



# 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 a Management Analyst position - \$142,700 (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; a \$35,000 grant to pay for a Fitness Court Studio, likely to be installed at Tellefson Park; and is working on a Dodgers Dream Field grant to renovate the fields at Bill Botts.

Nonetheless, the department could still use an additional Management Analyst to support senior management apply for more grants, pursue sponsorship and naming agreements under the new framework passed by the Council, and the Department's growing list of activities.

#### **Fund One (1) Additional Maintenance Worker I - \$90,100 and One (1) Additional Maintenance Worker 2 - \$94,100(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."

Attached you will also find a list of our parks' amenities and the grade they receive under the existing amenities ratings scale. As it shows, many of our parks' amenities receive fair to poor grades, further demonstrating the need for more maintenance.

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 an additional Maintenance Worker I position and an additional Maintenance Worker II position. By adding these positions, PRCS estimates that the department will save approximately \$\$\$ by increasing the lifespan of equipment.

**[DEPARTMENT NOTE: Figure TBD, staff working on calculating estimate]**

### ***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. 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 \$1,651,240.)

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.

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. 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 Pickle Ball community is growing in our community and recommend adding the courts to the 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	Side walks \$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
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,651,240</b>

### 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. 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 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 are as follows:

- Grading Field 1: \$100,000
- Fixing Fields 3 & 4 not including equipment: \$700,000
- Equipment for fields 3 & 4, including backstops, fencing, and bleachers: \$300,000
- Fixing Field 2, including equipment: \$850,000
- Creating a separate and well-defined path for the Parks-to-Playa trail: \$30,000

The Department currently has about \$1 million in CIP funds to spend on the fields. In addition, the PRCS Department is in the process of applying for a Dodgers Dream Field Grant to fund the additional renovations. The Department, most likely, will not know the results of that grant application until after the approval of the FY26-27 budget.

The Commission, however, 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 \$1,000,000.

However, if the City cannot fund the full amount, we ask for an additional \$200,000. This would allow the PRCS Department to grade Field 1, fully fix and equip Fields 3 and 4, and create a better Parks-to-Playa trail path.

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

We would like to thank resident Meg Sullivan for bringing to us an opportunity to use land under the E line off National to create a small park. This area was included in the Parks Master Plan as a potential addition to our parks system.

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 town’s courts, which are very busy.

Like Tellefson Park, this new park could be created in phases. The first phase would build **two** pickleball court 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 second phase would develop 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

- Phase 2: Developing a small park in the second bay based on community feedback;

**\*Staff is recommending we move forward with building only the two pickleball courts currently. As funding permits, phase two can be considered.**

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 ATT 2 Existing Amenities in Culver City Parks System