



# Culver CITY

## PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

[ParksandRecreationCommission@culvercity.org](mailto:ParksandRecreationCommission@culvercity.org)

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TO: CULVER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS  
FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION  
RE: PRCS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 – COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS  
DATE: xx XXXX 2026

Dear City Council Members:

Thank you again for inviting our Commission to share recommendations for budget enhancements for the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department (PRCS). We appreciate that over the past few years, the Council has adopted many of our requests. We are aware of the city's financial situation. Still, we hope you will continue to support our vision to improve Culver City parks facilities and to implement the recently adopted Parks Master Plan.

Our recommendations focus on both implementing the Parks Master Plan and strengthening ongoing PRCS operations. Throughout our recommendations, we have followed the decision framework outlined in the Parks Master Plan.

We organize this letter by discussing staffing needs, then budget items needed to fund existing operations and parks, and, finally, discussing a proposed plan to continue to implement the Parks Master Plan.

### ***Staffing***

#### ***Fund Additional Management Staff (Ongoing)***

We thank the Council for adopting several of the recommended staffing increases in the last budget cycle. Nonetheless, what the Parks Master Plan notes on page 234 still holds: "Currently, the parks demonstrate overstressed budgets and overstretched staff."

The Council created a Deputy Director position and another Senior Management Analyst position in the last budget cycle. The creation of the Deputy Director position and the strategic pivot to obtaining grants has already paid off for the City. In the last six months, the PRCS Department has applied for a planning and design grant for \$344,760 that will cover construction and planning documents for the racket sports courts at Culver City Park.

Nonetheless, the department could still use an additional Management Analyst to support senior management.

- ***Fund a Management Analyst position (Ongoing)***

#### ***Funding for Other Staff Members***

##### ***Fund Two (2) Additional Maintenance Workers I (Ongoing)***

PRCS staffing continues to be a challenge in the Maintenance Division. The Parks Plan notes on page 233, "Prior to significant capital investments, it is critical that additional funding for general maintenance be secured for PRCS."

As we noted in our last four budget letters, the current staffing levels only allow the department to fix issues when they break, resulting in higher expenses for the City. With proper staffing, the ability to provide comprehensive preventative maintenance will result in improved safety, lower repair costs, and extend the useful life of our facilities and equipment. We recommend that the Council fund two (2) additional Maintenance Worker I positions.

***Expenditures to Fund Existing Operations***

Increase in Playground Maintenance in the PRCS Operating Budget: \$75,000 (Ongoing)

We thank the Council for the ongoing funding for playground maintenance in the PRCS operating budget approved last year. Unfortunately, due to both the age of the equipment and inflation, we request additional funds to make up for shortfalls.

Fund In-house Youth Sports Programs: Staffing: \$21,471 and Supplies: \$7,029 (Ongoing)

We thank the Council for funding our in-house Youth Sports Program. It is off to a rousing success. To keep the momentum and increase the program size and offerings, PRCS needs additional funding to further develop and maintain these activities. This funding would allow PRCS to build on the success of the program thus far.

***Capital Improvement Projects***

We expect that there will be increased pressure on the PRCS facilities over the next several years due to several factors. First, there is the increased pushed for more housing in Culver City. Many of these residences will be in apartment buildings without much green space. Thus our parks must provide space for additional patrons. Second, we want our parks to be in great shape for the upcoming Olympics. Finally, as we noted last year, now that the Parks Master Plan has been completed, residents expect that the City will implement the plan.

Tellefson Park Renovation (Approximately \$1,368,790)

As we noted last year a renovation to Tellefson Park meets the criteria laid out in the decision framework in the Parks Master Plan: it is in an area with historically lower investment, in proximity to an Equity Focus Neighborhood, increases services in parks with high pressure, and helps achieve the Parks Master Plan Vision, Mission, and Goals. In addition, there are likely to be available local, state, and federal funding opportunities.

We thank the Council for providing funds for the planning phase and construction documents. We now ask the Council for the funds to complete the project. We note that the project could be completed in phases, but there would be cost savings if we completed the project at one time.

Phase	Item	Cost if Completed in Phases	Cost if Completed at One time

	<b>TOTAL</b>		

**[DEPARTMENT NOTE: THIS TABLE CAN BE FILLED OUT BASED ON THE DISCUSSION ASSOCIATED WITH STAFF REPORT 26-363]**

Lindberg Park Playground Renovation

The PRCS Department has been planning a renovation of the Lindberg Park Playground for several years. The playground equipment is very old, and it is extremely difficult and costly to source replacement parts, if available at all. We ask for \$2,260,360 to fund a renovation of this playground, which is included in the Parks Master Plan.

Renovation of the Bill Botts Playing Fields

The Bill Botts Playing Fields are in deplorable shape. The upper fields (fields 2-4) were built on fill that has continued to settle unevenly. There are areas of the fields with great depressions that turn into small lakes during the rainy season, and areas with small mounds that work as tripping hazards. The lower field has drainage issues that cause AYSO to place cones in the middle of the playing field to mark “no go zones,” and mud patches that lead to numerous slips and falls. In addition, all fields have numerous gofer holes that trip up young players. Compared with the surrounding areas, our fields are frankly embarrassing.

The Department currently has about \$1 million in CIP funds to spend on the fields. This money will only cover the renovation of Field 4. The PRCS Department is asking for \$XXX to be able to renovate Fields 2 and 3 at the same time, saving the City money over the long run.

Creation of new racquet sports courts under the E line off National

In the past year, resident Meg Sullivan has brought to the attention of the PRCS Department and Commission an opportunity to use land under the E line off National to create a small park. The creation of this park would accomplish three goals. First, the open space is currently an “attractive nuisance” for dumping and other illegal activities. Second, the Arts District/Hayden Track area currently has medium park pressure, with residents walking 5-10 minutes to the nearest park. Finally, by installing racquet sports courts, we will take pressure off the rest of the courts in town, which are very busy. Developing this small park would cost \$686,400.

2026 is shaping up to be a very active year for PRCS, with many exciting opportunities to support and sustain PRCS recreational facilities and programming for the community for

decades to come. With the coming Olympics, PRCS wants to do all it can to make the city shine!

We thank the Council for approving many proposed initiatives over the last few years and hope you will continue to support our vision to evolve Culver City PRCS into an exemplar of recreation and community service in our region.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

DRAFT