

**PARMA PARK  
Post Tea Fire  
Status Report and Action Plan**

The November 2008 Tea Fire caused significant damage to Parma Park. This included the loss of vegetation, exposure of highly erosive soils and other cultural damage. While the loss of these resources is significant, it provides a unique opportunity to restore and rehabilitate Parma Park. This status report and action plan provides an overview of actions taken immediately post fire and provides actions for the short term (next 6 months to year) and the long term, which may extend for three-plus years.

**I. POST FIRE ACTIONS**

**A. Flood/Erosion Protection.** The following work was completed after the Tea Fire to help protect Parma Park, Sycamore Creek and its tributaries and downstream property from flooding and/or erosion.

- City Parks and Recreation hired a contractor to hydro mulch 36 acres in the western portion of the park;
- Caltrans applied hydro seed, jute netting and straw waddles to areas along Hwy 192;
- City Parks Division staff cleared and cut up burnt brush and trees from tributaries to Sycamore Creek, in the western and central portion of the park;
- The County Flood Control District hired a contractor to clean out the old Parma debris basin, approximately 1,400 feet east of the main entrance;
- City Engineering staff, in cooperation with the County of Santa Barbara, designed and installed a debris wrack in the tributary to Sycamore Creek, upstream of the Stanwood bridge near the entrance; and
- Caltrans will be installing a riser in the road drain at the entrance to the park.

**B. FEMA.** Since the Tea Fire was designated a federal disaster area, there may be an opportunity to recover emergency costs. We are in the process of working with FEMA representatives to determine if we are eligible for reimbursement for work completed in the initial response to the fire.

**C. Safety.** In addition to the threat of flooding and erosion, there were other immediate safety requirements within the park. Parma Park was closed and the following safety actions were taken to protect the public. These actions also served to protect sensitive environmental resources within the park.

- “Park Closed” signs were posted at all entrances; and
- Fencing was installed at the debris basin.

## II. ACTION PLAN FOR REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION

### A. Detailed Assessment.

- Trees – Conduct an assessment of trees for safety and viability;
- Olive Grove – Assess damage to the olive grove, including tree viability;
- Vegetation – Complete mapping of exotic species and perform vegetation monitoring within burnt habitats;
- Erosion/Water Quality – Identify the need and locations to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) and conduct creek clearing activities;
- Geology/soils evaluation – Review existing maps and evaluate erosion now that soils are exposed;
- Cultural Resources – Conduct a Phase I Archaeological Survey in areas of proposed soil disturbance and consider the value of surveying the remainder of the park, as post fire soils are exposed and easily observed;
- Trails – Assess trail maintenance needs to avoid erosion and make trails more sustainable;
- Utilities – Determine the extent of damage to the electric service; and
- Infrastructure – Assess the condition of the trail signage, fencing, bridges and culverts.

**B. Action Plan – Short Term.** Work would occur during Year 1, and in some cases, commence immediately. Several of these plans would extend into the long term action plan phase, as outlined below.

#### ***Forestry***

- Tree plan – Prepare a plan of action and perform public safety and tree prevention and protection measures;
- Olive Grove Plan – Monitor trees for stump sprout or coppice, determine if viable and prune or remove, as needed;
- Creek clearing – In addition to work completed immediately after the fire, clear and cut up burnt brush and trees from Coyote Creek and upper tributaries of Sycamore Creek;

#### ***Vegetation and Wildlife***

- Habitat Restoration and Protection Plan – Develop the plan and implement Year 1, as follows:
  - Monitor vegetation to determine if habitats are viable and recovering;
  - Map locations of special status species or habitats;
  - Protect recovering or sensitive habitats;
  - Collect native plant seed; and
  - Prepare a planting plan, as needed.
- Exotic Species Plan – The Tea Fire has provided a unique opportunity to jump start this plan while plant biomass is reduced. Delays could result in the further spread of non-native invasive species due to the amount of bare soil.

- Map locations of exotic invasive species;
- Eradicate or contain particularly invasive plant species, immediately or concurrently with mapping;
- Create a GIS database to manage weed data;
- Prioritize and determine method of control of for other exotic species.
- Wildlife Restoration and Protection Plan – Monitor and protect wildlife species during habitat recovery or restoration.

### ***Outreach and Safety***

- Community Outreach – Press release; volunteer day with equestrians and other community groups;
- Signage, Fencing and Barriers – As portions or all of Parma Park are re-opened, install signage, fencing or barriers to designate open/closed areas and educate the public;

### ***Water Quality and Erosion***

- Install erosion control devices to protect water quality and aquatic species;
- Stabilize soil to prevent erosion.

### ***Infrastructure and Trails***

- Replace/repair trail signage, fencing, bridges or culverts damaged by fire and/or flooding;
- Trails – Clear trails of eroded soil and debris from the fire, implement preventative measures for post-fire flooding and begin a sustainable trails retrofit (e.g. reroute, change in switchback design, outslope)
- Utility Company Coordination – Communicate and coordinate with Edison for work in Parma Park;

***Cultural Resources*** - Protect known resources and seek advise of archaeological consultants, as needed.

***Permitting.*** Restoration or rehabilitation work resulting in impacts to sensitive environmental resources may require permitting from federal or state agencies.

- Prepare permit packages and reports, as needed, for jurisdictional agencies, such as the US Army Corps of Engineers or California Department of Fish and Game.

**C. Action Plan – Long Term.** It may take several years to determine the viability of trees and habitats damaged by the fire. The following work would occur in Years 2, 3 and beyond, as needed.

### ***Forestry***

- Tree Plan and Olive Grove Plan – Monitor trees for viability, replace as needed with local stock (native trees) and continue tree protection measures.

### ***Vegetation and Wildlife***

- Habitat Restoration and Protection Plan
  - Monitor vegetation to determine if habitats are viable and recovering;
  - Watch for type conversion of habitats;
  - Propagate and plant native plants, as needed; and
  - Protect recovering or sensitive habitats.
- Exotic Species Plan
  - Continue eradication and containment of weeds;
  - Field monitor locations of exotic invasive species periodically;
  - Use GIS database to manage weed data and determine the effect and cost of IPM control methods;
  - Adapt management strategy to account for success and challenges.
- Wildlife Restoration and Protection Plan – Monitor and protect wildlife species during habitat recovery or restoration.

### ***Outreach and Safety***

- Community Outreach – Plan volunteer events and manage volunteers; Work with hangliding community, as needed, for habitat protection.
- Signage, Fencing and Barriers - Remove or replace signs and fences damaged or lost or as trail and habitat conditions change.

***Water Quality and Erosion*** – Maintain erosion control and soil stabilization devices.

***Trails*** - Continue sustainable trails retrofit work.