



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 27, 2017
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Director's Report

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a presentation on the status of the various Parks and Recreation Department initiatives and activities.

DISCUSSION:

Microburst Storm Event

On September 3, 2017 the City experienced a microburst in the late afternoon along parts of the beachfront, the Funk Zone, isolated portions of the Westside, and segments of the Mesa area.

Parks and Forestry Response

Although the area affected by the microburst was small in size, the damage to the City's Urban Forest was significant. Damage to City trees included branch failures of various sizes, partial tree failures, and total tree failures. One of the most notable trees that sustained damage was the Moreton Bay fig tree on Montecito Street, which suffered several broken branches throughout the canopy.

Parks and Forestry staff, along with Public Works Emergency staff and Streets Division staff, initially responded to calls for service beginning on Sunday evening, September 3rd. Since then, staff have been working diligently to remove all debris from streets, remove any broken or hanging branches from trees, perform follow-up pruning where needed, and remove trees where preservation is no longer a viable option. The overall damage sustained to the City's Urban Forest for such a short weather incident is profound.

As of September 14, 2017 Forestry staff has performed 24 tree removals and responded to 132 service calls to remove ground debris or broken hanging branches. An additional 15 tree removals are pending, for a total of 171 reported tree incidents. Staff will continue working on the cleanup response and compiling data through the end of September.

Emergency Response and Life Safety

City lifeguards responded to reports of heavy debris and airborne objects at West Beach causing many sailboats in the harbor entrance to capsize, leaving children in the water. Three lifeguards effected multiple water rescues, while the lifeguard EMT vehicle responded to a report of an injured girl on the beach close to Sea Landing. Lifeguards treated the injured female for head, neck and back injuries before she was transported to Cottage Hospital by American Medical Response.

As the microburst event was concluding, lifeguards encountered a disoriented female who was combative and refusing directions to not enter the water. Upon entering the water she became distressed, requiring lifeguards to rescue the individual and transport her safely onto a responding Harbor Patrol vessel.

National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest single-day volunteer event for public lands, held annually in late September since 1994. Nation-wide events bring together hundreds of thousands of individual and organizational volunteers to help restore America's public places that are used for outdoor recreation, education, and other enjoyment. For over five years, the City Parks and Recreation Department, County Parks, and Forest Service have worked alongside local trail advocates and volunteers to hold events that restore and enhance the front country trails.

This year, the local National Public Lands Day event will be held Saturday, September 30, 2017, at lower Tunnel Trail. Restoration of this trail will largely focus on cutting back and removing brush that has grown over the past year or more. This is a great way to give back to the community, meet new people and enjoy the wonderful trails Santa Barbara offers. For more information and to RSVP, visit meetup.com and search for Santa Barbara Trail Volunteers.

Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls Club

The Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls Club, located in Spencer Adams Park, will celebrate their 80th anniversary on Saturday, October 14th. Mayor Helene Schneider is scheduled to present a proclamation recognizing the event and naming October as "Lawn Bowling in Santa Barbara Month." Over the past eight decades, volunteers from the Club and Department staff collaborated to make this sport accessible to thousands of players and their guests.

PREPARED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director