



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE



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best in the nation

June 20, 2019

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the City Council the dedication or designation of eight (8) properties and recommend to the Planning Commission the dedication of an additional 20 properties that require further land use actions.

DISCUSSION

Protection of Parks for Public Open Space Use

The Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE) of the City's General Plan, adopted by the City Council on October 15, 2002, calls for formal dedication or designation of parkland so the acreage is preserved as parkland in perpetuity. Relevant policies of the OSRE include:

- 4.1 Inventory and analyze City-owned lands, blighted properties, and former oil drilling sites to identify parcels that can be converted to open space or parks and recreation uses.
- 4.2 Adopt a citywide ratio of eight acres of parkland for each 1,000 residents.
- 4.4 Formally dedicate all City owned parks and designate them to be preserved in perpetuity.
- 4.5 Require that any conversion of parkland be replaced amenity-for-amenity and acre-for-acre at a 2:1 ratio. One acre of replacement land shall be located in the park service area where the land was converted and an additional acre of replacement land shall be located in a park service area needing parkland – as determined by the Recreation Commission.¹

The City Charter states that the Parks and Recreation Commission shall have exclusive authority over all leisure activities in public parks and recreational facilities, controlled or operated by the City; and shall recommend to City Manager and City the dedication of public land for public parks.

¹The "Recreation Commission" is now called the "Parks and Recreation Commission."

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Dedication is the process that applies to City-owned parkland. Designation applies to parkland in Long Beach located in the California Coastal Commission's area of original jurisdiction on State-owned tidelands. In keeping with the General Plan Local Coastal Program (LCP) policies, these parklands are "designated" for public use in perpetuity.

City Charter outlines that those areas that have been dedicated or designated as public park or recreation areas of the City shall not be sold or otherwise alienated unless ratified by an affirmative vote at an election for such purpose; or after a public hearing and the approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission whereby the City Council determines that said park or recreation areas will be replaced by other dedicated or designated park or recreation areas on substantially an amenity for amenity basis, and at a ratio of at least two to one (2:1) with approximately equal portion of the replacement land located in the park service area where the land was converted and an approximately equal portion of the replacement land located in a park service area needing parkland as determined by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Park and Recreation Commission plays a critical role to ensure all parks are properly accounted for and are formally dedicated or designated so that park land is protected in perpetuity.

Staff periodically conducts an inventory of parkland to ensure the City's inventory is up to date, and this year's inventory of all the City's 170 parks has found that the City's documents, parks maps, and other resources are inconsistent, not fully accounting for park dedications, zoning, parcel boundaries, and other components that are important for preserving and retaining parks. To rectify the identified inconsistencies, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is partnering with the Departments of Development Services and Technology and Innovation to update GIS addresses and park maps, confirm parcel boundaries and acreage, and complete zoning and other land use actions, including coordinating with the City Attorney's Office to determine whether code amendments are needed to further define dedication, designation, park boundaries, and other relevant terms.

Eight (8) park properties have been identified that will require the Parks and Recreation Commission to recommend approval to the Planning Commission for dedication or designation, and 20 properties have been identified that will require the Parks & Recreation Commission to dedicate and forward on to the Planning Commission and/or City Council for further action. Park locations are provided on a map in Exhibit A (Attached). The eight parks requiring approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission for dedication or designation are detailed in Table A (Attached - Exhibit B). Staff recommends that these properties be dedicated or designated as indicated. P zones and planned development districts (PD) allow for park uses. Park dedication for these parcels within these zoning districts will ensure the preservation of these lands for park uses in perpetuity. If these parks are approved to be dedicated by the Parks and Recreation Commission, staff will record the parcels as dedicated in all applicable City records.

The 20 parks requiring recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Commission to the Planning Commission and/or City Council for dedication are detailed in Table B (Attached - Exhibit C). These parks require other actions such as a lot merger, subdivision, zone change, General Plan conformity or street vacation, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Planning Commission and/or City Council. With this action, these 20 parks are recommended for dedication by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and staff will follow up by placing them on a future Planning Commission

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meeting agenda with further recommended actions. The staff report to the Planning Commission will provide additional technical information pertaining to each of the actions, including CEQA compliance.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action is an administrative item intended to correct inconsistencies. As a result, there is no fiscal impact and no impact to local jobs from the recommended action.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



MEREDITH REYNOLDS
MANAGER
PARK PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

APPROVED:



GERARDO MOUET
DIRECTOR

GM:MR:CK:PD:jl:dr

Attachments: Exhibit A - Map of Park Locations
Exhibit B - Table A: Parks Requiring Parks & Recreation Commission Approval for Dedication or Designation
Exhibit C - Table B: Parks Requiring Action by Planning Commission and/or City Council