

**FW: 4/15/25 Park Budget Study Session**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Fri 4/11/2025 3:46 PM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (382 KB)  
20250411 Letter Park budget study session April 15.pdf;

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**From:** jeanann2 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 2:56 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** 4/15/25 Park Budget Study Session

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Please distribute the attached letter to council and attach to the agenda.  
Thank-you  
--Jean Dresden

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April 11, 2025

Honorable Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, Council members Kamei, Campos, Salas, Cohen, Ortiz, Doan, Candelas, and Casey

RE: Park Budget Study Session April 15, 2025

The mission of Yes on San Jose Parks is to empower and mentor the San Jose community to engage and learn about our park system for a healthy, thriving city, which enhances the quality of life for all San Jose residents.

San Jose's parks play a significant role in driving economic development, fostering city vibrancy, and attracting new residents and businesses. Parks are a core service identified in the City's Charter and an essential amenity that is fundamental to creating the City's identity, desirability, and attractiveness. Parks can be leveraged as a tool to foster attachment and belonging to place--critically important to a stable population and economy.

San Jose's parks help businesses recruit new hires by offering healthy, attractive, and collaborative environments that align with the values of modern Gen Z and Millennial workers. These spaces can enhance employee satisfaction, improve well-being, and make companies located in San Jose more competitive when it comes to attracting top talent.

San Jose's park system has suffered severe personnel cuts during each recession and has never fully recovered despite adding more parks. Parks are maintained to a lower standard than in 2000 and they stand in sharp contrast to the quality of parks found in key competitive technology hub cities. The infrastructure backlog continues to grow and contributes to maintenance problems. No park bond or other funding measure has been offered to citizens since 2000. Meanwhile fee cuts have been implemented and land values from 2017 serve as the basis of fees while many other tech intense cities through the country raise their park fees annually or bi-annually.

PRNS rations its park maintenance interventions to focus on areas with lower health indices and poor park maintenance scores—allowing small problems in other parks to grow. There is insufficient staffing to coordinate all of the volunteers and corporate partners who want to step up and help--creating frustration and disengagement.

The park system's major repairs are funded through a patchwork system of Construction and Conveyances taxes and fees charged on residential developers.<sup>1</sup> The underlying design of these funding systems contribute to continuing inequities of access and amenities, primarily within areas of low health index and communities of color.

The current funding system is not sustainable. The City must develop a long-term strategy to equitably fund its park maintenance and failing infrastructure and openly discuss these problems and possible solutions comprehensively with communities throughout the city—both with residents and commercial groups. In the interim, a short-term improvement would be to fund additional coordinators for volunteer labor in the park system.

We stand ready to help the City to communicate the park system's needs, the institutionalized difficulties with the current park funding methods and a menu of strategies.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jean Dresden

Interim Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> Park Trust funds derive from enabling legislation including the Quimby Act and AB 1600-Fee Mitigation Act.

**FW: San Jose Park Budget & Maintenance**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Mon 4/14/2025 9:00 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** vinnysj [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 2:49 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** San Jose Park Budget & Maintenance

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Hello, My name is Vince Navarra representing the Hamann Park budget & maintenance. I have been President & steward for the Hamann Park for over 15 years. The Park is a golden resource for our neighborhood & community. It is such a valuable resource for relaxation, exercise, sports, play area for children, space for get togethers, enhancement for green space for the residential homes. The Park has a community center for meeting activities, celebrations, recreation, children's summer camps, tennis courts, baseball field. I can see the immerse value as I visit the Park every day. There is always a diverse group of visitors there, open to all. I also tell our neighbors to appreciate the Park which is a rare amenity for everyone living here. I tell Real Estate agents that the Park adds considerable value and selling incentives to prospective buyers.

I know as President of our Neighborhood Assn we use the Park for endless activities such as National Night Out, Movie nights, social events, BBQs, etc.

Also, our CERT team has resources there and understanding to be a meeting place in case of any disasters. We also have public bathrooms there that are maintained very well.

I can go on about the very valuable aspects of our beautiful Park.

On a final note, I have worked with the PRNS maintenance crew and they do an exceptional job in keeping our Park in great order. They are very responsive to all my request and are so very hard working & professional. They are constantly picking up trash, maintaining trees, irrigation systems, playgrounds, graffiti abatement & cleaning streets, etc.

I do intend on being at the City Council meeting & I would appreciate the opportunity to speak. Thank you so much. Best

Regards,

Vince Navarra President of the Hamann Park N/A [REDACTED]

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**FW: Council Study Session - Park Maintenance and Operational Funding (April 15, 2025)**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Mon 4/14/2025 8:59 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (501 KB)  
ADLG 0225-04-12 Parks Letter.pdf;

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Greg Peck - ADLG [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 13, 2025 12:06 AM  
**To:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Council Study Session - Park Maintenance and Operational Funding (April 15, 2025)

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Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hello, Mayor Matt Mahan, San Jose City Councilmembers, Jennifer McGuire, and Jon Cicirelli.

Please review the attached All District Leadership Group (ADLG) letter. We appreciate your review and encourage you to consider its message as you determine Park maintenance and operational funding this week.

Thank you, Toni, if you input this letter to the upcoming Council Study Session.

Regards,  
Greg Peck  
President, All District Leadership Group (ADLG)

PDF file attached: ADLG 2025-04-12 Parks Letter.pdf

## All District Leadership Group

Council Districts

D1 - D2 - D3 - D4 - D5 - D6 - D7 - D8 - D9 - D10

The Honorable Matt Mahan, Mayor of San José  
and Members of the City Council  
via email - sent April 12, 2025

re: "Council Study Session Park Maintenance and Operational Funding"

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

**Protect our Parks.** Please keep funding for our parks at the current level to ensure maintenance is maintained. Quality of life in these times is paramount to the health and well being of each individual resident in the City of San Jose.

The All District Leadership Group (ADLG) is a consortium of leaders of the active San Jose leadership groups. The purpose of the ADLG is to strengthen two-way communication between neighborhoods and government agencies and representatives and build a stronger sense of community within all Districts in the City of San Jose.

*Parks are important to us in the community!* Parks are the heart of the community, where outdoors we can go and play with our kids, meet neighbors, enjoy life. Parks enhance our quality of life if you live in a single family residence or more importantly if you live in a residential high rise or affordable housing, residents need parks to be able to enjoy the outdoors.

Our parks need to be maintained. Fees on new developments help fund new parks for new residents, and also help with some major improvements in existing parks; taxes on the sale or remodeling of existing homes help – but there is a significant backlog of needed maintenance. Further, volunteers assist with maintenance of the parks. We ask that volunteer coordinator levels remain as currently staffed.

Yes we understand there is a budget shortfall. In previous years budget cuts have reduced funding for our parks. People want our parks, playgrounds, trails, and other facilities clean and well-maintained. We are asking that funding for parks be maintained at the current level or above.

***Protect Our Parks!***

Thank you,  
Greg  
Chair, All District Leadership Group

Peck,

District 1 – Gary Cunningham  
District 2 – John Leipelt  
District 3 – Joan Rivas-Cosby  
District 4 – Linda Locke

District 5 – Juan Estrada  
District 6 – Larry Ames  
District 7 – Alie Victorine  
District 8 – Pat Waite

District 9 – Bobbi Pena-Atak  
District 10 – David Heindel  
Member at Large – Jim Carter

Cc: City Clerk, City Manager, and PRNS Director.

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**FW: Agenda item 25-427 Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Mon 4/14/2025 1:28 PM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** D7 Leadership Group <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 1:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Agenda item 25-427 Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding

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**Honorable Mahan and Councilmembers,**

Parks are important to the well-being of a community, but parks that are not maintained have the opposite effect. And neighborhoods without parks do not have the sense of community and health that other neighborhoods do. As a leader in D-7, I understand the issues neighborhoods face when parks are not maintained, programs are cut, or when communities lack access to parks. These issues are often brought up at our leadership group meetings as concerns from our neighborhoods.

As stated in the April 15th, 2025 Overview of Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding Report in order "to ensure that all residents have access to safe, well-maintained parks, San José must continue exploring new, sustainable funding solutions that balance immediate needs with long-term resiliency."

San Jose parks are currently not funded in an equitable or sustainable fashion, and I urge this council to work on fixing this long-term problem starting with the key action items identified in the report, especially "the need to modify policies to allow more flexibility in distributing revenue from park development fees citywide, enabling investment where it is most needed."

Our current system is underfunded, and the backlog of maintenance is staggering, so as you work to restructure and balance the way parks in San Jose are funded, I urge you to do your best to not make any more cuts to the current park budget, staffing or programs.

Thank you,

Alie Victorine, President

## D-7 Leadership Group



### Executive Board

**Alie Victorine, President** (Seven Trees NA)

**Gia Vega, Vice President** (Dahl NA)

**Steve Navarro, Secretary** (Tropicana-Lanai NA)

**Orlana Mejia, Treasurer** (Lone Bluff-Senter NA)

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**FW: San José's Parks are vastly underfunded**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Mon 4/14/2025 3:54 PM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

---

**From:** Shani Kleinhaus <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 3:53 PM  
**To:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** San José's Parks are vastly underfunded

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Dear Mayor Mahan and City Councilmembers,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society in response to the deeply troubling findings presented in the recent PRNS report on park maintenance and funding. The report paints a devastating picture: over the past 20 years, park acreage has increased by about 20%, while maintenance staffing has declined by 20%. This is not just unsustainable—it's a slow-moving crisis that is already affecting the livability and equity of our city.

San José deserves a world-class park system. Yet this report makes it painfully clear that the City is falling far behind comparable cities—both in California and across the nation. Despite budget challenges, other cities have chosen to invest in parks as core infrastructure. San José must do the same.

The current patchwork approach to funding ensures that some neighborhoods will continue to be underserved, while others watch their parks decline into disrepair. This inequity undermines community health, environmental resilience, and our city's promise to provide a high quality of life for all residents.

I urge you to take immediate and meaningful action:

- **Stop further cuts to the parks budget.**
- **Reject fee discounts that reduce parks revenue.**
- **Commit to a real, long-term strategy for equitable park maintenance and investment.**

Please don't defer this issue to a future council. The time to act is now.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Respectfully,

Shani Kleinhaus, Ph.D.

Environmental Advocate  
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance  
22221 McClellan Rd.  
Cupertino, CA 95014



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**FW: Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Mon 4/14/2025 4:53 PM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** Cindy Luong <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 4:36 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding

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Hi,

I remember as a child this lake used to be available for water recreational activities. This hasn't been the case for three decades.

The Lake Cunningham Park has been neglected for decades such as:

- the lake unusable for any recreational and sporting activities
- lack of clean updated bathrooms
- lack of clean trails due to all the bird feces
- lack of a dog park
- lack of courts for tennis/pickleball/basketball court

We have so much parking that could be used to convert some of the areas to sports that would allow communities to enjoy for East San Jose residents.

Please provide funding and allow East San Jose residents a place for communities to enjoy, relax. and interact with each other.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Luong, an East San Jose Resident

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**FW: Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Mon 4/14/2025 4:53 PM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** DAVID LAROCHE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 4:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding

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City parks provide substantial relief to the stress especially invoked today by political forces we cannot avoid and thus they need our attention. Outside correcting the impossible 280-680 commuter traffic jams, parks should be first on the list for maintenance and upgrade, and I fully support pushing some funds their way. Our kids need the diversion from less wholesome activities and we adults need the respite.

Thank you  
Dave LaRoche

[REDACTED]

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**FW: Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding"**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Tue 4/15/2025 7:43 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** trudy ellerbeck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 5:53 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding"

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I support the urgent need for investment in our parks, which currently face a **\$554 million maintenance and infrastructure backlog**, according to a 2024 city report.

Trudy Ellerbeck  
Sent from my iPhone

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**FW: Park Maintenance & Funding Revealed--at SJ Council 4/15 about 3 pm**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Tue 4/15/2025 7:44 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** darryl ospring [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 8:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Webmaster Manager <webmaster.manager@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Cc:** Jean Dresden [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Park Maintenance & Funding Revealed--at SJ Council 4/15 about 3 pm

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**To**  
Toni Taber, City Clerk  
City of San Jose

**Re - Letter from the Public**

Tuesday, April 15th 1:30 pm Council Meeting

Please forward this email & thread to:

- \* Mayor Matt Mahan
- \* Councilmembers D1 - D10
- \* Jennifer Maguire, City Manager

**Thank you in advance**

On behalf of our Children, District 2  
Darryl Ospring, Park Advocate

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** darryl ospring [REDACTED]  
**Date:** April 14, 2025 at 7:19:30 PM PDT  
**To:** Pamela Campos [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Kiyomi Yamamoto <[kiyomi.yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:kiyomi.yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov)>, Lucas Ramirez <[lucas.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:lucas.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov)>, Anthony Montes <[anthony.montes@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:anthony.montes@sanjoseca.gov)>, Tara Dang <[tara.dang@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:tara.dang@sanjoseca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Park Maintenance & Funding Revealed--at SJ Council 4/15 about 3 pm

***This is a Call to Action  
Elected Officials Make the Difference  
Our SJ City Parks are a Priority***

**To**

D2 Councilmember Pamela Campos

**Re SJ Park Budget Revealed**

See Info email below from SJ Park Advocates  
Park Maintenance & Funding Charts  
City of San Jose

**Councilmember Campos,**

As our D2 Elected Official, we are relying on you to be the “Champion for Parks” for All of our District 2 Community Parks.

Your message on the D2 website speaks of a strong commitment to addressing issues within the neighborhoods. Our Neighborhood Association Parks are the “Gems” of District 2 where the bonds and connections are strengthened.

There are 24 Parks in District 2 of 200+ City Parks which affects a huge percentage of the City’s # of PRNS Park Maintenance Budget.

**District 2 Neighborhood Parks**

Anderson Youth Baseball Field  
Basking Ridge Park  
Chynoweth Park  
Coy Park  
Danna Rock Park  
Edenvale Gardens Regional Park  
Great Oaks Park & Youth Baseball Field  
Martial-Cottle Park & Educational Farm  
Meadows Park  
Melody Park  
Metcalf Park  
Miner Park  
Parkview Park I  
Parkview Park II  
Parkview III  
Piercy Park  
Raliagh Linear Park & Dog Park  
Ramac Park & Soccer Fields  
Serenade Park  
Shady Oaks Park & Odette Morrow Trail Loop  
Silver Leaf Park  
Vista Park  
Waterford Park

***Why are our City Parks so important?***

Parks provide intrinsic environmental, aesthetic, and recreation benefits to our cities. They are also a source of positive economic benefits. They enhance property values, increase municipal revenue, bring in homebuyers and workers, and attract retirees.

**Councilmember Campos,** our Community Members & D2 PRNS Park Volunteers are relying on you as a Champion for Children from your experience as an Educator of our youngest students knowing that a

*Child's Work is Play and Play happens at our  
District 2 Parks...**You are their Voice***

**Submitted by**

Darryl Ospring, Board Member  
Coyote Creek Neighborhood Association  
Former Lead, PRNS Adopt a Park & Trail  
D2 NLC BOD Member

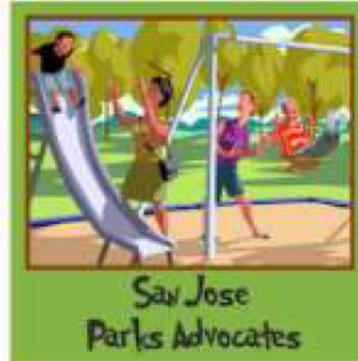
Neighborhood Volunteers serving 870  
residential homes within the City of San Jose  
Est 1985

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jean Dresden [REDACTED]  
**Date:** April 13, 2025 at 4:42:42 PM PDT  
**To:** [darryly2k](#) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Park Maintenance & Funding Revealed--at SJ Council 4/15 about 3 pm  
**Reply-To:** Jean Dresden [REDACTED]

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## **Devastating data about park maintenance and funding.**

**Hear more City Council Tuesday April 15 at about 3 pm**

San Jose's PRNS has released a report on park maintenance staffing and funding. In the past 20 years, staffing is down about 20% while park acreage is up about 20%—a recipe for failure. Learn about San Jose's park system -- a patchwork of funding that ensures some parks will fall into disrepair and have few features or improvements while other neighborhoods have no parks at all.

Included in the report are comparisons to large west coast cities, large national cities, and cities of about the same size. San Jose fails to near the bottom. Some of these comparison cities have money problems, but they value their parks more.

**City Council will hear the report Tuesday April 15 at about 3 pm.** Come show your support for the park system and ask them what they are going to do about it. No more cuts to the parks budget. No more fee discounts. No more kicking the problem to a future city council.

**Here's the 33 page report [CLICK HERE](#)**

Write to City Clerk and ask your email be shared with council. [city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov)

### **San Jose near the bottom compared to large California Cities!**



### **San Jose at the bottom compared to large West Coast Cities!**

## Maintenance Spending in Similar Cities



## Funding Source by district

San Jose has two major sources of park improvement and acquisition. One is called Construction and Conveyance Tax (C & C) and the other is called the Park Trust Fund which comes from new residential development. What do you think of the way it is allocated? Come to the hearing or read the report to learn how this became the city's practice and what can be done.

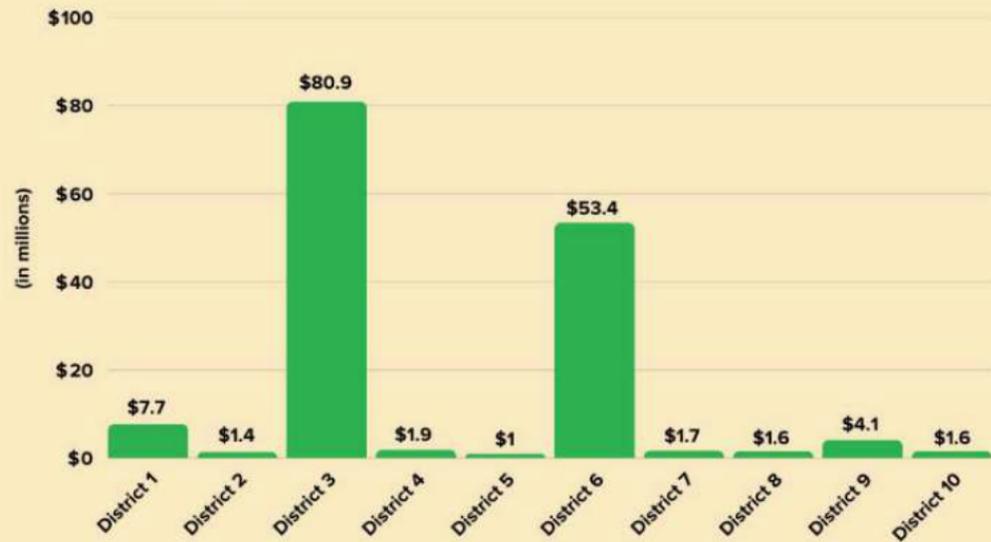
## Winners and Losers by District

### C&C by Council District Over the Past 10 Years



## Winners and Losers by District

## Park Fees by Council District Over the Past 10 Years



The Parks Department has a multi-year plan to address the inequities and get more funding, but will the council approve the plan? Stay tuned. Tuesday April 15 at 3 pm at City Council Study Session more will be revealed.

--Jean Dresden

PS: This is my first email to you all since COVID--a tough time for many of us. Hope you are all doing well.

This report needed sharing so I re-activated the Mail Chimp account!



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You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in improving San Jose City parks.

**Our mailing address is:**

San Jose Parks Advocates  
1276 Blewett  
San Jose, Ca 95125

[Add us to your address book](#)

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



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**FW: Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Tue 4/15/2025 7:45 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** Shawn Gerth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 9:16 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding

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You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)  
Dear Mayor Mahan and City Council Members,

I am writing this letter to express the urgency of investing in proper maintenance for city parks, particularly those in East San José. Parks provide an integral support system for the community. They are sites of connection, creativity, collaboration, and play an important role in physical and mental health.

Properly funded parks also play a crucial role in public safety. When people have safe, adequately maintained parks to go to, they are not forced to find alternate activities that may not be as beneficial for the community. Moreover, when people build community through being in public spaces together, they feel a deeper ownership of space and stronger social ties, which further promotes public safety.

I encourage you as you engage in this study session to commit to adequate maintenance resources for our parks for the benefit they provide to community.

Sincerely,  
Shawn Gerth

--

**Shawn Gerth**  
*Executive Director*

[REDACTED]  
[Instagram](#) | [Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

**FW: Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding"**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Tue 4/15/2025 7:46 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** Victor Vasquez <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 9:57 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Cc:** Oscar Quiroz-Medrano <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding"

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Dear City Clerk, San Jose Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I am writing this email to show my concern for the \$554 million maintenance and infrastructure backlog cited in the 2024 City Report. Mayfair and East San Jose have struggle to have adequate park maintenance in our community. Our parks need funding and services because open spaces serve has a crucial resource for families to convene, play and celebrate. Parks play a pivotal developmental resource for young children because these spaces are used to socialize and improve their motor and social-emotional skills alongside their siblings and family. Parks are a pivotal violence prevention spaces, where youth and families can come together peacefully. The play structures in our open spaces and parks create opportunities for children, youth and families to release stress and improve their overall wellbeing. SOMOS Mayfair, believes in the importance of providing equitable funding for public spaces for communities like Mayfair. We, as workers and residents of Mayfair, see the difference between Willow Glen parks and East side parks, and we call for action and support from City Council and the Mayor. We hope the Mayor and Councilmember also see the importance of having adequate public spaces for communities like Mayfair and act appropriately.

Thank you,



**Victor Vasquez** He/Him  
Co-Executive Director  
**SOMOS Mayfair** | 1695 Alum Rock Ave, suite 10

*Building Community Power in East San Jose to address systemic inequities and build a thriving Mayfair.*

[www.somosmayfair.org](http://www.somosmayfair.org) | #ChangeStartsHere | #SOMOSelCambio



*Our Gracias a la Vida Annual Fundraiser is May 9th, 2025. Get your tickets [here!](#)*

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**FW: Parks Study Session**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Tue 4/15/2025 7:46 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** Fred Buzo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 10:41 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Parks Study Session

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Mayor & Councilmembers, [REDACTED]

It's time for an honest conversation about the chronic funding gap in the operation and maintenance of San José's parks and public facilities. As of today, the city faces nearly **\$500 million in deferred park maintenance and infrastructure costs**—a figure that excludes ongoing maintenance needs and will undoubtedly continue to grow.

While staffing levels have increased incrementally since the drastic cuts between fiscal years 2008–2009 and 2011–2012, they still fall short of the 2008–2009 peak of 200 positions. Given current budgetary trends, it is unlikely that staffing or funding levels will ever return to those highs—let alone meet the demands of both deferred and routine maintenance.

The results of this long-term disinvestment are clear. Once-vibrant parks are falling into disrepair. The lakes at Lake Cunningham and Almaden Lake Regional Parks are now toxic. Portions of Overfelt Gardens and Guadalupe River Park have been assessed as “beyond repair.” Without bold and sustainable funding strategies, these issues will only deepen.

Now more than ever, San José must move beyond reactive budgeting. We need a long-term, strategic approach to park funding—one grounded in equity, transparency, and creativity. We can no longer let temporary fiscal pressures or shifting political priorities dictate whether or not we invest in what everyone agrees is essential to our city's liveability and vibrancy.

The bottom line is this: **without significant and sustained investment, our parks will continue to deteriorate.** There is no single solution. A successful strategy must include partnerships and funding from a range of sources—public, private, philanthropic, programmatic, and revenue-generating activities like concessions and rentals.

If the City cannot commit to a robust, long-term funding strategy, then its leaders must be transparent with residents about the existing funding gap—and be willing to place viable solutions on the ballot, such as a sales tax, special district, or other broad-based funding mechanism.

A critical first step is honesty. The polling conducted last year wasn't as discouraging as some have publicly suggested. In fact, one of the measures surveyed came **very close** to meeting the two-thirds threshold (66.6%) required for passage. I believe that with clear language, an organized campaign, and visible support from City leadership, a well-crafted measure **can** succeed.

Another important step toward sustainable parks funding is for City administrators to follow through on last year's directive regarding **Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs)**. EIFDs are a proven tool that leverage future property tax growth to fund public infrastructure—parks included—without raising taxes.

Council directed the City Manager to allocate **\$100,000 in one-time funding** to develop an implementation plan, drawing on best practices from other California cities. This work would identify legal requirements, timing, and the types of park projects most likely to benefit.

If San José is serious about addressing its parks funding crisis, advancing an EIFD strategy is a practical, long-term solution that should be **thoroughly** explored.

The alternative—piecemeal, year-to-year funding—is simply insufficient to reverse the long-term decline of our parks. We owe it to current residents and future generations to build and maintain a park system that reflects the vibrancy, beauty, and equity we envision for all of San José.

Fred Buzo

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**FW: For April 15, 2025 City Council Meeting - Comments Regarding Parks Maintenance and Funding Report**

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From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
Date Tue 4/15/2025 7:47 AM  
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: J <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 11:20 PM  
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
Subject: For April 15, 2025 City Council Meeting - Comments Regarding Parks Maintenance and Funding Report

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Please share the following with Mayor Mahan and all City Councilmembers.

Dear Mayor Mahan and City Councilmembers,

I'm not able to attend the City Council meeting tomorrow, April 15th, when San Jose's Parks Maintenance and Funding Report will be discussed, but I wanted to express my concerns over the findings.

The report concluded that the City's parks maintenance funding is NEAR the bottom compared to California's largest cities. In addition, San Jose IS at the very bottom for funding compared to large West Coast cities.

As someone who has worked hand-in-hand with the City's wonderful PRNS staff, they do such a great job doing what they can, but are in desperate need of additional funding and resources.

Our parks are so incredibly important to our city and neighborhoods. They're cherished spaces that provide opportunities to enjoy nature, places for community members to gather, and play areas for children to enjoy among other things.

Please support our beloved parks by not cutting the parks budget even more. Please also stop all park fee discounts. Our parks desperately need more funding and need it now.

I also understand current funding from the C&C Tax and Park Trust Fund is not evenly allocated. It's my understanding that the Parks Department has a multi-year plan to not only address this, but also generate more

funding. I would very much urge you and appreciate it if you would please consider this plan.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of these important matters.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Roberts  
San Jose Resident  
Parks Volunteer

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**FW: Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding**

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**From:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date:** Tue 4/15/2025 7:47 AM  
**To:** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** Chika [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 11:39 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding

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Dear Sir/ Madame

Hello, I will not be able to participate in person, but I am sending my message to say that I agree public spots like playgrounds and parks are very very important to us community members. Many times I have sent numerous requests about maintenance regarding a playground next to Vinci Park elementary school to [Park.Concerns@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Park.Concerns@sanjoseca.gov) but the request tickets (Vinci Park. #261874) keep on getting closed with no response.

A play structure is ripped off from the ground. They didn't fix it and just placed a construction sign board on top of it. That was in 2023, the construction sign board is still there 2025 now kids are climbing over it to play. It looks very dangerous.

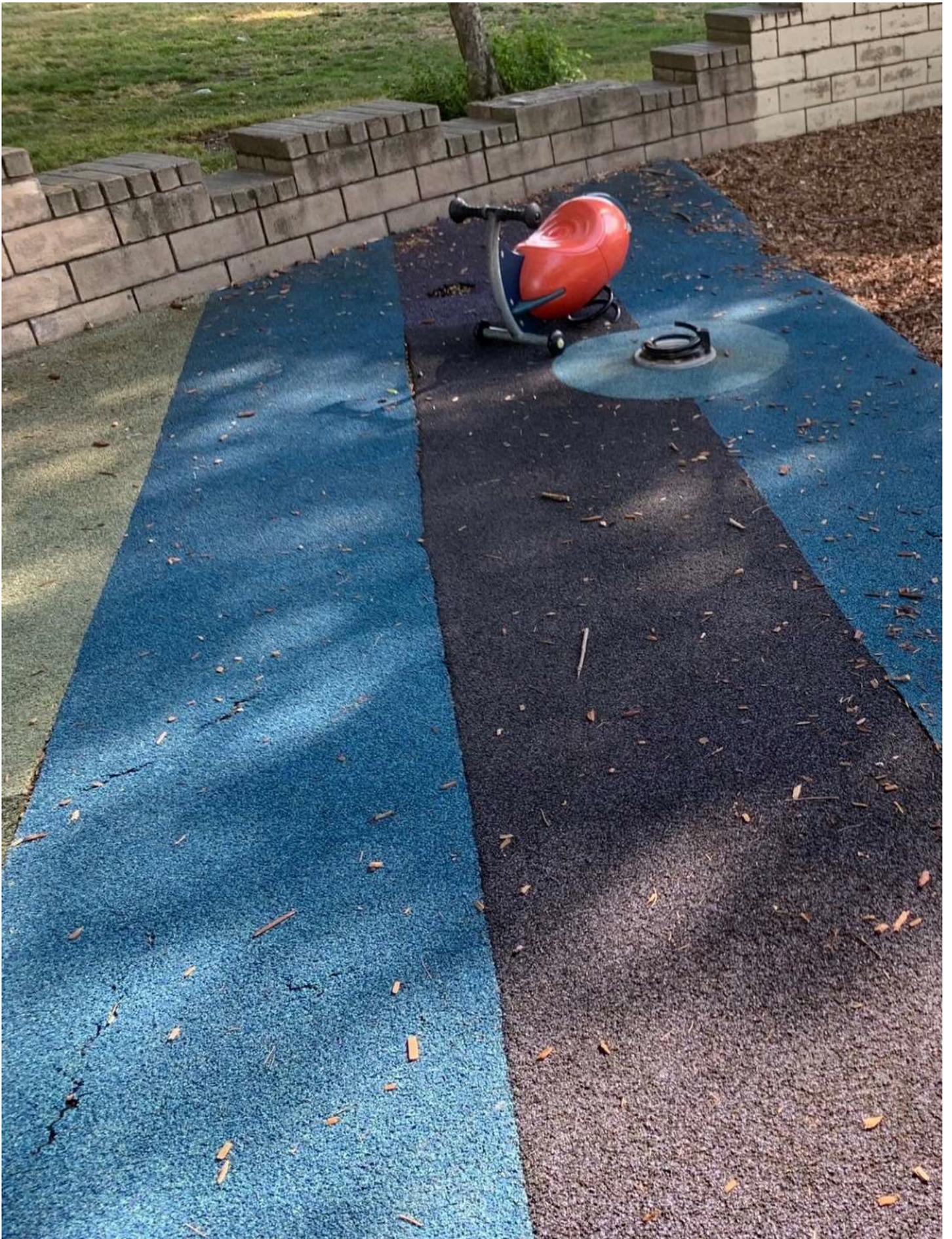
This playground is in the heart of the community right next to elementary school, where kids come and play daily the neighbourhood babies and young children also come here with their parents and grandparents to play.

My friend told me this place has been like this past 20 years not maintained. The mats torn, play structure broken benches have splinters and kids/babies get them in the hands by trying to learn to stand up holding onto the benches.

I understand funding is always problem but I cannot fathom why this place is so neglected and under prioritised. Schools often have a great playground right next to it like Majestic elementary school. Why is the playground next to Vinci Park so neglected? There are so many people in the morning during the day in the evening all the time.

I sincerely wish something good to happen to this playground.

Best regards,  
Chika



23:20

52

3 Messages

Update on Your Other...

X

2023-06-14

To: Park Concerns >

Hello.

It seems like noting is happening with Vinci Park.

In the mean time the park is deteriorating quickly and falling apart.

I hereby attach a photo of even one more broken play object. This looks dangerous. Mat has been ripped here and there, several spots.

I hope this park will be maintained and fixed soon during the summer break. This park is a popular spot to visit, located in the heart of residential areas and right next to the school.

Best regards,  
Chika



Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capit...











Following the press conference, we invite you to stay and participate in the **City Council Study Session on Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding**, which will be held **immediately after the 1:30 PM City Council meeting ends** in the Council Chambers.

**How to Participate in Public Comment**

◆ **Submit Written Public Comment**

- Email: [city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov)
- Deadline: **By 8:00 AM on April 15**
- Include "Study Session - Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding" in the subject line

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**FW: City council parks**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Tue 4/15/2025 8:15 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** liliankoenig1 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 8:02 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** City council parks

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Parks allocation of funds: the map shows d3 only allocated 6.5 million. The least amount of any districts. Yet it has the most development. Please review funding thanks lk Sent from my iPhone

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**FW: Council Study Session Park Maintenance and Operational Funding**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Tue 4/15/2025 7:44 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 2 attachments (119 KB)

D1LG Park Maint & Funding Memo.pdf; D1LG Park Maint & Funding Memo.pdf;

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**From:** GC Cunningham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 7:14 PM  
**To:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Council Study Session Park Maintenance and Operational Funding

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Mayor Matt Mahan, San Jose City Councilmembers, City Manager Jennifer McGuire, and PRNS Director Jon Cicirelli,

Attached is the District 1 Leadership Group (D1LG) memo concerning SJ Park maintenance and operational funding and related D1LG concerns. Please consider the concerns during the Council Study Session.

Gary Cunningham  
Vice Chair, D1LG

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## San Jose District 1 Leadership Group

The Honorable Matt Mahan, Mayor of San José  
and Members of the City Council  
via email, sent

re: Council Study Session Park Maintenance and Operational Funding

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

**Protect our Parks.** Please keep funding for our parks at no less than the current level to ensure maintenance is maintained. Quality of life in these times is paramount to the health and well-being of each individual resident in the City of San Jose.

District 1 Leadership Group (D1LG) represents more than 30 neighborhoods and community-based organizations and has a membership of more than 60 neighborhood leaders. D1LG provides a forum for the ongoing development of our community and its residents, and advocates for district interests with our council member and the City of San José.

***Parks are important to us in the community!*** Parks are the heart of the community, where outdoors we can go and play with our kids, meet neighbors, enjoy life. Parks enhance our quality of life if you live in a single-family residence or more importantly if you live in a residential high rise or affordable housing, residents need parks to be able to enjoy the outdoors.

Our parks need to be maintained. There is a significant backlog of needed maintenance. For example, in District 1, Rainbow park needs maintenance in the native plant garden, in the new Payne Avenue Friendship Park there are several trees and bushes dying, and F.M. Santana park is in need of updating. Further, volunteers assist with maintenance of the parks. We ask that volunteer coordinator levels remain as currently staffed.

We understand there is a budget shortfall. In previous years budget cuts have reduced funding for our parks. People want our parks, playgrounds, trails, and other facilities clean and well-maintained. We are asking that funding for parks be maintained at no less than the current level or above.

Funding park maintenance produces positive tangible results that improve the quality of life for our community.

### ***Protect Our Parks!***

San Jose District 1 Leadership Group

Steve Ling, Chair

Jerry Giles, Secretary

Doris Livezey, Member at Large

Gary Cunningham, Vice Chair

Betty Kabanek, Treasurer

Cc: City Manager, PRNS Director, City Clerk,

**FW: Study Session on Parks**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Tue 4/15/2025 7:46 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (16 KB)  
April 14 Parks Support Letter to Councilmember Casey.docx;

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**From:** Lynne Steele [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 10:36 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Study Session on Parks

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Please include this letter to Councilmember Casey for the Study Session agenda.

Thank you,  
Lynne Steele  
[REDACTED]

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April 14, 2025

Dear Councilmember Casey:

San José's parks are a vital part of what makes our city great. Over the past 20 years our population has grown to nearly 1 million residents and the park acreage has increased approximately 20%. But personnel in the Parks Department is down, as is the commitment to the funds necessary to maintain and improve our parks.

As a lifelong resident of San José, I urge you to consider the Key Actions Items listed in the Parks Maintenance and Capital Funding document at the Council Study Session on Parks.

I wholeheartedly support the Key Action Items including:

- Launch an education and engagement campaign to better understand community perspectives and priorities for San José parks.
- Secure critical funding to maintain new and existing parks through a potential ballot measure in 2026.
- Develop a Park Master Plan that integrates capital projects with ongoing maintenance strategies, updates policies, and prioritizes identifying resources and funding.
- Modify policies to allow more flexibility in distributing revenue from park development fees citywide, enabling investment where it is most needed.

The 200+ neighborhood parks, 10 regional parks and the 65+ miles of trails make San José healthier, more connected, and more resilient.

Thank you,

Lynne Steele



- Outlook

Re: Parks survey

From Laurie <[REDACTED]>

Date Tue 4/15/2025 1:07 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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Please add this for the April 15 Parks Study Session.

Laurie

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**From:** Laurie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 11:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Parks survey

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Dear Mayor Mahan and City Council Members,

I am a San Jose Native. My family and friends have spent decades of quality time in our parks. We learned geology, botany, how to identify birds, lizards, mammals, fungi, and aquatic creatures of all kinds. As kids we developed muscles, social interactions with others, and our physical abilities on playgrounds and fields. We fished and tasted miner's lettuce. We had family reunions, barbecues, picnics, birthday parties in our beautiful parks. We forgot our stresses and worries out there, it was healing us.

In these troubling times when we are stuck in offices, kids in school and playing video games, we really need our parks to unwind and heal our souls. They are our escape from the terrible news happening every day.

Please protect OUR parks, they belong to us. We need even more natural outdoor spaces to unwind, heal, learn, and engage with others. Any changes to any park needs extensive public outreach. We the People use our parks and must have a say in their management.

Thank you,  
Laurie Alaimo

[REDACTED]

Laurie

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