



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 2026-2027 – COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
DATE: 03/03/2026

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's parks' facilities and to implement the recently adopted Parks Plan.

Our recommendations focus on both implementing the Parks 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 long-term fiscal sustainability, investing in public infrastructure, items needed to fund existing operations and parks, and finally, discussing a proposed plan to continue to implement the Parks Plan.

Ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability while investing in public infrastructure

In order to implement the Parks Plan and fulfill the mandate of the community, the PRCS Commission recommends hiring under contract a financial analyst or consultant to study ways to fund a new recreation complex and required infrastructure improvements. These strategies could include a bond, increased fees, soliciting donations through partnerships with various foundations, and the use of revenues from the new naming rights policies for both large and smaller facilities. This aligns with Council priorities of long-term fiscal sustainability.

Invest in public infrastructure and community spaces at Bill Botts Playing Fields

The Bill Botts Playing Fields are in deplorable shape. The upper fields (fields 2-4) were built on a landfill that has continued to settle unevenly. These fields have great depressions that turn into small lakes during the rainy season, and areas with small mounds that are tripping hazards. Because of these problems, Field 4, the **only** softball field that was reserved for use by girls' softball has been out of commission for years. Culver City Little League has been forced to beg for time on the adult softball fields or play on the baseball fields, creating an issue of gender equity. The lower field has drainage issues that cause American Youth Soccer Organization (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 gopher holes that trip up young players. Compared with the surrounding areas, our fields are frankly embarrassing.

The cost of renovating the fields is as follows:

- Grading Field 1: \$200,000
- Fixing Fields 3 & 4 not including equipment: \$800,000

- Equipment for fields 3 & 4, including backstops, fencing, and bleachers: \$500,000
- Fixing Field 2, including equipment: \$950,000
- Creating a separate and well-defined path for the Parks-to-Playa trail: \$30,000

The Department currently has about \$1.5 million in CIP funds to spend on the fields. In addition, the PRCS Department is in the process of applying for a Dodgers Dreamfield Grant to fund the additional renovations. Funding from the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation can vary from project to project; however, Nickerson Gardens, a local housing project, received 1.1 million for their Dreamfield. The Department, most likely, will not know the results of that grant application until after the approval of the FY26-27 budget.

The Commission does not think it prudent to wait until the mid-year budget revisions or next fiscal year budget to obtain funding for the project. As noted, Field 4 has been out of commission for years, greatly impacting Culver City Little League and the ability of our City's children to play softball and baseball. Thus, to fully complete the renovation, the PRCS Commission asks for \$1,500,000.

Creating long-term solutions for Bill Botts

These fixes to Bill Botts do not solve the long-term issues of the fields and failing infrastructure. Recent community input has led us to prioritize Bill Botts to ensure fields are fully playable and doing so will put us in a good place to have the longest possible runway to have a strategic focus using multiple streams of revenue for a long-term fix to infrastructure issues. Thus, we recommend hiring a consultant, as noted above, to analyze potential for multiple revenue streams to fund capital projects.

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

The creation of this new 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 Tract 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 town's courts, which are very busy.

This new park could be created in phases. The first phase would build two pickleball courts under the larger "bay" under the train's path. It would also include fixing the irrigation along the bike path. The community has spent a huge amount of time and money to provide plants along the bike path, and the irrigation would ensure the health of these plants. The PRCS Commission would like to acknowledge that there is opportunity for park development here down the road. Potentially developing the other "bay" into a small park, perhaps a dog park, depending on community feedback.

- Pre-construction phase: Community meetings, drawings, and contracting
- Phase 1: grading land, building two pickleball courts, and fixing irrigation along the bike path to ensure survival of the planting currently in place; \$250,000

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 Plan. Roughly \$1,000,000 could be reimbursed through Measure A funding, which PRCS staff is willing to apply to get the funds for this project. **Measure A funds must be used to reimburse municipalities for projects; thus, we ask for the funds upfront.**

Tellefson Park Renovation (Approximately \$1,648,240)

As we noted last year a renovation to Tellefson Park meets the criteria laid out in the decision framework in the Parks 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 Plan's Vision, Mission, and Goals.

We thank the Council for providing funds for the planning phase and construction documents. We are now asking the Council for the funds to complete the project. The PRCS Department has already applied for a grant from the National Fitness Campaign for a Fitness Court Studio. To supplement that grant, the Department plans to use Measure A funds to complete this part of the project. **Measure A funds must be used to reimburse municipalities for projects; thus, we ask for the funds upfront.** These funds will be returned to the General Fund after the Department is reimbursed.

We note that the project could be completed in phases, but there would be cost savings if we completed the project at one time. We recommend beginning with the Fitness Court Studio, assuming that the grant application is successful, and building walking paths and extending the sidewalk to allow park patrons to add walking and jogging to their workout.

As a second phase, we note that the Pickleball community is growing in our community and recommend adding the courts to Tellefson Park. For Phase 3, we recommend renovating the picnic shelter, which is serviceable but in poor shape. Finally, the City should add additional equipment and the like to the site.

Phase	Item	Cost
Phase 1	Fitness Court Studio	(\$332,250 will be reimbursed by Measure A)
Phase 1	Walking paths & sidewalks	Sidewalks \$65,280 / Walking Paths \$120,400
Phase 2	Pickleball courts	Courts \$686,400 / Seating \$124,500
Phase 3	Picnic grove renovation	\$76,960
Phase 3	Tree canopy thinning, remove unhealthy trees, plant new native trees	\$14,000
Phase 4	Additional site equipment & bathroom renovation	Exercise Equipment \$38,000 / Upgrade bathroom \$190,450
	TOTAL	\$1,648,240

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 (Ongoing)

We thank the Council for funding our in-house Youth Sports Program. It is off to a rousing success. Our youth sports programs are much more affordable but much higher quality than other options; it aligns well with the City Council's goals of providing affordable, high-quality services.

This fiscal year Council approved a one-time enhancement for in house youth sports program staffing. To keep the momentum and increase the program size and offerings, PRCS need ongoing funding to further develop and maintain these activities. This funding would allow PRCS to build on the success of the program thus far.

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

Attachments: 2026-03-03 Existing Amenities in Culver City Parks System

Existing Conditions Inventory

2026-03-03 Existing Amenities in Culver City Parks System

	Baseball Fields	Diamond Fields	Multipurpose Fields	Small Grass Rec. Fields	Basketball Courts	Handball Walls	Paddle Tennis Courts	Tennis Courts	Sand Volleyball Courts	Pooch Paths	Dog Parks
Culver City Park	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Veterans Memorial Park	2	-	1	-	2	1	3	2	-	1	-
Blair Hills Park	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blanco Park	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carlson Park	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culver West Alexander Park	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	1	-	1	-
El Marino Park	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Hills Park	-	1	1	-	2	-	4	2	1	-	-
Lindberg Park	1	1	1	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-
Syd Kronenthal Park	-	2	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-
Tellefson Park	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coombs Parkette	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Hills Parkette	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>	7	7	9	4	10	7	11	8	1	3	1

LEGEND

SYMBOL



Count



Yes/Present



N/A

CONDITION

Good

Fair

Poor

Fitness Zones	Walking/Jogging Path	Barbecues	Hydration Stations	Kitchens	Lighting	Picnic Areas	Picnic Pavilions	Community/Recreation Centers	Freestanding Restrooms	Playgrounds	Pools	Skate Parks	Parking Lots	Regional Connections
-	1	Y	-	-	Y	4	-	-	1	2	-	1	5	2
2	1	Y	-	1	Y	2	1	1	1	2	1	-	2	-
-	-	Y	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
1	1	Y	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	Y	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	Y	-	1	Y	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	1	-
-	-	Y	-	1	Y	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
8	4	Y	-	-	Y	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
2	-	Y	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	1	-
7	1	Y	1	-	Y	5	2	1	-	3	-	-	2	2
-	-	Y	1	-	-	3	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	7	-	6	4	-	24	8	6	8	20	1	1	11	4

Figure 162. Existing amenities in the Culver City parks system are rated yearly by PRCS. These categories are based on programming use and site observations by staff. The LA Parks Portal may deviate based on Los Angeles County definitions. Source: LA Parks Portal, Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, inventory update December 27, 2023, www.laparkportal.org, updates received July 10, 2024.