



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 24, 2018

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 (Department) initiatives and activities.

DISCUSSION:

Day of Caring

The Department's Neighborhood and Outreach Services section manages three community gardens: Yanonali, Rancheria and Pilgrim Terrace. This year the Department identified the Yanonali Community Gardens, located adjacent to Eastside Neighborhood Park, as a project for the annual United Way Day of Caring on September 15. The event was a tremendous success, with more than 30 volunteers, youth apprentices, youth council members, and Department staff coming together to rehabilitate vacant garden plots and prepare them to be used by new gardeners that join the program. Each plot was cleared of dead green waste, weeded, raked, and leveled, then covered with plastic tarps to preserve the renovated soil and prevent weed growth. The Yanonali Community Garden project resulted in 17 clean and ready-to-rent plots, two of which were rented that same day. For more information on renting one of the remaining 15 plots at Yanonali, or to inquire about availability at Rancheria or Pilgrim Terrace, call 805-897-2560.

Free Classes Week

The Parks and Recreation Department's Annual Free Classes Week at the Carrillo Recreation Center took place September 10 – September 15. This year's Free Classes Week offered 38 programs and classes to the Santa Barbara community. The event featured a wide variety of offerings for both adults and children alike and attracted 418 participants. Many of the new programs had successful debuts, including new programs offered by SB Sweat Fitness, Modern Jazz Dance, and Progressive Intermediate Argentine Tango. The attendance numbers were primarily driven by a marketing campaign which utilized social media boosts, a full page ad in the Santa Barbara

Independent, flyers at City operated facilities, and email marketing blasts to our current customer database.

Arroyo Burro Open Space Restoration Project

Construction of the Arroyo Burro Open Space Restoration Project began in August. The grading portion of the project, designed to reduce erosion and create new floodplain habitat, is complete. Native plants, irrigation, and erosion control materials are now being installed throughout the site. The project is expected to be complete in December 2018. Community members are invited to join in a volunteer native planting event on Saturday, November 17 at 9:00am.

Arroyo Burro Restoration at Hidden Valley Park

Restoration of Arroyo Burro at Hidden Valley Park began early this month. Pipe and wire revetment is being removed from the creek, and invasive plants and trees are being removed throughout the project area. Native plants and trees will be planted, and the fence along the creek in the park will be moved approximately 12 feet further from the creek bank. Picnic tables will also be relocated further from the creek. The project is expected to be complete in December 2018.

Community Clean-Up Day

On October 13, the Department participated in the Looking Good Santa Barbara Community Clean-Up day in the Westside neighborhood near Parque de los Niños. Staff from Parks, Forestry, and Recreation led volunteer teams to accomplish three previously identified projects, including new street tree planting, pathway weeding and cleaning at Rancheria Community Gardens, and removal of litter, discarded items, and vegetation along Wentworth Parkway and in Parque de los Niños. The event was an incredible success, with 56 volunteers assigned to the different projects. Thirty-five new street trees were planted to begin addressing the backlog as a result of the drought, the park playground and surrounding area was washed and graffiti removed, and three truckloads of mattresses, sofas, furniture and six dump trucks of green waste were collected and disposed of.

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