

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023
2:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Chair Palajac, Director Furst

Staff Present: Mat Fuzie, Jill Kirk, Fred Haldeman, Michelle Kleman, Jeff Schneider, Pamela Healy, David Weisgerber

Members of the Public Present: Jim Adams, David Lunn

1. Call to Order:

Chair Palajac called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment:

Chair Palajac opened the public comment period. There were no public comments.
Chair Palajac closed the public comment period.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Facilities Committee Meeting held on March 2, 2023 (Action):

Chair Palajac requested an edit to page 4, Item 8 of the minutes to read "Springtown Open Space Concept Plan" not "Springtown Master Plan".

Original Version:

Item 8 - City of Livermore Springtown Project Wish List:

This is not a request for AB 1600 funds. The COL City Manager has asked her staff to revive the project list from the Springtown Master Plan to see if City funds could be used for any of them. In turn, they have asked us how we could program them. Projects selected from the concept plan were specifically chosen because they were perceived to be doable. The list presented by the COL was included with the agenda packet and was reviewed by the Committee. This is informational only at this time.

With Requested Change:

Item 8 - City of Livermore Springtown Project Wish List:

*This is not a request for AB 1600 funds. The COL City Manager has asked her staff to revive the project list from the Springtown ~~Master~~ **Open Space Concept** Plan to see if City funds could be used for any of them. In turn, they have asked us how we could program them. Projects selected from the concept plan were specifically chosen because they were*

perceived to be doable. The list presented by the COL was included with the agenda packet and was reviewed by the Committee. This is informational only at this time.

➤ **Action:** The minutes of March 2, 2023 were approved with this change.

- 4. Drought Tolerant Gardens:** Member of the public Jim Adams introduced himself. He has been a volunteer with the Granada Native Garden since March 2010. He provided an informational handout for the Committee members (attached to the minutes). Local resident Louann Tung established the garden in 2003-2004 as a demonstration garden, to explain the variety of native CA plants available. She passed away in 2017, and Mr. Adams inherited the responsibility for the garden as the primary volunteer and caretaker. The garden has existed for 20 years but is still relatively unknown to most Livermore residents. The garden is dedicated strictly to native plants which are by nature, drought tolerant. Plant descriptors have been made and placed throughout the garden to educate visitors. There are also 3 large displays along the bike trail explaining where our water comes from and where it goes. He shared several photos of the garden for the committee to view. Currently, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) owns the property. Per Mr. Adams, the garden was allowed to exist based on the assumption that volunteers would maintain it. He has continued to volunteer his time but may not be able to continue to do so. He would like to know if LARPD is able to assume oversight of the garden and provide one person to provide routine maintenance for the Granada Native Garden and the community garden in Springtown. Mr. Adams is a volunteer only with no legal commitment to continue. Once he steps away from his volunteer capacity, he believes it will rapidly decline.

Committee Comments and Questions:

- Is LVJUSD involved at all? *At one time, yes (with prior faculty) but not at this time.*
- What is the total acreage of the Granada Native Garden? *1/3 acre.*
- Who proposed the community garden in Springtown? *The City of Livermore (COL).*
- Is there a written agreement with LVJUSD for operation or oversight of the Granada Native Garden? *No*
- Who takes care of the native gardens in Sycamore Grove and Greenville Road? *LARPD volunteers care for the native gardens at Sycamore Grove. The Alameda County Master Gardeners' Earth Friendly Demonstration Garden, located at 3575 Greenville Road is cared for by master gardeners.*
- There are certain complications to LARPD involvement:
 - a. The existing agreement is with the LVJUSD
 - b. LARPD has no jurisdiction whatsoever
 - c. There is liability with operating an LARPD program on school property using LARPD volunteers.
- Director Furst commented that he is interested in looking into this, but agreed there are complications. He has been out to the Granada Native Garden several times.
- There has been previous vandalism to a mosaic table at the site. Who would be financially responsible for such situations?
- Committee members agreed, while LARPD has no obligation, it would be a big loss if the Granada Native Garden were to be abandoned.
- GM Fuzie indicated his willingness to bring this to an upcoming Intergovernmental meeting for further discussion with the LVJUSD and COL.
- Can we (LARPD) promote volunteers there? *Mr. Adams indicated there is an existing list of volunteers already, but he is really looking for an enduring way to manage volunteers and the garden.*

Chair Palajac thanked Mr. Adams for the work he has done on behalf of the Granada Native Garden and for bringing this item forward to the Facilities Committee.

Public Comment: Chair Palajac opened the Public Comment period. There was no Public Comment. Chair Palajac closed the Public Comment period.

Action: GM Fuzie will bring this item to the Intergovernmental Committee meeting leadership and report back to the Facilities Committee.

5. Discussion of Sports Park as Part of Possible Bond:

Director Furst requested this agenda item to discuss asking for a sports park as part of the potential bond. He envisions something large enough to bring in tournaments (soccer, baseball etc.) as a money-making effort. The Las Positas Golf Course is not one of the original sites discussed but may be a viable location.

Discussion ensued as to other possible locations for a sports park and the timing required to get a bond on the November 2024 ballot. This will need to be discussed further at an upcoming Board meeting.

Action: Staff were asked to bring this to a future Board meeting for further review and discussion.

6. Follow up/Results re: Possible Addition of Monkey Bars at Robertson Park:

This is a follow-up to a request made by Livermore resident Avery Kohn and parent at a previous Facilities Committee meeting. Chair Palajac invited them to attend today's meeting but did not receive a reply.

Parks and Facilities Manager (PFM) Haldeman shared that Landscape Structures offers several options, adding, there may be enough room for a free-standing structure. He estimated the cost to be somewhere around \$10k (plus the cost of installation which is estimated to be 2 days of 2 staff members' time).

Committee Comments and Questions:

- Committee members were in favor of staff pursuing this.

Action: Staff were asked to move forward with this item and report back to the Committee with progress milestones.

7. Planning for Future Trails and Trail Connectors (Standing Item):

GM Fuzie shared the following updates:

- T6 – developers have pulled permits and will begin when they get the green light to proceed.
- Arroyo Connector- We have now learned the COL is intending to move forward, will go to Wente for agreement on easement.
- Vallecitos/Cemex property- Clear water flow was noted.
- Vallecitos/Vineyard realignment – COL continues to seek easements from landowners.

- Patterson Ranch – GM Fuzie sat down with Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor; he conveyed to her that we are not interested in a fence. Zone 7 has agreed to guided hikes after we relocate existing water troughs. With Board approval, we can submit a plan to complete the trail and move existing water troughs to allow for guided hikes. They also discussed possible land acquisition, which would then involve fencing.
- Robertson Park – The existing area where the horseshoe pits are currently located, as well as the area marked for potential relocation have been identified as areas of potential storm impact. This means the horseshoe pits should be removed completely.

Committee Comments and Questions:

- Is Zone 7 willing to share the costs of moving the water troughs? *We will verify this with Zone 7 and PFM Haldeman will prepare a cost estimate.*
- Can we get a cost estimate for potential acquisition (per acre cost and how many acres)? *GM Fuzie will research this and bring information back to a future committee meeting.*

Public Comment: Chair Palajac opened the Public Comment period. The following comments were made:

- David Lunn commented that he had heard the Arroyo Road trail is anticipated to reopen by Fall 2024. He thanked staff for opening up the Mocho Trail.

There were no further public comments. Chair Palajac closed the Public Comment period.

Actions:

- Staff were asked to determine the costs for moving water troughs.
- Staff were asked to request a cost estimate for potential future property acquisition and bring information back to a future meeting.
- Horseshoe pit removal will be brought to the Board for further review and discussion.

8. CIP Updates (Standing Item):

Community Outreach Supervisor (COS) David Weisgerber reported on the current status of Capital Improvement Projects as outlined in the attached supplemental presentation material.

Action: A copy of the presentation will be included with these minutes.

9. Directors' and/or General Manager's Reports or Announcements:

- Director Palajac recommended that staff take the certified playground safety inspection course offered by CPRS.
- GM Fuzie shared the following:
 - The LARPD Foundation is finalizing language for an MOU.
 - He shared a reminder that Arroyo Mocho is unpredictable, adding, anything we do at Sycamore Grove will be done with FEMA maps in mind.
 - He encouraged the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to meet with us.

10. Adjournment: Director Palajac adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

/ph

GRANADA NATIVE GARDEN

Just northwest of the apartments at 975 Murrieta Blvd., Livermore, CA 94550



Conceived in 2003-04 by Louann Tung and designed by Alrie Middlebrook of Middlebrook Gardens, the Granada Native Garden used to be a vacant lot strewn with trash. But with lots of volunteer help, it has been transformed into a native plant garden in which many species of native California plants, which thrive on little or no summer water, are separated into chaparral, woodland, grassland and riparian plant communities.

The Garden also features picnic tables depicting mosaic images of endangered red-legged frogs, steelhead trout and burrowing owls, as well as informational panels describing the original layout of the Garden, the history of the Arroyo Mocho, and vital water issues affecting the Livermore community.

This Garden is maintained entirely by volunteers. We hope that your interest in this informal Garden will promote the awareness of native California plants, their value to the Native Americans who originally inhabited this region as well as to the food webs that have evolved in the California environment, and the water-saving cultivation of native plants in our homes and parks.

Unfortunately, there is no on-site parking available at this time. Nearby parking is available at the Nob Hill center immediately across Murrieta Blvd. from the Garden. Visitors using the Arroyo Mocho bike trail can access the Garden directly on the trail.

For further information, just google the "Granada Native Garden Newsletter" -- there you will find informative topics about native plants and about this Garden. Click the "Follow" button at the lower right of the screen to automatically receive email updates of the Newsletter.

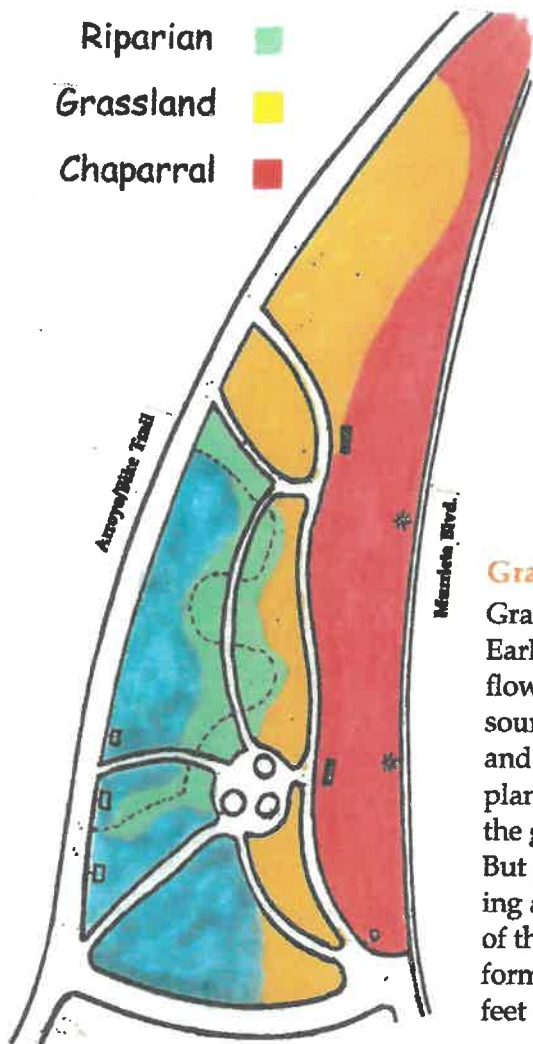
Or to inquire about volunteering at the Granada Native Garden, contact Jim at JIMatGNG@gmail.com.

Oak Woodland ■

Riparian ■

Grassland ■

Chaparral ■



Chaparral Community

Chaparral plants are adapted to drought and summer heat. Also called brush or brushland. Characterized by rocky, shallow soil on top of clay or rock (at the GNG, this region consists of soil brought in from other places). Many plants here have small, hard leaves that roll up or fall off during drought, or have extensive root systems that hold on to their leaves; they draw more moisture from the ground than from rain. Chaparral plants slowly release this moisture back into the air and thus tend to moderate the climate. Many plants in chaparral require years to develop the right conditions for their seeds to germinate.

Grassland Community

Grasslands once covered about 13% of California. Early California grasslands in the spring were a massive flower garden. Their seeds were an important food source for the Native Americans, like wheat, oats, barley and other grains are for us now. Several species of plants, insects, birds and other wildlife co-evolved with the grasslands and depend on them for their existence. But pressure from non-native weeds, agriculture, ranching and urban development have eliminated almost all of the original grasslands. The perennial native grasses form bunches with fibrous roots that can extend up to 18 feet deep and can live as long as 1,000 years.

Woodland Community

Many native California trees need a water source within 70 feet. Oaks have one deep root system for bringing up water, and a shallow one to serve their nutritional and immune system needs. Oaks pull water from deeper soils and share it with their surrounding companion plants. A special class of microbes in the soil digest the fallen leaves and furnish the ground with a slow-release nutrition source. When alien weeds compete with and starve out these microbes, the leaf-soil interface is diminished and the oaks are more susceptible to diseases.

Riparian Community

By definition, riparian plant communities exist along river margins and banks, and are characterized by hydrophilic plants that require a source of water during at least part of the year. The rocky "creek bed" that winds thru the Granada Native Garden is not a true riparian habitat, because there is no reliable water source that flows thru it. But some interesting native plants can get by with occasional hand-watering which they depend on for their existence. And they can do well in home gardens where water is provided for them artificially.

For more information, email Jim at JIMatGNG@gmail.com, or visit <https://granadanativegarden.org/>

CIP Project Updates - Facility Committee, 04/06/23

Project Name	Project Update	Tentative Start Date	FINAL FY 22/23	Current Bid
Aquatics Scoreboard	Installing aquatics scoreboard at the Robert Livermore Aquatics Center.	TBD	\$ 92,000	\$ 92,000
Community Garden at Mocho Park	AT&T cell tower project is going to Livermore Planning Commission on April 18. Once approved, LARPD will coordinate project timing.	Spring 2023	\$ 90,000	\$ -
Bike Pump Track	In the plan review process with the City of Livermore. Revising final plan set.	Nov, 2023	\$ 5,214	\$ 817,000
ESS Buildings Remodel	Completed siding replacement with LARPD staff. Future classroom updates on hold.	TBD	\$ 100,000	\$ -
HVAC at Trevarno / Little House	Work being done by LARPD staff.	In progress	\$ 35,000	\$ 40,000
Joe Mitchell Building	Received final approval from Division of State Architect (DSA)	Completed	\$ 7,045	\$ -
Patterson Ranch Trail	Guided hikes, trail maintenance. Plan to complete trail building.		\$ 44,495	\$ -
Restrooms at Sycamore Grove park	Received bid for 5,000 gallon tank for Fire mitigation per Plan Review comments. Adds 29,986.00 to project budget.	Spring 2023	\$ 204,760	\$ 195k
Rodeo Stadium Improvements	Scaffolding going up on Monday 4/10.	Project began December 2022	\$ 248,392	\$ 234k
Senior Lobby Flooring at RLCC	Staff is evaluating materials options.	TBD	\$ -	\$ -
Shade Structure at Mocho park	Bids came in higher than expected. Likely will postpone until spring.	Spring 2023	\$ 60,000	\$ -
Synthetic Turf at Robertson Park	Project Complete	Complete	\$ 1,604,615	\$ 1,600,000
Trevarno Road Water/Sewer Assessment District	Connectors to Little House is complete. Merritt Building is in progress. Main sewer line bid received from City of Livermore. Still targeting spring.	Spring 2023	\$ 49,515	\$ 77,000
Trevarno Roof	Immediate issues repaired. Replacement postponed.	2024	\$ -	\$ 65,000
Sycamore Flood Damage - Wetmore Path	Collaborating with City of Livermore on Mutual Aid Agreement to provide engineering and environmental support. Will likely address temporary repairs in 2023 and permanent repairs in 2024. Part of COL's FEMA reimbursement submission.	2024	\$ -	\$ 175,000
Damaged Pipe at Holdener Park Path	Collaborating with City of Livermore on Mutual Aid Agreement to provide engineering and environmental support. Will likely address temporary repairs in 2023 and permanent repairs in 2024. Part of COL's FEMA reimbursement submission.	TBD	\$ -	\$ -
Sycamore Flood Damage - Paved Path Erosion between Olivina and Kingfisher Crossing	Received bid for by-pass path at \$35k.	TBD	\$ -	\$ 35,000