



Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION

FROM: Rafael Gomez

SUBJECT: GREENPRINT UPDATE

DATE: November 24, 2008

Approved

Date

This report provides information regarding the update of the Greenprint, the City's Twenty-Year Strategic Plan for Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Trails.

BACKGROUND

On September 5, 2000, the City Council adopted the Greenprint as a specific, community-supported action plan for the future development of parks, recreational facilities, and programs. The Greenprint is a document to guide City staff on planning and implementing a park and recreation system to support the livability of neighborhoods, offer opportunities for individuals to enjoy life and strengthen communities within the City of San José.

The update of the Greenprint will help to define the priorities for recreational projects over the next 11 years. The updated Greenprint will also include the outcomes of the current studies underway, including the Community Center Reuse Strategy, the Aquatics Master Plan, and the Sports Fields Study. This effort, along with community input, will be incorporated into a revised Action Plan.

ANALYSIS

Over the last couple of months staff has been refining the Vision and developing the Action Plan for the Updated document. A committee made up of internal staff was formed to develop a Vision statement for the department and for the Greenprint. The end result was the old Vision Statement became the department's Mission Statement and the new Vision statement is now "National leader in Parks and Recreation in cultivating healthy communities through quality programs and dynamic public spaces".

Staff initially developed an Action Plan that the Sub-Committee reviewed and indicated it was more of a "wish list" similar to the one in the Original document rather than a plan that was more realistic. As a result staff has revised the Action Plan and is proposing projects that can be delivered in the next five years. Projects/amenities in the outer years are not costed out for two reasons: 1) the City does not or will not have the necessary funding, thru the usual means, to deliver these projects and 2) the estimates developed today will be obsolete in a few years even if funding does become available. A new cost estimate will be completed when funding is secured,

a site is identified and a more defined scope is developed. Attached is a draft Action Plan for the Almaden Planning Area for discussion and feedback purposes.

Another financing mechanism will be needed in order to deliver the remaining projects (projects beyond five years), whether it is another bond measure, shifting and/or increasing the C&C, administering a parcel tax or raising the sales tax. Another factor in determining whether or not to go forward with a project is the operations and maintenance impacts of a project.

The goal of the revised Action Plan is to bring all of the Planning Areas up to par with the rest of the city. Each Planning Area should ideally have the following amenities; parks, trails, a dog park, a skatepark, a community garden, an aquatic facility, a community center, a gym, and “High Use” sports fields. Of the 12 Planning Areas, the Central/Downtown is the closest area to being complete, the only amenities it is lacking are a gym and “High Use” sports fields.

At the meeting we will be discussing and obtaining feedback on the items that are attached to this memo, specifically the Vision for the Greenprint, the ideal Planning Area and the draft Action Plan for Almaden.

NEXT STEPS

Continue working with staff and the Sub-Committee to complete the Action Plan and the Draft Document.

Rafael Gomez
Program Manager

Attachments:

- Revised one page summary of Guiding Principles, Vision, Mission, etc.
- Ideal Planning Area graphic
- Draft Action Plan for Almaden