

Parks and Recreation Commission



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 6/24/2026
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Locations: Teleconference and
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center
700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

A. Call To Order

Chair Grass called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Chunyu, Dawkins, Grass, Van Buren
Absent: Lee, Patel
Staff: Library and Community Services (LCS) Director Nick Szegda, Management Analyst Ashley Dixon, Recreation Coordinator Harrison Yee, Recreation Coordinator Khalid Awadalla

C. Public Comment

None.

D. Presentation

D1. San Mateo County Parks Realize Flood Park updates (Attachment)

Interim San Mateo County Parks Director Emma Gonzalez and Assistant Parks Director Hannah Ormshaw made the presentation.

The Commission received clarification on parking, playground safety, picnic bookings, pickleball courts, park supervision and park design decisions.

E. Study Session

E1. Parks and Recreation Commission update and report out on completed self-guided park tours (Staff Report PRC-2026-018)

None.

E2. Prepare Parks and Recreation Commission work plan for 2026-27 (Staff Report PRC-2026-019)

- John McKenna spoke in support of a policy to ban artificial turf and require natural turf.

Management Analyst Dixon introduced the item.

The Commission discussed bringing the 2026-27 work plan back for discussion in July.

F. Regular Business

F1. Approve minutes from the May 27, 2026 meeting (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Dawkins/ Chunyu), to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2026 meeting, passed 4-0-2 (Lee and Patel absent).

F2. Recommend Parks and Recreation work plan 2025-26 progress report out to City Council (Staff Report PRC-2026-020)

Management Analyst Dixon introduced the item.

Chair Grass made the presentation (Attachment).

- John McKenna spoke in support of promoting zero-waste party packs.

The Commission received clarification on promoting zero-waste party packs to picnic area renters.

The Commission discussed modifications to the work plan presentation and an opportunity to review the final draft in July.

G. Informational Items

G1. Library and Community Services Department updates and statistics (Staff Report PRC-2026-021)

Management Analyst Dixon introduced the item.

Director Szegda provided an update on the approved fiscal year 2026-27 budget.

G2. Tentative agenda calendar (Attachment)

The Commission added the following to the tentative agenda calendar:

- Review if the Environmental Quality Commission can provide information on park-related environmental concerns.

H. Commissioner Reports

H1. Individual Commissioner reports

None.

I. Adjournment

Chair Grass adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Management Analyst Ashley Dixon

Flood Park

San Mateo County Parks

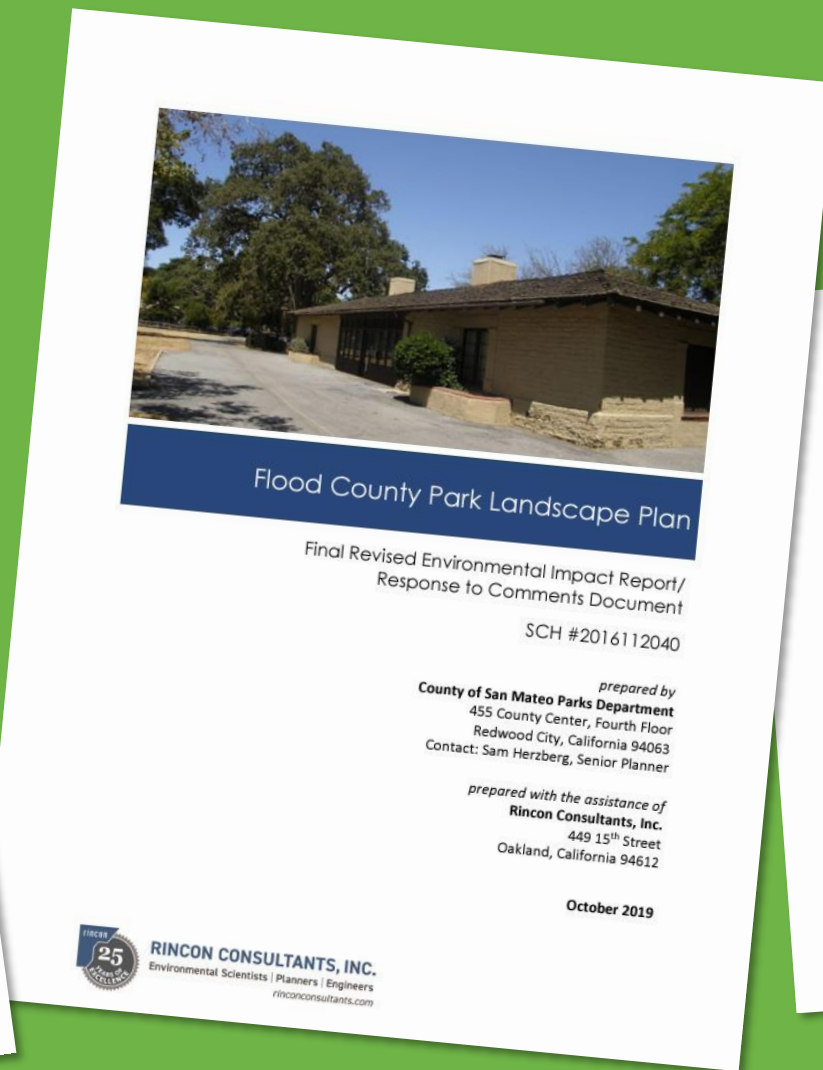


CITY OF
MENLO PARK

Parks and Recreation Commission
June 24, 2026



Project History



Community Engagement



2022 Landscape Plan



Phase 1

Before Phase 1



Multi-use Sports Field



Multi-use Sports Field





Picnic Areas



Pump Track



Phase 2: Playground

Playground



Playground



Playground



Playground



Questions?

Parks and Recreation Commission: Update on 2025-2026 Work Plan

PRC Chair Joseph Grass

PRC work plan 2025-26 included

■ Primary Goals

- PRC provides a monthly forum for public transparency and input related to parks and recreation services in Menlo Park
- Review of departments and operations
 - Review public suggestion box comments and responses
 - Advise on recreation program statistics
 - Receive departmental updates
 - Received staff presentations about recreation programs and services
 - Make recommendations
- Engage with the community on a range of issues
- Continue focus on Belle Haven Community Campus operation
- Use 2019 Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan as our guideline

Review of Departments and Operations

- Departmental policy updates reviewed & recommendations
 - Racquet sport court policy
 - Picnic rental policy
 - Recreation facility use guidelines policy
- Received Aquatics survey results and annual aquatics report from pool operator
- Received Aquatics pool user survey results from city staff
- Received report from Park Ranger Services contractor



Support Belle Haven Community Campus

- Received a staff presentation on Belle Haven Community Campus program updates
 - Staff outlined activity and engagement in each department
 - Feedback from users is continually collected
 - Adjustments constantly made to better engage with the community



Community Engagement

- Received a presentation from Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park
- Created an ad hoc subcommittee to plan the first Community Fun Run at Bedwell Bayfront Park
- Received Youth Advisory Committee Report / Support & Advise
- Conducted self-guided park tours and provided report-outs on observations
- Hosted the City Council liaison at the April 22 Parks and Recreation meeting



PRC Commission Members and Advisors

- PRC Commissioners

- Yongdan Chunyu
- Kevin Dawkins
- Joseph Grass (Chair)
- Wonman Lee
- Shilpa Patel
- Justin Van Buren (Vice Chair)
- 1 current vacancy

- Our PRC Staff Liaison is the new Library and Community Services Director **Nick Szegda**

- PRC continues to be assisted at all meetings by Management Analyst Ashley Dixon

- Thanks to Wonman Lee for his chairmanship last year

- Thanks to departing commissioner Michele Sherman for her service

- Thanks to departing Library and Community Services Supervisor Tricia Mullan and Library and Community Services Director Sean Reinhart



Moving Forward

- The PRC will continue to support operations at the Belle Haven Community Campus
- PRC will continue to support vibrant and relevant community centers and recreation services for Menlo Park residents
- Parks and Recreation Commission is looking forward to City
- Council's feedback on their 2025-2026 work plan
- Thank you for your support!



Thank you!

