



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2024
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.

Trail Maintenance Days

On Saturday June 8th, the Parks Division partnered with Montecito Trails Foundation, SAGE Trail Alliance, Los Padres Forest Association, and the US Forest Service to host a volunteer trail maintenance workday on San Ysidro Trail. San Ysidro Trail has been closed for the past year and a half due to slides and erosion damage. The workday focused on cleaning and clearing the trail corridor of loose debris, soil, and rock, stabilizing any areas eroded. Volunteers scraped and cleared water division features, pruned, weed whipped, and removed grasses and annual plants to keep the trail and trail corridor clear to meet standards for safe use of equestrians, hikers, runners, and bikers. Thirty-six people attended this event, providing 200 volunteer hours. Volunteers worked in small groups with trained crew leaders and experienced trail volunteers. Together they worked on .75 miles of trail. Following their work, volunteers and workers enjoyed a lunch at Toro Canyon County Park provided by the Montecito Trails Foundation.

Those interested can contact the Parks Division at (805) 564-5433 for ongoing trail maintenance opportunities as well as subscribe volunteer newsletter at: <https://sbparksandrec.santabarbaraca.gov/activities/volunteer-opportunities>.

Junior Lifeguard Fiesta Competition

Santa Barbara Junior Lifeguard program is the area's longest running, operating since 1971, and serves hundreds of local youths each summer. One of the signature events is the Junior Lifeguard Fiesta Invitational Competition hosted by the Department, which returns to East Beach on Friday July 19. Hundreds of junior lifeguards ages 7-17 representing organizations from Santa Cruz to Newport Beach will compete in several events including, Distance Paddle, Distance Run, Distance Swim, Paddle Relay, Run-

Swim-Run, Run Relay, Beach Flags, and Taplin (swim, run, paddle) while also hoping to be selected to represent their agency during the Jr. Lifeguard State Championships in Los Angeles County the following week. The event, open to the public to attend, will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and include a variety of vendors and educational booths, including the Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab to share about sharks and beach safety, and the City Sustainability and Resiliency Department with activities to learn about the area's creeks as well as microplastic pollution.

4th of July

The Parks and Recreation and Waterfront Departments will host the annual Fourth of July Celebration, with a full day of festive family-friendly activities along Santa Barbara's waterfront. The event will include free live music and dance performances on West Beach and a street fair with festive food vendors. The celebration concludes with a 20-minute fireworks display. The City also partners with Santa Barbara Channelkeeper on July 5 to clean-up after the holiday to ensure no litter makes its way to the ocean.

Children's Fiesta Parade

Celebrating its 100th year, the 2024 Children's Fiesta Parade will take place along Cabrillo Boulevard on Saturday, August 3. The parade starts at 10 a.m. at Garden Street and ends near Milpas Street. The Children's Parade is a Fiesta favorite, and new families will join those who are multi-generational participants. At the parade's conclusion, all participants receive free ice cream courtesy of MarBorg Industries. Immediately following recent social media campaigns soliciting parade entries, there is much enthusiasm from participants to register and feature their colorful Spanish and Mexican costumes and music, as well as family non-motorized floats.

Semana Nautica

The Santa Barbara Semana Nautica Association is a non-profit organization that in partnership with the Department promotes athletic and recreational activity in Santa Barbara by organizing a summer sports festival featuring over a dozen different events around the 4th of July holiday. The Semana Nautica Summer Sports Festival is a Santa Barbara tradition dating back to 1933 when the local populace challenged the crew of five U.S. Navy battleships, moored outside the harbor, to a series of contests along the beach. Barbara's annual sports festival changes every year but has included activities such as ocean swimming, age group and masters swimming, ocean water polo, beach volleyball, running races and a beach biathlon, sailing regattas, paddling events, and a variety of lifeguard and junior lifeguard competition events. Participants of all ages and abilities are welcome and admission is always free for spectators.

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