



8/16/2021

VIA EMAIL

Mike Blondino, District Administrator
Carmichael Recreation & Park District
5750 Grant Avenue
Carmichael CA 95608

RE: CRPD Recreation & Parks Master Plan Update

Dear Mr. Blondino:

Thank you for providing the public with the opportunity to review and comment on the Carmichael Recreation & Park District (CRPD) July 2021 AD Draft for the Recreation & Parks Master Plan Update. The Master Plan Update is a strategic planning document that will guide the growth, improvement, and maintenance of parks within the District's service area. WALKSacramento's interest in the Master Plan Update derives from our mission to improve quality of life and health equity through community-centered policy and systems change in land use, transportation, and community development. Parks are an important part of our built environment because of their contribution to improving health, and the facilities, services, and programs offered at parks can help to improve social connections, mobility, nutrition, and physical activity levels.

Goal 3 Provide for community health and wellness The recommendations for Goal 3 support connections to nature, year-round use of parks, users of all fitness levels, social interaction, and increased use of parks. Community health and wellness can also be improved by facilitating and encouraging users to walk and bike to parks. Using active transportation will add to the physical activity of park users and it can help reduce the cost of providing automobile parking by reducing parking demand. The District should enhance pedestrian and bicycle access to parks by providing convenient and safe entry into parks at as many locations as feasible. Parks can also be links within the community's multimodal transportation network by creating walking and biking paths through parks.

We recommend adding a sixth recommendation for Goal 3: Adopt park design guidelines based on best practices for healthy design and Complete Streets to promote travel by active transportation to parks and within the surrounding communities.

Goal 5 Advance sustainable management and stewardship Trees provide numerous environmental and social benefits, from storing carbon and reducing pollution and urban heat island effects to promoting emotional well being and reducing blood pressure and stress. We recommend revising recommendation 5.7 to read "Convert underutilized turf areas to low water use planting and/or trees, and increase the overall number of trees within the District, and create micro-forests where feasible.

Carmichael Park Proposed Site Plan The large size of Carmichael Park and the park's wide range of amenities attracts people from a large area that travel to the park by walking, biking, taking transit, and driving. The proposed site plan improvements provide for good facilities for circulation within the park on foot and in cars, but the biking facilities are limited to the internal streets. Biking on the

internal streets should be safer than biking on surrounding public streets, but bicyclists of all ages and abilities may not feel comfortable mixing with vehicular traffic. We recommend providing an off-street bike trail or widening the sidewalk to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists along 1) the west side of Carmichael Park Road and Green Park Lane between Grant Avenue and North Avenue, and 2) the east side of Sue Pam Drive and the north side of Landis Avenue.

The proposed Promenade will be a great connector for walking through the park and accessing facilities for pedestrians arriving from areas northeast of the park or the bus stops on Fair Oaks Boulevard. The proposed Events Pavilion is conveniently located close to the northeast corner of the park from which many pedestrians will arrive, but as shown on the proposed site plan it's bisected by the Promenade. If events at the Pavilion take up the entire event space or are located on the Promenade pathway, then it's crucial to provide a convenient pathway around the Pavilion.

Del Campo Park Proposed Site Plan There's an opportunity to provide community-level connectivity for the community around Del Campo Park. We recommend adding a Class I trail near the existing sidewalk between Heathcliff Drive and Oleander Drive. Alternatively, widen the sidewalk between Heathcliff Drive and Oleander Drive.

Jan Park Proposed Site Plan Multi-use paved paths and trails on the north side of the site are proposed for improvements. This would provide access from the north, adding to the existing Jan Drive access on the eastside of the park. Another opportunity to increase park usage is to improve access from Salman Drive at the southwest corner of the park. This is important because the signalized intersection on Manzanita Ave is less than a ¼-mile from the park via Salman Drive and Lincoln Avenue, and many people arriving by walking or biking from west of Jan Park will use the signal to safely cross Manzanita Avenue. The addition of a bike park at Jan Park will draw more people from a wider area, many of who will arrive by bike and will likely also use the signalized intersection. Please note the improvements of multi-use paved paths is not included in the table of improvement costs. We recommend adding a paved connection from the parks southwest corner to the proposed bike park and the existing multi-use paved paths.

Schweitzer Grove Nature Area Proposed Site Plan The park site could improve and promote active transportation for the community by extending the proposed pathway network improvements to the access streets. We recommend extending the improved pathways so cross-park connections are made between Ladera Court (marked Milroy LN), Sumter Drive (marked Sumpter DR), and Hussey Drive.

WALKSacramento is working to support increased physical activity such as walking and bicycling in local neighborhoods as well as helping to create community environments that support walking and bicycling. The benefits include improved public health and physical fitness, better air quality, a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in neighborhoods, and more sustainable communities and local economies.

Sincerely,

Chris Holm
Project Manager