



City of Santa Barbara

Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: October 19, 2022

TO: Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Improvement Program
Citizen Advisory Committee

FROM: Cameron Benson, Creek Restoration/Clean Water Manager

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEARS 2024 – 2029 PROPOSED CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – FOR ACTION**

COMMITTEE DIRECTION

That the Committee receive a presentation about and discuss the proposed Creeks Division Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 – 2029, and recommend that the City Administrator forward the proposed program to the City Council for review and approval as part of the FY 2024-25 financial plan.

DISCUSSION

Background

The Creeks Division has an extensive Capital Improvement Program that funds a broad range of creek restoration and water quality improvement projects and programs. The capital program is funded through Measure B revenue and grants.

Every budget cycle, the City prepares a six-year capital program. The intent of the six-year capital program is to estimate capital project schedules, milestones, and funding needs. Funding proposals in the capital program are reviewed and adopted annually within each budget cycle. This provides the opportunity to add new projects, change funding allocations, revise project schedules, and re-allocate funds among projects, if necessary. The City Council reviews the capital program as part of the budget approval process.

Existing Creeks Division Capital Program

As shown in the table below, the Creeks Division currently has 15 projects in the capital program. The projects are currently in planning, design, permitting, and implementation stages.

Fiscal Year 2023 Creeks Division Capital Projects

Project	Status
1. Bacterial Reduction Program	Research and Monitoring Plan sampling in progress. Evaluating potential locations and implementing storm water treatment projects in public right of way.
2. Storm Water Treatment Retrofit Projects	Analyze potential storm water treatment retrofit sites on public property including parks, buildings, and right-of-ways.
3. Las Positas Creek Restoration	Evaluating potential restoration and water quality improvement projects in the Las Positas Valley.
4. Arroyo Burro Open Space Restoration	Phase II construction was completed during the past year.
5. Arroyo Burro Restoration at Palermo Drive	Project scoping is underway.
6. San Roque Creek Restoration Program	Initial funding proposed in FY 25.
7. Mid-Arroyo Burro Restoration	Site selection, technical studies, and conceptual design are anticipated to begin in FY 24.
8. Lighthouse Creek Restoration	Initial funding proposed in FY 26.
9. Upper Mission Creek Restoration	Evaluating potential restoration and water quality improvement projects along upper Mission Creek.

10. Mission Creek Restoration at Oak Park	Final design is currently underway.
11. Lower Mission Creek Restoration	Conceptual design is currently underway.
12. Rattlesnake Creek Restoration	Evaluating potential restoration and water quality improvement projects along Rattlesnake Creek.
13. Old Mission Creek Restoration at West Figueroa Street	Design anticipated to resume in FY 24.
14. Sycamore Creek Restoration	Site selection, technical studies, and conceptual design are anticipated to begin in FY 24.
15. Andrée Clark Bird Refuge Restoration	Primary project implementation currently underway.

Proposed Creeks FY 2024 – FY 2029 Capital Improvement Program

A number of factors were considered in the preparation of the proposed Creeks Division capital program. These include:

- Recommendations from community members, Creeks Advisory Committee members, Creek Inventory and Assessment Study, and the Watershed Existing Conditions Technical Study for new capital projects.
- Consistency with Measure B and the adopted Creeks Program Funding Guidelines.
- Water quality research and monitoring results.
- Potential funding from private foundations, ballot initiatives, and state and federal grants.
- Expected completion of some projects, and achievement of significant project milestones.
- Need to begin setting aside funds for future construction, as well as capital infrastructure replacement and repair.

In addition to the above considerations, the availability of staff resources and opportunities for collaboration with other agencies and private land owners plays a significant role in the development and prioritization of the proposed capital program.

The proposed FY 24 – FY 29 Capital Improvement Program includes the continuation of several existing projects. Funding is proposed in anticipation of moving projects forward through outreach, planning, design, permitting, and construction. In many cases, projects are considered long-term, and funding levels vary depending on anticipated progress or the need to bank funds in preparation for construction. Grant funding will be needed to fully implement the capital program within the proposed schedule. Specific grant sources have not been identified for all projects.

FY 2024 – FY 2029 Capital Project Descriptions

There are 15 capital projects proposed in the FY 24 – FY 29 Capital Improvement Program. The projects include the following:

Bacterial Reduction Program: The purpose of this project is to design and install targeted water quality treatment projects (such as dry weather diversions, drywells, vegetated swales, infiltration chambers, hardscape removal, and active treatment) to reduce the discharge of polluted water to creeks in Santa Barbara. Funding for the next 6-year capital program will allow for the development of four to five new projects (design, permitting, and construction). Grant funds could assist with project construction costs.

Storm Water Treatment Retrofit Projects (LID): The purpose of this project is to design and construct "Low Impact Development" (storm water and urban runoff treatment) demonstration projects on City-owned properties including buildings, parks, and right of ways, to improve creek and ocean water quality. Construction of a storm water treatment project in Bohnett Park was completed during the past year. Future Storm Water Treatment Retrofit Project locations will be identified in FY 24 - 25.

Mid-Arroyo Burro Restoration: The purpose of this project is to restore a reach of the riparian corridor in the mid-Arroyo Burro watershed (between Highway 101 and Foothill Road). Restoration could include acquisition, removal of hard structures from the creek channel, non-native weed removal and revegetation with native plants, biotechnical stabilization of creek banks, and improvement of trails and interpretive information.

San Roque Creek Restoration: The purpose of this project is to restore a section of San Roque Creek. Restoration could include non-native weed removal and revegetation with native plants, biotechnical stabilization of eroding banks, removal of hard structures from the creek channel, and improvement of trails and interpretive information.

Arroyo Burro Restoration at Palermo Drive: The purpose of this project is to implement a restoration project on the Arroyo Burro riparian corridor at the terminus of Palermo

Drive. This reach of Arroyo Burro experiences bank erosion and extensive areas of non-native vegetation. Funds will be utilized for planning, design, environmental review, permitting, and implementation of a restoration project.

Las Positas Creek Restoration Project: The purpose of this project is to design and implement a creek restoration/water quality improvement project in the Las Positas Valley. Existing and new capital funds, combined with potential grant funds will provide adequate funding to undertake the outreach, planning, acquisition, design, technical studies, environmental review, and construction of this project.

Lower Arroyo Burro Restoration: The purpose of this project is to restore a reach of the riparian corridor in the lower-Arroyo Burro watershed (between Cliff Drive and Modoc Road). Restoration could include acquisition, removal of hard structures from the creek channel, non-native weed removal and revegetation with native plants, biotechnical stabilization of creek banks, and improvement of trails and interpretive information.

Lighthouse Creek Restoration: The purpose of this project is to restore a section of Lighthouse Creek. Restoration could include non-native weed removal and revegetation with native plants, biotechnical stabilization of eroding banks, removal of hard structures from the creek channel, and improvement of trails and interpretive information.

Upper Mission Creek Restoration: The purpose of this project is to restore a reach of the riparian corridor in the upper Mission Creek watershed (upstream of the State Street Bridge). Restoration could include acquisition, removal of hard structures from the creek channel, removal of steelhead passage barriers, non-native weed removal and revegetation with native plants, biotechnical stabilization of creek banks, and improvement of trails and interpretive information.

Rattlesnake Creek Restoration: The purpose of this project is to restore a section of Rattlesnake Creek. Restoration could include non-native weed removal and revegetation with native plants, removal of steelhead passage barriers, biotechnical stabilization of eroding banks, removal of hard structures from the creek channel, and improvement of trails and interpretive information.

Mission Creek Restoration at Oak Park: The purpose of this project is to restore the section of Mission Creek in Oak Park. Restoration will likely include non-native weed removal and revegetation with native plants, biotechnical stabilization of eroding banks, removal/relocation of concrete structures from the creek bed and banks, and interpretive information. Final design was initiated during FY 23, and construction is anticipated in FY 24.

Lower Mission Creek Restoration: The purpose of this project is to restore a section of lower Mission Creek. Restoration will include acquisition, non-native weed removal and revegetation with native plants, removal of steelhead passage barriers, biotechnical

stabilization of eroding banks, removal of hard structures from the creek channel, and interpretive information.

Old Mission Creek at West Figueroa: This project has two primary objectives: 1) to develop a storm water detention system to reduce bacteria, sediment, and other pollutants in storm water in Old Mission Creek; and 2) to restore and enhance the riparian habitat adjacent to Old Mission Creek.

Sycamore Creek Restoration: The purpose of this project is to develop a restoration project for Sycamore Creek. Restoration could include property acquisition, non-native weed removal and revegetation with native plants, biotechnical stabilization of eroding banks, removal of hard structures from the creek area, and improvement of trails and interpretive information.

Andrée Clark Bird Refuge Water Quality Improvement and Habitat Restoration: The goals of this project are to improve water quality, wildlife habitats (aquatic/avian), aesthetics, and reduce odors while maintaining flood protection at the Bird Refuge. Primary project implementation is currently underway, with minor improvements, operational testing, and infill planting anticipated over the next year.

cc: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director