



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 27, 2018
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Arroyo Burro Restoration at Hidden Valley Project Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission receive a report on the Arroyo Burro Restoration at Hidden Valley Project.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The 2.8 acre project area is located in a portion of the Hidden Valley Open Space Park between Torino Drive and Calle de Los Amigos. It includes approximately 1,500 linear feet of creek frontage on Arroyo Burro and provides an opportunity for creek restoration and water quality improvement.

Planned creek restoration efforts would further improve conditions in the watershed, building upon several other restoration and water quality improvement projects undertaken by the Creeks Division, including the restoration of Mesa Creek and the Arroyo Burro Estuary, Upper Las Positas Creek at the Municipal Golf Course, the recently completed Arroyo Burro Restoration Project at Barger Canyon, and the planned restoration at the Arroyo Burro Open Space.

Restoration Project Update

In early August 2017, the Creeks Division hosted community meetings with neighborhood residents to discuss plans for a future restoration project and to solicit feedback from residents. In May 2018, draft concept designs were shared with neighbors and stakeholders at two additional community meetings held at Valle Verde and at Hidden Valley Park to solicit feedback on the proposed designs.

The Creeks Division is working with Waterways Consulting (Waterways) to develop restoration designs for the property. Waterways completed creek surveys, as well as hydrologic modeling and analysis for the site. Draft designs demonstrate the major

components that would be included in a restoration project based on the existing conditions, preliminary modeling, and community input.

General goals of the restoration project include improved stream function, wildlife habitat, and water quality. Restoration efforts will include:

- Removal of 450 linear feet of pipe and wire revetment,
- Bio-technical bank stabilization where pipe and wire revetment is removed,
- Removal of non-native vegetation, including cape ivy, English ivy, periwinkle, and ice plant,
- Removal of 18 non-native large trees: Fourteen Shamel Ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*) and four Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*),
- Restoration of a diverse community of native riparian and upland plants, with over 2,000 native plants, including 685 native trees,
- Protection and avoidance of existing natural resources,
- Removal of four concrete picnic table pads and relocation of two picnic tables away from the top of the creek bank,
- Replacement of playground park fence further from creek bank.

Staff submitted a grant application to fund a portion of the project to the California Coastal Conservancy. The application is currently under review.

Next Steps

Creeks Division staff and Waterways Consulting will finalize the project design and initiate project permitting. Final design plans, bidding, and construction cost estimates are expected to be completed in summer 2018. Construction is currently planned for late summer/fall 2018.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Site Location Map
2. Hidden Valley Restoration Plans

PREPARED BY: Tim Burgess, Associate Planner

SUBMITTED BY: Cameron Benson, Creeks Division Manager

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