

Parks and Recreation Commission



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 7/22/2026
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 6:38 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Chunyu, Grass, Lee, Patel, Van Buren
Absent: Dawkins
Staff: Management Analyst Ashley Dixon, Recreation Coordinator Harrison Yee,
Recreation Coordinator Khalid Awadalla, Library and Community Services Manager
Natalya Jones

C. Public Comment

- Amir Proushani spoke on concerns related to noise from the Nealon Park pickleball courts.

D. Study Session

- D1. Parks and Recreation Commission update and report out on completed self-guided park tours
(Staff Report PRC-2026-022)

Management Analyst Dixon introduced the item.

Chair Grass reported out on his tour of Bedwell Bayfront Park (Attachment).

E. Regular Business

- E1. Approve minutes from the June 24, 2026 meeting (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Van Buren/ Grass), to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2026 meeting, passed 5-0-1 (Dawkins absent).

- E2. Recommend Parks and Recreation work plan 2025-26 progress report out to City Council
(Staff Report PRC-2026-023)

Management Analyst Dixon made the presentation

(Attachment). The Commission discussed edits to the report out

presentation.

ACTION: Motion and second (Grass/ Chunyu), to recommend the Parks and Recreation work plan 2025-26 progress report out to City Council, passed 5-0-1 (Dawkins absent).

E3. Prepare and recommend Parks and Recreation work plan 2026-27 (Staff Report PRC-2026-024)

Management Analyst Dixon introduced the item.

The Commission discussed edits to the work plan.

F. Informational Items

F1. Adopted City budget fiscal year 2026-27 updates (Staff Report PRC-2026-025)

Management Analyst Dixon introduced the item.

The Commission received clarification on the budget's effect on program offerings.

F2. Library and Community Services Department updates and statistics (Staff Report PRC-2026-026)

Management Analyst Dixon introduced the item.

The Commission discussed the PlayLOCAL! event at Burgess Park.

F3. Tentative agenda calendar (Attachment)

Management Analyst Dixon introduced the item.

G. Commissioner Reports

G1. Individual Commissioner reports

Vice Chair Van Buren reported out on accepting the Parks and Recreation Month proclamation from the City Council.

I. Adjournment

Chair Grass adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Management Analyst Ashley Dixon

Bedwell Bayfront Park

Joseph Grass – PRC Chair



Bedwell Bayfront Park

Bedwell Bayfront Park is located at the east end of Menlo Park on San Francisco Bay at Highway 101 and Marsh Road. Parking is available along the entrance road and in two paved lots near the back of the park. Restrooms are near the first large paved parking lot.



The park's 160 acres are surrounded on three sides by the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. People of all ages enjoy the park for hiking, running, bicycling, dog walking, bird watching, kite flying, and photography. The park has an extensive trail system, most of which is unpaved. Some of the interior trails are steep, crossing the park's hills, and lead to several viewpoints. Some park trails are suitable for wheelchairs. The relatively flat 2.3-mile trail around the perimeter of Bedwell Bayfront Park is part of the San Francisco Bay Trail, which will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 400-mile network of bicycling and hiking trails, connecting the shoreline of all nine Bay Area counties and linking 47 cities.

Park rules

- Use is restricted to daytime hours (7 a.m. to sunset)
- Pets to remain on leash and under full control at all times
- Travel restricted to designated trails
- Bikes restricted to paved trails and roads
- Plants and wildlife to be left undisturbed
- Commercial activities and solicitations not associated with City programs or City-sponsored activities are prohibited
- Fires, smoking, alcohol, and weapons of any kind are prohibited
- Permit required for groups of 15 or more
- Signage restricted to park rules, history, wildlife, views, and visitor safety
- Amplified sound not permitted
- Litter and trash shall be disposed of properly
- Motor vehicle parking is only allowed in authorized areas
- No drones or other unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)

Facility details

Features

- Publicly owned
- Publicly accessible
- Benches
- Bike trails
- Drinking fountain
- Grass area
- Hydration station – bottle filling
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Shade areas
- Trails
- Walking paths – unpaved

Hours

Park gates open daily at 7 a.m.

Park gates are closed and locked:

January and February – 6 p.m.

March – 7 p.m.

April – 8 p.m.

May – 8:30 p.m.

June and July – 9 p.m.

August – 8:30 p.m.

September – 8 p.m.

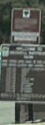
October – 7 p.m.

November – 6 p.m.

December – 5:30 p.m.

*If you are locked in the park, please call the Menlo Park police non-emergency line at 650-330-6300.

















WELCOME TO
BEDWELL BAYFRONT
PARK

PARK GATES OPEN DAILY AT 7:00 A.M.
PARK GATES CLOSED AND LOCKED AT:

6:00 P.M.	JANUARY & FEBRUARY
7:00 P.M.	MARCH
8:00 P.M.	APRIL
9:00 P.M.	MAY
9:00 P.M.	JUNE & JULY
8:30 P.M.	AUGUST
8:00 P.M.	SEPTEMBER
7:00 P.M.	OCTOBER
6:00 P.M.	NOVEMBER
5:30 P.M.	DECEMBER

ADULTS: \$10.00 CHILDREN: \$5.00 SENIORS: \$5.00
RESERVATIONS: 952-225-2200 BEDWELL BAYFRONT: 952-225-2200
EMERGENCIES: 911



























Wildlife!





























BURROWING OWL
ALLIANCE

OWL
HABITAT

Please remain on path
while observing owls
at their nesting mounds.

The Burrowing Owl Alliance restores habitat
for burrowing owls and is a cooperative effort of:







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 and recommendations made on:

- Racquet Sport Court Policy
- Picnic Rental Policy
- Recreation Facility Use Guidelines Policy



Review of Departments and Operations

- 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



Burgess Pool in the fall

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



Lunch at Menlo Park Senior Center



Senior Walking Club



Working on a 3d puzzle at BHCC

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



Nutty the Squirrel runs portions of the 6k run route while filming a promo clip for the 2026K Community Fun Run.

Community Engagement



Participants of the 2026K Community Fun Run pose with their medals after the race.



Participants of the 2026K Community Fun Run gather near a snack and hydration station.

Community Engagement

- Conducted self-guided park tours and provided report-outs on observations
- Hosted the City Council liaison at the April 22 Parks and Recreation meeting



Photo of Karl E. Clark Park taken by Parks and Recreation Commissioner Wonman Lee during a self-guided park tour.

Community Engagement

Received Youth Advisory Committee Report / Support & Advise



A member of the Youth Advisory Committee plays reindeer ring toss while volunteering at Photos with Santa.



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 retired 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!

