



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 24, 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.

Parma Park Sustainable Trails Project

The Parma Park Sustainable Trails Project is now complete; a multi-phased effort to improve and expand the trail system in one of Santa Barbara's largest parks. Community members are encouraged to join staff in celebrating the completion of the project at an Opening Celebration and Hike on Thursday, July 25th at 4:30pm at the El Cielito entrance of the park. The community is encouraged to come out to the event to learn about the project before embarking on an optional guided half-mile walk through the restoration site. Starting at approximately 5:00 p.m., a more strenuous 2.5-mile hike will lead attendees through some of the park's newest trails. Nearly three miles of new trail and over four miles of restored trail now provide safer conditions for users while preserving the park's natural features for the future. In addition to trail work, the project also included habitat restoration to convert four acres of nonnative grassland to native scrub and grassland for wildlife and pollinators. The restoration efforts also included a shaded fuel break with oak trees to maintain defensible space around neighboring residential properties. The project was primarily funded by the Parma Park Trust, an endowment fund established by the Parma Family in 2002. Habitat restoration received additional funding from a State Coastal Conservancy grant.

Plaza Del Mar Band Shell

The Plaza del Mar Band Shell Renovation Project is nearing completion. The project included major structural repairs throughout the entire structure; a new roof with improved waterproofing design; repairs to the stage and exterior envelope; new electrical with updated stage and security lighting; a new wheelchair accessible ramp to the stage; a new paved path between the ramp and lawn seating area; and turf renovation of the surrounding grass. The Band Shell, a City Landmark, had severely deteriorated in

condition since its construction in 1919. The historic structure retains its original Mission Revival architecture style, as designed by Windsor Soule, and will bring back concerts, performances, festivals, and other cultural gatherings to one of Santa Barbara's oldest parks.

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