



**CITY OF FOLSOM
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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. October 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes
6. **ACTION ITEMS/STAFF REPORTS:**

N/A
7. **SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS:**
 - A. Trail Project Update - Ryan Neves
 - B. Castle Park Project Update – Brad Nelson
 - C. Zoo Sanctuary Special Events – Jocelyn Smeltzer
 - D. Financial Sustainability - Jamison Larson
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:

*Notice: Members of the Public are entitled to directly address the Commission concerning any item that is described in the notice of this meeting, before or during consideration of that item. If you wish to address the Commission on an issue which is on this agenda, please complete a speaker request card, and deliver it to a staff member at the table on the left side of the Council Chambers prior to discussion of the item. When your name is called, stand to be recognized by the Chairperson and then proceed to the podium. If you wish to address the Commission on any other item of interest to the public, when the Chairperson asks if there is any "**Business from the Floor**," follow the same procedure as described above. Please limit your comments to three minutes or less.*

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, OCTOBER 7, 2025, 6:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parks & Recreation Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Commission Members: Matt Hedges, Brian Wallace, Sandy Econome, Jim Ortega, Dustin Silva, Alayna Wagner, Dean Williams
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. September 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Ortega, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to approve the September 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

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

6. **ACTION ITEMS:**
A. Renaming of Kids Play Park to Folsom Castle Park, Brad Nelson, Parks & Trails Planning Manager

Brad Nelson, Parks Planning Manager, introduced Hannah Perez, Park Planner II. Hannah provided a history of the park and plans for building the new park, including a new name. Community forums were conducted, and the feedback was overwhelmingly in favor of renaming the park to Folsom Castle Park.

Community member, Joanne Rauch, wrote in a request to have the name be “Castle Park” rather than “Folsom Castle Park.”

Motion by Commissioner Wagner, to amend staff recommendation of the name “Folsom Castle Park” to “Castle Park,” striking Folsom from the name. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

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

7. **SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS:**

A. Aquatics Summer Season Review, Tom Hellmann, Recreation & Community Services Manager

Tom Hellman, Recreation & Community Services Manager, introduced Chad Gunter, Aquatics Center Supervisor, and Matt Trefry, Sr. Recreation Coordinator. Matt introduced all the full-time staff. He then reviewed the various programs offered by the Aquatics Center, including swimming lessons, lifeguard training, and several special events. Additionally, he discussed the number of people who use the aquatics center over an annual period.

Marsha Bearing, a Folsom resident, spoke. She uses the aquatics at least two times a week and loves that the classes keep her moving, and would be sad to see the aquatics center close during the winter.

Katie Pearce, a resident of Folsom, spoke. Talked about the aquatics center being one of the largest employers for teens, being their first job, and how important that was. This is where they learn customer service and understand the importance of that skill. Her mother uses the pool regularly and credits it for keeping her young. Wants to ensure the pool remains open all year round.

B. Youth and Teen Summer Camp Recap, Tom Hellmann, Recreation & Community Services Manager

Tom Hellmann, Recreation & Community Services Manager, introduced Nadia Khokhhar Roberts, Recreation Coordinator II, and Whitney Kahn, Recreation Coordinator II. Nadia and Whitney talked about the staff training and the kids' camps that were held over the summer.

C. Zoo Sanctuary Economic Impact Study, Jocelyn Smeltzer, Zoo Sanctuary Manager

Jocelyn Smeltzer, Zoo Sanctuary Manager, introduced Peggy Platt, President of Friends of Folsom Zoo. Peggy discussed the group's goals and how they plan to help the sanctuary.

D. 2024/2025 Annual Report, Jamison Larson, Sr. Management Analyst

Jamison Larson, Sr. Management Analyst went over the 2024/2025 Annual Report, which includes final numbers for the year for volunteers and costs for the different departments.

Vice Chair Wallace felt that the annual report was exactly what our department needed and was great to see all the partnerships, volunteer hours, and other information laid out so nicely.

Commissioner Williams expressed the need to promote ourselves. People need to understand what P&R is doing to make Folsom as great as it is. The annual report really does this.

Chair Hedges suggested giving this type of presentation to City Council during a slower time of the year besides just budget.

Commissioner Econome also thought the annual report was great and suggested doing a day in the life for Folsom citizens.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

The Zoo Committee met with Friends of Folsom Zoo. Lots of ideas for fundraisers were discussed, including Christmas trees for Wild Nights and Holiday Light and Red Bus Brewing.

9. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Monthly Report – Kelly Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director
- B. 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 Williams is excited about what he heard tonight regarding the budget but there is still a lot of work ahead. Need to think of who we can reach out to in the community for help. We need to continue raising awareness about the importance of Parks & Recreation to the community.

Vice Chair Wallace thought the presentations were excellent. Has a new appreciation for how we provide first-time jobs for our youth.

Commissioner Wagner asked for a quick update on Kemp turf replacement. At this time the City does not have the funds for this project. Would like to suggest having outreach to the community for NP1 a little earlier. Requested more information about the scholarship fund.

Commissioner Silva felt the upbeat of all our presentations and information, even during the budget, was very refreshing and appreciated it from all staff.

Commissioner Ortega, the staff should be commended on the annual report. This is what the Council needs to see: the value of our department and what we do is the reason people move, live, and stay here. There is always something for them and their kids to do, which many communities lack.

Chair Hedges, girls' flag football, is very popular, and we should find a way to capitalize on that. Gave kudos to Cynthia Mandel for making coaches' lives easier.

Commissioner Econome, messaging is key. We need to make sure community members understand all the things Parks & Recreation has to do in their lives whether they recognize it in the moment or not.

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Parks & Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Matt Hedges, Chairperson

*Notice: Members of the Public are entitled to directly address the Commission concerning any item that is described in the notice of this meeting, before or during consideration of that item. If you wish to address the Commission on an issue which is on this agenda, please complete a speaker request card, and deliver it to a staff member at the table on the left side of the Council Chambers prior to discussion of the item. When your name is called, stand to be recognized by the Chairperson and then proceed to the podium. If you wish to address the Commission on any other item of interest to the public, when the Chairperson asks if there is any "**Business from the Floor**," follow the same procedure as described above. Please limit your comments to three minutes or less.*

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.



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

OCTOBER 2025



CITY OF
FOLSOM
PARKS & RECREATION

PARTICIPATION

Participation in classes, camps, activities, and parties

Aquatics	7,268
Community and Cultural Services	7,083
Sports	6,293
Zoo Sanctuary	341
TOTAL	20,985

Guest Entry at Recreation Facilities

Aquatics	846
Zoo Sanctuary (General)	5,833
Zoo Sanctuary (Tours)	245
TOTAL	6,924

Special Events—Estimated Attendance

Glass Pumpkins	4,800
World Animal Weekend	1,369

PARTICIPATION GRAND TOTAL 34,078

COMMUNICATIONS

Marketing/PR

E-News Articles	29
Miscellaneous Print/Digital Media	48

Social Media @FolsomParksandRec

Facebook Followers	11,386
Instagram Followers	8,007

Engagement: 1,662 | Reach: 95,717

Top Monthly Post: *Bark N' Splash Highlight Video*

Social Media @FolsomCityZooSanctuary

Facebook Followers	19,142
Instagram Followers	8,513

Engagement: 2,004 | Reach: 63,051

Top Monthly Post: *No Pressure, Sand Cats*

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Adopt-A-Trail	122
Friends of the Zoo	121
Sports/Coaching	160
Teen Council	732
Zoo Docents	942
Zoo General/Misc	258

VOLUNTEER HOURS GRAND TOTAL 2,335

PARTNERSHIPS

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

New Partnernships (In the Last 90 days)	13
Partnership Value (Financial and In-Kind)	\$10,735

RENTALS

Aquatic Center Lane Hours	1,579
City Sports Field Hours	3,497
Community Facilities	63
Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary	1
Park Picnic Pavilions	34

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Park Maintenance and Municipal Landscape Services

SeeClickFix Work Orders Completed	128
-----------------------------------	-----

PUBLIC SAFETY & FIRE PREVENTION

Acres of Weed Abatement	35
-------------------------	----

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					21,084
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 Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary celebrated World Animal Day on October 4 and 5. Across both days, over 1,300 guests visited the facility and brought in over \$13,000 in revenue. This is a significant increase from last year's event, which brought in almost 600 guests. We offered fun activities, giveaways, and more. We welcomed local organizations to table at the event, including California Fish and Wildlife, and Gold Country Wildlife Rescue. The zoo sanctuary's well-loved hoofstock team also did a meet-and-greet with guests. They brought out Hallie and Rosie, the Mediterranean miniature donkeys.
- The Recreation and Community Services Division began speaking with Folsom Lake Surf Soccer Club about a partnership to transition the outdoor adult soccer league to Surf Soccer Club for player enhancements and the best fiscal management of this adult sports league. This would be a great partnership that could allow the adult soccer league to have overall player enjoyment under the management of Surf Soccer Club.
- Phase II of the General Fund cost savings measures was approved at the City Council meeting on October 14. Parks & Recreation achieved over \$700,000 in General Fund cost savings through reorganizing services and charging special revenue funds for the work staff are completing in those service areas. This includes charging appropriate staff time to Impact Fees and Special Districts, including Landscaping and Lighting Districts, and Community Facilities Districts. A small portion of the savings will also be achieved through a reduction in programs and services the department provides; more information will be conveyed to the Commission as these reductions are implemented. The Parks & Recreation reductions aimed to focus department efforts on the core services we provide and evaluate any programs or services that were not identified as core.

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.

- The Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary's grounds team improved enclosures, including building bear boxes, painting the squirrel monkey and desert tortoise enclosures, repairing the small parrot and blue-and-gold macaw houses, deep cleaning the Barnyard Experience building, and beginning the process of preparing lights for Wild Nights and Holiday Lights.
- The Friends of the Folsom Parkway continued to assist the city with ladder fuel removal. This volunteer effort helps mitigate fire hazards in our open space.
- The new access control system has been completed at the Folsom Corp Yard. This project will now be shifted to the Folsom Police Department building.
- Electrical Issues at Prospector Park, Ernie Sheldon Park, and Mann Park have been resolved.
- Park Planning staff continued development of the site work plan for Castle Park to improve accessibility, drainage, and infrastructure at the park.
- The presence of an existing sewer line from Stonington Way into the site at Castle Park was confirmed. This sewer stub will support a future phase restroom on the site.

-
- Neighborhood Park 1:
 - » Park Planning: Staff received eight proposals in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Park Planning Services. After evaluations of the proposals and interviews with the three shortlisted firms, Wilson Design Studio (WDS) was identified as the top-ranked firm. Approval of the design services agreement with WDS will be presented at the October 28 City Council meeting.
 - » Geotechnical Engineering: On September 18, staff issued an RFP for Geotechnical Engineering Study and Report, Special Inspection and Testing, and Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) Testing Services. Seven proposals were received by the October 24 due date. Staff will proceed with reviewing and evaluating the proposals.
 - » Park Naming: In August and September, the city invited the community to submit name suggestions for Neighborhood Park #1 in the Folsom Plan Area, receiving 131 submissions. On October 14, staff met with the Planning & Development Subcommittee to review the suggestions and narrow the list to three options. These options will be presented to the Commission in December for approval. Once approved, the names will be shared with the community for a public vote, after which the preferred name will be brought to the City Council for final approval.
 - Neighborhood Park 2 & Community Park East: Staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on September 29 for Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) Testing Services at Neighborhood Park 2 and Community Park East in the Folsom Plan Area. Proposals are due by October 29. The NOA testing is being conducted in response to interest in potentially developing one or both park sites as a temporary bike park prior to their full development, as outlined in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan-2015 Update.
 - Area 40/Community Park West: Staff met with the Land Use Covenant Peer Review Consultant to address questions and review the consultant's progress in developing their report. The report will outline the options available to the city and help determine the most appropriate course of action for the ultimate location of Community Park West.
 - Benevento Family Park: The Park Planning team hosted a community meeting on October 23, as a follow-up to the September meeting. During the meeting, staff presented an overview of the project's history and shared the revised Option B master plan concept. The event was well attended, and staff received valuable feedback from neighborhood residents. As a next step, staff will collaborate with the project's landscape architect to develop an alternative master plan that balances elements of both Option A and Option B master plans.
 - Prospector Park: Hydroseed has been installed in the drainage basin, and split rail-style fencing has been installed around the metal theme panels to protect the artwork and discourage climbing.
 - Lembi Community Park: The Park Planning team developed two concept plans and cost estimate options for potential new pickleball courts and a restroom facility. On October 23, staff met with the Folsom Pickleball Club to discuss the design, cost, and funding options for the potential improvements. The Club shared their court needs to support future tournaments, and the group also discussed strategies for the long-term maintenance of existing and proposed courts.
 - Mangini Ranch Bike Trails: The General Contractor has installed BMPs throughout the construction alignment corridor to meet the SWPPP state mandate measures.
 - Highway 50 Class 1 Undercrossing and Trail Improvements Project: The city received four proposals for environmental clearance, right of way, and engineering design services for the project. Staff are currently reviewing proposals and anticipate bringing the contract award to the December City Council meeting.
-

GOAL C: Economic and Community Development

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

- Folsom Senior Center hosted its Fall Senior Resource fair on October 17. Twenty-four partners and vendors offered several different types of services to over 80 seniors who attended.
- The Recreation and Community Services preschool program began its first round of beginning-of-the-year assessments, and for the first time, this includes our three-year-old classes in addition to our four-year-olds. As part of our continued focus on helping every child build the foundational skills needed for TK readiness, we'll conduct three assessments throughout the year so parents can see their child's progress toward key developmental milestones.
- The Recreation and Community Services Division partnered with the Sacramento Tree Foundation and the Community Development Division to offer a Spooktacular Morning with Bats and Trees at the Rotary Clubhouse on Saturday, October 4. Over 70 participants attended the presentation.
- The sixth Annual Glass Pumpkin Patch, in partnership with 2BGLass, was held over the weekend of October 11 and 12 on the campus of 48 Natoma. Thousands of unique, one-of-a-kind glass pumpkins and other art pieces were available for purchase. Over 4,800 attended this two-day event.
- On October 2, Recreation and Community Services Coordinator Nadia Khokhhar Roberts attended the YTRS (Youth, Teens, and Recreation Services) meeting in Orangevale, serving as a Steering Committee Member. The meeting focused on afterschool programming and provided valuable insight into how other regional agencies support youth and teens in this setting.
- On October 3 and 4, the Folsom Art Center hosted two successful workshops. We welcomed Ray Gonzalez for a two-day ceramics workshop presented in partnership with the Folsom Arts Association. On Saturday, instructor Michelle Cordova led an engaging acrylic landscape painting workshop.
- The Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary was voted #1 Best Place to Volunteer and Best Kids' Activity in Style Magazine's Best of 2025 for the Folsom and El Dorado Hills region.
- Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary's Lily, the desert tortoise, attended the Folsom Renaissance Faire on September 27 and 28 along with Mak the ferret, Mushu the bearded dragon, Stabitha the hedgehog, and zoo staff. Lily was the star of the show. Hundreds of photos were taken of her; she met thousands of people, even the "Queen." It was a good outreach for the zoo sanctuary, as they were closed that weekend due to the Faire.
- A group of eleven members from the Charlotte Parkhurst Chapter volunteered at the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary on October 15. They helped beautify the zoo by cleaning up leaves after a storm and helped spread mulch throughout the bear enclosures. We, and the bears, appreciate their help!
- On October 11, the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary's staff attended the Founder's Harvest Festival in Carmichael. They interacted with hundreds of visitors, handed out bookmarks, educated them about our zoo and upcoming programs, and introduced animal visitors like Lily the desert tortoise and Radagast the coastal rosy boa. It was a huge hit!
- The 22nd annual Bark 'n' Splash Bash was held on October 4, with 115 dogs and 214 humans in attendance. This Recreation and Community Services tradition had 11 participating sponsors thanks to the collaborative efforts from Frankie Nelson, Sr. Recreation Coordinator building relationships in our Community Partnership program that included: Folsom Ranch Veterinarian, Dr. Sue Pet Hospice, Animal One, Dogtopia, Lazy Dog, Dave & Buster's, All Stage Canine, The Local Bark, Fair Oaks Pet Hospital, Sbarkles, NorCal Golden Retriever Rescue
- The Recreation and Community Services Division hosted Swim with the Pumpkins at the Steve Miklos Aquatics Center on October 18. More than 900 community members attended the event, which included a pool of pumpkins, a trunk-or-treat activity hosted by Cappuccino Cruisers, face painting, and the event's signature attraction: a raging ducks of doom ride through the activity pool. Thank you to our community partners for supporting this event and to the aquatics staff for their great preparation and hosting.
- FATRAC is sponsoring a bike raffle to help raise funds for rebuilding the Cummings Family BMX Bike Park. Raffle tickets can be bought online at www.fatrac.org.

- If you ever wanted to learn the story of Lenore the Raven or Reggie the Raccoon from the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary while sipping your favorite beer, your wish is coming true. Our own Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Brian Wallace, has teamed up with the owner of a popular local brewery to create what may be the most charming 4-pack of beer you've ever seen: Each can features a beloved animal that lives at the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary.

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.

- Penelope Crouse-Feehan was introduced as the Sr. Recreation Coordinator in Recreation and Community Services, serving in our community sports section effective October 1. Penelope was promoted to Sr. Recreation Coordinator and will have responsibilities that include management of the Andy Morin Sports Complex, facilitation of community youth sport leagues, facility use, and collaborative relationships with the Folsom Cordova Unified School District. Congratulations!
- Senior Program Coordinator, Jessica Donahoo, and the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary's volunteer docents visited Sierra College's Natural History Museum on October 10 to learn more about their facility, educational programs, and provide continued education to those in the docent program. Docents from the museum are planning to visit the zoo sanctuary as part of the trade program.
- Recreation and Community Services Administrative staff responded to 28 emails submitted to our Folsom Recreation email. 25 of those were answered within 24 hours, and three were answered in over 24 hours
- Recreation and Community Services Administrative Assistants Jenn Burke and Dawn Klamm attended the 2025 Vermont Systems Western User Group meeting in Santa Cruz on October 12. A great day of networking, educational sessions, and engagement was scheduled to help you better manage, report on, and grow your Parks & Recreation services. Both brought back beneficial information and opportunities for operational efficiencies in our registration system for greater customer use.
- Matt Trefry, Sr. Recreation Coordinator, attended the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) Aquatics Section, California Aquatic Management School in Santa Rosa. This three-day training from October 21-23 is the West Coast's premier school for aquatic programming and aquatic facility operations to gain industry knowledge. This is Matt's first time attending the school, which will provide great insight into community-based recreation with speakers and education sessions offered throughout the day.
- Tom Hellmann, Recreation and Community Services Manager, spoke at The Aquatics Management School on October 21 with an education session on next-level manager development. Tom has attended the school twelve times during the twenty-five years that the school has been open. He has spoken at school five times over the past seven years.
- Tom Hellmann, Recreation and Community Services Manager, attended the CPRS Administrator's Section Director's Academy in Visalia on October 8 and 9. This two-day academy focuses on strategic thinking, community collaboration, and policy direction. This year, the academy had conversations surrounding data-driven decisions and how best to use data. Tom also presented a session with a colleague on Writing Quality RFP's and served on a panel for discussions about Foundations and Non-Profit organizations. Tom is a trustee on the California Foundation for Parks & Recreation (CFPR).
- On October 17, the MLS staff attended a "Pruning Best Practices and Safety Training" led by Aimee Nunez, City Urban Forester, and David Powell, City Arborist. The training focused on developing staff knowledge and skills in proper tree maintenance, pruning techniques, and workplace safety.
- Parks Maintenance Worker, Rick Noble, completed the Rainbird Irrigation Training Program.

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

OCTOBER 2025



CITY OF
FOLSOM
PARKS & RECREATION

City Council Meetings

October 14

- 12th Annual Folsom Community Service Day Results Presentation
- Resolution of Commendation- Honoring the Folsom Lake Surf Soccer Club 2011 Boys ECNL Regional League National Championship
- Resolution No. 11469 – A Resolution Rescinding Resolution No.11389 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement for Design Consulting and Community-Build Construction Assistance Services with Leathers & Associates for the Kids Play Park Renovation Project (Project PK2501)
- Final budget review and reduction General Fund Cost Savings Measures

October 28

- Resolution No. 11490 – A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with LEED Mechanical Inc. for the Replacement of the Existing 9 Roof-Top HVAC Units at the Folsom Public Library, 411 Stafford Street, for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$305,703 from the Capital Facilities Fund (Fund 602)
- Resolution No. 11491 – A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with Capra Environmental Services for Shaded Fuel Break Creation and Ladder Fuel Removal (Project # 8131) and use of Fund 010 (General Fund), Fund 204 (Los Cerros), Fund 215 (Prairie Oaks Ranch No. 2), Fund 210 (Broadstone 1 & 2), Fund 266 (Broadstone No. 3) and Fund 207 (Natoma Station) for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$213,336.50

- Resolution No. 11485 – A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement (Contract No. 173-21 21-056) with Dokken Engineering for Environmental and Historic Monitoring and Reporting Services for Open Space in the Folsom Plan Area and use of CFD 18 (Fund 288) for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$580,000
- Folsom Plan Area Neighborhood Park #1 Project (Project #PK2601)
 - » Resolution No. 11487 – A Resolution Approving the Folsom Plan Area Neighborhood Park #1 (Located on the Northwest Corner of Mangini Parkway and Empire Ranch Road) Capital Improvement Project, and Appropriation of \$706,614 in Funds in the Folsom Plan Area Specific Plan Capital Fund (Fund 472).
 - » Resolution No.11488 – A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Design Consulting Services Agreement with Wilson Design Studio for the Neighborhood Park #1 Project for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$450,130 from Funds in the Folsom Plan Area Specific Plan Capital Fund (Fund 472)

November 12

- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 2 to the agreement with Brightview Landscape Services for Landscape Maintenance within the Landscaping and Lighting Districts, and Community Facilities Districts for the City of Folsom through the use of Special District Funding for a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$10,733,242 over a five-year term
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement (Contract No. 173-21 21-058) with Bear Electrical Solutions, Inc. for On-Call Minor Electrical and Streetlight Repair, extending the Contract for one year, for a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$100,000, and Use of Funds from Landscaping and Lighting Districts and Community Facilities Districts (various funds)
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Amendment No. 4 (\$64,168) to the Contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for Mangini Ranch Trails Project Design and Engineering (Contract No. 173-21 17-054)
- Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501)
 - » A Resolution Approving the Name of Castle Park, formerly known as Folsom Kids Play Park
 - » A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Direct Purchase for materials for the Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501) community-build (Fund 609)
 - » A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sole Source Procurement Agreement with Leathers & Associates for materials for the Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501) community-build for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$\$\$ (Fund 609)
 - » A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sole Source Procurement Agreement with Playground Plastics for materials for the Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501) community-build for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$\$\$ (Fund 609)
 - » A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501) Site Work

Department Highlights and Summary

- We welcomed Ryan Neves to the Parks and Recreation Department. He will be assisting our department with the development of the department’s Capital Improvement Plan, with a focus on trail development.
- Department Heads in Public Works, Community Development, Parks & Recreation, and Utilities (formerly known as EWR) prepared a presentation for the City Council meeting on October 14, with the goal of saving the general fund \$2.3 million annually. The City Council approved those recommendations, including charging appropriate park maintenance costs and the time of park planning and development staff time to special revenue funds. We will be working closely with Public Works on project delivery and sharing a proposed Capital Projects Manager position. There was public testimony from the Friends of the Folsom Parkway, Folsom Athletic Association (FAA), and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

-
- On October 14 I had the opportunity to tour the Folsom and Vista Del Lago High Schools and learn more about the Career Technology Education Programs. It was an opportunity to learn about future collaboration between the cities of the School District—this program is a multi-year sequence of courses to provide a pathway for post-secondary education.
 - I had the privilege of attending the Folsom Rotary Club Fundraiser on October 27 at the Folsom Community Center. The annual Oktoberfest was a fundraiser to help raise funds for Castle Park and other youth programs. Guests were treated to a live band and a variety of exciting activities.
 - Thank you to the Parks & Recreation Commissioners who joined us at the Benevento Family Park outreach meeting. Brad Nelson, Park Planning Manager, presented options A and B of a park master plan. Staff members learned valuable lessons and will return to the group with a combination of Option A and Option B Park design. The revised master plan will come back to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
 - October 29 was the kickoff of the Economic Impact Study at the Zoo Sanctuary. The consultant met with city staff and leadership officials. The consultants toured the facility and gathered valuable feedback that will inform future recommendations.

Future Potential Agenda Topics

- Economic Impact Study – Zoo Sanctuary
- Sports Tournaments
- Neighborhood Park 1 Naming

Upcoming Special Events—Save the Date

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.