



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 27, 2022

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Director's Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission receive a presentation on the status of various Parks and Recreation Department (Department) initiatives and activities.

DISCUSSION:

Summer Camp Registration

After two years of limited and modified summer camps, the Department announced that summer camps will return to normal operations for Summer 2022 with registration opening on Tuesday, April 5 for Junior Guards and Wednesday, April 6 for general registration. Summer Camp registration opened very strong, with 1,921 registrations and \$612,609 in revenue over the first two days, surpassing last year's opening day of 1,816 completed registrations and \$557,246 in revenue. The Department continues to monitor registration in each camp, using marketing emails, social media, and publication in local summer camp guides to help raise awareness of our programs and draw new customers.

The Department will offer a wide range of camps at locations throughout the City, including full- and part-day offerings and counselor-in-training programs. Camps this summer include long-time favorites such as Nature Camp, Junior Guards, Beach Volleyball, Swim and Tennis, Ceramics, and Theater Camps; as well as swimming lessons and new hits such as Lobster Jo's Beach Camp, Trapeze Camp, and Water Polo Camp.

This year the Department is continuing its longstanding partnership with the Police Activities League to administer 154 scholarships for camps to allow lower-income families the ability to participate in camps, and the Department's Drop-in Recreation Program, also known as "Summer FUN," will start registration on April 25. Summer FUN is a low-cost drop-in summer day program at both Franklin and Washington Elementary Schools with no charge for participation beyond a \$25 registration fee that covers the entire summer. The program will provide 8-weeks of fantastic programming for families who cannot afford traditional camps.

State Trails Day

The City of Santa Barbara Parks, County of Santa Barbara Parks, and local trail volunteer groups hosted a volunteer trail maintenance work project on the Cold Springs Ridge Trail on Saturday, April 9. The 25 participants were from the two agencies, Montecito Trails Foundation, Los Padres Forest Association, and Santa Barbara Trail Volunteers, along with some other returning volunteers and first time attendees, including four local youth with parents and grandparent.

The focus of the trail work was blocking off some unsafe user created trails. Volunteers used downed tree limbs and boulders from the immediate areas to block them. Additional work included restoring rutted and worn sections of the trail, cleaning out water diversion features on a half-mile of trail, and clearing two minor slides and restoring that portion of the trail.

The hard working trail workers enjoyed lunch after the event at Cold Spring Elementary School near the trailhead. The Department appreciates and thanks all the volunteers for their help working on this very busy local Santa Barbara trail.

Easter Egg Hunt

After a two-year hiatus in holding the annual Easter EGGstravaganza due to COVID 19, the Department partnered with Santa Barbara Golf Club in hosting their 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt this past Saturday, April 16, from 2:00-4:00 pm. The event at the Golf Club was a free community event with no RSVP necessary, and included egg hunts for ages 0-2, 3-5, and 6-12, as well as exciting activities such as a bounce house, face painting, corn hole, music, snag golf, and tours of Santa Barbara Police Mobile Command.

The Department provided 8,000 candy-filled eggs donated by our partners, Santa Barbara Firefighters Association and the Santa Barbara Police Officers Association. The event was well attended with hundreds of Santa Barbara community members enjoying the fun filled activities.

Turf Renovations

The Parks Division began turf quality improvement projects throughout the parks system. Last month, the Division completed a project to renovate the turf at Ambassador Park and has now moved on to La Mesa Park. These renovations reduce rodent populations, even out divots and low spots, improve irrigation coverage, and enhance the health of the soil and grass. Renovations will continue over the next two fiscal years with City Council approved ARPA funding.

APPROVED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director