



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 19, 2020

TO: Christine Daniel, City Manager

FROM: Brad Helfenberger, Parks and Recreation Committee

SUBJECT: **Parks and Recreation Committee's Annual Report On Committee Goals, Principles And Accomplishments For Calendar Year 2019; And Proposed Committee Priorities For Calendar Year 2020**

COMMITTEE GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

The Parks and Recreation Committee advises on the improvement and maintenance of the City's parks, green spaces and recreation programs. We strive to improve access for Emeryville residents to park space, increase recreational opportunities for the local community, and improve the variety and quality of park and recreation experiences in Emeryville. Additionally, given the City's Climate Action Plan, we must anticipate how current parklands may be affected by rising sea levels and how to plan in anticipation of this.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019

- Secured funding for Davenport Park
- Reviewed proposed Park Space at Onni Project
- Explored the usage of CalTrans Right of Way as park space
- Recommended the closure of Doyle Street between 61st and 62nd Streets to connect the two parks on either side
- Recommended the City Council consider a park bond
- Recommended additional signage at the dog park next to Parc on Powell Apartments
- Initiated discussions of improvements at Stanford Avenue Park
- Prioritized installation of rip rap at Point Emery
- Provided feedback and prioritization of the CIP regarding parks
- Added a City Council Liaison and reorganized the committee in efforts to recruit additional members
- Recommended updates to the Municipal Code regarding dogs in parks.

TOP PRIORITIES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020

- Prioritize CIP Projects that include new and expanded park spaces and improve and maintain existing park spaces

- Expansion of park spaces in Emeryville with the goal of improving the ratio of park acres to residents and other users
- Increase awareness of available parks and open spaces including privately owned public open spaces by creating better maps and signage and other efforts
- Complete playground improvements at Davenport Park
- Explore potential improvements at Stanford Park, including conducting a Community workshop
- Evaluate and update Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan
- Advise the Community Services Department on events and programming
- Identify funding mechanisms for future park spaces
- Eradicate foxtails to become a more animal-friendly city

First Highlighted Priority

Prioritize CIP Projects that improve and maintain existing park spaces.

- There are currently no parks with playgrounds west of the I-80 Freeway. Davenport Park will have the first such playground in Emeryville and the Parks and Recreation Committee looks forward to this project being completed in 2020.
- The Committee also wants to identify new opportunities for park improvements for prioritization in the CIP.

Second Highlighted Priority

Evaluate and Update Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan: The Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan was finalized in 2011. Since then, several projects have been completed while the needs of the Community have changed. Our goal is to evaluate how the plan has been implemented thus far as well as to provide recommendations for future changes. Among those recommendations is looking at how park space is evenly distributed throughout the City.

CONCLUSION

As in previous years, we continue to emphasize that, as the population of Emeryville increases, we need to identify funding options for expansion of our park system. We have an immediate and growing need to acquire additional park space. The demographics of Emeryville are changing and we are now seeing more families living in the City. Identifying new park space will be crucial to meet these needs.

PREPARED BY: Brad Helfenberger, Recreation Manager

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CD', is written above a horizontal line.

Christine Daniel, City Manager