



Culver CITY
**PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
 COMMISSION**

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 2024-2025 – COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
 DATE: 02 APRIL 2024

Dear City Council Members:

Thank you again for inviting our Commission to share recommendations for budget enhancements for improvement projects 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 and hope you will continue to support our vision to improve Culver City parks facilities to address the 21st century demands for recreation. We expect that the funding authorized last year for the Parks Master Plan will result in more comprehensive improvement recommendations when completed, but we believe the following suggestions will provide immediate improvements.

Fund an Additional Maintenance Worker I & Irrigation Maintenance Technician (Ongoing)

PRCS staffing continues to be a challenge, especially in the Maintenance & Irrigation Division. The current staffing levels only allow for the department to fix things when they break which results in higher expenses for the city. With proper staffing, we believe that the ability to provide comprehensive preventative maintenance will result in improved safety, lower repair costs, and extend useful life of our facilities and equipment. We recommend that the Council fund the additional personnel positions of Maintenance Worker I & Irrigation Maintenance Technician (ongoing cost).

Upgrades to Culver West and Lindberg Park Playgrounds: \$2,000,000 (One-time)

Although we have revamped a number of the City's older playgrounds, a number of older facilities continue to present maintenance challenges and don't meet the modern accessibility needs of the community. We recommend providing additional funding to redesign and rebuild the Culver West and Lindberg Park playgrounds. These playgrounds are well used by the surrounding neighborhoods, yet parts shortages and outdated equipment contribute to ongoing maintenance issues with these older facilities. The Commission requests approximately \$2,000,000 (one-time cost) to implement these critical upgrades.

Include Playground Maintenance in the PRCS Operating Budget: \$35,000 (Ongoing)

It is our understanding that funding to maintain our playground improvements is limited and requires additional ad hoc budget requests. We suggest that a standing budget line item be incorporated into the PRCS operating budget to conduct regular inspections and sustain playground maintenance, thereby extending the useful life of our improvements, so our facilities are safe for all of the city's children to enjoy. The Commission projects that approximately \$35,000 (ongoing cost) will meet this need.

Fund In-house Youth Sports Programs (Ongoing)

The Commission is not only recommending additional funding to maintain our existing facilities and services, but we also believe that funding should be made available to offer additional programming for our community. There is a huge demand for organized sports in our West Los Angeles region;

in-house programming can be created to meet that need while generating needed income. The PRCS Department is currently exploring the provision of youth sports to the community. We recommend that the Council provide support to develop and maintain these activities to ensure success in this endeavor.

Ensure Compliance with California's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) (Multi-year)

Although the state has recovered from its years-long drought, water conservation continues to be a concern especially with all the greenspace under the PRCS domain. We want to be sure that the Department is meeting the City's commitments to comply with the statewide Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo). This many-phased effort requires support and attention in the form of funding for an initial evaluation by a landscape architect consultant to review our water usage and identify where issues might exist. This is an important first step toward necessary compliance.

Procurement and Delivery of Mulch City Wide (Ongoing)

Finally, there has been demand for the beautification of the Expo-line portion of the bike path in the Culver City Arts District. Community volunteers, led by two master gardeners, are working hard to improve the greenspaces around the bike path and have been working with the City to maintain them. The volunteer group asked for the City to support their work by providing mulch to be spread in the beds along the path. During the Mid-Year Departmental Budget Request process, City Council graciously approved \$7,700 as a one-time cost in funding for the procurement and delivery of mulch to support this successful community volunteer beautification project. The commission also requests that counsel considers an annual ongoing funding for continued maintenance of mulch citywide in order to comply with SB1383.

2024 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. We thank the Council for your approval of many proposed initiatives over the last few years and hope that you will continue to support our vision to evolve Culver City PRCS as an exemplar of recreation and community service in our region.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION