



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** January 22, 2020  
**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:**

Annual Rose Garden Pruning

On Saturday, January 11, 2020, the Department hosted the annual rose garden pruning at the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden. Sixty volunteers pruned roses, along with members of the Santa Barbara Rose Society and Parks Division staff. Located in Mission Historical Park, the Rose Garden has 1,600 rose bushes and over 200 varieties. Volunteers have assisted Parks staff in pruning the Rose Garden for over 40 years. Each year, the Department provides gloves, disinfectant for cleaning tools, sharpeners for clippers, and tarps to collect clippings. The Santa Barbara Rose Society provides refreshments. Rosarian Dan Bifano provided pruning demonstrations, showing volunteers how to prune roses correctly to obtain a proper shape and to produce maximum blooms throughout the year.

Palermo Open Space

On December 18, 2019, the City closed escrow on ~5.3 acres of open space along Arroyo Burro at the end of Palermo Drive in Hidden Valley. Approved by City Council in September 2018, the total cost of the acquisition was \$2,275,000. The City received \$800,000 in grants to support the purchase, including \$500,000 from the Natural Resources Agency and \$300,000 from the Coastal Conservancy. Measure B funded the \$1,475,000 remainder. The purpose of the acquisition is to implement a creek restoration and water quality improvement project on that section of Arroyo Burro. Creeks Division staff will begin community outreach for project planning and design in early 2020. The proposed rezoning of the property, from Residential to Parks and Recreation (Open Space), will come to the Commission for a recommendation before going to City Council.

### Beach Wheelchair Grant

The Department submitted a grant application to the Coastal Conservancy in April 2019 for the purchase of one electric all-terrain beach wheelchair and one manual beach wheelchair to be located at East Beach. The Department received notification in September 2019 that the proposal was funded in the amount of \$14,500, and the contract was received from the Coastal Conservancy in December 2019. The contract and resolution will go to City Council for approval in February. Once approved, the wheelchairs will be ordered and are expected to be in service before the summer.

East Beach currently has two manual beach wheelchairs in disrepair. These wheelchairs will replace the existing chairs with a superior quality product and provide improved ease of use for patrons, as East Beach is the busiest beach with the highest volume of visitors and users. The two older chairs will be repaired and located at lifeguard towers on West Beach and Leadbetter Beach, which will expand access on all three City beaches. The two new wheelchairs will be stored at the Cabrillo Pavilion. All wheelchairs are available to the public at no charge.

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