



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2004

ITEM NUMBER: 9d

SUBJECT: FAIRVIEW PARK ANNUAL REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 2004

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION BY: WILLIAM J. MORRIS, ACTING FAIRVIEW PARK PLAN ADMINISTRATOR

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: WILLIAM J. MORRIS AT 714-754-5343

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the goals for fiscal year 2004 and approve expenditures as indicated in the Fiscal Review Section of this report.

BACKGROUND:

At the October 19, 1998 meeting the City Council approved a motion adopting Council Policy 500-11, which provides direction for the implementation of Fairview Park Master Plan. The policy was updated on July 17, 2000, and again on January 9, 2003 (Attachment A).

Item "D" of the policy requires that in December of each year, the Public Services Department send the Parks and Recreation Commission an annual report describing progress that has been made on the implementation of the Master Plan and to describe the efforts to be taken in the following year. This is being brought forward in November in case of the possibility of no meeting in December.

This report utilizes the most recent update of the Fairview Park Master Plan as revised by City Council on November 18, 2002 (Attachment B).

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

The following is a brief discussion of the progress made this year on the implementation of the Master Plan and staff goals for the year 2005:

I. Year 2004 Accomplishments

A) Update on Fairview Park Friends & Fundraising Committee

The City Council established the Fairview Park Friends and Fundraising Committee to raise funds to implement some of the Master Plan elements of the park, and to gain community support and greater awareness of the park. The Committee, which first met in December 2000, has raised \$11,642 so far, with \$3,982 currently raised in 2004, as compared to \$4,958 raised in 2003, and \$2,702 in 2002.

Annual Friends and fundraising events include Earth Day Park Clean-up in April; the “Paws Around the Park” dog event in May; the “Park-O-Rama” kite exhibition, user group display, and a barbeque in July, in conjunction with Recreation’s Concert in the Park series; and Lounge Chair Theatre in October. The latter was again an unqualified success this year with over 350 attendees, even with the threat of rain.

The Committee has sought ways to educate the public on Fairview Park and the adopted Master Plan. Quarterly newsletters continue to be created by the Committee members and printed/distributed by the City. The latest volume has just been completed and mailed to over 400 “friends.” Additionally, informational brochures in English and Spanish have been created and continue to be updated and distributed. A website, www.cmfairviewpark.org, continues to be maintained by several Committee members. The staff liaison has also created and maintains the Fairview Park Friends Hotline [(714) 754-5698] to provide updated information to the community.

The Committee has also conducted quarterly meetings, inviting the public to learn more about the Committee, Fairview Park, and to encourage support. The next quarterly meeting will be in December. Additionally, park tours for the public continue to occur on a regular basis.

All activities and events are announced in press releases, on the Friends’ web page of the City’s website, on the hotline, in the Recreation brochures, at various Friends and other City events, on the Fairgrounds’ reader board, and through the schools.

B) Design and working drawings for Planning Areas A, C, and D (west side)

The City of Costa Mesa approved a contract with David Evans and Associates (DEA) to assist staff in refining Planning Areas A, C, and D (Attachment C), and developing design standards and working drawings. This task has been completed. Presently the cost for construction of Planning Areas A, C, and D is estimated at 10 million dollars, which includes a five-year maintenance period to establish native grasses and plant material. Funding opportunities that have been identified and that are being explored for these improvements include grants, donations, and mitigation credits.

C) Concept Plans for Planning Area E

David Evans and Associates (DEA) also provided schematic designs for Planning Area E, which included a parking lot to meet the requirements of the Coastal Conservancy grant, as well as a picnic shelter and restroom building. In addition, DEA designed a bus drop-off area within the existing parking area for safe bus circulation at the park.

D) Placentia Drain/Seasonal Creek Community

A consultant environmental/landscape firm was hired by the City to begin preliminary design and concept plans for the “Seasonal Creek Community” area of Fairview Park, located within Planning Areas A and C. This Seasonal Creek Community will generally follow the path of the historic “Placentia Drain” in the northwestern part of the park.

On July 28, 2004, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the concept plans for the Seasonal Creek Community/Placentia Drain Wetlands. This area will be maintained year-round by drawing water from the Santa Ana River and/or Greenville/Banning Channel, and encompasses approximately 20 to 22 acres. A planting palette for the areas was also approved.

E) Vernal Pools

One of the Park's biggest natural assets are the seven vernal pool basins, with the federally endangered San Diego Fairy Shrimp being found in basins 1, 2 and 3. In order to maximize the vernal pool's abilities to be healthy and support the natural habitat, the Master Plan allows for restoration of these pools. In October, 2003, the Segerstrom Company renovated vernal pool basins 1, 2, 3, and 4 as part of the mitigation credits. Cost for the construction and a five-year monitoring program is \$80,000. City staff has installed signs in the area of the pools to provide information about the sensitive nature of the area.

F) Multi-purpose Trail

This trail connects the east and west side of the park. The City was awarded a grant in the amount of \$234,000 for construction of the multi-purpose trail. The City is required to provide a match of \$100,000. The design work was completed and approved by State and Federal agencies who are providing grant funds.

G) Bluff Study

A consultant study was completed this past year with four specific engineering solutions to a more environmentally friendly solution, which staff will be addressing with the design of Planning Area F and Bluff restoration projects.

H) Talbert Park - County of Orange

Staff has worked with Harbor Beaches and Park Rangers at Talbert Park to co-ordinate design and interface of both parks, including potential design studies for Area F and the Bluffs.

I) Orange County Model Engineers (east side)

Staff has worked with State Fish and Game and OCME to co-ordinate this project. The approved expansion of approximately 2150 feet of track and 300 feet of sidings by OCME has been completed. Staff is currently reviewing a proposal by OCME to modify the existing train maintenance/storage area. Train rides are still provided on the third weekend of the month, with attendance figures for the first ten months at 26,828.

J) Orange Coast River Park

The Fairview Park Plan Administrator was appointed to be the City's liaison with the Friends of Harbor Beaches and Parks (FHBP). Staff has attended a number of their board meetings and has explored grants for the Orange Coast River Park (OCRCP) and Fairview Park by meeting with State Fish and Game in San Diego and Sacramento. A "Management Coalition Subcommittee" of the FHBP has recently been formed to develop the functions of the OCRCP.

K) Placentia Avenue Bridge

In June 2004, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the concept 'plans' for a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over Placentia Avenue to connect the two sides of the park. On October 18, 2004, City Council approved a contract for final design of the bridge.

L) Mitigation Monitoring

The Fairview Park Master Plan requires implementation of mitigation measures that were adopted as part of the Master Plan Environmental Approval. The Public Services Department, in conjunction with the Development Services Department, is keeping records to prove compliance with the mitigation measures as projects are constructed. These mitigation

measures include archeological areas, biological monitoring of any construction within Fairview Park, including construction of a new spur track for the Orange County Model Engineers, annual weed abatement, and restoration of the Vernal Pools.

M) Park Amenities and Signage

In July 2004, six (6) interpretive signs were installed in various areas within Fairview Park. In addition, three (3) new park benches, five (5) new waste receptacles, and five (5) new "Rules and Regulations" signs were placed in the western part of the park. All benches, receptacles, and sign posts are made of 100 percent recycled plastic materials.

N) Erosion Control and Protection

In May of 2004, City maintenance crews placed large boulders in a natural ravine near the north side of the "bluff" area. The placement of these boulders is meant to discourage bicycle riding in the area, which has previously caused a denuding of the vegetation in and around the ravine. (Bicycle riding is only allowed on certain approved trails within the park.)

Attached please find photographs of some recently installed improvements in Fairview Park (Attachment D).

II. Year 2005 Goals

Staff proposes the following goals for the coming year:

1. Planning Area F Feasibility Study – A feasibility study of this area is needed to assure that it is environmentally friendly to the park and will eliminate drainage issues to adjacent residents.
2. Multi-purpose Trail – City staff will advertise this project for bids in early 2005, with construction occurring in the spring/early summer of 2005.
3. Placentia Bridge – A grant in the amount of \$180,000 has been received to assist in the construction of the bridge. Advertising for construction bids will occur in the spring of 2005, with construction occurring in the summer/fall of 2005.
4. Placentia Drain Master Plan – Staff will hire a consultant to prepare final plans and specifications for the Placentia Drain to create a Wetlands-Riparian/Riverine area that will compliment the park and naturally clean run-off water prior to entering the Santa Ana River.

Grants – Mitigation Credits

Staff will continue to research grants, mitigation credits private/public partnerships to fund development of the Coastal Scrub area in the northwestern part of the park, as well as completion/expansion of the Vernal Pools and Planning Area F in the southwest part of the park.

Fiscal Review

As of November 1, 2004, the remaining unencumbered appropriation in the Fairview Park project accounts is approximately \$1,245,000. This figure includes grants and donations in the amount of \$517,000 that have been received for certain Fairview Park improvements. These grants consist of an OCTA grant in the amount of \$215,000 for construction of multi-purpose trails, a Bridge grant for \$180,000, and donations in the amount of \$100,000 (from the Segerstrom Company), and \$22,000 (from Standard Pacific Homes) towards the design and construction of the Placentia Drain Riparian Area for Fairview Park. Included also is \$85,000 of available funds from the Landscape Demonstration Project.

For the upcoming year, staff proposes funding distributions be allocated as follows:

1. Feasibility Study Area 'F' southwest portion of Fairview Park (this design is integral to the design and construction of Planning Areas A, C, and D).	\$65,000
2. City match and the Transportation Enhancement Act (TEA) grant for multi-purpose trail construction	\$300,000
3. City match and the TDM grant for construction of pedestrian/bicycle bridge over Placentia Ave.	\$380,000
4. Placentia Drain Riparian Area Final Design Plans	<u>\$490,000</u>
	Total = <u>\$1,235,000</u>

Legal Review

There is no legal review required in this item.

Conclusion

As required by City Council Policy 500-11, this report provides an update on the progress that has been made on the implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan over the past year, and is also recommending goals and financial considerations for the year 2005.

Howard Perkins
Acting Administrative Services Director

William J. Morris
Director of Public Services

Attachments: A - [Council Policy 500-11](#)
 B - [Master Plan](#)
 C - [Fairview Park Planning Areas](#)
 D - [Photographs of Recent Improvements](#)

Distribution: City Council
 Fairview Park Friends and Fundraising Committee
 Allan L. Roeder, City Manager
 Steve Hayman, Assistant City Manager
 William J. Morris, Public Services Director
 Jana Ransom, Recreation Manager
 Ernesto Munoz, City Engineer
 Carol Proctor, Management Analyst
 Kyle Quatman, Engineering Intern