



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 25, 2008

TO: Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Parma Park Stanwood Staging Area Project

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Parma Park Stanwood Equestrian Staging Area project.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this presentation is to provide the Commission with an update on the Parma Park Stanwood Staging Area project. The project is in final design and scheduled for construction in fall 2008. The project has undergone Architectural Board of Review and Historic Landmark Commission review and is compatible with design review guidelines.

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to improve park entry access at Stanwood Drive and enhance an existing staging area for equestrian group rides within the park. The project includes four components: 1) Staging area/parking; 2) Picnic area; 3) Gates; and 4) Entry road. The project is designed to allow vehicles to pull into the circular staging area, unload horses, park, and pull out without having to back-up. The staging area will support parking for three combination truck and two-horse trailers and one handicap vehicle, with a passing lane to allow emergency or other vehicle passage. Native compacted soil and gravel within the staging area will include an overlay of wood chips. Handicap parking will be a decomposed granite surface.

New amenities in the picnic area will include a handicap accessible drinking fountain and picnic table and a bulletin board sign structure. Interpretive signage will be installed at a later date. A new stone and wood entry gate will be constructed approximately 30 feet north of the existing swing gate, allowing trailers to be clear of Stanwood Drive while the gate is opened. The existing and proposed configuration permits walk-in riders or hikers to pass through the step-over entry when the gate is locked. An existing chain gate, located north of the staging area, will also be replaced with a swing gate. The project will include minor entrance road repair to fill potholes and improve drainage, as well as an asphalt overlay. A swale will be located near

Stanwood Drive to convey water to an existing culvert that carries water to Sycamore Creek.

The project includes enhancement of riparian habitat along the Sycamore Creek corridor. An old chicken coop will be removed and vegetation will be planted where the coop is currently located, south of the picnic area. The plant palette will include plants native to the Sycamore Creek watershed, such as blackberry, mugwort, hedgenettle and Mexican elderberry. Since one plant of locally rare Santa Barbara honeysuckle may be disturbed through grading, honeysuckle seeds will be collected from the park, propagated, and planted onsite at a ratio of 10 plants for every one honeysuckle disturbed or lost. Additional honeysuckle, oak, and sycamore trees located along the perimeter of the project area will be protected by fencing and a tree protection plan. The project includes guidance for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and guidance in the unlikely event that archaeological resources are encountered during project construction.

Cost

The Parma Park Trust provides funds for Parma Park maintenance, repair, and special projects, such as this project. The Parma Park Trustee has reviewed and approved the project design. Project design and construction are estimated to be \$365,500. Final construction costs will be determined when the final plans are complete.

Item	Cost
Technical Studies (Biology, Archaeology, Tree Protection)	\$16,000
Engineering Contract with Penfield and Smith (P&S)	\$34,500
City Public Works Engineering Services (Design)	\$10,000
Survey Services	\$6,000
Environmental Review and Permitting	\$5,000
Project Construction	\$253,000
Construction Management (Public Works, Parks and Rec, P&S)	\$35,000
Miscellaneous Special Supplies and Expenses	\$6,000
Total	\$365,500

Schedule

It is anticipated that final plans will be complete in summer 2008, and construction will occur from October to December 2008. If delays are encountered, construction will occur in spring 2009.

Parma Park Maintenance

In addition to developing this project, the Parks Division develops and implements annual work plans that are reviewed and approved by the Parma Park Trustee. The Parks Division developed a two-year Parma Park work plan in 2007 that includes trail maintenance, vegetative fuels abatement, exotic plant management, a signage program, and provisions for road repair and trail easements. The estimated budget for fiscal year ending June 2008 is \$99,000 to \$125,500, and for fiscal year ending June 2009 is \$40,000 to \$50,000. The Parma Park Trustee reviewed and approved the plan. Maintenance and repair within the park is ongoing.

ATTACHMENT: Site Plan

PREPARED BY: Kathy Frye, Natural Areas Planner

SUBMITTED BY: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director