



**CITY OF FOLSOM
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
6:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
50 NATOMA STREET, FOLSOM, CALIFORNIA
www.folsom.ca.us**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
2. **ROLL CALL:** Commission Members: Matt Hedges, Brian Wallace, Sandy Econome, Jim Ortega, Dustin Silva, Alayna Wagner, Dean Williams
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
4. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - A. August 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes
6. **ACTION ITEMS/STAFF REPORTS:**
7. **SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS:**
 - A. Bear Care Group Presentation – Nichole Lemcke, Zoo Sanctuary Supervisor
 - B. Certificates of Recognition for our Asian Pacific American Public Affairs (APAPA) Community Volunteers – APAPA Representative – Winston Yung
 - C. NFL Flag Football Program – Tom Hellmann, Recreation & Cultural Services Supervisor and Jeremi DeOsio, Recreation Coordinator II
8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - A. Budget/Finance (**Ortega**, Hedges, and Silva)
 - B. Planning, Development & Renovations (Econome, Williams, and **Wallace**)
 - C. Operations (Ortega, Silva, and Wagner)
 - D. Zoo Sanctuary Ad Hoc Committee (**Econome**, Hedges, and Wallace)
9. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**
 - A. Monthly Report – Kelly Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director
 - B. Parks & Recreation Director Report – Kelly Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director



10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

11. ADJOURNMENT:

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As presiding officer, the Chairperson has the authority to preserve order at all Parks & Recreation Commission meetings, to remove or cause the removal of any person from any such meeting for disorderly conduct, or for making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, using profanity, or becoming boisterous, threatening or personally abusive while addressing said Commission, and to enforce the rules of the Commission.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (916) 461-6606, (916) 351-5931 (fax) or estrawn@folsom.ca.us. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least two full business days before the start of the meeting.

The City of Folsom provides archived webcasts of Parks & Recreation Commission meetings. The webcasts can be found on the Online Services page of the City's website www.folsom.ca.us. Any documents produced by the City and distributed to the Parks & Recreation Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available at the Parks & Recreation Department at 50 Natoma Street, Folsom, California during normal business hours.

**CITY OF FOLSOM
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025, 6:30 PM
DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parks & Recreation Meeting was Called to Order at 6:34 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Commission Members: Vice Chair Brian Wallace, Sandy Econome, Jim Ortega, Alayna Wagner, Dean Williams

Commission Members Absent: Chair Matt Hedges, Dustin Silva

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

4. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

No Business from the Floor

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
A. June 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to approve June 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

AYES: Commission Members: Wallace, Econome, Ortega, Wagner, Williams
NOES: Commission Members: None
ABSENT: Commission Members: Hedges, Silva
ABSTAIN: Commission Members: None

6. **ACTION ITEMS:**

No Action Items

7. **SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS:**
A. Folsom Lake Surf Soccer Club– Fritz Libby, Executive Director

Presentation from Fritz Libby, Executive Director. Mr. Libby provided a background of Folsom Lake Surf Soccer Club and the growth over the years. Also shared some of the challenges due to the lack of fields and the growing club. Commissioners suggested honoring our Folsom 2nd place team.

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- B. Budget Report Back – Kelly Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director

Kelly Gonzalez, Director of Parks & Recreation, reported where the budget stands for the City of Folsom and the challenges we are facing with our shortfalls.

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- C. Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Brad Nelson, Parks and Trails Planning Manager

Brad Nelson, Parks & Trails Planning Manager, introduced Paul Mewton, Specialist Project Manager. Mr. Mewton gave an overview of the Parks & Recreation Masterplan, explaining its purpose, the various elements, and the process for developing one. He also showed what the current 2015 Masterplan looks like and what it contains.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Budget/Finance (Ortega, Silva, and Wagner)
- B. Planning, Development & Renovations (Silva, Wagner, and Williams)
- C. Operations (Eonome, Williams, and Ortega)
- D. Zoo Sanctuary Ad Hoc Committee (Econome, Hedges, and Wallace)

There were no meetings this month, but a Chair still needs to be chosen for the Planning, Development & Renovations Committee.

9. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. CYSL and User Group MOU– Tom Hellmann
- B. Monthly Report – Kelly Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director
- C. Parks & Recreation Director Report – Kelly Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director

Director Gonzalez highlighted key items in the Monthly and Director's Report.

10. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Econome commented that she was glad the budget went well and is here to support staff however that is needed.

Commissioner Ortega is looking forward to the masterplan being developed and helping out with it.

Commissioner Wagner encouraged Parks & Recreation to examine the weather when deciding when to close down waterparks. Worried they will be closed while the weather is still hot.

Vice Chair Wallace appreciates that staff keeps up with all the items coming their way.

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Parks & Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Matt Hedges, Chairperson

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Parks & Recreation Commission

SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

2025-updated on 4.02.25

BUDGET & FINANCE

Chair Jim Ortega

Matt Hedges

Dustin Silva

Staff: Kelly Gonzalez, Jamison Larson, Tom Hellmann, Chris O'Keefe, Brad Nelson

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & RENOVATIONS

Sandy Econome

Dean Williams

Brian Wallace*

Staff: Kelly Gonzalez, Brad Nelson, Chris O'Keefe, Jamison Larson

OPERATIONS

Jim Ortega

Dustin Silva

Alayna Wagner

Staff: Kelly Gonzalez, Chris O'Keefe, Jamison Larson, Tom Hellmann

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Zoo Sanctuary

Matt Hedges

Brian Wallace

Sandy Econome

Staff: Kelly Gonzalez, Jocelyn Smeltzer, and Jamison Larson

FOLSOM PARKS & RECREATION

Department Report

AUGUST 2025



CITY OF
FOLSOM
PARKS & RECREATION

PARTICIPATION

Participation in classes, camps, activities, and parties

Aquatics	11,328
Community and Cultural Services	6,154
Sports	11,634
Zoo Sanctuary	417
TOTAL	29,533

Guest Entry at Recreation Facilities

Aquatics	15,768
Zoo Sanctuary (General)	8,665
TOTAL	24,433

Special Events—Estimated Attendance

Summer Movie Series (August 2)	1,070
Summer of Music Concerts (July 25)	1,500

PARTICIPATION GRAND TOTAL 56,536

COMMUNICATIONS

Marketing/PR

E-News Articles	26
Miscellaneous Print/Digital Media	124

Social Media @FolsomParksandRec

Facebook Followers	11,026
Instagram Followers	7,784

Engagement: 2,103 | Reach: 107,757

Top Monthly Post: Family Movie Night at the Aquatic Center

Social Media @FolsomCityZooSanctuary

Facebook Followers	19,047
Instagram Followers	8,289

Engagement: 2,693 | Reach: 50,809

Top Monthly Post: Sundays are for Selfies

RENTALS

Aquatic Center Lane Hours	1,019
City Sports Field Hours	2,947
Community Facilities	55
Park Picnic Pavilions	14
Vista HS Lane Hours	196

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Park Maintenance and Municipal Landscape Services	
SeeClickFix Work Orders Completed	125

PUBLIC SAFETY & FIRE PREVENTION

Acres of Weed Abatement	15
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PARTNERSHIPS

Organizations that helped support a community special event, enrichment program, or Parks & Recreation facility.

New Parternships (In the Last 90 days)	9
Partnership Value (Financial and In-Kind)	\$11,500

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Adopt-A-Trail	108
Friends of the Zoo	61
Sports/Coaching	20
Zoo Docents	1,217
Zoo General/Misc	263
VOLUNTEER HOURS GRAND TOTAL	1,669

PARK PLANNING

Benevento Park				
Planning	Community Engagement	Design & Engineering	Construction	OPEN!
Folsom Plan Area Neighborhood Park 1				
Planning	Community Engagement	Design & Engineering	Construction	OPEN!
Kids Play Castle Park Renovation				
Planning	Community Engagement	Design & Engineering	Construction	OPEN!
Livermore Park Phase 5A				
Planning	Community Engagement	Design & Engineering	Construction	OPEN!

TRAIL PLANNING

Number of visitors on the Johnny Cash Trail				14,604
Folsom Boulevard Bike/Ped Overcrossing Feasibility Study				
Planning	Funding	Design & Engineering	Construction	OPEN!
Folsom-Placerville Rail Trail				
Planning	Funding	Design & Engineering	Construction	OPEN!
Highway 50 Class I Trail Undercrossing & Trail Improvements				
Planning	Funding	Design & Engineering	Construction	OPEN!
Mangini Ranch Trails				
Planning	Funding	Design & Engineering	Construction	OPEN!
Regency Trails				
Planning	Funding	Design & Engineering	Construction	OPEN!

The City of Folsom Adopted the Strategic Plan FY 2023–24 through FY 2027–28

The Parks & Recreation Department is dedicated to supporting the goals and initiatives of the Strategic Plan. The goals identified by the City Council include Financial Stability, Public Safety and Infrastructure, Economic and Community Development, and Organization Effectiveness.

GOAL A: Financial Stability and Sustainability

Support fiscal health through long-term planning, cost control, heightened efficiency, increased revenue, and cost recovery.

- The Zoo Sanctuary revenue from July is up \$35,000 compared to this same time last fiscal year. Entry gate attendance has increased with an additional 2,700 guests visiting the Zoo for the month of July.
- National Honey Bee Day at the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary was a success! Over 940 guests visited (with many dressed to fit the bee-theme), which is over 250 guests more than the previous year. The event brought in a net revenue of over \$10,000, with \$2,000 of that being from honey sales alone. That's almost twice as much total revenue as the previous year.
- The Parks Maintenance Division has been working with vendors to reduce the costs of janitorial supplies. The Division expects to realize 16% savings for FY 25/26.

GOAL B: Public Safety and Infrastructure

Enhance provision of public safety resources, invest in technological solutions, and maintain, repair, and improve public facilities and infrastructure.

- Recreation & Community Services received two unannounced safety audits at the Steve Miklos Aquatic Center on July 17 and again on August 15. These audits are conducted to test the emergency preparedness of aquatic staff. On both occasions, the facility and staff received the highest ranking possible of exceeding safety standards. Lifeguards and supervisors were observed to follow and EXCEED standards. Lifeguards were found to exhibit consistent scanning patterns with downward head and eye movement. Lifeguards were Vigilant, Professional, and Rescue Ready. Supervisors were visible and observed to be proactively managing their areas of responsibility. Vigilance Awareness Training (VAT) simulation drills met standards. Simulated emergencies were observed to EXCEED standards. Patient care objectives were met, and team members displayed confidence and competence in their Emergency Action Plan (EAP) roles. Administrative documentation was well-organized and available for review, stating, "It has been a pleasure to work with the Folsom Parks and Recreation team."
- The Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary's grounds team continues to make improvements throughout the facility. These include repairing animal heaters in preparation for the cooler months, repairing an eyewash station, stall doors in the Barnyard Experience, and finishing repairs on the pasture sprinklers.
- Municipal Landscape Services Division staff continues to be responsive to resident items such as fallen branches, pruning, light outages, and graffiti removal on neighborhood soundwalls.
- The HVAC replacement at the Folsom Senior & Arts building was completed.
- Friends of Folsom Parkway removed a considerable amount of ladder fuel in the Parkway in July.
- The City of Folsom will host a community meeting to share updates on the Benevento Family Park project. We're excited to present the latest park plans, review the current project status, and outline the schedule moving forward. This will be our first in-person update with the community in some time, and we look forward to sharing what's ahead for this new neighborhood park.
- Parks & Recreation staff supported the non-profit Kids Play for Generations at their successful Farewell to the Castle event on August 22. The event promoted fundraising efforts, generated excitement for the community-led rebuild, and allowed residents to share their memories of Kids Play Park.
- In August, we launched the Call for Names campaign to solicit name suggestions for the next park planned in the Folsom Plan Area. This is an excellent opportunity for the community to make history by helping select a name that reflects the character of this future public space.

GOAL C: Economic and Community Development

Promote effective use of existing amenities and resources to create future opportunities that enrich the community.

- Recreation & Community Services finalized the lease agreement for the Folsom Historic District Association. Tom Hellmann managed this lease agreement for over a year and has brought it to execution between the city and FHDA for a 3-year lease term. Annual evaluation of this agreement, along with other process enhancements for the use of the public spaces, is ongoing.
- Recreation & Community Services staff programming in Youth Services wrapped up a vibrant summer season with strong participation across camps, special events, and youth engagement opportunities.
- Destination Recreation completed Weeks 7–9 of camp with full rosters (all weeks with waitlists) and high camper engagement.
 - » Week 7: Ultimate Sports Showdown: Featured game-show style challenges and a martial arts demo from Kovar’s.
 - » Week 8: Circus Spectacular: Campers enjoyed Spun Craze cotton candy and face painting by All Party Art.
 - » Week 9: Rhythms of the Wild: Culminated in a camper dance performance for families at the Folsom Community Center with over 100 attendees.
- Folsom Zoo Sanctuary walking field trip (Week 9) offered an enriching local experience in line with the camp’s animal-themed week.
- The new Summer Movie Nights were a huge hit, highlighting the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary, Andy Morin Sports Complex, and the Steve Miklos Aquatic Center. A big thank you to the Palladio 16 Cinema, the Palladio Luxe Cinema, Kaiser Folsom, Dave and Busters, Pizza Guys, Folsom Times, and Bonneville Broadcasting for helping us make this such a successful event series. Over 1,000 participants attended the summer series finale at the Steve Miklos Aquatic Center on August 2.
- Recreation & Community Services completed the Summer Sea Squad Swim Lesson program at the Steve Miklos Aquatic Center. Over 1,300 swimmers ranging in age from infant to teen participated in learning life-long water safety skills and comfort in the water.
- The Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary’s summer camp programs (Senior Zookeeper Camp, Junior Zookeeper Camp, and ABC Zoo Camp) brought in over 245 kids who enjoyed meeting animal ambassadors, cleaning animal enclosures, making fun enrichment and crafts, participating in outdoor games, and learning more about being a zookeeper and respecting wildlife.
- Recreation & Community Services has been working closely with Folsom Lake Surf Soccer Club by allocating natural grass and turf fields throughout the city and FCUSD facilities for their soccer recreation program. This program comprises over 2,300 kids of all ages.
- Recreation & Community Services hosted the Just Between Friends consignment sale at the Andy Morin Sports Complex. This weeklong rental of the entire indoor facility brought thousands of visitors.
- Recreation & Community Services completed the Fall NFL Flag football player evaluation on August 8, at John Kemp Park. Over 200 kids in grades 2nd through 8th attended and were coached through various skills and drills. Players have been assigned teams, with practices starting September 5 and first games beginning September 19.

GOAL D: Organization Effectiveness

Build strong connections and support for the community and employees through a commitment to local government best practices and employee development, support, and retention to meet community needs.

- The Recreation & Community Services Division focused on the following with staff and parents alike in the Destination Recreation Summer Camp Program:
 - » Staff Recognition & Culture: Leadership staff implemented several new engagement strategies, including staff “Sunshine Grams,” a rotating Camper Experience whiteboard, and weekly camper challenges to increase morale and participation.
 - » Parent Engagement: Week 9 included a successful camper showcase event, which was clearly communicated to families via email, flyers, and signage. Families were encouraged to participate, and many expressed appreciation for the added touchpoint.
 - » Evaluation & Feedback: Mid- and end-of-summer feedback was collected from families and staff to inform future program improvements.
- Recreation & Community Services sent two teams from the Steve Miklos Aquatic Center to compete in the Northern California Lifeguard Games, held at Southgate Recreation & Park District. Lifeguards performed water-based skills and emergency rescues through the evening’s games. The team was defending their 2024 championship title and gave a valiant effort, finishing in 3rd place.
- The Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary’s zookeepers and volunteer docents spent the day at the Oakland Zoo on August 6. They learned more about Oakland Zoo’s educational and outreach programs as well as animal care, training, and volunteer programs. The Zoo Sanctuary’s team specifically shadowed Oakland’s bear team to supplement and share their knowledge about caring for bears under human care.
- The Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary celebrated National Zookeeper Week from July 20 to 26. This annual event recognizes the dedication and hard work of zookeepers. From training animals to educating the public, zookeepers do it all, and we cannot thank them enough for their hard work.
- The Municipal Landscape Services Division welcomed Neveah Millar, a new part-time employee who will assist staff with Underground Service Alerts within the City’s landscape right-of-way.

MISSION

The Parks & Recreation Department is committed to being a leader in creating and maintaining facilities, parks, programs, and services that enhance the quality of life and reflect the changing needs of our community and environment.

FOLSOM PARKS & RECREATION

Director's Report

AUGUST 2025



CITY OF
FOLSOM
PARKS & RECREATION

City Council Meetings

August 12

- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Amendment No. 2 to the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District Licensing Agreement No. E32015006 Extending the Term of the Agreement for an Additional Five Years
- A Resolution Approving the Donation of Specified Pieces of the Original Folsom Kids Play "Castle" Park Wood Play Structure to Folsom Kids Play for Generations, Inc.

September 9

- Presentation of the 12th Annual Folsom Community Service Day

September 23

- Resolution No. 00000: A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with Capra Environmental Services Corporation for Shaded Fuel Break Creation and Ladder Fuel Removal

Department Highlights and Summary

- The fall registration for programs opened to the public on August 13. We hope you had an opportunity to review the Activity Guide.
- Staff presented to the Friends of the Folsom Parkway meeting at the Sports Complex. Discussions included information about upcoming events and updates on trails and park projects. Staff also shared information about proposed budget reductions that will be discussed at an upcoming City Council meeting in late September.
- Staff presented to the Rotary Club requesting support at Community Service Day to help with the demolition of the playground structure at Kids Play/Castle Park. The Rotary will provide feedback at an upcoming Board Meeting prior to Community Service Day.
- Thank you to the Parks & Recreation Commissioners who came out to support the fundraising event, “Goodbye to Castle Park”. The event was hosted on August 22. Despite the heat, the event was well attended with activities such as face painting, bubble stations, and photo opportunities next to Castle Park. The public was also given an opportunity to purchase pieces of the park and help with fundraising activities.
- Folsom residents can leave their mark on the city’s newest public space by helping choose its name. The Folsom Parks & Recreation Department is inviting the community to submit name ideas for Neighborhood Park #1, a new park currently under development at 3294 Empire Ranch Road in the Folsom Plan Area. The park will cover approximately 11.98 acres. The winning name should reflect the character and spirit of Folsom—whether by honoring the area’s natural beauty, recognizing its wildlife, celebrating unique features, or paying tribute to the city’s history and culture. Submissions will be accepted through September 12 via the city’s online form. The Planning, Development & Renovations Subcommittee will help staff narrow down to the top three names for the public to vote for their favorite name. Those seeking additional information can email parkplanning@folsom.ca.us.

Future Potential Agenda Topics

- Zoo Sanctuary Business Operations Plan
- Sports Tournaments and Economic Impact Report
- Partnerships
- Recreation and Community Services Summer Programs Recap

Upcoming Special Events—Save the Date

Folsom Community Service Day

- September 20

Mayor’s Cup Golf Tournament at Empire Ranch Golf Course

- September 26

Bark & Splash at the Steve Miklos Aquatic Center

- October 4

World Animal Weekend at the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary

- October 4 & 5

Glass Pumpkins at the Gallery at 48 Natoma

- October 11 & 12

Swim with the Pumpkins at the Steve Miklos Aquatic Center

- October 18

Wild Howl-O-Ween at the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary

- October 25

Veteran's Day Parade

- November 11

Wild Nights and Holiday Lights at the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary

- December 5-7, 12-14, & 17-20

Parks & Recreation Commissioners, please RSVP to Erin Strawn, Administrative Assistant at estrawn@folsom.ca.us if you are attending these events.