




MEMORANDUM

TO: Olympia City Council

FROM: Maria Ruth, Chair 
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)

DATE: October 17, 2019

SUBJECT: Preliminary 2020-2025 Capital Facilities Plan (CFP)
PRAC Recommendation to the Olympia City Council

At PRAC's August 16, 2019 meeting, PRAC members received a presentation by Park staff on the Parks Chapter of the *2020-2025 Preliminary Capital Facilities Plan* (CFP). PRAC passed a motion to form a subcommittee to review the CFP in greater depth. The subcommittee met with Park staff on September 4 to discuss and then drafted a recommendation letter for full the PRAC to consider and discuss at its September 17 meeting. Due to lack of quorum at the September meeting, the item was pushed to the October 17 meeting.

PRAC members have carefully reviewed the list of proposed park projects included in the Parks Chapter of the *2020-2025 Preliminary Capital Facilities Plan*. We found the projects to align with the plan for capital investments included in the 2016 *Parks, Arts & Recreation Plan*.

On October 17, 2019 we passed a motion to support the projects proposed for inclusion in the Parks Chapter in the *2020-2025 Preliminary Capital Facilities Plan*, including shifting Olympia Metropolitan Park District (OMPD) funds allocated for park development to park operations to cover the ever-increasing costs and responsibilities associated with the maintenance of our ever-increasing acres of parks. We understand that these funds will include the hiring of an additional full-time park maintenance (Level 2) worker.

Parks Operations and Maintenance Manager Sylvana Niehuser has expressed the need for additional maintenance staff. This need was justified and conveyed to the PRAC CFP subcommittee by Associate Parks Director Jonathon Turlove. This information was presented to the PRAC subcommittee during its September 5, 2019 meeting.

Additionally, we are very pleased with the progress the Parks Department has made since the 2019-2024 CFP was approved, notably...

- Upgrading our parks to ADA standards (thanks to City Council for approving PRAC's 2018 recommendation to fund ADA improvements in the 2019-2024 CFP)
- Developing our parks, especially the much-anticipated Woodruff Park Sprayground
- Maintaining our parks, especially the replacement of the Percival Landing bulkhead and replacement of both the Rose Garden Shelter and Picnic Shelter No. 2 in Priest Point Park

Thank you for taking the time to consider our recommendation in the course of your CFP review process. Please feel free to contact me by telephone at 360.350.8583 or by email at mruth@ci.olympia.wa.us if you would like to discuss PRACs recommendation.