



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 08/01/2023

ITEM NO: 13

DATE: July 10, 2023
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Receive the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Parks Commission Accomplishments and Provide Direction on the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Parks Commission accomplishments and provide direction on the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Work Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Los Gatos Parks Commission (Commission) consists of six adult members and one Youth Commission representative. The Commission is advisory to Town Council, receiving public input, evaluating options, and making recommendations on policy issues pertaining to public parks, off-street trails, open space, grounds, and street trees. The Commission meets six times per year on even-numbered months.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23, the Commission heard reports and provided guidance on the following items:

- Lyndon Bandstand Improvements
- Open Space Vegetation Management
- Volunteer Events
- Park Operations
- Holiday Events in Parks
- Pickleball at La Rinconada Park and Blossom Hill Park
- Capital Improvement Needs for Parks
- Parks Related Use Agreements
- Parks Related Portions of the Senior Services Road Map

PREPARED BY: Nicolle Burnham
Director, Parks and Public Works

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

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DISCUSSION:

At its meetings in April and June 2023, the Parks Commission discussed potential work plan items. Among the items discussed were:

1. Inventory of Park Assets – Evaluate existing amenities and potential future needs.
2. Trail Connectivity – Consider ways to connect trails between open space areas.
3. Street Tree Program – Develop an understanding of how this program functions, including the list of approved trees.
4. Meeting Schedule – Consider converting to a monthly meeting cycle to improve communication and outcomes.
5. Park Use Fees and Agreements – Reviewing use agreement terms and associated fees.
6. Pickleball and Tennis Court Usage and Requirements for Play – Evaluate options for reducing the impact on adjacent residents of pickleball play at La Rinconada Park. This may include changing the mode of play, limiting hours of play or identifying potential new court locations.
7. Art in Parks – Connecting with the Arts and Culture Commission to consider the addition of art in public parks to enhance the user experience.

In its discussion on June 5, 2023, the Parks Commission identified the priorities shown in Table 1 and proposes these as work plan items. The Commission did not recommend the “Inventory of Park Assets” and “Meeting Schedule” items for inclusion in the FY 2023/24 Work Plan.

Table 1. Parks Commission Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2023/24

Work Item	Proposed Commission Approach	Required Staff Support
Trail Connectivity	Formed Ad Hoc Committee for evaluation and research with reporting in June 2024	Periodic guidance / available mapping
Street Tree Program	Receive a staff report on the program	Prepare a staff report and presentation for Commission consideration
Park Use Fees and Agreements	Receive a staff report and determine next steps	Prepare a staff report and presentation for Commission consideration
Pickleball and Tennis Court Usage	Formed Ad Hoc Committee for evaluation and research with reporting in June 2024	Guide evaluation and discussions with pickleball players and Los Gatos Saratoga Recreation
Art in Parks	Coordinate with Arts and Culture Commission staff liaison	Coordinate / collaborate with staff liaison for Arts and Culture Commission

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CONCLUSION:

The Parks Commission looks forward to Council direction on its recommended work items in Table 1 as their FY 2023/24 Work Plan. Two, two-person Ad Hoc Committees were established to address the most pressing items, trail connectivity and pickleball/tennis court usage. If Council agrees, street trees, park use fees, and art would be brought to the Commission after staff prepares the necessary analysis and coordination with other Town staff.

COORDINATION:

This report was coordinated with the Parks Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this work plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.