed. Each year approximately one-third of the medians are mulched with mulch generated from city tree work. The major areas mulched this year included portions of Valley Avenue, Santa Rita Road, Stoneridge Drive and El Charro Road.
- The median crew completed their annual street/median tree planting. In all, 67 15-gallon trees were installed. At each planting location, the site was prepped, a tree planted, watered in, and staked. Trees are hand watered approximately every two weeks for the first three years during the spring, summer, and fall.
- Five outdated irrigation controllers were replaced along Valley Avenue. An extensive amount of electrical work was required to prepare for the new irrigation controllers. The new units will make irrigation inspections much easier with their cloud based cellular connection. The new irrigation controllers were purchased with median renovation CIP funds.

Callippe Preserve Golf Course

- Bunker renovations that began at the end of September were completed. Six bunkers on holes 4, 6, 7 and 17 were renovated. These are some of the largest bunkers on the course.

Lund Ranch Open Space

- The fencing and corral for cattle grazing was installed by Toll Brothers, the developer of the Diamond Canyon development. The Lund Ranch is 168 acres of open space and includes a 75-acre conservation easement that will be managed in partnership with the Tri-Valley Conservancy.
- The installation of the water system for cattle troughs and the trail system are pending.

Government Buildings

- A sheet mulching turf conversion volunteer event was held at 200 Old Bernal in front of the Council chambers on June 24th. Eight volunteers along with city staff from the Parks Division and Environmental Services Division spread cardboard, compost, and mulch over the existing turf. The Zone 7 Water Agency also lent support to the program by providing water and snacks. The team completed approximately half of the 1,400 square foot area.

Storm Related Work

This summary period encompasses four major storm events that impacted Pleasanton. The major storm events began on, or about, December 31st, January 4th, January 9th,

and March 14th. Below is a summary of some of the major storm related issues that were managed by the Parks Division.

- Lions Wayside Park – a large black walnut tree uprooted and fell across the Lower Kottinger Creek near Neal Street. The tree was removed with a crane and the bank repaired.
- Independence Drive – A large eucalyptus in the median uprooted and fell partially into Mission Hills Park. The tree was removed the same day by WCA.
- Alviso Adobe - Staff cleared mud and debris from the pathway and overlook platform that washed down the hill, over Old Foothill Road, and into the park. Major erosion also occurred to the DG trail at the bottom of the orchard area. A temporary repair has been made to the trail by a contractor.
- Callippe Preserve Golf Course – A massive oak tree fell on hole 10 and blocked the cart path. Parks staff cleared the cart path several days later. The remaining portion of the tree was removed at the end of May by a contractor. Downed trees on holes 16 and 18 were also removed.
- Del Prado Park – several large pine trees uprooted during the January storms.
- Tawney Park – a large pine tree uprooted and fell into an adjacent condominium complex. No injuries were reported, and the tree removal began the next day.
- Orloff Park – a large eucalyptus tree fell and crushed the basketball hoop pole, backboard, and rim. The court surfacing was also damaged. The basketball hoop was repaired, and the court repairs began June 28th.
- Del Valle Parkway – a large pine tree uprooted and caused minor damage to the front of the adjacent home. Tree removal was complete the same day.
- Bonde Ranch Open Space – two large eucalyptus trees fell into the open space area in two separate storms. The tree that fell in the January 9th storm has been removed and the other tree removal is pending.
- Ken Mercer Sports Park – dozens of trees were uprooted or removed for safety.
- Tennis and Community Park – several ash trees were damaged beyond corrective pruning. Several pine trees were also removed due to storm damage.
- Augustin Bernal Park – extensive erosion occurred on the Valley View Trail and Longview Trail. A slide narrowed the trail towards the top of the Valley View Trail. Debris was removed from the trails and the trails were opened to public use on January 20th.
- Valley Avenue – a large ash tree uprooted into the backyards of two homes. The tree caused damage to the backyard fencing and the Valley Avenue sound wall.
- Parks staff and contractor resources responded to numerous tree related issues through the city during and after the four major storm events.

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. Parks was able to meet its fifteen percent water conservation goal in calendar year 2022. A water use reduction of 22.1% was achieved for 2022 compared to 2020. From January through May of this year we have reduced water use by 52.7% compared to the same period in 2020. This is largely due to

the abundant winter rainfall and relatively cool spring. The values noted above include both park and median potable water use.

Tri-Valley Air Quality Community Alliance Grant

- The Parks Division applied for and received a \$7,500 grant from the Tri-Valley Air Quality Community Alliance for the purchase of battery electric landscaping equipment. The grant, along with budgeted funds, helped the Parks Division to purchase twenty pieces of equipment including battery powered line trimmers (6), chainsaws (6), hedge trimmers (5), pole pruner (1) and backpack blowers with battery packs (2). Included in the purchase were twenty-four batteries and six charging stations. The equipment will go into service towards the end of July after a manufacturer sponsored familiarization training. Parks will evaluate the performance of the equipment as a pilot program as we look to the future and the phasing in of battery powered landscape equipment. The State of California will ban the sale of small off-road gas-powered engines beginning in January of 2024. Existing gas-powered equipment can still be used.

Staffing Updates

- The Parks Division currently has four vacancies, three of which are Parks Maintenance Worker I positions and one Lead Maintenance Worker position. Recruitments are currently underway to fill all four vacancies.

Submitted by:

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