PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) MASTER PLAN

Parks & Recreation Commission

February 7, 2024

CITY OF BELMONT

PROS PLAN VISION

Re-imagine the Belmont PROS system to create the City's Backyard that fosters **inclusive, experiential, and nurturing public spaces** by setting the framework for decision makers in planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation, implementable over a **15 year horizon**.

GATES +ASSOCIATES

AGENDA

MEETING PURPOSE

1. Receive an update on the PROS Plan
2. Possible recommendation to City Council

MEETING TOPICS

○ Document organization + framework
○ Strategies + recommendations
○ Recap revisions to date
○ EIR Addendum
○ Next steps

OUTREACH **UPDATE**

ON THE WEB

Project website: home page button to documents + FAQ tab

www.belmontprosplan.com

City website: home page banner and spotlight on P&R page

www.belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation

SOCIAL MEDIA

P&R: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

Citywide: Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn

EMAIL

Citywide eNews: Jan 12, Jan 19, + Feb 2

P&R eNews: Feb 5

Direct email: Jan 19

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P&R Commission: Jan 10 (agenda item - introduction) +

Feb 7 (agenda item - possible recommendation to Council)

City Council: Jan 23 (verbal announcement from Mayor Mates)

INTRODUCTION

PROS PLAN PURPOSE
Study the existing parks, recreation, and open space system

- Identify gaps

- Develop strategies

- Present recommendations

- Assess opportunities

- Establish a framework for prioritization

  that can be periodically revisited as resources become available + circumstances evolve

DOCUMENT **ORGANIZATION**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROS **FRAMEWORK**

WHERE WE ARE

| Purpose + Vision | ➤ | Guiding Principles | ➤ | Needs Assessment |

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

| Community Themes | ➤ | Big Ideas | ➤ | Goals |

HOW WE GET THERE

| Strategies | ➤ | Recommendations | ➤ | Prioritization |

| System-Wide | Park-Specific | Opportunities | Open Space |

OSMP **FRAMEWORK**
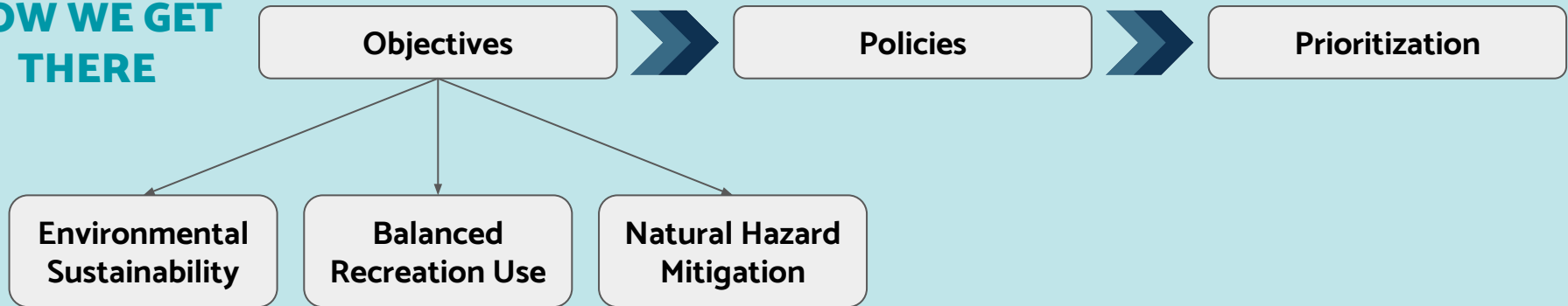
WHERE WE ARE

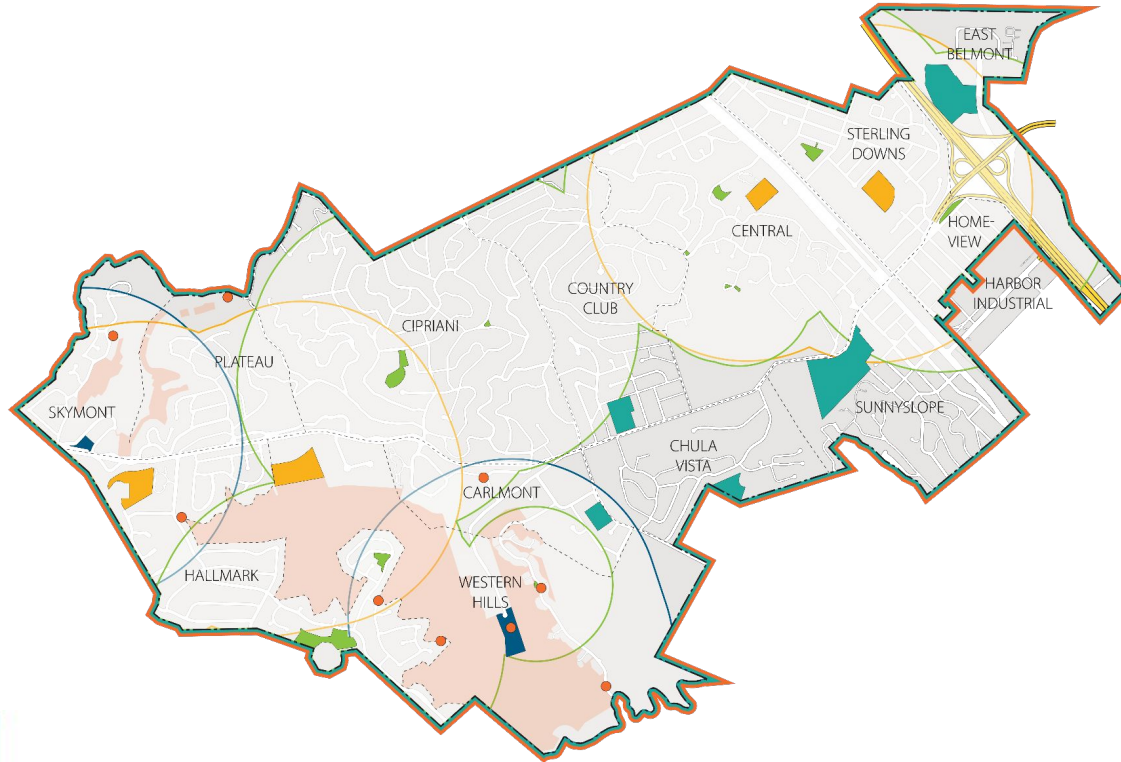| Environmental Assessment | + | Recreation Use Assessment |

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Goal 7: Develop and implement an Open Space Management Plan (OSMP)

HOW WE GET THERE

Objectives ➤ Policies ➤ Prioritization

- Environmental Sustainability
- Balanced Recreation Use
- Natural Hazard Mitigation

ENVISIONING **CITY-WIDE PARK ACCESS**

An Interconnected Park System

- Identify areas with low access

- Ensure amenities are well distributed

- Investigate new opportunities

- Align with ongoing ped + bike efforts

Park Typologies

🟢 Neighborhood Park	¼ mile (Tier 1) or ½ mile (Tier 2)	
🟢 Community Park	Entire City	
🔵 Undeveloped Park	½ mile	
🟡 School (JUA)	½ mile	
🔴 Open Space/Trailhead	Entire City	

STRATEGIES: BROAD INITIATIVES THAT WILL...

- Accomplish the PROS goals

- Benefit the PROS system as a whole

- Provide guidance for future decisions

- Align with existing planning efforts

SYSTEM-WIDE **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Inclusive + All-Abilities Play	Social Gathering Space	Pop-up Park Installations
Interconnect Toolkit	Activation Plan	Usage Study

PARK-SPECIFIC **RECOMMENDATIONS**

INCREASING MAGNITUDE OF RECOMMENDATIONS →

Magnitude	EXISTING MASTER PLAN	MINOR IMPROVEMENT	UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY	PARK REDESIGN	UNDEVELOPED PARKS	NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY
Existing Condition	Master plans recently adopted / Created with extensive community input	Parks recently developed or in very good condition	Current park functioning well	Rethink accessibility and park layout / No change in use	Existing park is undeveloped	Add parkland / To fill gaps in park access / City-owned property
Recommendation	Implement existing master plan	Minor improvements identified to maintain high quality	Upgrade existing amenity or new amenity to meet identified needs or gaps	Undertake park design plan	Develop and amenitize site	Create, develop, and amenitize site

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 1)

- *a* Natural Environment
- *b* Seating
- *c* Identifiable Amenity

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 2)

- *a* Natural Environment
- *b* Seating
- *c* Play Amenity
- *d* Picnic Opportunity
- *e* Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- *f* Recreation Amenity

COMMUNITY PARK

- *a* Natural Environment
- *b* Seating
- *c* Play Amenity
- *d* Picnic Opportunity
- *e* Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- *f* Recreation Amenity
- *g* Off-Street Parking
- *h* Permanent Restroom
- *i* Athletic Field or Community Facility

EXAMPLE: **IMPLEMENT MASTER PLAN**

TWIN PINES PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT EXISTING MASTER PLAN

ACCESSIBILITY

1 Restructure arrival zone to strength visual and physical connections

2 Prioritize pedestrian experience in Town Square area

3 Develop trail connections beyond park boundaries

4 Add looped walking path

AMENITY

5 Renovate playground structure and expand with Inclusive+All-Abilities Play

6 Add water play element

7 Renovate picnic area

8 Add bocce ball court

9 Add teen outdoor space

10 Add multi-use lawn

LANDSCAPE

11 Establish and improve visual and access connections to Belmont Creek
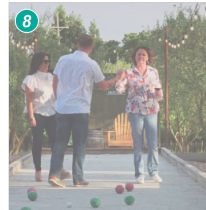
THE HEART OF BELMONT

MASTER PLAN (2019)

CHARACTER IMAGES
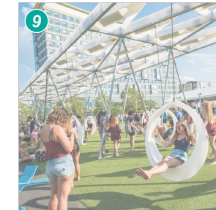
Source: Twin Pines Park Master Plan (2019)

Looped Walking Path

Water Play Element

Bocce Ball Court

Teen Outdoor Space

THE PARK WITH THE VIEW

ELDER DR

WAKEFIELD DR

RECOMMENDATIONS MAP
Source: Google Earth, 2020

ICON LEGEND

a Existing Standard Baseline Amenity

a Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity

Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape
(Specific location recommended within the park)

Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape
(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)

WAKEFIELD PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

a Natural Environment

b Seating

c Identifiable Amenity
(Create overlook opportunity)

ACCESSIBILITY

1 Improve existing walking path

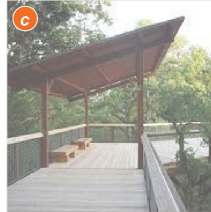**AMENITY**

2 Add benches

3 Add entrance signage to increase park visibility

LANDSCAPE

● Plant trees to increase shade

● Add native planting areas
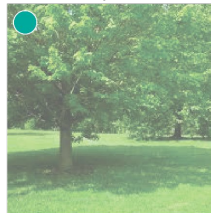
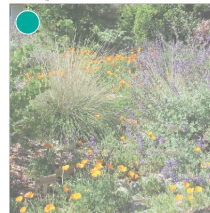● Public art opportunity

CHARACTER IMAGES

Identifiable Amenity

Walking Path

Seating

Trees for Shade

Native Planting Areas

MULTI-USE NEIGHBORHOOD SPACE

RALSTON AVE

RECOMMENDATIONS MAP
Source: Google Earth, 2020

ICON LEGEND

(a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity

(a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity

(#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape
(Specific location recommended within the park)

(●) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape
(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)

O'DONNELL PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

(a) Natural Environment	(d) Picnic Opportunity
(b) Seating	(e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
(c) Play Amenity	(f) Recreation Amenity

ACCESSIBILITY

No recommendations

AMENITY

1 Establish as a reservable picnic area (small)

2 Replace BBQs

3 Refurbish the existing half basketball courts

4 Add shade, tables, and outdoor games

LANDSCAPE

● Refresh planting areas with native plants

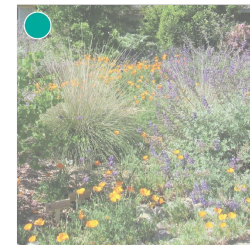● Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site

CHARACTER IMAGES

Reservable Picnic Area (Small)

Shade, Tables, and Outdoor Games

Native Planting Areas

OSMP **PURPOSE**

OSMP: A SET OF OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PRIORITIES BASED ON...

- **Environmental Assessment**: trails, stream crossings, habitat, vegetation

- **Recreational Use Assessment**: impact of recreation on sensitive resources

- Site visits + data collected in the field

- Relevant databases + peer-reviewed literature

- Community input

- Regional best practices, guidelines + regulations

Environmental Sustainability   Balanced Recreation Use   Natural Hazard Mitigation

OSMP **FINDINGS**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Overall habitat quality is high

2. Existing nature-based recreational use can continue on established mapped + unmapped trails

3. Continue wildfire fuel reduction efforts

PRIORITIES

TIER 1

- Improve stream crossings (H)
- Seasonal/weather-dependent restrictions on maintenance (E)
- Fuels reduction plan (M)
- Monitor recreation use (H)

TIER 2

- Improve stream crossings (H)
- Nature-based recreation programs (M)
- Volunteer restoration programs (E)
- Trail calming features (H)

| Easy |
|---|
| These actions can be performed immediately under **existing** City programs, funding, or with minimal additional effort. |
| **Medium** |
| These actions require **additional** planning, equipment, staffing, funding – either internal or external, or other operational changes. |
| **Hard** |
| These actions may require **substantial** planning, interagency coordination, staffing, funding, or other operational changes. |

FURTHER **STUDIES**

NEXT STEPS

- ○ Utilize the methodology presented in the OSMP for ongoing observation + monitoring

- ○ Develop an annual Fuel Reduction Plan

- ○ Conduct engineering studies for future stream crossing projects

- ○ Adopt trail design guidelines

  (specific to Belmont OR adopt an existing set from the State or other reputable source)
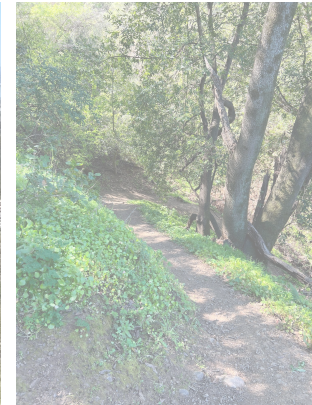
IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITIZATION: BASED ON THE ABILITY OF A RECOMMENDATION TO…

- Further the PROS goals
- Respond to community priorities
- Resolve an existing deficiency
- Address an existing condition

FUNDING + PARTNERSHIPS: OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE ON…

- Capital improvements
- Maintenance + operations

ACTION PLAN: IMPORTANT TARGETS IN THREE TIME FRAMES…

- Short term > Long term > Ongoing

RECENT **REVISIONS**

THE PROS PLAN WAS **RECOMMENDED** BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ON JULY 6, 2022 TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL **WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS**...

1. Consolidate the OSMP's Base Plan and Management Alternatives objectives, policies, and implementation actions into a single plan.

2. Clearly present priority recommendations in the OSMP by theme - environmental sustainability, balanced recreation uses and trail management, and natural hazard mitigation.

3. Pursue the creation of dedicated parkland in downtown Belmont and the Belmont Village Specific Plan area in response to potential residential density increase in the area due to anticipated housing unit development as outlined in the 2023-2031 Housing Element update.

4. Apply consistent terminology to remove ambiguity.

5. Refine specific graphics for clarity.

2024 COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

REVISION **SUMMARY**

LAYOUT/FORMATTING/GRAPHICS

1. Color-coding/revising graphics, tables, images, figures + captions for consistency
2. Section/chapter headers renamed/reorganized for clarity/flow/readability
3. Information presented visually where needed

CONTENT/TEXT

1. Terms clearly defined + used consistently
2. Text became more concise while preserving content/details
3. Concepts/topics elaborated/reworded/explained further where needed
4. Reflects latest information available + recent meetings/outreach statistics

NOT CHANGED: THE PRIMARY TAKEAWAYS OF THE DOCUMENT...

○ Inventory + needs assessment results
○ Recommendations + opportunity sites
○ Prioritization matrix + action plan

CEQA **UPDATE**

CEQA PATHWAY

- The PROS Plan was reviewed according to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Policies and actions in the PROS Plan (including OSMP) were largely already addressed in the General Plan

- To retain consistency and reduce redundancy, **an addendum to the 2017 EIR** was prepared

- The addendum and the 2017 EIR are programmatic – *they address potential impacts that may result from the implementation of policies and actions*

Addenda are used to make changes or additions to prior EIRs or NDs without major changes to the
- Project,
- Circumstances,
- Information.

CEQA **UPDATE**
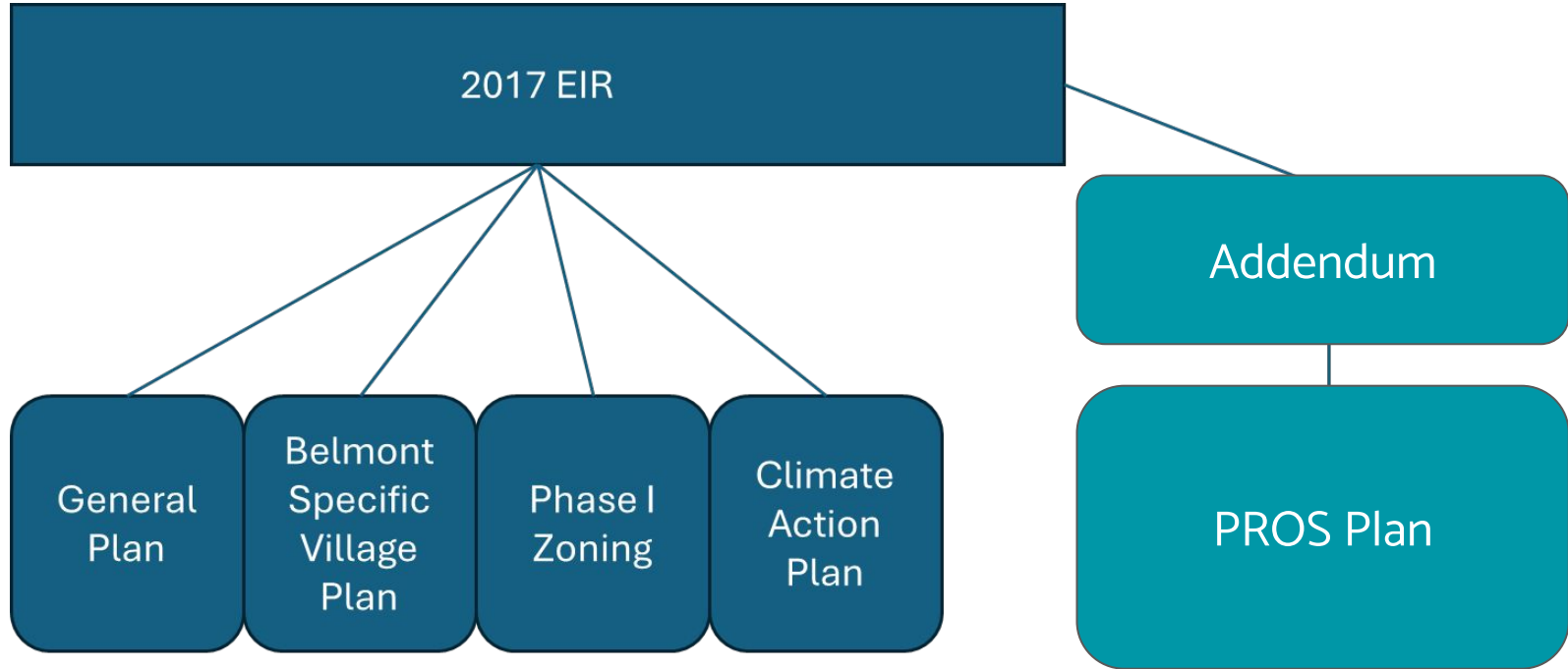
EIR ADDENDUM

- ○ The addendum analyzed the potential impacts from the PROS Plan as they relate to the impact discussed in the 2017 EIR

FINDINGS

- ○ Limited new impacts were less than significant

- ○ No new significant impacts that had not already been discussed - no additional review is needed

- ○ All mitigation measures will apply

The addendum will accompany the PROS Plan to City Council for approval

NEXT **STEPS**

1. **PRESENT TO CITY COUNCIL FOLLOWING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

2. **AS SPECIFIC PROJECTS EMERGE, INITIATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

3. **PERIODICALLY REVISIT THE PROS PLAN AS RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE + PRIORITIES CHANGE**

www.**BelmontPROSplan**.com   **Info@BelmontPROSplan.com**

LET'S BUILD
OUR BACKYARD