



Agenda Item No: 5.a
Meeting Date: February 21, 2023

SAN RAFAEL CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Department: Library & Recreation

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City Manager Approval: _____ 

TOPIC: CITYWIDE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CITYWIDE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The General Plan 2040 and City Council’s Goal and Objectives established the creation of a Citywide Parks & Recreation Master Plan (CPRMP) as an important priority to help the City better plan for the changing recreational needs of the community. In November 2021, the City of San Rafael contracted with RHAA Landscape Architects (RHAA) to launch a comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Planning process to analyze the use of existing parks and facilities, assess their condition, gather community input, provide recommendations for improvement, and suggest funding/implementation strategies. RHAA and staff are in the final stages of drafting the CPRMP and are on track to bring the plan to City Council for review in Spring, 2023. This informational report provides an overview of the process involved in developing the CPRMP and a summary of the key themes, trends, and recommendations that emerged through the process.

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the informational report on the progress of the Citywide Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

BACKGROUND:

As the City of San Rafael grows and the needs of residents evolve over time, there has been a significant growth in the demand for park and recreation facilities and programs. To help the City plan for the needs of the community, the City Council Goals and Objectives and the City of San Rafael’s General Plan 2040 identified the creation of a Citywide Parks & Recreation Master Plan as a key priority. Parks & Recreation Master Plans are a critical tool for local agencies in identifying community and infrastructure needs, prioritizing projects and funding allocation, strategically developing parks and recreational programs, and creating a vision for the future.

FOR CITY CLERK ONLY

File No.: _____
Council Meeting: _____
Disposition: _____

In November 2021, the City of San Rafael contracted with RHAA to launch a comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Planning process that would analyze the use of existing parks and facilities, assess their condition, gather community input, provide recommendations for improvement, and suggest funding/implementation strategies. Based on the 2040 General Plan, the CPRMP will provide a foundation for the future development and maintenance of parks, recreation facilities, programs, and amenities. The below outlines the actions taken to gather data on the current state of the City's park and recreation system as well as to collect input on community needs.

Park and Recreation System Assessments

Staff began working with RHAA in early 2022 to conduct a thorough assessment of the City's existing parks, recreation facilities, and previous planning efforts in citywide recreation. This included the following assessments:

Park Inventory and Assessment

In January 2022, City staff and RHAA toured the City's 25 existing park sites documenting the following at each site:

- Location
- Size
- Park Type – pocket park, neighborhood park, community park, special-use park, community garden
- History – construction date (if known) and development over time
- Current Condition – poor, fair, good, or excellent
- Amenity, Furnishings, and Facility Inventory
- Recreation Provided
- Constraints
- Estimated Maintenance

Facility Inventory and Assessment

In January and February 2022, City staff and Mack5 – consultants to RHAA in architecture, cost, and construction management – toured the City's recreation facilities documenting architectural, mechanical, electrical, structural, and accessibility (ADA) deficiencies. The facilities assessed include the San Rafael Community Center, Albert J. Boro Community Center, Albert Park Stadium, Terra Linda Community Center and Pool, and Falkirk Cultural Center.

CASp Report

Throughout Spring 2022, Steven Hall – consultant to RHAA as a Certified Access Specialist (CASp) – conducted a CASp assessment of the City's park sites. A CASp inspection report identifies violations of accessibility standards and lists necessary improvements for their correction, to support the City's due diligence in removing accessibility barriers on public property. The CASp report generated for the CPRMP is an extensive document with barrier removal recommendations that will be folded into larger development projects as the City's resources allow.

Document Review

RHAA provided a review of the City's previous planning efforts, related to San Rafael's park and recreation network to ensure that the goals and recommendations of the CPRMP build upon and support previous planning. The following master planning documents were reviewed and incorporated into the CPRMP.

- San Rafael General Plan 2040, 2021

- Downtown Precise Plan, 2021
- Climate Change Action Plan, 2019
- San Rafael Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, 2018
- Canalfront Conceptual Design Plan and Guidelines, 2009

Community Engagement

In the Spring of 2022, the City launched a community engagement campaign to gather input on the recreation amenities, activities, and programs that are most important to them. The community engagement process included a statistically valid survey, a community questionnaire, interviews with stakeholder groups, and a series of community meetings held at different times and locations throughout the City, as well as online. The below details the community engagement activities undertaken as part of the CPRMP process.

Community Surveying

To assess community needs and interests in San Rafael's recreation services, a statistically valid survey was conducted from March 7 through March 10, and an online questionnaire was initiated on March 30 and closed on May 3, 2022.

The Statistically Valid Survey, conducted by Godbe Research – consultant to RHAA specializing in opinion research - collected 575 responses from City residents and registered voters reflecting the City's demographic profile. The Statistically Valid Survey was conducted in English (559 respondents) and Spanish (16 respondents).

The Parks and Recreation Questionnaire, conducted by RHAA through Survey Monkey as well as via paper copies distributed throughout City facilities and partner organizations, collected 1,131 responses between March 30th and May 31st. The questionnaire was provided in English (1,046 respondents), Spanish (84 respondents), and Vietnamese (1 respondent).

Stakeholder Group Interviews

With City staff support, RHAA interviewed stakeholder groups in the Arts, City Leadership, Homeowner and Neighborhood Associations, Older Adults and Special Populations, and Sports and Leisure. These interviews offered the opportunity for key stakeholder groups to provide focused input and perspectives on issues related to San Rafael's park and recreation system. Interviews were held online with input collected from a total of 37 interest groups.

Community Meetings

Community Meeting #1 was held 4 times in Spring 2022:

- March 30th – San Rafael Community Center
- April 28 – Terra Linda Community Center
- May 5 – Zoom/Online
- May 11 – Albert J. Boro Community Center (conducted in Spanish, with English translation available)

At this first community meeting, RHAA presented the CPRMP team, project goals and scope, and a review of existing park and facility conditions. A significant portion of Community Workshop #1 was also dedicated to collecting community input on desires for improvements throughout San Rafael's park and recreation system. More than 100 community members shared their thoughts at these community meetings.

Community Meeting #2 was held online on September 8, 2022. At this meeting RHAA presented findings from the community outreach process (Statistically Valid Survey and Parks and Recreation Questionnaire survey results), a summary of the park and facility inventory, a summary of the recreation planning and operations assessment, and the prioritization criteria to be used to prioritize proposed recommendations from the CPRMP. Community Meeting #2 included breakout sessions to solicit feedback on the prioritization criteria and approximately 25 community members participated in the meeting.

ANALYSIS:

RHAA gathered significant amounts of data through the system assessment and community engagement process. The CPRMP will incorporate this information throughout the plan and will provide site-by-site recommendations as to the specific needs of each park and facility as well as opportunities to address systemwide deficiencies.

While the needs of each site were evaluated individually, there were certain common trends that emerged. From the system assessment, RHAA determined the following common needs across the City's park system:

- Updating playground amenities per code and accessibility
- Renovation of sport courts
- Infrastructure repairs and replacement, such as replacing irrigation systems, repaving pathways, and repairing failing structures
- Addressing ADA deficiencies that create a high barrier to access
- Improved signage

For the City's recreation facilities, the common deficiencies identified throughout that facilities include:

- Water intrusion
- Aging mechanical equipment
- Outdated electrical distribution
- Door and window replacement needs
- Moveable partition repairs
- Degraded paint and finishes
- Deficient exterior wood decking

A key component to the CPRMP assessment process is not only the physical needs of the amenities and facilities, but also the community needs and priorities. The community engagement process resulted in significant feedback from the community. Overall, the community is satisfied with the City's existing supply of, and access to, parks and recreation facilities and programs. 73% of respondents from the Statistically Valid Survey and 56% of respondents to the Community Questionnaire reported satisfaction with the City's parks and recreation facilities. Beyond that, there were a number of themes that emerged from the community engagement process that will be used to shape the CPRMP.

The following are some of the key themes from the community surveying process:

- There is strong support for prioritizing renovating and maintaining the City's existing park amenities over adding new amenities (60% from the Statistically Valid Survey and 75% from the Community Questionnaire). There is a particular desire to modernize playgrounds and recreation amenities such as benches, picnic tables, etc. as well as repair failing infrastructure.

- There is a strong desire for improved maintenance and cleanliness of the City's parks, particularly restroom maintenance and refuse pick up.
- The community is interested in pedestrian access throughout the City's recreation network – walking is a priority.
- The community is interested in supporting self-directed recreation activities.
- Many community members are unaware of the City's programmatic offerings (approximately 30% of respondents to the community surveys).

The community surveys also identified the City's most frequently used parks and facilities, which park improvements and amenities are most important to residents, and which recreation and leisure activities residents most value.

Building on the community surveys, input collected from the community meetings is in alignment with the identified themes. Input collected from the stakeholder groups is more nuanced and oriented to stakeholder interests. However, stakeholder groups largely expressed interest in supporting more formal connections with the City to advance partnership opportunities as well as seeing recreation maintenance improved.

Based on this evaluation process, RHAA and City staff have identified approximately 150 different recommendations for the CPRMP. These recommendations focus on the following areas:

1. Improvements to existing park sites and amenities: common park capital improvement recommendations include replacing aging playgrounds, resurfacing sports courts, and repairing pathways.
2. Improvements and deferred maintenance needs for recreation facilities: the CPRMP will include a comprehensive list of recommended improvements for the Albert J. Boro Community Center, Albert Park Stadium, Falkirk Cultural Center, San Rafael Community Center, Terra Linda Community Center, and Terra Linda Pool House. These recommendations are categorized into three tiers, based on Mack5's assessment of their relative priority.
3. Policy-level recommendations: these recommendations focus on Citywide and site-specific policy actions that will help the City to better manage and maintain the park and recreation system and to meet the recreation needs of the community.
4. ADA Access: given the age of most of San Rafael's park, the CASp assessment identified areas for improvement and barrier removal throughout the park and recreation system.
5. Benches and picnic tables: systemwide the site assessment identified replacement of benches and picnic tables as a need that also is a high community priority.
6. Irrigation improvements: a number of parks were identified as having significant irrigation issues.
7. System expansion recommendations: given the City's limited resources and the community's strong prioritization of addressing existing infrastructure over adding new amenities, the CPRMP has focused on improvements to current sites. However, there were a few recommendations that touched on adding new or expanded amenities, particularly in areas of the City that are currently deficient in park space or have high density.

A more detailed outline of the recommendations can be found in the Recommendation Overview, included as Attachment 1.

With the significant number of recommendations identified through the process, a critical output of the CPRMP is a strategic approach for prioritizing recommendations. The goal of the prioritization strategy

is to create an implementable action plan for the CPRMP and also to provide the City with a framework for decision-making in the future.

RHAA and City staff worked to develop a set of weighted criteria that could be applied to help prioritize projects. These criteria were shared in the second community engagement meeting as well as reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee and Park & Recreation Commission. After incorporating feedback, the CPRMP project team developed the following weighted criteria to prioritize park and recreation projects:

- Health and Safety (5 points): addresses issues of public health, such as sanitation, and physical safety
- Community Priorities (3 points): identified through the CPRMP surveys as a community priority
- Service Area (3 points): within 0.5 miles of a frequently visited park or high density neighborhood
- General Plan 2040 Guiding Principles (2 points): addresses the General Plan 2040 guiding principles of Opportunity for All or Adapting to the Future
- Accessibility (2 points): addresses a barrier(s) identified in the CASp Assessment
- Operational Efficiency (1 point): will lead to significant savings in City staff time and resources
- Included in Previous Planning documents (1 point)

These criteria were applied to the list of CPRMP recommendations, which were further categorized into near, medium, and long-term priorities. These time-bound categorizations will be further refined once the financial and funding analysis is complete. In January, these recommendations were presented to the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee and the Parks & Recreation Commission for their review and feedback. Input from those meetings has been incorporated into the draft Recommendation Overview.

Typically, Parks & Recreation Master Plans are designed to last approximately ten years. As such, it is important that they are flexible enough to adapt to changing needs and circumstances, while also providing sufficient guidance to support decision making. The prioritization criteria are one tool to support future decision making, a second tool developed through the CPRMP is a set of goals, policies, and actions. The draft goals, policies, and actions provided in Attachment 2 provide an overarching framework to guide future decision-making processes in San Rafael's park and recreation system and provide higher level principles for future project implementation and prioritization. They are designed to reflect the priorities articulated in San Rafael's General Plan 2040 and to be used in conjunction with the detailed recommendations provided in the Citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Next Steps

RHAA is in the final steps of wrapping up all analysis for the CPRMP. Currently, they are finalizing the program and operations assessment and recommendations as well as the funding and financial analysis. Those components will be included in the final Master Plan document.

In addition to the information summarized above, the CPRMP will have additional context and analysis to provide a thorough review of the current state of the City parks and recreation system, the current and future needs of San Rafael residents, and to lay out a plan of action with clear priorities and funding opportunities. Below is a summary of the sections of the Master Plan and the information that each will include.

1_Executive Summary: Lays out the purpose of Master Plan and provides a high-level overview of the recommendations.

2_Introduction: Details the project history, regional setting, and planning process.

3_Existing Framework: Provides information on the existing conditions of San Rafael's parks, facilities, programs, and operations as well as the City's demographic profile.

4_Needs Assessment: Presents the results of the community outreach process, demographic, and recreation trends, and compares community desires with existing City services to identify where gaps in recreation can be filled.

5_Plan: Provides the high-level Goals, Objectives, and Actions to guide future decision making; the detailed park, facility, and policy recommendations; and an estimate of recommendation costs for planning purpose. This section will discuss all proposed recommendations at each park and facility site, as well as the Citywide and Policy recommendations.

6_Implementation: Includes the prioritization of recommendations, implementation action plan, and financial/funding plan. This section will discuss in more detail the prioritized recommendations and the prioritization criteria established to refine the implementation process.

7_Appendices

- MACK5 Facility Assessment Report
- Park Inventory Report
- Document Review
- Community Outreach Summary - Survey Results, Community Meeting Summaries
- Recreation Trends

The full CPRMP report is on track for Council review this Spring.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

In addition to the community engagement process outlined previously in this report, the City also worked with a 15-member CPRMP Steering Committee to provide ongoing feedback on the planning process. This Steering Committee was approved by City Council on [July 16, 2021](#), and included individuals from diverse backgrounds to represent a broad cross-section of the community. The Steering Committee met four times throughout the process to provide feedback and input. The Park & Recreation Commission also reviewed progress on the CPRMP during their meetings on June 22 and September 15, 2022, and January 19, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with accepting this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

Accepting this informational report is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act.

OPTIONS:

The City Council has the following options to consider on this matter:

1. Accept the informational report.
2. Direct staff to return with more information.
3. Take no action.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Accept the informational report on the progress of the Citywide Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CPRMP Recommendations Overview
2. CPRMP Draft Goals, Policies, and Actions

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW

In February 2022, City staff began working with RHAA Landscape Architects on the San Rafael Citywide Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Major outcomes of the Master Planning process thus far include the development of Goals, Policies, and Actions to drive higher level decision making, and a comprehensive list of specific recommendations for future improvements to the City’s parks and recreation system. These draft documents were developed utilizing a thorough review of the City’s existing infrastructure, planning documents, and community input.

In developing the recommendations, staff and RHAA created a set of evaluation criteria to help prioritize the individual recommendations. Those evaluation criteria were shared at the Master Plan’s third community meeting, on September 8th, as well as with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee and the Park & Recreation Commission. Feedback from those meetings was incorporated into the below weighted evaluation criteria, which have been applied to prioritize the recommendations:

- Health and Safety (5 points)
- Community Priorities (3 points)
- Service Area (3 points)
- General Plan 2040 Guiding Principles (2 points)
- Accessibility (2 points)
- Operational Efficiency (1 point)
- Included in Previous Planning (1 point)

To organize the recommendations, they were organized into type as well as priority.

Recommendation Type	Description	Total
Deficiency Improvement	Recommendations improves existing condition in a deficient area such as replacing or enhancing amenities at end of lifecycle, and ADA improvements to remove accessibility barriers	83
Expansion	Recommendation supports new recreation amenities, expanding San Rafael’s recreation system	36
Policy	Recommendation is administrative and supports the City’s delivery of parks and recreation services	31
Total number of recommendations		150

Recommendation Priority	Description	Total
Near Term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 park improvements (deficiencies and expansions) • 13 policies • 5 ADA barrier removal to be folded in with projects • 15 recreation facility improvement recommendations to be folded in with other projects 	Potentially achievable in 0-5 years	46
Medium-Term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 park improvements • 9 policies 	Potentially achievable in 5-10 years	25

Long-Term • 21 park improvements	Potentially achievable in 10 + years	58
	Total number of recommendations	150

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

The below are park-by-park recommendations based on an assessment of the current needs of the City’s parks system. They have been broken down into near, medium, and long-term recommendations, generally based on the score received utilizing the evaluation criteria. Staff predicts using this list, and the priority order established, to determine the allocation of Measure A and other park funding to be identified through the financial planning portion of the Master Plan. Additional considerations can be made as changes or needs arise, but this may provide the roadmap for completing future park improvements. The exact timeline will be further refined as RHAA works through the financial analysis and gathers additional feedback.

Near-Term Park Recommendations	
Pickleweed Park	Continue development of the Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project with support of public grant funds
Albert Park Stadium	Address fencing deficiencies around Albert Stadium and Field
Peacock Gap Park	Update play areas - replace playground structures, replace sand with fibar
Terra Linda Park	Prepare a master plan for Terra Linda Park and Community Center to determine future improvements based on planning efforts
Boyd Memorial Park	Evaluate historic water cistern system for structural integrity
Gerstle Park	Update play areas - replace play structures, replace sand with fibar
Oleander Park	Update play area - replace play structure, replace sand with fibar
Peacock Gap Park	Resurface tennis courts
Freitas Park	Resurface tennis court
Gerstle Park	Evaluate and improve pathways
Albert Park	Improve tennis courts – restroom access, padding around tennis lights (4), lighting
Terra Linda Community Garden	Explore options to increase plot capacity and improve infrastructure of garden plots
Citywide	Repair identified priority physical deficiencies at park restrooms
Falkirk Cultural Center	Develop a comprehensive assessment of the Falkirk Cultural Center’s unique historic and architectural qualities to guide future planning and programming

Medium-Term Park Recommendations	
Santa Margarita Park	Resurface tennis court and pathways for ADA accessibility
Boyd Memorial Park	Replace play structure
Oleander Park	Resurface asphalt and concrete paving
Peacock Gap Park	Resurface asphalt paving
Riviera Park	Evaluate best recreational purpose for this site – playground structure is near end of life span and should be addressed
Oliver Hartzell Park	Evaluate best recreational purpose for this site – playground structure is near end of life span and should be addressed
Albert Park	Address parking lot paving for safety and tripping hazards
Gerstle Park	Evaluate feasibility of and pursue tennis court renovation
Boyd Memorial Park	Evaluate recreation options for tennis court – resurface or repurpose
Boyd Memorial Park	Resurface asphalt paving
Freitas Park	Resurface asphalt paving
Falkirk Cultural enter	Evaluate alternative uses for reflection pond
Canal Community Garden	Consider options for improved maintenance
Terra Linda Community Garden	Consider options for improved maintenance
Citywide	Explore locations for self-directed fitness equipment

Long-Term Park Recommendations	
Gerstle Park	Resurface asphalt paving at basketball court and play areas
Boyd Memorial Park	Consider long term solution for restroom
Jean and John Starkweather Park	Implement interpretive signage plans
Peacock Gap Park	Repair and/or replace parcourse equipment
Boyd Memorial Park	Pursue pathway and trail improvements on site and continuing up San Rafael Hill
Bernard Hoffman Field	Evaluate potential recreation uses for former playground
Bret Harte Park	Resurface asphalt paving, including basketball court



Canal Community Garden	Potential location for bio-preventative pest management practices
Munson Park	Potential location for bio-preventative pest management practices
Gerstle Park	Improve access from adjacent open space for hiking
Jean and John Starkweather Park	Explore opportunities for additional boating and water sport access ramps
Santa Margarita Park	Resurface asphalt paving at basketball court
Victor Jones Park	Assess sport court functionality and pursue improvements
Victor Jones Park	Replace restroom
Peacock Gap Park	Replace restroom
Bernard Hoffman Field	Support drainage improvements on site
Sun Valley Park	Evaluate best purpose for upper terrace area, including wooden gazebo
Terra Linda Community Garden	Consider addition of shared garden amenities – storage shed/lockers, seating areas, shade structure
Terra Linda Community	Enhance bio-preventative pest management practices
Riviera Park	Wood columns at retaining walls require replacement
Bret Harte Park	Improve access from adjacent open space for hiking

Through the evaluation process, there were a handful of recommendations that focused on developing new or significantly expanded park amenities. Given the City’s current resources, making significant additions to the park and recreation system is not recommended until the City has the resources to maintain them. However, it is important to include these recommendations, for such time that the City may have the resources or may identify other partnership opportunities to pursue these priorities.

- Expand and improve the shoreline path network along the Jean and John Starkweather Park
- Address park deficiencies in the following neighborhoods through the development of dedicated park land:
 - Montecito/Dominican
 - West End/Fairhills
 - Lincoln/San Rafael Hill
 - Contempo/Deer Park
 - Northbridge/Marin Lagoon
- Explore recreation options for the northern portion of Freitas Park

The overwhelming priority through the community engagement process was to better maintain what the City already has, rather than to build new amenities.



FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Mack5, subconsultants of RHAA, provided a comprehensive list of recommended improvements for the Albert J. Boro Community Center, Albert Park Stadium, Falkirk Cultural Center, San Rafael Community Center, Terra Linda Community Center, and Terra Linda Pool House. Mack5 included a three-tiered priority categorization based off their expert assessment. The detailed recommendations will be incorporated into Public Work’s upcoming Facilities Master Planning process. This data will support that process in developing a comprehensive plan for City facility improvements and for allocating Building Funds moving forward.

Applying the Mack5 three-tiered priority categorization along with the Master Plan’s weighted evaluation criteria, the highest priority recommendations include addressing architectural and mechanical deficiencies at the Albert J. Boro Community Center. Those recommendations are supported through the City’s existing CIP, with funding allocated to those projects in the near term.

An additional, high-priority facility recommendation is a comprehensive assessment of the Falkirk Cultural Center’s unique historic and architectural qualities that will help to guide future planning and programming in alignment with the facility’s unique needs.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy recommendations have been evaluated separately from Park and Facility recommendations as they typically require fewer financial resources, and more staff time to evaluate and develop. However, some policy recommendations may result in outcomes or recommendations that could ultimately require financial resources to implement. Additionally, most of the policy recommendations focus on issues that impact the parks and recreation system citywide.

Near-Term Policy Recommendations	
Beach Park	Explore public-private partnerships to address needed oversight for site safety
Albert and Freitas Parks	Tennis court access system to be managed by library and recreation department director or designee
Citywide	Reclassify City parks based on existing amenities - Jerry Russom Memorial Park (to open space), Bret Harte Park (to neighborhood park), Munson Park (to pocket park)
Citywide	Dog Park program - assess options to address deficiency in spaces for off-leash dogs
Citywide	Develop a recreation program plan
Citywide	Offer training opportunities for staff to support growth and understanding around diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
Citywide	Evaluate restroom maintenance citywide
Pickleweed Park	Consider additional maintenance resources for Pickleweed Park Field
Albert Park	Consider additional maintenance resources for Albert Field

Citywide	Develop systemwide irrigation replacement schedule
Citywide	Develop program for citywide fibar replacement at playgrounds
Citywide	Develop systemwide playground amenity replacement schedule
Citywide	Develop systemwide tennis court resurfacing schedule

Medium-Term Policy Recommendations	
Citywide	Develop a comprehensive maintenance plan for City parks
Citywide	Develop a comprehensive maintenance plan for City recreation facilities
Citywide	Develop unifying systemwide park and recreation signage
Citywide	Assess pickleball striping or pickleball conversion projects systemwide
Citywide	Consider entering into Joint-Use Agreements with San Rafael City Schools to provide additional recreation facilities for the San Rafael community
Albert Park Stadium	Explore opportunities such as public-private partnerships to refurbish athletic fields and develop new recreational facilities
Gerstle Park	Explore partnership opportunities for maintaining the historic nature of the landscaping
Freitas Park	Develop a policy for splash pad operations (consider closures for drought conditions)
Citywide	Evaluate historic water system resources

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

RHAA and staff also identified the below systemwide recommendations that require tailored approaches, given the type of improvement they address.

ADA Access

As part of the Master Plan process, a CASp specialist evaluated all park sites to identify ADA access barriers. They categorized the barriers based on high, medium, or low impact. The list of barriers is substantial with virtually all parks having areas for improvement. Given the scope of this assessment, the recommendation is that the City strategically address the identified barriers as other improvements are made to the parks and recreation facilities, specifically prioritizing those barriers that are classified as high impact. This will allow the City to make progress systemwide and see efficiencies in combining projects.

Benches and Picnic Tables

The following parks were identified as having benches and picnic tables that are nearing or at the end of their life: Bret Harte Park, Gerstle Park, Jean and John Starkweather Park, Oleander Park, Oliver Hartzell Park, Peacock Gap Park, Riviera Park, Santa Margarita Park, and Victor Jones Park. Through the City’s newly adopted Park Amenity Sponsorship program, staff will design the program to initially focus on bench and picnic table donations in the identified locations. As the program develops, staff will evaluate how effectively it is addressing the deficiencies and adjust as needed.

Irrigation

The following parks were identified as having significant irrigation issues that should be addressed: Albert Park, Arbor Park, Bernard Hoffman Field, Boyd Memorial Park, Canal Community Garden, Falkirk Cultural Center, Peacock Gap Park, Riviera Park, Victor Jones Park. Keeping the current systems operational takes significant staff time, impacts the community's ability to utilize the amenity, and results in inefficient water usage. Given this, as well as the recent historic droughts, addressing the irrigation deficiencies should be a priority. However, the scope of the issue would require significant resources. While the financial analysis is still being completed for the Master Plan, this may be an area where seeking grant or outside funding for systemwide improvements could be feasible.

Ongoing Recommendations

Existing planning documents (such as the General Plan 2040), identify a number of recommendations that focus on ongoing maintenance and management of specific park sites. Those are in alignment with the City's current efforts and will be noted in the final Master Plan as efforts that the City should continue to support.

DRAFT

DRAFT GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

The goals, policies, and actions provide an overarching framework to guide future decision-making processes in San Rafael's park and recreation system. These reflect the priorities articulated in San Rafael's *General Plan 2040*. Below, the specific policies and actions reference which section of the *General Plan* that they support. These goals, policies, and actions are meant to be used in conjunction with the detailed recommendations provided in the *Citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, and to provide higher level principles for future project implementation and prioritization.

General Plan 2040 key:

- PROS = Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element
- EDI = Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Element

GOAL A: SUPPORT AND ENHANCE SAN RAFAEL PARKS

POLICY A.1 – Upgrade and modernize existing parks to meet the recreational needs of the community and to meet operational, accessibility and safety standards (PROS-1.6B)

- ❖ Action A1.1 – Improve existing park amenities to enhance community use and create safe, attractive spaces that meet community demand (PROS-1.6B)
- ❖ Action A1.2 – Ensure park amenities are accessible to all users on a system-wide and park level (EDI-6.3B)
- ❖ Action A1.3 – Develop and implement consistent and inclusive branding, wayfinding, and interpretive signage for San Rafael Parks (PROS-1.5A)
- ❖ Action A1.4 – Incorporate sustainability principles in the design and construction of San Rafael park projects and enhancements (PROS-1.18A)

POLICY A.2 – Continue regular assessment and provide a high level of maintenance that allows San Rafael Parks to prolong equipment life, ensure amenity safety, and serve as a valued community asset (PROS-1.15)

- ❖ Action A.2.1 – Improve maintenance of existing parks to meet community demand and park usage, including the development of maintenance plans and amenity replacement schedules
- ❖ Action A.2.2 – Provide maintenance practices that are environmentally and fiscally sustainable, including improved irrigation and natural pest management (PROS-1.18)

POLICY A.3 – Support park development, where feasible, to address recreational deficiencies

- ❖ Action A.3.1 – Identify funding and partnership opportunities for Parks development (PROS-1.16A, PROS-1.17)

- ❖ Action A.3.2 – Support park expansion in areas of need, including high density neighborhoods and identified neighborhoods that do not have a park within the Trust for Public Land (TPL) 10-minute standard (PROS-1.3A)
- ❖ Action A.3.3 - Explore options to address recreational amenity deficiencies that have been identified as a high priority to the community

GOAL B: SUPPORT AND ENHANCE SAN RAFAEL RECREATION FACILITIES

POLICY B.1 – Rehabilitate existing recreation facilities to meet operational, accessibility and safety standards, and to meet community demand (PROS-1.6)

- ❖ Action B.1.1 – Support safety of existing recreational facilities, including fire safety, seismic retrofitting, and required code upgrades (PROS-1.6A)
- ❖ Action B.1.2 – Renovate and/or retrofit recreation facilities to maximize community use (PROS-1.6A)
- ❖ Action B.1.3 – Ensure recreation facilities are accessible to all users (EDI-6.3B)
- ❖ Action B.1.4 - Incorporate sustainability principles in the design and construction of San Rafael recreation facility projects and enhancements (PROS-1.18A)

POLICY B.2 – Continue regular assessment and maintenance of San Rafael recreation facilities to prolong structural life, prevent deferred maintenance, ensure safety, and support user enjoyment (PROS-1.15)

- ❖ Action B.2.1 – Improve maintenance of existing recreation facilities to meet community demand and facility usage (PROS-1.15)

POLICY B.3 – Support recreational facility planning processes to address unique facility conditions and respond to changing community needs (PROS-1.6A)

POLICY B.4 – Explore opportunities for additional recreation facility access through viable partnerships (PROS-1.12, PROS-1.17)

- ❖ Action B.4.2 – Seek opportunities for joint use of recreational facilities with local service providers, including the San Rafael and Miller Creek School Districts, to provide additional recreation facilities to the San Rafael community (PROS-1.12, PROS-1.17)

GOAL C: SUPPORT RECREATION PROGRAMMING

POLICY C.1 – Maintain and enhance existing recreation programming to meet needs of San Rafael residents and support community identity (PROS-2)

- ❖ Action C.1.1 – Develop a Recreation Program Plan to guide long range program development and define focus areas based on user needs (PROS-2.1, PROS-2.2)

- ❖ Action C.1.2 – Continue to support recreation programming in high demand by the San Rafael community
- ❖ Action C.1.3 – Expand recreational programming to address deficiencies in program provision to meet community demand (PROS-2.2)
- ❖ Action C.1.4 – Support partnership opportunities for coordination and provision of recreational programming, including partnership opportunities with organizations in the arts, sports and leisure, aging populations, and disability care (PROS-2.3, PROS-2.6)

GOAL D: PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THE SAN RAFAEL PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

POLICY D. 1 – Incorporate environmental justice and social equity as key elements in the operation and planning of San Rafael’s park and recreation network (EDI-2.5)

- ❖ Action D.1.1 – Ensure that San Rafael’s park and recreation programs and facilities are safe, inclusive, culturally relevant, and welcoming to everyone, with particular emphasis paid to communities that have been excluded from recreational programming (PROS-2.1)
- ❖ Action D.1.2 - Develop strategies and policies to ensure access to San Rafael’s recreation programs is proportionally affordable based on income
- ❖ Action D.1.3 – Consider how resource allocation decisions can reduce historic and current inequities and address the most critical community needs in future planning processes for the San Rafael park and recreation system (EDI-4.1, EDI-4.2)
- ❖ Action D.1.4 – Support equitable distribution of parks and recreation amenities, prioritizing high density neighborhoods and areas where homes lack outdoor living space (EDI-2.2A, PROS-1.3A)
- ❖ Action D.1.5 – Pursue authentic community engagement in planning processes that share power, recognize and celebrate differences, and ensure inclusion (EDI-1, PROS-1.4B)