

Local Grant Projects Proposed by the Parks and Recreation Commission

1. *Purchase of the Pierce Street Park Property*

Residents living on and near Pierce Street attended several Commission meetings advocating for the purchase of the Pierce Street property currently owned by Caltrans for the purpose of building a park. Pierce Street residents make up approximately 25% of the total Albany population. As listed in the 2004 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, this area of the City is underserved in terms of recreational space. In response to the residents' request, the Commission is proposing that \$465,000 be set aside for the property's eventual purchase.

2. *Teen Center Expansion*

The idea for a Teen Center expansion originated when the Teen Services Supervisor expressed concern that there is inadequate space at the Teen Center for teens to study and complete homework. Currently there is a small room within the Teen Center, which offers some space for students to complete homework; however, the room is very small and separated only by the sliding glass door. Noise from the other scheduled activities make it difficult for kids to study. Additionally, the Supervisor expressed a desire to hire a staff person who could tutor participants onsite who need help completing homework while at the Teen Center after school. Having a staff person onsite to assist kids with their homework would be a tremendous addition to the Teen Center program.

The proposal for the added space is to place a modular building next to the Teen Center on the west side. Currently that area is being used for outdoor storage and already has a concrete pad. The concrete pad measures 20'x37'. The few items that are stored there could easily be moved to another area.

In addition to extra space for the Teen Center, if properly equipped with computers and media equipment, the additional space could be used in the mornings, evenings, and on weekends for computer and media classes of all kinds. The space could also be used for small meeting rentals for groups needing projectors, a screen, computers, and other AV equipment. High school students working on group assignments could rent the space for a minimal fee. To expand on our existing intergenerational programs, the room could be used for computer classes for our seniors involving high school students as tutors. Staff is investigating the possibility of more grant funds and donations from Apple to equip the room.

The area being proposed requires relatively minimal prep work before the building could be placed. The existing concrete pad may need to be leveled. Access to water, sewer, and electrical power have been located and would not be difficult to install. The building could adjoin the existing ADA ramp thus allowing the needed access to the building without constructing an additional ramp. Minor modifications would need to be made to the existing ramp.

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3. *Ohlone Greenway Improvements*

According to the research completed during the Parks, Recreation and Open Space master planning process, the Ohlone Greenway is the most used park in Albany. The upcoming BART retrofit project will likely take care of the specialized trail surface for bicycles, running, and walking, which was recommended in the Master Plan. As part of the BART retrofit project the City has 35% design plans for the Ohlone Greenway that were created by Gates and Associates. The Commission would like to add to the existing plans for further improvements as well as implement some of the improvements mentioned in the completed portion of the design plans. Specific improvements and a prioritized list of those improvements would be determined and brought back to Council at a future date. Improvement ideas include the garden and tree demonstration areas in the current plans as well as improved landscaping. Other ideas may be generated as the plans for the Ohlone Greenway are expanded. According to the local grant guidelines, up to 20% of the total cost of a project may be spent on non-construction costs; therefore, if the Council approves \$125,000 for Ohlone Greenway improvements, a maximum of \$25,000 could be spent on design/construction plans.

4. *Cove and "Triangle" improvements at the Bulb*

The Cove and Triangle improvement project at the Bulb was presented by the Waterfront Committee as one of the three projects the Committee submitted for the Commission's consideration. The improvements include the installation of new landscaping, a redesigned seating area, the installation of one or two picnic benches, and the relocation of the bike racks. The project is intended to enhance the vista and visual experience as current conditions clutter the vista. The estimated cost is \$50,000 per City staff. Please see attached pictures of the area being proposed for improvements.

5. *Additional Rubberized Surface at Ocean View Park*

The Commission is recommending that a rubberized surface be installed under the play structure at Ocean View Park. The Council recently approved State Park grant money to rubberize the surface under the swings at Ocean View; however, the Commission is proposing an additional portion be rubberized to cover the area under the play structure as well. The State Park grant money being used for the area under the swings is also being used to install a permanent stage at Memorial Park. There was not enough State Park grant money to cover the resurfacing cost of both the area under the play structure and under the swings. The area under the play structure was a lower priority and was not considered to be problematic when an ADA consultant recently reviewed the park; however, the Commission feels that the disabled population would be better served with a rubberized surface under the play structure as well as under the swings.