



Commission of the Deaf

Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: COMMISSIONER OF THE DEAF **DATE: AUGUST 14, 2024**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

ISSUE:

Presentation of the community programs and services offered by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Commission of the Deaf receive a presentation by the Park, Recreation and Community Services Department.

BACKGROUND:

The mission of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD) is to provide innovative recreational experiences and social enrichment opportunities to address the changing needs of the people of all ages and cultures, in a variety of safe and attractive parks, trails, landscapes, and facilities. The City of Riverside values and understands community needs and has already invested into these spaces. The award-winning Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department prudently maintains over 3,000 acres 69 total parks, 57 developed and 12 undeveloped parks with 14 community centers, 1 nature center and 7 pools. The facilities offer an assortment of amenities for all ages and interests.

The Department's Planning Division assists with development of parks spaces, infrastructure replacement, open space preservation, etc. The Recreation and Community Services Division provides high quality programming, events, and extended learning opportunities throughout the community such as city-wide special events, facility rentals, youth and adult sports, and expanding programming for our community with disabilities. The Parks Division performs parks, facility, and trail maintenance, energy and water conservation, and turf renovations, etc. The Department also provides the Special Transportation Program which offers transportation services to senior and disabled residents within city limits.

The primary objective of PRCSD is to offer the community resources, safe places to relax, well-maintained facilities, opportunities for physical activity, and avenues for fun. Collaborating with community groups, local businesses, and non-profit organizations, staff and volunteers ensure that "Parks Make Life Better."

DISCUSSION:

To remain at the forefront of industry trends, PRCSD continuously seeks ways to enhance programs and services. Through staff innovation, the City of Riverside sets a model for the industry by providing exciting and innovative programs, activities, and services. PRCSD is a member of various government associations that offer best practices and operational tools. The California Parks Recreation Society (CPRS) is Riverside's resource for personnel development, program innovation, and policy building. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) is the leading force for the parks and recreation profession, providing key statistics and data.

1. More than 280 million people in the United States visited a local park or recreation facility at least once during the past year.
2. Seven in 10 U.S. residents have at least one local park, playground, open space, or recreation center within walking distance of their homes.
3. Eighty-eight percent of U.S. adults agree it is vital for local park and recreation agencies to engage with every member of their community to ensure offerings meet their needs.
4. Visitors who find their parks and recreation facilities to be inclusive visit these areas nearly two times as often as those who do not hold this view.
5. According to a 2023 NRPA Park Pulse poll, nearly nine in 10 U.S. adults look to their local park and recreation agency to take the necessary steps to ensure everyone in their community feels welcome.
6. Nine in 10 adults agree that their local and state governments must sufficiently fund local park and recreation agencies to ensure every community member has access to the amenities, infrastructure and programming offered.

The PRCSD prides itself on providing high-quality programs and continuously strives to improve services. Recognizing areas of opportunity, the department is committed to expanding programs and services for the community, particularly for individuals with disabilities. Ensuring that our parks and facilities are inclusive and accessible is a top priority, aligning with our mission to serve every member of the community effectively.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Jessica Ochoa, Recreation Supervisor
Attachment: Presentation