



City of Pomona

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

May 21, 2026

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Meg McWade, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Phased Measure A Park Prioritization Plan

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission receive and file a phased park prioritization plan.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

The Commission is being asked to receive and file this discussion of a phased park prioritization plan.

Background

The City has a current balance of annual Measure A allocations from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District that total \$712,596, which include \$449,838 in Northside Study Area annual allocations and \$262,758 in Southside Study Area annual allocations. It should be noted that both study areas receive similar amounts in annual allocations, but more has been utilized in the Southside Study Area. These funds are intended to support improvements to the City's park and open space system and are the only ongoing planned park investment funding source.

The City maintains 34 parks of varying size, age, and condition. Given the scale of the system and the limited nature of annual funding, strategic prioritization is necessary to ensure funds (Measure A and other funding opportunities) are used effectively and align with both operational needs and community values.

Discussion

The purpose of this item is to prioritize how funding, including Measure A annual allocations, should be used across the City's park system. Staff began an internal review of all City parks to identify preliminary priorities. This review is grounded in safety and risk management considerations, including but not limited to aging infrastructure, known hazards, and areas where deferred maintenance may pose increased liability or operational challenges. While safety remains the primary lens for staff's initial assessment, staff recognizes that additional factors, such as equity, usage levels, community benefit, and long-term park planning goals, are also important to consider.

To meaningfully incorporate Commission input while keeping the process manageable, staff is following a phased prioritization approach:

1. First 15 Parks: Prior to the March 19, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, staff distributed a survey to Commissioners covering the first 15 parks, listed in alphabetical order. Commissioners were asked to identify their top priorities for investment among this group, based on their individual perspectives and understanding of community needs. These priorities were discussed at the March 19, 2026 Commission meeting.
2. Remaining Parks: Prior to the April 16, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, staff distributed a second survey addressing the remaining parks. This approach allows Commissioners adequate time to thoughtfully review and prioritize the full park system without overloading a single meeting or survey. These priorities were discussed at the April 19, 2026 Commission meeting.
3. May 21, 2026 Commission Discussion and Direction:
Using the results of both surveys, staff compiled a summary of the highest-priority park needs as identified by the Commission, alongside staff's safety and risk-based assessment. Staff will present these findings for discussion and work collaboratively with the Commission to develop a recommended path forward for utilizing Measure A annual allocations.

This structured process is intended to balance staff's responsibility to address safety and risk management needs with the Commission's advisory role in representing community priorities and values. The outcome of this effort will be a clearer, Commission-informed framework to guide the expenditure of park improvement funding, and Measure A funds particularly, in the near term.