

Fw: 3.6 20-962 Audit of Park Maintenance

City Clerk

Tue 9/1/2020 8:14 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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From: Jason Su <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 8:12 AM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Liccardo, Sam <[REDACTED]> Peralez, Raul <[REDACTED]> Ceja, Patricia <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Esparza, Maya <[REDACTED]> Arenas, Sylvia <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Cicirelli, Jon <[REDACTED]> Burnham, Nicolle <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]> James P. Reber <[REDACTED]>
Cayce Hill <[REDACTED]>; Jodi Starbird <[REDACTED]> Joe Salvato <[REDACTED]> Teresa Alvarado <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Michelle Huttenhoff <mhutt[REDACTED]> Steve Holmes <[REDACTED]> Kline, <[REDACTED]>
Kelly <[REDACTED]> Marguerite Lee <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 3.6 20-962 Audit of Park Maintenance

[External Email]

Dear San Jose Mayor and City Council,

We know (and often take for granted) that parks offer opportunities for recreation, attract private investment, connect people to nature, and promote walking and biking. Our precious social infrastructure has also adapted to include new uses since the pandemic reached our communities: immunity-boosting and mental health healing, supporting essential services (particularly food cultivation and services distribution), providing opportunities for economic recovery, and allowing our communities a safe outdoor place to gather.

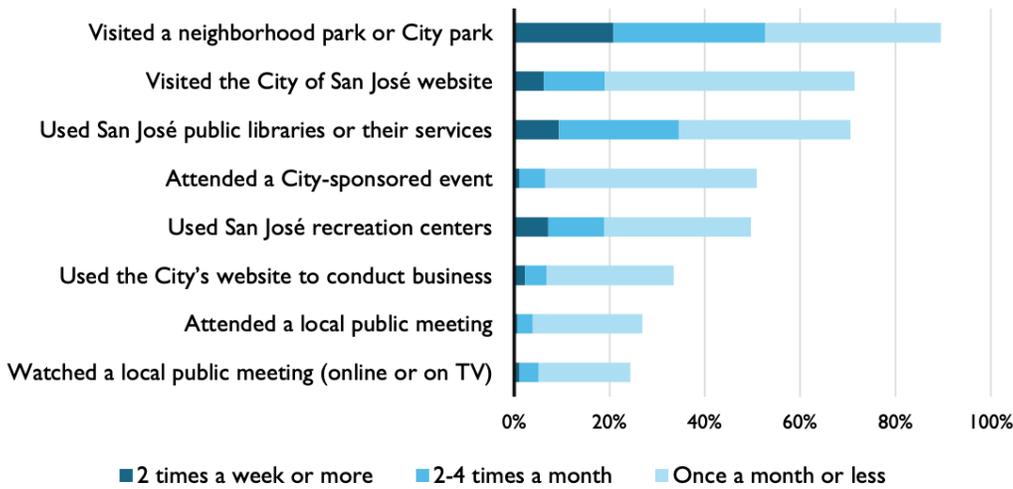
All this is challenged by years of deferred maintenance leading to almost \$400 million worth of work and need.

The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC) supports the City Auditor's report, "Park Maintenance: Improved Data Collection and Analysis Would Enhance Park Maintenance Operations" **in addition to the Memorandum, "Audit of Park Maintenance," submitted by Councilmembers Arenas, Peralez, and Esparza**, to improve how our City maintains our parks and community centers, and work towards a 2022 ballot measure for parks funding. We also implore the City Council to ensure that such a ballot measure supports maintenance of our parks and community facilities, in addition to homeless services and capital projects.

The City Auditor's Report, "City of San José – Annual Report on City Services 2018-19," (page 18), shows that the greatest point of contact between our community and our city government is through visiting a neighborhood or City park. Investing in our parks, public spaces, and

civic commons is key to improving the way our government and our community connects.

Contact with City Government



GRPC looks forward to future discussions and collaborations on this topic. We believe this issue will be of great importance to our members, communities, and park and public life partners.

Regards,

--

Jason Su

Executive Director | [Guadalupe River Park Conservancy](#)

438 Coleman Ave, San Jose, CA 95110

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FW: Item 3.6 Park Maintenance

City Clerk

Tue 9/1/2020 9:43 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Jean Dresden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 8:54 AM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Liccardo, Sam <[REDACTED]> Peralez, Raul <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Esparza, Maya <[REDACTED]> Arenas, Sylvia <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Cicirelli, Jon <[REDACTED]> Jason Su <[REDACTED]> Steve Holmes <[REDACTED]>
Cayce Hill <[REDACTED]>; James P. Reber <[REDACTED]> RONALD M WILSON <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Deb Kramer <[REDACTED]>; Amy Pizarro <[REDACTED]>
Alie Victorine <[REDACTED]> Teresa Alvarado <[REDACTED]> Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Item 3.6 Park Maintenance

[External Email]

Dear San Jose Mayor and City Council,

The pandemic has brought home the core value of our City's parks. They have provided respite and recreational opportunities for a struggling community. They have served as staging areas to provide services, such as COVID testing and food distribution. These public spaces allow personal services businesses such as gyms and yoga studios a way to survive economically.

The City Auditor's report brings home the significant efforts PRNS has implemented to improve efficiency by introducing metrics and a shared vocabulary of what constitutes "good" for each feature of our parks. The introduction of Business Intelligence and Park Condition Scores has transformed the way staff and the public look at and manage park assets. The Auditor's report highlights that shifting resources to care for poor parks carries with it the risk of decreasing the quality of other parks. Large volunteer groups express concern that the harder they work to improve their park, the less maintenance services they get.

The City's parks cannot continue to survive on a starvation diet.

San Jose Parks Advocates continues to support the Council Priority List which includes investigation of additional citywide park funding measures to support maintenance. The Memorandum submitted by Councilmembers Arenas, Esparza, and Peralez highlights the need to address homelessness and its impact on parks. Garbage, fires, water quality/creek impacts all serve to deter the use of the parks. The human impact of homelessness cannot be understated. Oakland's successful Measure Q, passed in March 2020, provides an interesting model to explore but with a cautionary note. Oakland's parcel tax partially supplants General Fund support; when it expires, how will Oakland absorb the costs back into its General Fund and maintain its parks?

San Jose Parks Advocates believes this issue is of critical importance to the quality of life throughout the City. We look forward to further discuss of the options to support our parks and the community's use of the facilities.

Sincerely,

Jean Dresden
San Jose Parks Advocates

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SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

September 1, 2020

San José City Council
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113 *via email*

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers,

As it has in cities around the world, the pandemic has given the people of San José a greater appreciation for public spaces. Just like roads, transit and drinking water, **public spaces are becoming recognized as critical public infrastructure** — places essential to our everyday lives, especially during a national crisis. Many are seeing for the first time that San José's success as a city depends on the success and health of these spaces. It's time to rebuild the social fabric of our communities, and that starts with our parks and civic commons.

SPUR supports the City Auditor's report, "Park Maintenance: Improved Data Collection and Analysis Would Enhance Park Maintenance Operations" **in addition to the Memorandum, "Audit of Park Maintenance," submitted by Councilmembers Arenas, Peralez, and Esparza**, to improve how our City maintains our parks and community centers, and work towards a 2022 ballot measure for parks funding. We also implore the City Council to ensure that such a ballot measure supports maintenance of our parks and community facilities, in addition to homeless services and capital projects.

Over the last six months SPUR has been leading a research and engagement effort to unpack the challenges between homelessness and public space. Our work centers on the question, "*How do we shape civic space where we can coexist with one another?*". **To support this effort we partnered with Gehl Studio's to create a dialogue, design and policy toolkit for unpacking the relationship between homelessness and public space.** To inform this effort we organized a cross-sector committee of business, community and social sector representatives to better shape our findings and resource guide. We know that there are many different factors that come together to shape and sustain coexistence in our public space: spatial design, operations + maintenance, rights, rules + accountability and programs + activation. We urge City Council and Staff to consider all of these facets when developing a ballot measure to support our parks system. We must consider all four of these elements in order to achieve healthy, safe, and inclusive public spaces.

In the coming months SPUR will be producing a formal policy brief to accompany this toolkit. Our hope is that this resource can help guide future design, policy and funding decisions made for our public spaces and civic commons. We look forward to working with the City Council and Staff to inform the 2022 ballot measure and additional efforts to help invest and support our public spaces.

Thank you,

Michelle Huttenhoff

Policy Director / Placemaking + Public Life

SPUR

SAN FRANCISCO
654 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 781-8726

SAN JOSE
76 South First Street
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 638-0083

OAKLAND
1544 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 827-1900

spur.org



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654 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 781-8726

SAN JOSE

76 South First Street
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 638-0083

OAKLAND

1544 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 827-1900

spur.org

FW: Support for Parks & Trails / Item 3.6

Mossing, Mackenzie

Tue 9/1/2020 11:06 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>;

Forwarding for posting. Thanks!



Mackenzie Mossing

Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor

p: (408) 535-4863 | e: mackenzie.mossing@sanjoseca.gov

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COVID-19 Community Resources & Information:

Silicon Valley Strong: www.siliconvalleystrong.org

From: James P. Reber [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:02 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Support for Parks & Trails / Item 3.6

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo:

I am writing to express my support and the support of the Board of Trustees and all of the community partners of San Jose Parks Foundation for the City Auditor's report, "Park Maintenance: Improved Data Collection and Analysis Would Enhance Park Maintenance Operations" as well as the Memorandum, "Audit of Park Maintenance," submitted by Councilmembers Arenas, Peralez, and Esparza.

The current COVID-19 Crisis has put an exclamation mark on the value of our parks & trails, which have provided vital public service to the residents of San Jose in a myriad of ways, including places for exercise, access to nature, and a huge lift to everyone's mental health just by being spaces for contemplation and relaxation.

San Jose Parks Foundation endorses the discussion and looks to the city for action toward long-term maintenance solutions and general city support for our parks and trails. We are happy to be part of the discussion and to solicit what we believe is overwhelming support from the community for any upcoming actions to improve our parks.

Thank you.

James P. Reber

Executive Director

James P. Reber, Executive Director
San Jose Parks Foundation
P.O. Box 53841, San Jose, California 95153
Direct: 408.505.0438
web: sanjoseparks.org
facebook: [sanjoseparksfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/sanjoseparksfoundation)
email: james@sanjoseparks.org

The San Jose Parks Foundation is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for San Jose's parks and trails and the programs within them, by empowering residents and volunteers and securing private donations.

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Fw: Support for Parks & Trails / Item 3.6

McGarrity, Patrick

Tue 9/1/2020 12:51 PM

To: Taber, Toni <[REDACTED]> Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Public comment on item 3.6. Could you add this to the record?

Patrick McGarrity
Chief of Staff – San Jose Councilwoman Sylvia Arenas
200 East Santa Clara Street – Tower, 18th Floor | San José, CA 95113
Mobile: (408) 982-6849
Office: (408) 535-4908
[REDACTED]

From: James P. Reber <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:11 AM
To: Arenas, Sylvia <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for Parks & Trails / Item 3.6

[External Email]

Dear Councilmember Arenas:

I am writing to express my support and the support of the Board of Trustees and all of the community partners of San Jose Parks Foundation for the City Auditor’s report, “Park Maintenance: Improved Data Collection and Analysis Would Enhance Park Maintenance Operations” as well as the Memorandum, “Audit of Park Maintenance,” submitted by you and Councilmembers Peralez and Esparza.

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Thank you.

James P. Reber
Executive Director

James P. Reber, Executive Director
[San Jose Parks Foundation](#)
P.O. Box 53841, San Jose, California 95153
Direct: 408.505.0438

web: sanjoseparks.org

facebook: [sanjoseparksfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/sanjoseparksfoundation)

email: [REDACTED]

The San Jose Parks Foundation is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for San Jose's parks and trails and the programs within them, by empowering residents and volunteers and securing private donations.

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