

City of WALNUT CREEK 10-Year Parks Plan

2016-2026



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INTRODUCTION

Walnut Creek is well known for innovation, long-range planning and a sense of community. Our City parks play a major role in supporting that community. The next decade will stress the park system as the City continues to grow and test those abilities as we work to preserve and protect our park system and provide for the future. In addition, park standards, expectations and amenities are changing in the park industry. These trends include an emphasis on accessibility, health and social opportunities. With dedication, imagination and resources, we will continue to enhance our park system that is essential to a livable, dynamic and vibrant city.

Walnut Creek parks are supported by a variety of funding mechanisms including the General Fund; grants; and the Parks In-Lieu Fund, a fee paid by new development to acquire or enhance existing parks. Over the next 10 years, the City expects to receive more than six million dollars in additional Parks In-Lieu Funds, creating a significant opportunity for new and/or upgraded park amenities throughout the City.

Due to the increasing demands on our parks and limited funding opportunities and/or resources, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission (PROS) recognized the need to develop a long-term plan for the park system that complements the City's 10-Year Capital Investment Program (10-Year CIP). PROS met, together with staff, to address and prioritize park needs and their efforts culminating in this plan. A process was followed and a list of projects has been compiled that will help to address the needs of our parks.

Our actions and accomplishments will be the standard by which future generations will measure this effort. To that end, this plan identifies a list of proposed projects that are in line with our 2025 General Plan Principles and are planned to be implemented over the next 10 years (Table 1). This report is intended to be a reference. Council will receive updates to Table 1 every two years in conjunction with the development of the 10-Year CIP and Capital Budget process. The City is dedicated to providing an exceptional park system that enriches the lives of our residents and celebrates the beauty and heritage of our City.



Arbolado Park

TABLE 1 – 10-Year Project List

COMMISSIONER PARK ASSESSMENT			
Project	Estimate (in 2016 Dollars)	Priority	Estimate CIP Cycle
ALMA PARK			
Park Planning (conceptual)	\$50,000	High	2016-18
Small Tot Lot/Play Structure/Sliding Hills	\$50,000 - \$240,000	High	2018-20
Improve Signage at all entrances except Olympic/CA	\$40,000 - \$50,000	Low	2018-20
ARBOLADO PARK			
Park Planning (conceptual)	\$25,000	Medium	2018-20
Orchard development of southwest portion	\$80,000 - \$150,000	Medium	2020-22
Benches and Table along upper soccer/ball field	OTHER PROJECTS	--	see below
Picnic Stations throughout park	OTHER PROJECTS	--	see below
Trail Connector connect to Lime Ridge Open Space	Operational*	--	2016-18
CIVIC PARK			
Master Plan update	\$350,000	High	2016-18
Walking Paths east and west sections of park	\$200,000 - \$240,000	Medium	2018-20
Relocate Playground to east side (enlarge)	\$1,000,000 - \$1,450,000	Low	2020-22
Armory access to parking lot for park expansion	n/a	Low	--
Basketball Court on east side at Armory	n/a	Low	--
HEATHER FARM PARK			
Fence around the concrete pond	\$200,000	High	2016-18
Picnic Stations to the meadow	OTHER PROJECTS	--	see below
Clarke Swim Center Public Private Partnership	TBD	Low	2018-20
Batting Cages at Field #3	\$150,000 - \$200,000	Low	2022-24
All-Weather Sports Fields at fields 5 & 6	\$3,500,000	Low	2024-26
Signboard structure on Ygnacio Valley Road	Operational*	--	2016-18
OLD OAK PARK			
Walking Paths including Park Entrance	\$200,000 - \$240,000	High	2020-22
ADDITIONAL PARKS			
EL DIVISADERO PARK			
Picnic Stations in landscape area	OTHER PROJECTS	--	see below
LAR RIEU PARK			
Park Amenity improvements	\$250,000	--	2016-18
NORTHGATE PARK			
Park Renovations	\$150,000	--	2016-18
WALDEN PARK			
Parking Lot	\$220,000 - \$250,000	Low	2020-22
OTHER PROJECTS			
Creek Restoration Study	\$200,000 - \$250,000	High	2016-18
Picnic Stations and Park Benches	\$250,000	--	2016-18
Community Gardens	\$75,000	--	2016-18
Par Course (Outdoor Fitness Equipment)	\$50,000 - \$70,000	**	2018-20
Bocce (one or two locations)	\$150,000 - \$300,000	**	2020-22

*Operational items to be completed within Parks Operational Work Plan.

**Items will require further consideration.



Civic Park-Bufano Hand of Peace

CHAPTER 1: THE VISION

The City of Walnut Creek has successfully met its parks vision over the past several decades. Over 3,100 acres of high-quality parks and open space land are protected. Residents of the City and visitors from surrounding regions utilize the amenities in our parks, open space and trail system. A 2013 survey of City Services showed that 85% of residents use Walnut Creek Parks and Open Space.

Despite the years of success, the old adage holds true: “past performance does not guarantee future results.” As with all investments, future returns are contingent upon present-day decisions. Parks are part of society’s investments made for future generations. It is the responsibility of Walnut Creek to always keep an eye towards the future, and to act today to protect society’s investment in its parks system while striving to position the parks to obtain the best possible future results.

For Walnut Creek, success is really a measure of the degree to which the public places value on Walnut Creek’s mission, vision, and operations. In turn, the mission, vision, and operations are a reflection of the City’s commitment to fundamental core values. Together these core values help define Walnut Creek and help shape the vision for the future.

CITY OF WALNUT CREEK VISION

A balanced community meeting tomorrow's needs while protecting the quality and character we value today.

ACHIEVING OUR VISION

We strive to accomplish this by:

Enhancing the quality of community living, providing:

- A safe, attractive community
- Protected natural resources and quality neighborhoods
- Diverse cultural and recreational opportunities
- Desirable balance of opportunities for living, working and playing
- Responsive and user-friendly City services
- Programs and services that meet community needs
- Reliable and effective infrastructure
- Citizens engaged in actively shaping our collective future

Promoting a vibrant local economy, including:

- A spirit of partnership with the community
- A safe, accessible and attractive physical environment
- Promoting learning and growth opportunities

WHY PARKS ARE IMPORTANT

Residents of Walnut Creek recognize the importance of our City park system. A 2013 Public Opinion Survey found that Parks and Open Space were valued as one of the top 3 services provided by the City.

The benefits of park systems to individuals, the community, the economy and the environment have been well documented. Parks play a critical role in providing opportunities for children and

CHAPTER 1

adults of all ages to improve their physical and mental health. Parks and trails help strengthen family relationships and connect communities. The size and diversity of the park system are key indices for measuring quality of life. Parks and trail corridors improve property values. Parks, open space, and regional trails' greenway corridors together create critical wildlife habitat, protect and improve surface and drinking water quality. Healthy green spaces support thriving communities.

PARKS PLAN PROCESS

The planning committee consisted of all five PROS Commissioners and staff. The primary task of these workshops was for PROS Commissioners to help staff develop an implementation strategy that provides guidance and direction for the delivery of parks amenities in a manner that is consistent with City sustainability goals and meets the community's level of service standards.

Demographics and data regarding population growth and the median family size, along with the location of the high density housing for multifamily developments were shared by the City's Community and Economic Development Department. Public Works Engineering Division shared possible funding sources including Park In-Lieu funds and Measure WW Funding along with an overview of the Capital Investment Program (CIP) and the Capital Budget process.

Using guidelines that included the park proximity to new and future developments and the opportunity to expand or add amenities within the existing park, the PROS Commission was able to identify five parks to assess. Each PROS Commissioner was assigned a separate park for evaluation and development of amenity recommendations.

- ❖ Alma Park – Ian McLaughlin
- ❖ Arbolado Park – Jodi Davenport
- ❖ Civic Park – Tom Worthy
- ❖ Heather Farm Park – Fred Weston
- ❖ Old Oak Park – Carla Ludwig

The following four additional parks were not selected for extensive review but were included in the process due to existing master plans and previously identified amenity expansion opportunities.

- ❖ El Divisadero Park
- ❖ Lar Rieu Park
- ❖ Northgate Park
- ❖ Walden Park

Subsequent workshops allowed PROS Commissioners to rank all identified projects in terms of priority and the final results have been used to create the long term project goals (Page 2, Table 1). Although all items are being considered, some will require further design and review from the PROS Commission to allow the community an opportunity to provide feedback as projects move forward. PROS will make recommendations to City Council for final approval.

2025 GENERAL PLAN

The 2025 General Plan, adopted in 2006 after years of community work, identifies five guiding principles of our community.

- ❖ Quality of Life focusing on community, arts, recreation, education, libraries, economic development and public safety.
- ❖ Natural environment focusing on parks, trails, creeks, vistas and open spaces.
- ❖ Built environment focusing on urban design, environmental integrity, growth, downtown, neighborhoods, housing and preservation.
- ❖ Transportation focusing on circulation and accessibility.
- ❖ Governance focusing on involving the community, fiscal responsibilities and regional leadership.

The General Plan sets a clear goal around protecting and enhancing the natural environment and a number of core policies.

- ❖ Policy 5.1 Support both active and passive recreation uses in the park system;
- ❖ Policy 5.2 Regularly assess specific user groups' needs and abilities;
- ❖ Policy 5.3 Ensure that the City's parks are appropriately developed and well maintained.

The City owns and operates 19 parks with a variety of amenities and uses, plus a number of special-use areas including a golf course, historic museum, historic residence, and one urban plaza.

Table 2 is a current inventory of City parks, special-use and open space areas.

Figure 1 is a map showing all parks and open space areas in Walnut Creek.



Diablo Shadows Park

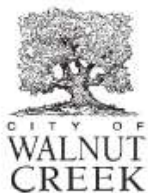
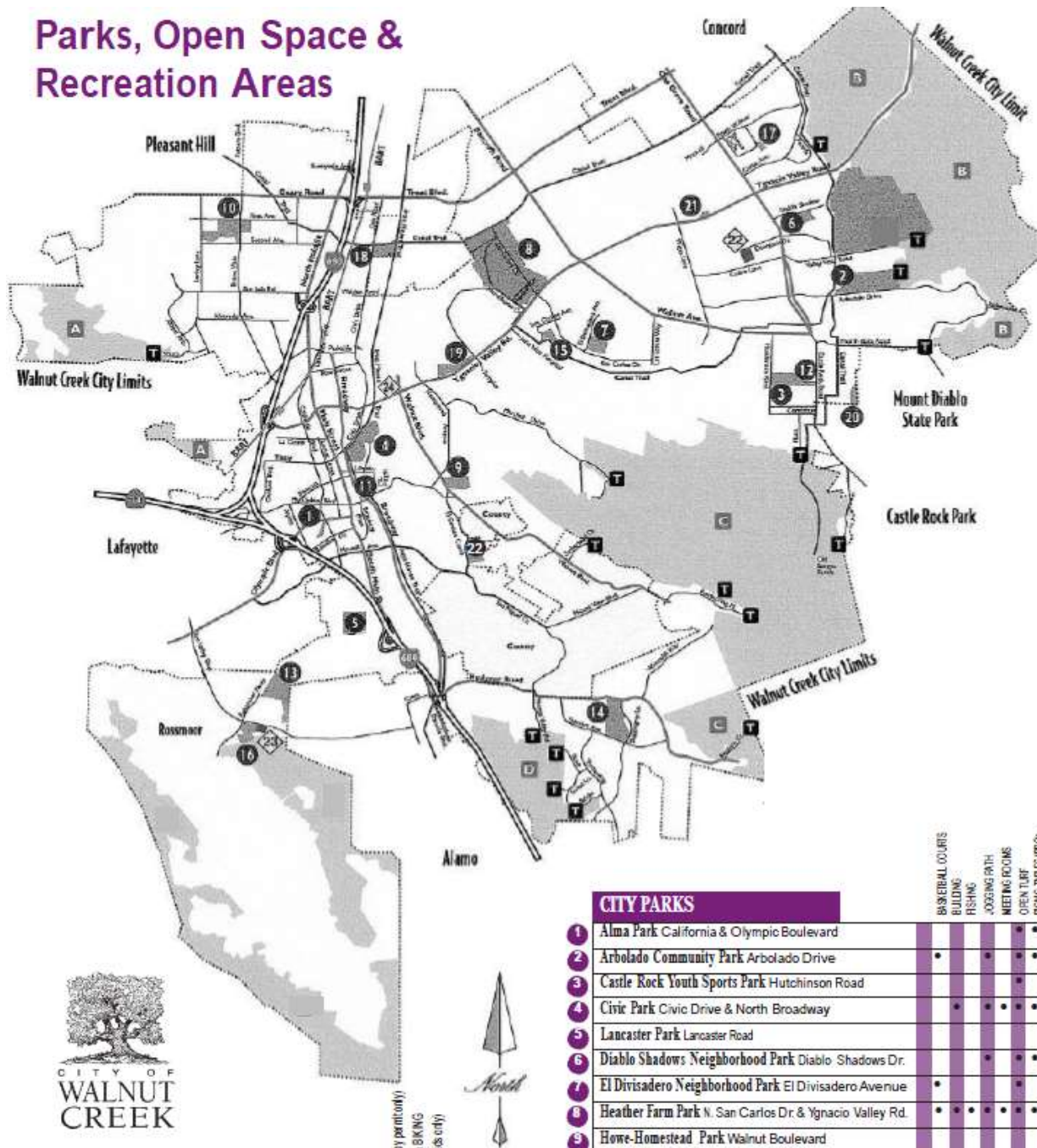
CHAPTER 1

TABLE 2 - Current Parks and Open Space in Walnut Creek

Name	Size (acres)	Amenities
CITY PARKS AND SPECIAL USE AREAS		
Alma Park	2	Picnic areas, benches, views
Arbolado Park	26	Playground, sports fields and courts, picnic areas, restrooms, trail connections
Boundary Oak Golf Course	160	18-hole golf course, pro shop, driving range, practice greens, restaurant
Castle Rock Youth Sports Park	6	Sports fields
Civic Park	17	Playground, sports courts, community center, library, gazebo, picnic area, native plant/butterfly habitat garden, restrooms, and trail connections
Diablo Shadows Park	3	Playground, picnic areas, trail connections
El Divisadero Park	3	Sports fields
Heather Farm Park	91	Clarke Swim Center, all-abilities playground, sports fields and courts, community center, equestrian center, bike paths, fishing pond, picnic areas, nature pond, restrooms, trail connections, limited off-leash dog area
Howe Homestead Park	7	1930s-era residence, community gardens, trail connections
Lancaster Park	>1	View shed
Larkey Park	12	Larkey Swim Center, playground, sports courts, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, Model Railroad Society, picnic areas, restrooms
Lar Rieu Park	10	Undeveloped park land; use to be determined
Liberty Bell Plaza	>1	Downtown plaza with fountain and seating
Northgate Park	4	Lawn and benches bordered by Northgate High School
Old Oak Park	16	Undeveloped park land; to be developed as passive recreation
Pine Creek & Greenway	5	Undeveloped park land; views, trail connections
Rudgear Park	12	Playground, sports fields and courts, picnic areas, restrooms, trail connections
San Miguel Park	5	Playground, tennis, trail connections, limited off-leash dog area, basketball, trail connections
Shadelands Museum	1	Historical museum
Tice Valley Park	8	Playground, gymnasium, sports fields, picnic areas, restroom, picnic areas
Valle Verde Park	1	Picnic areas
Walden Park	5	Playground, basketball courts, picnic area, restrooms, trail connections, disc golf, handball court
Ygnacio Heights Park	6	Views
Parks Total	400	
OPEN SPACES		
Acalanes Ridge Open Space	204	Trails, views
Lime Ridge Open Space	924	Trails, views, interpretive tours
Shell Ridge Open Space	1,421	Historic working Borges Ranch, trails, views
Sugarloaf Open Space	177	Trails, views, picnic areas, restrooms
Open Space Total	2,726	
TOTAL CITY-OWNED PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ACREAGE	3,126	

FIGURE 1

Parks, Open Space & Recreation Areas



OPEN SPACE		FENCING	HIKING	CAMPING (by permit only)	MOUNTAIN BIKING (service trails only)
A	Acalanes Ridge		•	•	•
B	Lime Ridge		•	•	•
C	Shell Ridge/Old Borges Ranch	•	•	•	•
D	Sugarloaf 2161 Youngs Valley Road	•	•	•	•
9	Howe-Homestead Park Walnut Boulevard	•			
T	Trail Head				

CITY PARKS

		BASKETBALL COURTS	BUILDING	FISHING	JOGGING PATH	MEETING ROOMS	OPEN TURF	PICNIC TABLES/BBQ'S	PLAYGROUNDS	SPONSORFELDS	SWIMMING	TENNIS COURTS	VOLLEYBALL
1	Alma Park California & Olympic Boulevard												
2	Arbolado Community Park Arbolado Drive												
3	Castle Rock Youth Sports Park Hutchinson Road												
4	Civic Park Civic Drive & North Broadway												
5	Lancaster Park Lancaster Road												
6	Diablo Shadows Neighborhood Park Diablo Shadows Dr.												
7	El Divisadero Neighborhood Park El Divisadero Avenue												
8	Heather Farm Park N. San Carlos Dr. & Ygnacio Valley Rd.												
9	Howe-Homestead Park Walnut Boulevard												
10	Larkley Community Park Buena Vista Ave. & First Ave.												
11	Liberty Bell Plaza Broadway & Mt. Diablo Boulevard												
12	Northgate Neighborhood Park Castle Rock Road												
13	Old Oak Park Rossmore Parkway												
14	Ridgegar Community Park Stewart Ave. & Dapplegray Ln.												
15	San Miguel Neighborhood Park San Jose Court												
17	Valle Verde Neighborhood Park Banyan Circle												
18	Walden Neighborhood Park Oak Road												
19	Ygnacio Heights Park Ygnacio Valley Road												
20	Fine Creek Park Trails End Drive												
21	Shadelands Ranch Museum Ygnacio Valley Road												
22	Lar Rieu 108 El Camino Corto												

ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY

Communicating the Parks vision to the public, stakeholders and partners in a regular and consistent manner is crucial to success. Community knowledge and understanding will result in support and buy-in for the direction and for subsequent decisions designed to implement the Parks Plan. For example, placing informative signage at park reconstruction projects will help inform the public about the “What and Why” of the project and tie the project to the Parks Plan goals. Many of the proposed projects will still need to be vetted with the community.

System Plans

The Parks Plan provides direction for the Public Works Parks and Open Space Division to plan for the future and includes recommended projects. The Parks Plan and initiatives should be reflected in plans for the key elements which make up the park and open space system.

Community Impact

Measuring the impact of a program or project is increasingly important to judging the effectiveness of the Parks Plan. The 2013 Public Opinion Survey offers an excellent baseline to measure Parks Division performance over time. Use of regular on-going feedback from recreation program users and park visitors will assure that programs and facilities stay fresh and well loved. Lastly, continued use of digital media and the internet for both gathering input and providing information will assure an informed and engaged public.

Capital Improvements

The systematic planning and budgeting for capital improvements is a key function of government. Logical and efficient capital planning is based on a shared vision and a common understanding of needs and priorities. The Parks Plan is intended to guide the prioritization of new capital projects. The Asset Management Program is a tool to identify maintenance and rehabilitation needs and priorities for existing park improvements. In practice, the Parks Plan and the Asset Management Program are used to prepare a ten year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as a blueprint for achieving the vision, goals, and initiatives of the organization. The ten-year CIP combined with staff expertise and community input forms the basis of the two-year Capital Budget which funds specific projects for construction.

Funding Sources

Newly installed or replaced park assets are funded through a variety of sources. These sources include, but are not limited to: the General Fund, Park In-Lieu Fees, Grants, Bonds (similar to Boundary Oak Golf Course), donations and anticipated revenues from user fees for services.

DECISION MAKING CRITERIA

When a project is under consideration, the details of the project should be evaluated against a set of criteria via discussions about how this project contributes to the community’s parks and recreation system. These criteria are also intended to be used as a discussion starter for each project that emerges following the completion of this Parks Plan. The recommended criteria described below have been developed by the Park, Recreation and Open Space Commission and City staff. The following criteria, presented in no particular order, are briefly described with a hypothetical example of how each might be applied.

Capital, Maintenance and Operational Resources – Resources should be identified, not only to build the facility, but also to establish a commitment of additional maintenance resources in line

with the type of facilities added. Resources could include a mix of City and other resources such as developer contributions, sponsorships and/or volunteer labor to build the project. For example, a project would rise on the list if a developer or donor was prepared to build or substantially contribute to the amenity at minimal/no cost to the City. However, the maintenance and operational resources required should also be identified prior to moving forward.

Activity and Location - Projects should include amenities that serve the community's needs. Each project should be identified for a set of uses, not only to serve the immediate area, but to fill gaps in the opportunities offered across the system. Projects that add new park amenities, as the market demands, to the broader community should have priority.

Environmental Needs - The City's creeks, water ways and walking paths create important corridors for the community and wildlife. These valuable resources enhance our environment, connecting multiple parks and recreation sites to one another. A higher priority should be given to the enhancement of the critical links.

Partnerships - Corporate and community partnerships can be critical to the further development of Walnut Creek's park system. Projects with one (or more) identified community partners, willing to assist in the development, operations and/or maintenance, should strongly be considered.

Existing Resources – Walnut Creek has invested in park sites and facilities that should be protected through scheduled capital replacement and improvements as recommended. Projects that address maintenance issues, improve operations or enhance capacity should move up the priority list.



Alma Park

CHAPTER 2: PARK PROJECT PLANS

PROS Commissioners met at a subsequent workshop sessions and presented their findings from their individual park tours. A list of all proposed projects was compiled and vetted by the PROS Commission. At the final workshop, staff presented the PROS Commission with a final review of the project opportunities along with estimated budget range.

Identified projects are briefly described in the pages that follow. As projects become part of an operational work plan, scope, details, environmental reviews (e.g. California Environmental Quality Act) and specifications will be further outlined.



ALMA PARK

Located in the southwest corner of downtown, Alma Park is a 2-acre park that features rolling lawn, benches, decorative arbors, and an impressive view of Mount Diablo. It is nestled between 5 apartment/condominium complexes. As the downtown continues to grow with new businesses and residents, Alma Park will experience greater demand.

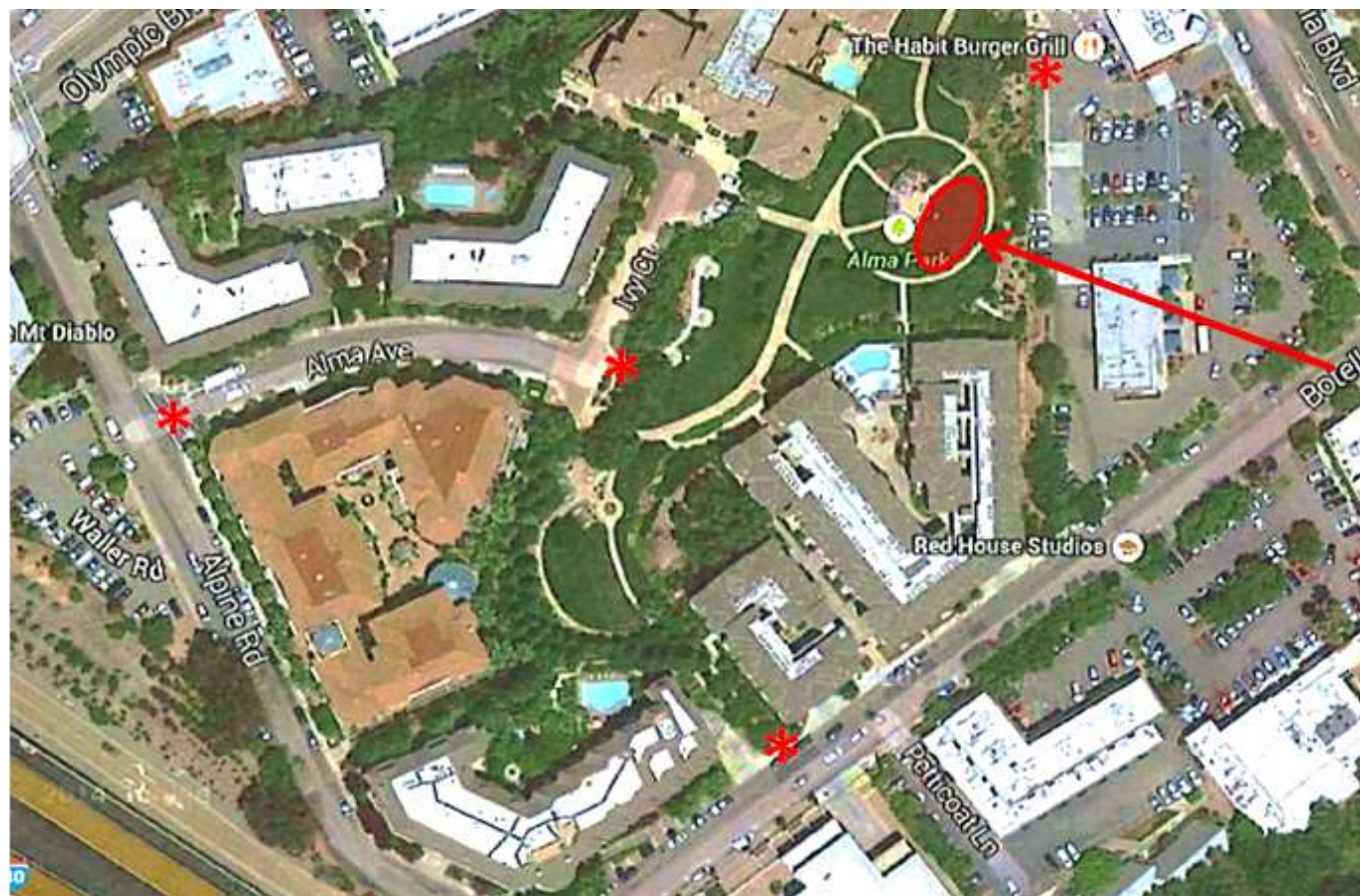
Park planning – this project will fund conceptual planning for potential new park amenities at Alma Park.

Small Tot Lot/Play Structure – this project calls for a child’s play area to be installed. The play area could consist of a 2-5 or a 2-12 play structure and/or synthetic turf mounding as sliding hills.

Improve Signage – Improve/install informational signage at the various park entry locations. The PROS commission believes that this park is underutilized because of its hidden setting. An increase in signage will make the general public more aware of this unique gem.

ALMA PARK

Signage at Various Locations (*examples)



Play Area



ARBOLADO PARK

Arbolado Park is a 26.5 acre park that contains barbeque pits and picnic tables, connections to walking trails and a walnut grove. Underutilized space at this park allows opportunity to meet growing demands by user groups.

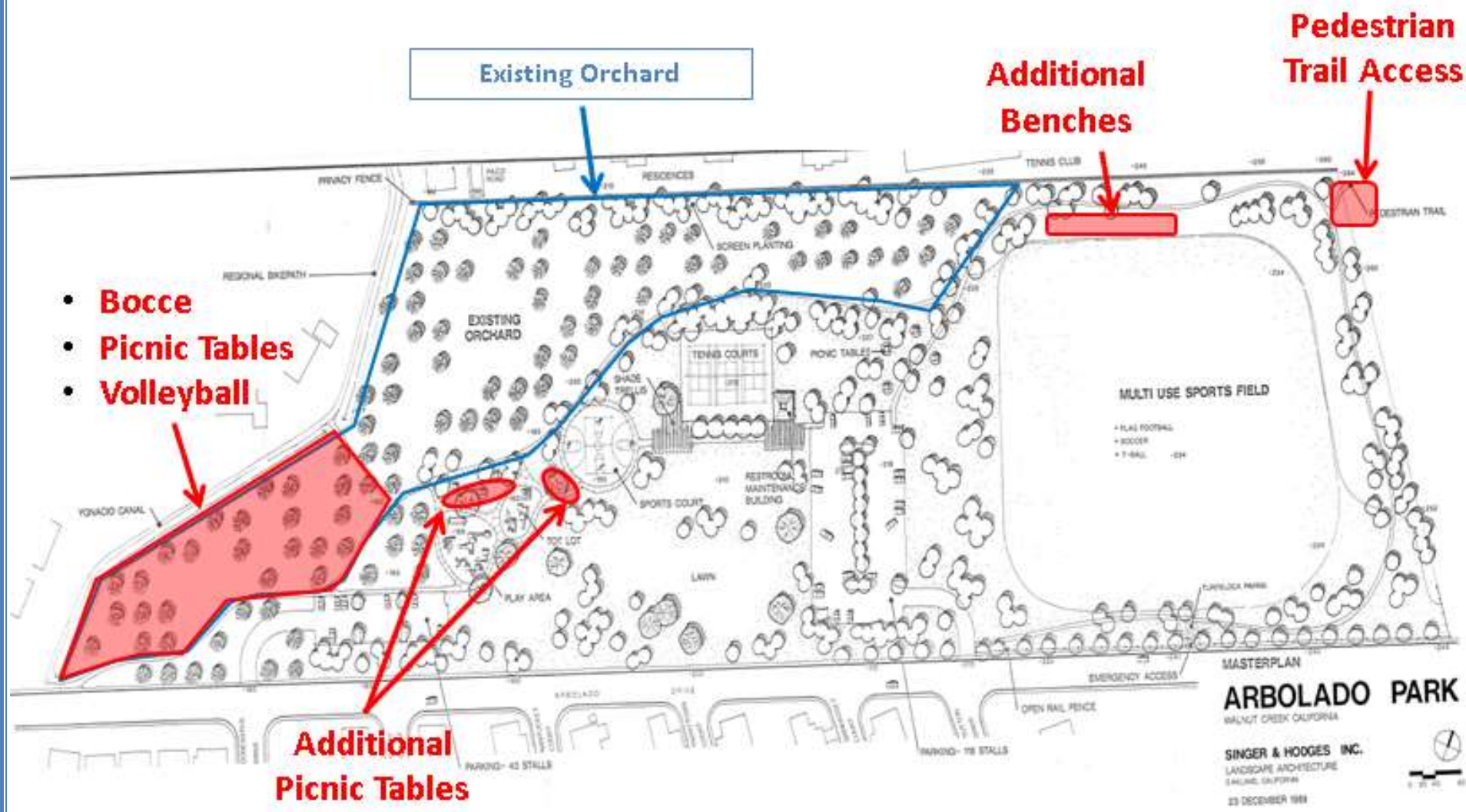
Park planning – this project will fund conceptual planning for potential new park amenities at Arbolado Park.

Orchard - convert the approximate 1.5 acres (south end) of the existing 8-acre orchard to an active and useable space of the park. The area could include two sand volleyball courts, several picnic stations (possibly a reservable picnic area), two bocce courts and a passive landscape area. One of the main goals would be to use the existing trees as nature shade structures and only the trees in poor condition would be removed.

Benches and Tables – install additional benches along the paved trail that wraps around the sports field. This provides a place for the hikers to rest and an opportunity for the spectators to watch the events.

Picnic Stations – there is plenty of opportunity to install additional picnic stations and to double up the amount of tables at some of the existing picnic stations. In fact, the park master plan identifies several options for additional picnic stations. The new stations would include BBQ's, trash receptacles and tables on a concrete pad.

Trail Connection – install a gate at the northeast corner of the park to provide access to the Open Space. This option is identified on the master plan.





CIVIC PARK

Civic Park is centrally located in the core downtown area. This is a multi-dimensional park serving the needs of a wide variety of user groups including plant/butterfly habitat garden, connection to the Iron Horse Trail, entrance to the Creek Walk, gazebo, Community Center with seniors' programs, Park Place, Assembly Hall and home to the Bufano Hand of Peace.

Park Master Plan Amendment – the projects listed below will be evaluated and vetted through the public process as part of a Park Master Plan Amendment for Civic Park.

Walking Paths - the current walking paths throughout the west side of the park do not meet current programming needs of the park; addressing this issue will allow for better pedestrian movement/flow through the park.

Relocate Playground - moving the existing playground from the west side of the park to the east side will accomplish two goals; it will help to activate and encourage visitors to use the east side of the park for all activities, and allow the west side use to remain passive.

Armory Access-

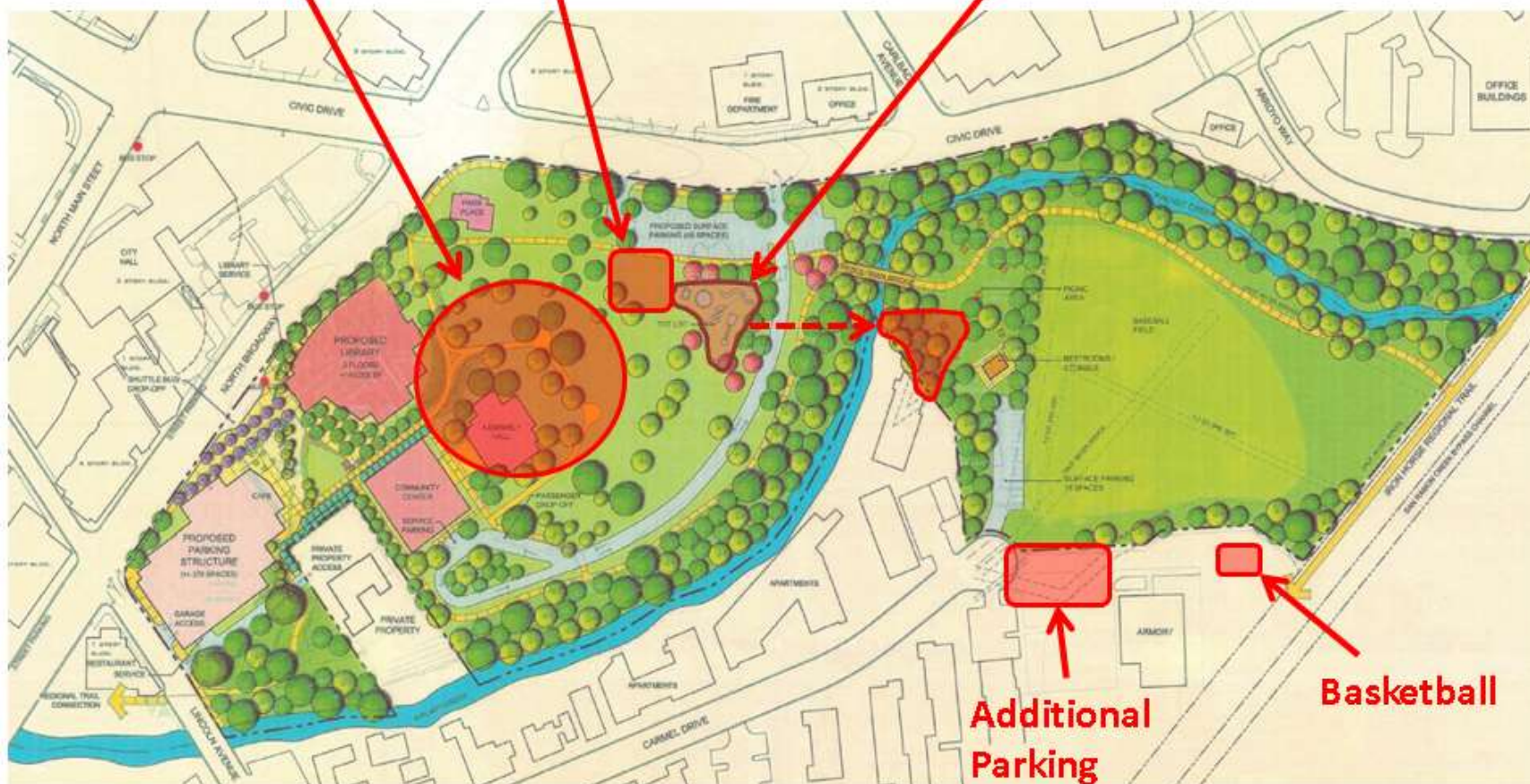
Additional Parking - on the east side – this project suggests that staff contact the Armory located along the southern boundary of the park to ask for an easement to provide additional parking.

Basketball Court - As suggested above, this project suggests that staff reach out to the Armory and ask for access to their back parking to provide space for a basketball court.

**Improve
Walking Trails
on West Side**

**Relocate
Clay Arts**

**Relocate
Playground
to East Side**





HEATHER FARM PARK

Classified between a community park and a regional park, Heather Farm Park hosts an abundance of activities for all to enjoy. This includes the All-Abilities Playground, Clarke Swim Center, a dog park, baseball and soccer fields, both a pond and nature lake, garden center, skate park, community center and equestrian center.

Fence Around Cement Pond – installing a decorative fence around the concrete pond will ensure additional safety to our visitors and help to manage the ongoing geese issues. This fence would not impact the programs associated with the pond.

Picnic Stations – with growing popularity of the All-Abilities Playground, additional picnic stations are needed. Tables could also be added in the large concrete staging area between ball fields 3 and 4.

Clarke Swim Center – The City has embarked on a process to enter into a public-private partnership to finance, construct, operate and maintain a new aquatic center in Heather Farm Park.

Batting Cages – installing batting cages along the first baseline of ball field three would provide another opportunity the users to practice their techniques. This amenity would replace an underutilized irrigated turf area.

All-Weather Sports Fields – this project include design work and construction of all-weather sports fields at Heather Farm Park fields 5 & 6.

Signboard – Replace the existing signboard located at the south end of the park. The signboard is used to announce recreation events and is visible to commuters using Ygnacio Valley Road. The location would remain the same but the framing would be constructed using a different material.

Fence Around Pond

*Additional Picnic Areas (examples)



Signboard

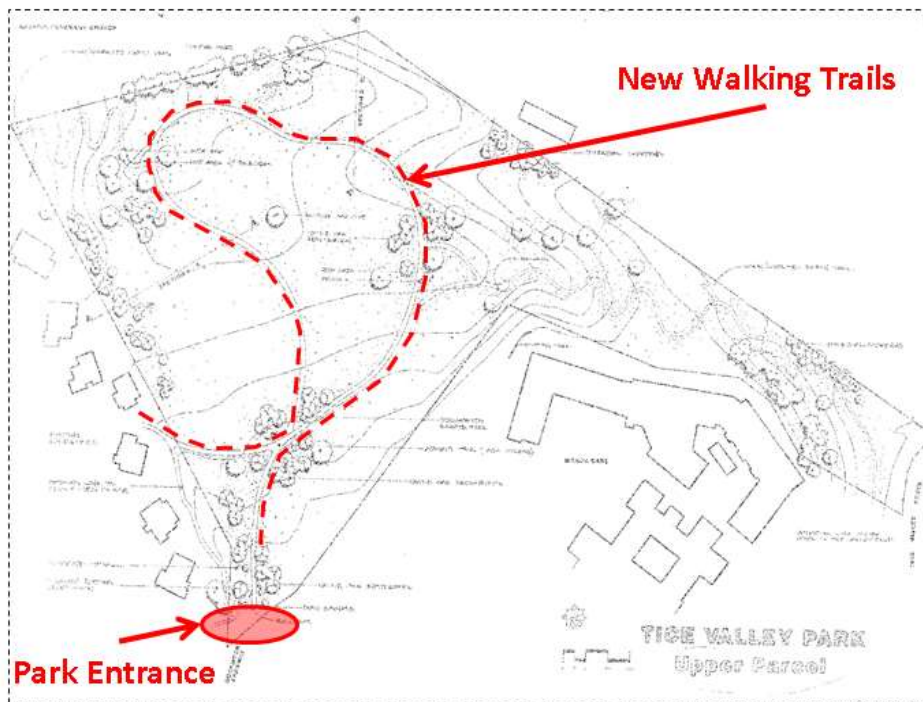
Batting Cages



OLD OAK PARK

Old Oak Park is a passive park with natural walking trails. With the development that is coming to the Rossmoor area in the next several years, there will be a demand for more developed areas within this park.

Walking Paths/Park Entrance – it is recommended that the original master plan be built out with the addition of a parking lot located at the east end of Rossmoor Parkway. This undeveloped 16 acres of parkland has been in the City’s park system since the 1970’s. Developing this area will offer an additional space to exercise for both hikers and bikers.



ADDITIONAL PARKS

The following four parks were not part of a full assessment by PROS Commissioners. However, these parks have existing master plans and previously identified amenity expansion opportunity.



EL DIVISADERO PARK

A 3-acre park located adjacent to Berean Christian High School and features a Jr. Soccer field sized turf area.

Picnic Station – the installation of 3 picnic tables in the large bark area located at the northeast corner of the park, will allow for spectators to have a resting area while they watch the activities on the field.

Picnic





LAR RIEU PARK

This site was grant deeded in 1975 to the City by Miriam Lar Rieu, who passed in 2003. Lar Rieu offers an impressive view of Mount Diablo and walking trails. As part of the grant deed, Lar Rieu Park is to remain passive in nature.

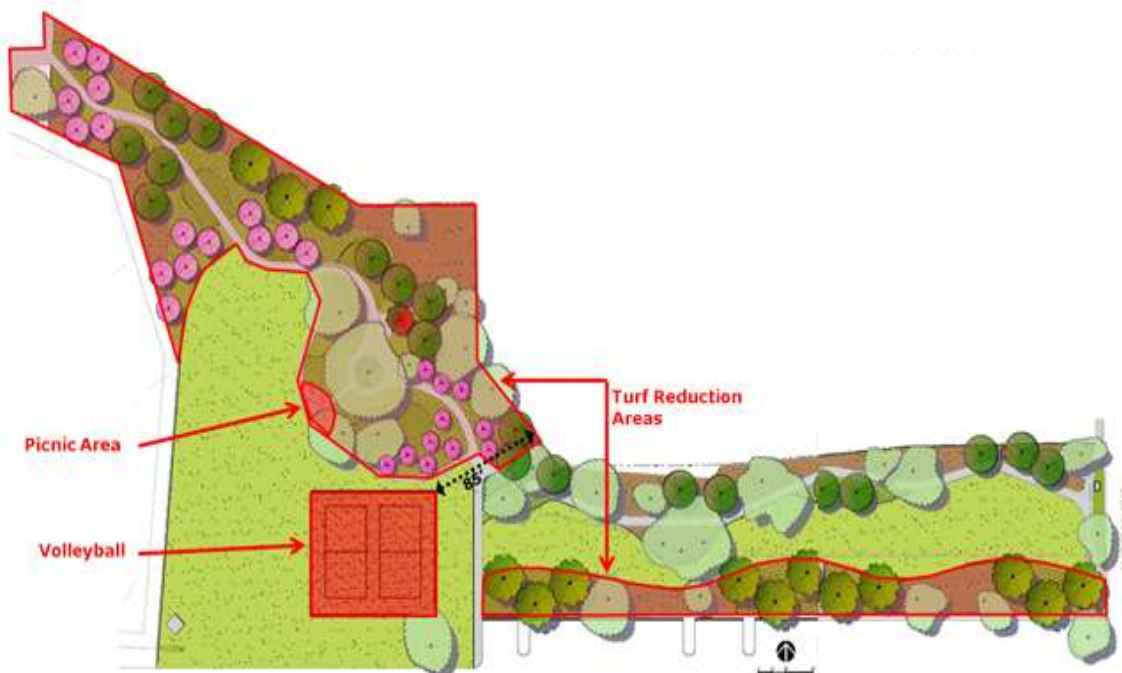
Park Amenity Improvements – As Council directed, a sub-committee will be formed to develop a landscape plan for the future Lar Rieu Park. This committee will likely consist of PROS Commissioners, community members, staff and a landscape architect. The long term park needs will be assessed and addressed during this process.



NORTHGATE PARK

This park was built in the 1970's and located between the Northgate neighborhood and Northgate High School. A conceptual plan was presented to the PROS Commission in December 2015 with suggested renovations.

Park Renovations – The proposed renovations include the addition of 2 sand volleyball courts, picnic stations, a new irrigation system and landscaped planter beds.





WALDEN PARK

Walden Park is a passive park nestled between several high density housing complexes and is located less than two miles north of the core downtown area with access to the Iron Horse Trail. This park is well utilized and the current parking lot is not large enough for the demand.

Parking lot expansion – expanding the existing parking to the south will double the number of spaces. This is an area in our City that consists of many high density housing complexes. The expansion would replace an underutilized irrigated turf area along busy Oak Road.

**Increase
Parking Lot**



WALDEN PARK
MASTER PLAN
CITY OF WALNUT CREEK
BABCOCK HANSEN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

OTHER PROJECTS

Creek Restoration Study – The Regional Water Quality Control Board will often require mitigation to compensate for City and/or private development project impacts to existing creeks and wetlands. One form of mitigation is a creek restoration project elsewhere in the same watershed area. This project would seek to identify and develop conceptual plans for potential candidate restoration projects within Walnut Creek.

Community Gardens – In 2014 the City Council tasked the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission with evaluating and identifying potential future community garden sites around the City. Because of the nature of this project, a sub-committee was formed to explore the potential opportunities. The committee consists of two PROS commissioners, three individuals from non-profit garden organizations and staff. The group will also develop standards, rules and regulations and management models for the selected locations. The group will explore the various models, touring existing community garden sites and developing criteria used to measure Walnut Creek sites. The findings will be presented to the PROS Commission and further direction will be considered at that time.



Howe Homestead Community Garden

Par Course (Outdoor Fitness Equipment) – This project includes the installation of approximately 12 pieces of stationary exercise equipment at various parks around the City. Once staff identifies the potential locations, a plan will be presented to the PROS Commission for approval.

Bocce –The PROS Commission would like to take a more in-depth look at the community’s desire to install bocce courts at various parks within the City. This process will include the formation of a sub-committee to develop site selection criteria and community polling. The findings will be presented to the PROS Commission and further direction will be considered at that time.

CONCLUSION

The community has taken a large step in the right direction by clearly identifying its vision for the parks and recreation system in the General Plan. However, the most difficult challenge is still ahead. As the City implements the vision laid out in the General Plan, maintenance and operations of the parks and recreation system will increase with the expansion of system amenities. Addressing the maintenance and operations needs of the park system will be critical to moving forward in a responsible way. Funding strategies are not mutually exclusive and are designed to be flexible and responsive to the needs of the City as opportunities arise. Ultimately, decisions about the various projects and funding resources will be the responsibility of the City Council and the implementation will rely on staff.

This document will serve as a companion to the important ideas of the Walnut Creek General Plan for the entire 10-year planning horizon and the Capital Budget. As stated previously, this is not intended to be a fixed road map, but rather a guide to provide information to the active citizen, to provide guidance for City staff, to generate ideas within the development community and to build support for parks and recreation amongst the decision makers in Walnut Creek. In order to provide more accurate input to the Capital Budget, this plan will be amended every 2 years. The tools within, and provided alongside this plan document will help the community make timely decisions about an ever-changing landscape of opportunities while staying true to the vision of a fully featured park system.



Arbolado Park

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Parks Plan was developed under the leadership of the Walnut Creek City Council via the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commissioners (PROS), serving as an advisory committee, along with Public Works Parks and Open Space Division and senior staff of the City of Walnut Creek. Staff played a vital role in shaping the Parks Plan.

Staff in the field, those who work daily with Walnut Creek’s visitors in our facilities and natural resources, helped ground this plan in a universal set of core principles. Volunteers, past employees, and former/current City Council and Commissioners provided new perspectives of the challenges and opportunities facing Walnut Creek and the region.

Input from visitors and the general public provided the basis of the Parks Plan. Their recognition and support for the Walnut Creek community shaped the Vision, the Goals and the Actions in this plan.

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OUR MISSION

The City of Walnut Creek, working in partnership with the community, is committed to enhancing our quality of life by promoting:

- *A positive environment where people can live, work and play;*
- *A vibrant local economy to enhance and sustain long-term fiscal stability; and*
- *A progressive workplace where dedicated employees can make a difference.*