



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2011

ITEM NUMBER: 10g

SUBJECT: FAIRVIEW PARK ANNUAL REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 2011

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT/ENGINEERING DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: BART MEJIA, PARKS PROJECT MANAGER, 714.754.5291

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ROBERT STAPLES, CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR,
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RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Fairview Park Master Plan goals for 2012.

BACKGROUND

At the October 19, 1998 meeting the City Council adopted Council Policy 500-11 (Attachment 1), which provides direction for the implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan. The Fairview Park Master Plan was updated on July 17, 2000, revised on January 9, 2003, and updated in November 2008 (Attachment 2).

Item "D" of the policy requires the Department of Public Services to submit an annual report to the Parks and Recreation Commission in December of each year discussing any progress that has been made on the implementation of the Master Plan, and to describe the efforts and plans for the following year. Since the Parks and Recreation Commission does not meet in December (due to Council action), staff is bringing this item forward in November of each year.

ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

The following is a brief discussion of the progress made this past year on the implementation of the Master Plan in 2011 and staff goals for 2012:

1. 2011 Accomplishments

A) Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project

The City Council, on September 6, 2005, awarded a contract to Moffat and Nichol Consultants for the design of a water delivery system to treat dry weather flows and for the creation of approximately 35 acres of wetlands and riparian habitat along the Placentia Drain connecting to the Fairview Channel.

The project has been designed in three phases and construction of Phase I was completed in 2009. After the contractor maintained and established the plantings for one year, the City took ownership of the site on September 2010. Phase I included the planting and establishment of 17 acres of riparian habitat, grading, and excavation. The project was funded with \$1,409,900 from United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the City's Habitat Conservation Fund Grant and match of \$460,000.

Staff was successful in securing a \$2,000,000 grant from the OCTA M2 Freeway Mitigation Program, \$225,000 from the California Department of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF), and \$350,000 from the Miocean Foundation for funding to complete Phase II of the project. OCRP Inc. has also donated an amount of approximately \$40,000 for the installation of irrigation for their southern tarplant mitigation project as outlined in Section E below. Phase II construction began in July by the City's contractor Landforms Construction. Improvements include the completion of the wetland ponds, the planting of 23 acres of native habitat, and a 12 ft. wide multipurpose trail. Construction is scheduled to be completed in July 2012.

Staff has submitted a grant application in the amount of \$1,500,000 to the State of California's Prop 84 River Parkways Grant Program for the completion of Phase III. Phase III includes the construction of an outdoor interpretive area, wetlands overlook, trails, signage, and a picnic area.

B) Headlands LLC Mitigation Project- Coastal Sage Scrub Restoration

The City entered into an agreement in 2005 with Headlands, LLC, and their contractor Natures Image, to restore 11 acres of coastal sage scrub in the northwest corner of the park. Headlands, LLC is funding the entire restoration project and five-year monitoring of the site (estimated cost for this work is \$1,000,000) as mitigation for impacts occurring at their Headlands Project in Dana Point. Eradication of non-native plants began in May 2006 and all container plants were installed in August 2006. Seed was spread in November 2006.

In July 2010 staff received the third year annual restoration monitoring report from Natures Image, Inc. The site has met and exceeded native species cover standards during the first three years. The City took ownership of the improvements in 2011. Irrigation was discontinued and the site is self sustaining.

C) Harbor Soaring Society (HSS)

For over thirty years, HSS has been using a portion of Fairview Park to fly radio-controlled aircrafts. In the mid 1980's, the southern portion of Fairview Park at the northern end of Canyon Drive was developed as a flying field. This area was designated as the launch/land site for silent flyers in the approved Fairview Park Master Plan

Staff and this Commission have completed a permit process for the flying of model aircrafts at Fairview Park. The permit process began in 2007 and has been very successful. In 2011, approximately 290 permits were issued for the flying of model aircrafts at Fairview Park.

D) Orange County Model Engineers (OCME)/Fairview Park East

Staff has worked with the OCME in an effort to plan and implement a number of capital improvement projects within the train yard and surrounding train facilities. A Master Plan of the OCME facility was prepared and approved by this Commission on January 26, 2005. The OCME Master Plan included near-term (to be completed within two years) projects as well as long-range projects to be completed within ten years. In 2011 OCME completed a portion of their master plan by adding approximately 200 ft. of track. OCME provided over 35,000 train rides to the public over the past 12 month period.

E) Orange Coast River Park (OCRP)

Staff continues to attend Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks/OCRP meetings. Meetings include neighboring cities and other involved parties, and discussion takes place on the implementation, uses, marketing, and management of the proposed 1000-acre Orange Coast River Park, which includes Fairview Park. The OCRP committee has incorporated

and become OCRP, Inc. which will allow them to seek funding for the proposed park, and to manage the improvements. The cities of Newport Beach, Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, and the County of Orange are involved in the process.

OCRP, Inc. and the City have entered into an agreement for the restoration of 1-acre of southern tarplant in Fairview Park. OCRP will fund a portion of the irrigation system in the lower northern portion of the wetlands project and be responsible for the planting and maintenance of the restored native habitat.

F) Multi Purpose Trail

Staff and CNC Engineering have completed the design of a multi-purpose trail in the lower northern portion of the park. The trail will connect Placentia Avenue with the Santa Ana River Trail. This project is funded by a \$256,000 grant from the California Department of Recreation's Recreational Trail program, a grant from OCTA/Caltrans Transportation enhancement Program in the amount of \$500,000 and \$64,000 of City Park Development Funds. Trail construction will be completed in July 2012.

F) Vernal Pool

Staff received an \$8,500 grant from the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project to repair the user defined path bisecting the 3.75 acre vernal pool. A biologist was hired to collect inoculum to revegetate the path in the vernal pool and install educational signage around the vernal pool fence. Staff also developed a brochure with the grant funding to distribute to the public during park tours. The grant will be closed out in 2011.

2. 2012 Goals

Staff proposes the following goals for the coming year:

1. Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project- Complete construction of Phase II.
2. Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail along the Fairview Channel- Complete construction of the multipurpose trail.
3. Mitigation Credits – Staff will continue to pursue restoration and development through negotiating mitigation opportunities with private/public partnerships.
4. Grants – Staff will continue to research and apply for grant opportunities, which support funding elements of the Fairview Park Master Plan.

FISCAL REVIEW

As of October 22, 2011, the remaining unencumbered appropriation in the Fairview Park project accounts is \$44,000. For the upcoming year, staff proposes funding distributions be allocated as follows:

| Project No. | Description | Amount |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Construction and Grant Application/Grant Match | \$25,000 |
| 2 | Master Plan Consultant Services | \$19,000 |
| Total | | \$44,000 |

LEGAL REVIEW

There is no legal review required with this item.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan continues as funding and/or resources become available. 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 as well as sets goals for the year 2012.

Ernesto Munoz, Interim Director
Public Services Department

Bart Mejia
Parks Project Manager

Attachments: 1- [Council Policy 500-11](#)
2- [Fairview Park Master Plan](#)

c: Chief Executive Officer
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