# City of Costa Mesa

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

# Agenda Report

Parks and Community Services Commission

**Item #:** 24-267 **Meeting Date:** 6/13/2024

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| **TITLE:** | **OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN** |
| **DEPARTMENT:** | **PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES** |
| **PRESENTED BY:** | **BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR** |
| **CONTACT INFORMATION:** | **BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR, (714) 754-5065** |

## RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests the commission receive and file the 2023 Draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update.

## BACKGROUND:

The City's Open Space Master Plan serves as a guide for the orderly development and management of the City's parks, programs, and facilities. Industry standards dictate that Open Space Master Plans get updated every 10 years, depending on development and other environmental factors. The original Open Space Master Plan was adopted by City Council in 1969, which was previously known as the Long Range Comprehensive Master Plan. It has been updated multiple times, including most recently in 1996, 2003 and 2017.

On March 17, 2015, the City Council approved a Professional Services Agreement with RJM Design Group to update the Master Plan. The original agreement was approved for a not-to-exceed amount of $161,270. Two (2) change orders executed due to scope changes, resulted in the total value of the agreement of $183,407. The updated plan process included community workshops, a random telephone survey, stakeholder interviews which included Council and Commission members, School District representatives, City staff, and sports organizations and three (3) public meetings including the Parks and Recreation Commission.

On May 25, 2017, the draft plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission which included results of the analysis of existing inventory, demand analysis, and community input. The draft provided facility and program recommendations that were developed consistent with stated goals and policies at the time. The commission voted to approve the draft updated Master Plan with edits for recommendations.

The January 2018 updated draft of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan incorporated recommendations and findings as well as requested edits and additional recommendations. This final draft of the updated Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was presented to Council in a special study session on February 13, 2018. This Master Plan review was deferred to a later date due to staffing vacancies and changes and then the interruption of operations due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

On August 3, 2021, staff requested City Council to award a contract to RJM Design Group for a professional services agreement to continue the update to the 2018 draft master plan. After a brief presentation by staff, the Council voted to continue the item to a future meeting for the review and refinement of the scope of work in the agreement. Staff worked with the consultant, RJM, to refine the scope and prepare a new proposal for the completion of the Open Space Master Plan.

RJM provided the City with a revised Scope of Services that included project familiarization, a demographic update, updated service area analysis, an additional 16 stakeholder interviews, phone surveys, study sessions and final draft. The updated scope removed several components from the original submission for a total not-to-exceed cost of $56,600. The components removed included a project website, a commission kick-off study session, a custom park standard calculations update and an online community survey/virtual townhall meetings.

At the June 4, 2024, City Council meeting, the Council amended the proposed FY 24/25 budget by removing $350,000 from the budget that was allocated to develop a new updated Open Space Master Plan. In addition, the Council discussed and agreed that an Open Space Master Plan is not required at this time and that Council and staff will coordinate a strategic plan to review and identify future open space projects internally as has been done the past few years.

## ANALYSIS:

The primary purpose of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan document is to provide a comprehensive community-based assessment of the uses and needs of parks and recreation facilities, analyze recreation program needs, and develop realistic recommendations to be implemented over time.

As a result of the analysis of existing inventory, demand analysis, and community input, facility and program recommendations were developed for the May 2023 updated draft (Attachment 1) of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan which incorporated recommendations and findings from the 2018 draft as well as updated information derived from the additional scope of work approved in 2021.

While the 2023 draft looked to present a comprehensive update of recommendations, the report does not account for the many projects and programs the City currently has underway nor did it account for updated City Goals and Objectives or updated budgets that include significant grant funding the City recently received. The evolution of community needs has evolved in the last few years as well as a shift in funding strategies and priorities. The draft provides an exhaustive list of different opportunities and recommendations of which the City has already completed or is in the process of completing as well as future priorities for the City.

Based on the analysis and the current status of programs and projects, it is recommended that the 2023 draft report be received and filed, with a new master plan process to begin after the completion of the ongoing programs and projects. This includes the expansion projects at Shalimar and Ketchum-Libolt parks, and the Costa Mesa Skatepark. Furthermore, the Fairview Park Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan, both currently in progress, and the Arts and Culture Master Plan should be integrated into an updated comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

By receiving and filing the May 2023 draft report and initiating a new master plan process post-completion of significant current projects, the City can ensure that its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan remains relevant, comprehensive, and responsive to the community's evolving needs and priorities. This strategic approach will ensure that the City's parks and recreational facilities are planned and developed in a way that meets the community's evolving needs and priorities.

## FISCAL REVIEW

This report is administrative and no fiscal review required.

## LEGAL REVIEW

There is no legal review required for this report.

## CONCLUSION:

Staff requests the commission receive and file the 2023 Draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update.