



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 13, 2021
TO: Christine Daniel, City Manager
FROM: Pedro Jimenez, Community Services Director
SUBJECT: Report To The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville Of Recommendations Made By The Parks and Recreation Committee For Council Consideration

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that City Council receive this report from the Parks and Recreation Committee and provide direction to staff on action or further committee consideration of specific items as desired. Potential direction could include referral to a planned or ongoing planning process such as the Capital Improvement Program; referral to another committee like the Transportation Committee for further review; or acceptance and filing for future Council consideration.

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Committee consists of seven members of the Emeryville community; it meets monthly to provide input and recommendations related to the City's recreation programs, cultural events, and activities; public use of parks; development of new parks and enhancements to existing parks and recreation facilities, as outlined in the Park and Recreation Strategic Plan.

DISCUSSION

This report on Parks and Recreation Committee recommendations covers motions made at the May and June 2021 meetings.

On May 19, 2021 the Committee recommended the City Council consider Stanford Park and Beaudry Street under the Village Green Project of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), consider the closure of Beaudry Street in the block next to Stanford Park, solicit community feedback with timelines and include as a future CIP project.

On June 16, 2021, the Committee recommended the City Council consider Nature Play areas and equipment for City Playgrounds and Open Spaces. The Committee feels strongly that the effect of nature play on health and development is very positive. Below are some summary findings from a study looking at the effects on 2 to 12-year-olds:

- 1) "Nature play had consistent positive impacts on physical activity outcomes and cognitive play behaviors (imaginative and dramatic play)."

2) "The synthesis of the findings [across 16 studies] suggests that nature play may have a positive impact on a range of children's health and developmental outcomes—specifically, physical activity, health-related fitness, motor skill, cognitive learning, social and emotional development."

3) "It was consistently highlighted that nature play had positive impacts on developmental outcomes for children, particularly in the cognitive domains of imagination, creativity and dramatic play. Imagination, creativity and dramatic play are important aspects of child development as they help children develop a sense of the world around them by allowing them to develop complex thinking skills, emotional intelligence and social skills."

"Studies were included if the exposure or intervention involved unstructured, free play within nature (forest, green spaces, outdoors, gardens) and included natural elements (highly vegetated, rocks, mud, sand, gardens, forests and ponds or water)."

Staff is requesting Council direction with respect to the recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Committee set forth above.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are unidentified capital and maintenance costs, as well as staff resource impacts, associated with the actions recommended by the Parks and Recreation Committee. There is no fiscal impact from reporting the actions to Council.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

This reporting process has been discussed several times at Parks and Recreation Committee meetings.

CONCLUSION

This is the first of a regular series of similar reports to Council from the Parks and Recreation Committee.

PREPARED BY: Pedro Jimenez, Community Services Department

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



Christine Daniel, City Manager