



# CITY OF POMONA

## Parks and Recreation Commission

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September 18, 2025

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Meg McWade, Public Works Director

Subject: Parks Funding Overview

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### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Parks and Recreation Commission receive and file this overview of parks funding.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This discussion provides an overview of current available funding, future funding prospects, and how funding has been utilized.

### DISCUSSION

The City of Pomona (“City”) has numerous parks, community centers, historic sites, and open space areas that have not yet been developed as useable recreation space (i.e., Palm Lake and Westmont Hills). There have also been recent additions with the Phillips Ranch Greenbelt and the development of Meadowview Demonstration Garden. These parks require ongoing regular maintenance as well as major infrastructure improvements. The City has invested a significant amount of money into enhancing parks and park features through various sources, including general funding, grants, and congressional earmarks as exhibited in Exhibit 1 (Attachment No. 1). However, there is still a significant need.

#### Park Improvement Funding Sources

Historically, the two main funding sources available for park improvements have been the General Fund and Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District Measure A. Additionally, the City utilizes other funding sources, such as grants, Federal earmarks, Development Impact Fees (DIF), as well as CDBG funding.

#### *General Fund as a Potential Funding Source for Future Park Improvements*

With the recent passage of the “Youth First Initiative”, Measure Y, the City is facing severe budget constraints. Measure Y requires an additional 10 percent of General Fund unrestricted revenues to be diverted to children’s programming provided by outside organizations within the City by the 2030-31 Fiscal Year. Allocation of additional funds started at 2 percent in the second half of the

2024-25 fiscal year and increase annually until it reaches 10 percent by the 2031 fiscal year. On February 3, 2025, the City presented its 10-year financial forecast, which shows a dwindling General Fund surplus until the fund balance is negative by 2031.

With Measure Y as a consideration, it is unlikely that there will be ongoing General Funds to provide funding beyond essential repairs, depending on the cost of the repair. Prior to Measure Y, the City used General Fund money over the years to fund various parks projects through allocations, use of General Fund operational reserves, or CIP reserves.

*Measure A Annual Allocations as a Potential Funding Source*

The Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District provides the City of Pomona with annual allocations of Measure A Funding. This funding was approved in November 2016, authorizing dedicated local funding for new park, recreation, and open space projects and their maintenance through an annual special tax of 1.5 cents per square foot of building floor area on all taxable real property in the County. The City's annual allocations are divided between what the County mapped as the Northside and Southside Study Areas. Maps illustrating the study areas are included as Exhibits 2 and 3 (Attachments 2 and 3). Currently, there is a balance of \$131,225.54 available in the Northside Study Area and \$55.33 available in the Southside Study Area. It is conservatively estimated the City should receive approximately \$585,000 between the two study areas in September 2025. The amount available for improvement projects in FY 26 (including the remaining balances) is anticipated to be:

Northside Study Area:	\$ 451,225.54 (Inc remaining balance \$131,225.54)
Southside Study Area:	\$ 265,055.63 (Inc remaining balance \$55.33)

The City can elect to use these Measure A funds within the year they are allocated or bank them for future use. According to the granting representatives, the funding can't be used for reimbursing projects. In other words, the City does not have the option to fund an approved project with another source to build the improvement and then use future allocations to reimburse project costs. It should be noted that all usage requires approval from the Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District with the requirements that funds are used for new or renovated amenities. It cannot be used for general maintenance or repairs. The City does receive a separate, smaller allocation of funding from Measure A that can be used for repairs and maintenance on Measure A-funded projects. Measure A funding has primarily been utilized throughout the City to improve or construct park amenities.

It should be noted that all usage requires approval from the Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District and is to be used for new or renovated amenities. It cannot be used for general maintenance or repairs. The City does receive a separate, smaller allocation of funding from Measure A that can be used for repairs and maintenance on Measure A-funded projects.

Below is a table that illustrates the annual allocations the City has received to date:

**Table 1**

**Northside Study Area Funding:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Committed</b>	<b>Available</b>
2018	\$251,069.28	\$251,069.28	\$0
2019	\$262,458.08	\$262,458.08	\$0
2020	\$283,495.66	\$283,495.66	\$0
2021	\$283,539.61	\$283,539.61	\$0
2022	\$298,095.30	\$298,095.30	\$0
2023	\$297,713.61	\$297,713.61	\$0
2024	\$317,787.54	\$186,562.00	\$131,225.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,994,159.08</b>	<b>\$1,862,933.54</b>	<b>\$131,225.54</b>

**Table 2**

**Southside Study Area Funding:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Committed</b>	<b>Available</b>
2018	\$199,514.34	\$199,514.34	\$0
2019	\$208,564.55	\$208,564.55	\$0
2020	\$225,282.24	\$225,282.24	\$0
2021	\$225,317.17	\$225,317.17	\$0
2022	\$236,883.97	\$236,883.97	\$0
2023	\$245,470.85	\$245,470.85	\$0
2024	\$262,022.21	\$261,966.88	\$55.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,603,055.33</b>	<b>\$1,603,000.00</b>	<b>\$55.33</b>

As demonstrated in the tables above, the City has been receiving an increasing amount of Measure A funding over time and can expect to receive approximately \$570,000 between the two study areas in the next allocation, which should be provided in September 2025. Exhibits 2 and 3 illustrate the two study areas.

The table below depicts the usage of Measure A annual allocations.

**Table 3**

**Measure A-Funded Projects**

<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Overall Project Budget</b>	<b>Measure A Allocation</b>
71089	Country Crossing Park Playground Resurfacing and Play Equipment	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00
71090	District 4 - Jaycee Park Playground Upgrade	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00
71098	District 6 - Ted Greene Playground Upgrade	\$360,000.00	\$360,000.00
71070	Hamilton Park Renovation	\$2,739,432.00	\$596,934.00

71099	Martin Luther King Jr., Park Playground Equipment Replacement	\$503,000.00	\$503,000.00
71097	Palomares Park - Lawn Bowling Shade Structure Replacement	\$43,000.00	\$43,000.00
71072	Parks and Facilities Master Plan	\$285,000.00	\$250,000.00
71063	Civic Center Plaza - New Playground and Amenities	\$14,830,473	\$753,000.00
71094	New Playground at Washington Park Baseball Fields	\$260,000.00	\$260,000.00
<b>Total Usage</b>			<b>\$3,465,934</b>

While funding is set aside by study area, funding from one study area can be transferred and used by a park in a different study area if demonstrated community support from both study areas.

When the City receives an allocation, it can elect to use these funds within the year they are allocated or bank them for future use.

#### *Measure A Competitive Grant Programs*

RPOSD offers different competitive grants scheduled semi-annually. The schedule of proposed grants is illustrated in the figure below:

Program	Fund Category	Frequency	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Acquisition-Only	3 & 4	3 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection	3	3 years		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Planning and Design	3 & 4	3 years		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Recreation Access	3 & 4	3 years			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Regional Recreation, Multi-use Trails & Accessibility	4	3 years		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
County Cultural Facilities	4	3 years			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement	5	3 years			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Currently, the available competitive grant programs are:

Planning and Design: This supports preconstruction efforts that lead to shovel-ready development projects. The maximum award is \$500,000. The City Council recently approved the City's partnership with Trust for Public Lands to pursue planning funds for Palm Lake Golf Course.

Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection: This program funds multi-benefit projects that improve and protect natural lands, open space, and water resources through development and restoration. Projects may improve water quality, restore habitat, expand park space, or enhance public access to rivers, beaches, lakes, and other natural systems. Priority will be given to projects offering the greatest **regional** benefit or addressing the most critical needs. Shovel-ready implementation is required. Up to \$4 million in funding is available for projects.

Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails, and Accessibility: This program supports **regional-scale** recreation projects that improve access to nature, increase countywide connectivity, and serve broad populations. A regional scale project is one that serves, connects, or benefits a cross-jurisdictional area – typically extending beyond a single neighborhood, community, or city, and is accessible to a countywide or multi-community population. Shovel-ready implementation is required. Up to \$4 million in funding can be applied for. The City recently received an \$11 million ATP Cycle 6 grant to construct the San Jose Creek Bike Trail, a 3.5 mile path traversing the City providing access to Cal Poly Pomona and other locations in the City. Staff is currently looking into applying for funding under this Measure A competitive grant program to provide for additional landscaping and potentially lighting on the path.

### **Other Funding Sources:**

Over the years, in addition to the parks referenced above that have utilized Measure A funding, the City actively searches for, applies for, and has received millions of dollars of funding through various grant opportunities. Recent funding the City has received include:

**Proposition 68:** The City applied for and obtained \$1.5 million from the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation (Proposition 68) to renovate Hamilton Park. The City combined this funding with Measure A and Safe Clean Water (Measure W) to fund the new Hamilton Park, complete with the City's first all-abilities playground, art (to be provided), restrooms, and various other amenities. This funding has activated a park that was previously underutilized due to safety concerns.

**Clean CA:** The City received \$4.9 million grant from CalTrans for mainly median, street lighting, and sidewalk improvements along Holt Avenue and Garey Avenue, and an art installation on Garey Avenue near the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Underpass, but it also funded over \$600,000 of improvements in Garfield Park including improved lighting, a walking path, and exercise equipment.



**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** The City has utilized CDBG funding throughout the City at parks. In 2022, the City used \$560,000 of CDBG funding to provide for rubberized surfacing at Ganesha, Memorial, Westmont, and Montvue Parks. The City is in the process of allocating CDBG funding to various projects, including park projects such as:

- Palomares Park Soccer Field Rehabilitation: \$79,997
- Civic Center Plaza – New Playground and Amenities: \$66,205 (to provide for P-Wheel Tile Rehabilitation)
- Parks and Buildings Rehabilitation Citywide (FY 25-26): \$31,421
- Washington Park Soccer Field Rehabilitation: \$200,000
- Westmont Park Restroom Rehabilitation: \$60,000

**California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA):** CNRA - Urban Greening Grant - In 2018, the City of Pomona was awarded \$1.4 million dollars from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to fund the acquisition and development of Phil and Nell Soto Park. The City also contributed Park and Recreation Improvement Fees to the Project.

The City also received \$1.1 million in CNRA Funding for “Civic Center Plaza – New Playground and Amenities.”

**San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC).** In 2018, the City of Pomona was awarded \$1,010,000 million dollars from San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) to fund the acquisition and development of Phil and Nell Soto Park. The City also contributed Park and Recreation Improvement Fees to the Project.

**American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding:** In prior fiscal years, American Rescue Plan funding was allocated to several parks-related projects as depicted below that are either underway or completed:

**Table 4**  
**ARP – Funded Projects**

Project No.	Project Name	Overall Budget	Project ARP Allocation
71079	Park Restroom Construction and Replacement” (will renovate 5 restrooms Citywide)	\$3,971,153	\$3,874,671
71200	Meadow View Demonstration Garden	\$583,000	\$583,000
71063	Civic Center Plaza – New Playground and Amenities	\$14,830,473	\$4,263,030
71092	Martin Luther King, Jr. Park – Skate Park Expansion/Lights	\$441,100	\$440,000
71096	District 2 – New Playground at Ralph Welch Park	\$181,661	\$90,183
71095	Washington Park Community Center Rehabilitation	\$335,000	\$300,000
71091	D4 Jaycee Park Snack Bar and Security Upgrades	\$140,000	\$140,000
71103	New Flooring at Garfield Park Community Center	\$40,000	\$40,000
71093	Phillips Ranch Par Course Restoration	\$155,000	\$155,000
<b>Total Parks ARP</b>			<b>\$9,885,884</b>

**Congressional Earmarks:** The City applies for federal earmark funding administered by HUD through the Community Project Funding grant. In 2023, the City received \$4,000,000 to renovate the La Casita Teen Center building at Palomares Park and is currently in the process of design.

**Art in Public Spaces Funding:** This funding provides for art installments in public areas. It has funded items such as the art at Hamilton Park, partially funded the art near the Garey and first street Underpass, and provided for various art installments at parks throughout the City.

**Cannabis Community Benefit Funding:** Cannabis Community Benefit Funding enables applicants for commercial cannabis businesses to voluntarily commit to public benefits up to one-percent of gross annual receipts towards the benefit of sensitive uses, which is defined to include youth-serving facilities. This funding is currently being used at Garfield Park to develop a plan for park improvements

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Attachment No. 1 - Exhibit 1 – Recent City Investment in Parks – Fully Funded Projects in Progress or Completed
2. Attachment No. 2 - Exhibit 2 – Northside Study Area
3. Exhibit 3 – Southside Study Area

Submitted by:

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