

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR & MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** JOEL ROJAS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
**DATE:** APRIL 2, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** ABALONE COVE SHORELINE PARK – STATUS UPDATE ON THE PROJECT PLAN RELATED TO THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD (SUPPORTS 2013 CITY COUNCIL GOALS – INCREASE CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT)

**REVIEWED BY:** CAROLYN LEHR, CITY MANAGER <sup>CP for CL</sup>

Project Manager: Ara Mihranian, Deputy Director of Community Development 

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file a status update on the project plan being developed for the Abalone Cove Shoreline Park Improvement Project pursuant to a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State grant previously awarded to the City.

**BACKGROUND**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund program provides matching grants for acquisition or development of lands and facilities that provide or support public outdoor recreation. On November 1, 2010, pursuant to Council authorization at its October 19, 2010 meeting, the City filed a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application with the California State Parks and Recreation Department for improvements at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park. On December 7, 2011, State Parks notified the City that it is the recipient of the LWCF grant (50% reimbursement grant), in the amount of \$332,588, for the Abalone Cove Park Improvement Project (the total cost for the Project is estimated at \$665,176).

The conceptual project plan (see attachment) that accompanied the City's LWCF grant application represented the culmination of an extensive public outreach process. Furthermore, once the grant was awarded by the State, the City Council has taken steps to move the project along at City Council meetings. A summary of these actions is provided

below:

- Three Saturday public workshops on the Coast Vision Plan were conducted between June 2006 and November 2007, which included public feedback on Abalone Cove as it was one of the five key sites studied.
- On May 6, 2008, the City Council reviewed an issues matrix prepared in response to public comments on the Coast Vision Plan.
- On September 8, 2008, the City Council adopted the Coast Vision Plan.
- On October 19, 2010, the City Council conducted a hearing, received public input and authorized Staff to file the LWCF grant application.
- October 22, 2010, the City conducted a focus group meeting to receive input on the preliminary conceptual project plan. The focus group was comprised of the following various community stakeholders: neighbors of Abalone Cove; representatives of the former PUMP Committee; City Council; Los Serenos de Point Vicente; PVPLC; Library District; School District; Terranea; Park Rangers; and staff from the Community Development and Recreation & Parks Departments.
- On November 1, 2010, the City filed the LWCF grant application to State Parks.
- On February 21, 2012, the City Council received an update report on the LWCF grant awarded to the City in December 2011 and received a Staff presentation on the conceptual project plan that was the basis of the grant. Additionally, that same evening, since the LWCF grant is a reimbursement program and has a match requirement of 50%, the Council funded the project at a cost of \$665,176.
- On December 18, 2012, the City Council entered into a Service Agreement with Melendrez Landscape Architects to provide construction plans, specifications and cost estimates for the Abalone Cove Shoreline Park Improvement project in an amount not to exceed \$52,500, and authorized staff to spend up to a maximum of \$4,030 (allowance) for possible unforeseen design work, for a total of authorization of \$56,530.

In addition, the public was also made aware of the public benefits resulting from this project when the City published an article, which included the conceptual project plan, in the City's Spring 2012 Newsletter (see attachment). The City's Newsletter is delivered to every household in the City. Moreover, early in 2012, the City created a homepage and listserve on the City's website exclusive to this project. Information related to this project is posted on the website.

Staff this evening is providing the Council and the public with a status update on the development of the final project plan including the focus group's participation, and to provide an opportunity to review the plan and provide Staff with input, if necessary, prior to

the plan being finalized.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Proposed Project**

Based on the grant scoring criteria and earlier input received from the focus group, the plan for the Abalone Cove Shoreline Park Improvement Project proposes to:

- Replace picnic tables and benches;
- Construct shade structures;
- Construct an outdoor classroom and exploration play area;
- Replace trash receptacles;
- Install a drinking fountain;
- Install mutt mitt dispensers;
- Install park benches;
- Improve trailheads and trails;
- Improve picnic areas;
- Replace bluff top fencing;
- Install interpretive signs;
- Improve viewing areas; and,
- Install a Preserve kiosk sign.

These park improvements will significantly improve access and the educational experience at the park while maintaining the overarching objective of preserving the natural setting of the site by utilizing a “light touch” with the proposed features. Moreover, these park improvements are consistent with the General Plan Land Use Map designation of Recreation-Passive and the Open Space Recreation (OR) zoning designation.

### **Focus Group**

The conceptual project plan in which the grant was awarded needs to be developed into actual construction plans. Therefore, the focus group has been once again engaged to assist the City and Melendrez in finalizing the project plan. The focus group has been asked to provide input on the final design, such as the placement and look of the park features listed above. Thus far the focus group has had two meetings. At its February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the focus group received a presentation of the grant criteria and the conceptual project plan that accompanied the grant application (see attachment). The presentation also included images of various features that could be incorporated into the final project design, such as park furniture (benches and picnic tables), trash bins, shade structures, trailhead features, outdoor classrooms, exploration play area, etc. Following the meeting, the group visited the site to contextually understand the site conditions as they relate to the proposed elements and to provide the design team with input so that design schemes could be developed for the second meeting.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> the focus group conducted its second meeting and was presented with three

design schemes (see attachment). In summary, the three design schemes include trails (some of which are ADA compliant) and viewing nodes that enhance access throughout the park area and its views of the Pacific Ocean, Portuguese Point, and Catalina Island. Additionally, the design schemes include an outdoor classroom and exploration play area that provide educational and recreational opportunities for families. These features are all required to be included in the final project plan per the grant agreement between the City and State Parks. After reviewing the three design schemes and weighing in on the pros and cons for each plan, the focus group members attending the meeting generally expressed support for Scheme No. 1 with specific design modifications, such as relocating a view station node, including a staging area for docent led hikes, and reconfiguring some of the trails to be ADA compliant. Based on the focus group's input (and additional input obtained at tonight's Council meeting), Melendrez intends to present a final project plan to the focus group at its upcoming April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting prior to preparing the construction bid plans and documents.

As previously reported, the City's website has been updated throughout the process described herein to include the presentations given at each of the focus group meetings. Staff intends to continue updating the website throughout the final design and construction process.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **LWCF Grant Time Limits**

According to the terms of the LWCF grant, this project is required to be completed by June 30, 2014 (unless a time extension is granted by State Parks). Due to this deadline, the City is operating under an aggressive schedule and anticipates having the final design completed by this summer so that construction bid documents can be completed with construction commencing soon thereafter. Actual construction is anticipated to take approximately 5 months and is tentatively scheduled to occur during off-peak season. If all goes according to schedule without any major delays, the project is expected to be completed in advance of the grant deadline.

#### **Memorandum of Unrecorded Grant Agreement**

The award of the LWCF grant requires the City to execute a Memorandum of Unrecorded Grant Agreement (MOUGA) that records a notice on the title of the project property stating that the property has restrictions for future improvements, that the property is to be maintained and operated for public outdoor recreational purposes as described in the Section 6(f)(3) map, and that the property cannot be sold or transferred without written approval from the State of California. Any future contemplated improvements or modifications are subject to approval by the State of California. This restriction encumbers the entire property including the portions within the City's Palos Verdes Nature Preserve (which also includes deed restrictions for conservation purposes).

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the aforementioned discussion, Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file the status update report on the finalization of the project plans for the Abalone Cove Shoreline Park Improvement Project.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- LWCF Conceptual Project Plan
- Focus Group Presentation No. 1 (February 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting)
- Focus Group Presentation No. 2 (March 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting)
- Spring 2012 City Newsletter

# **LWCF Conceptual Project Plan**

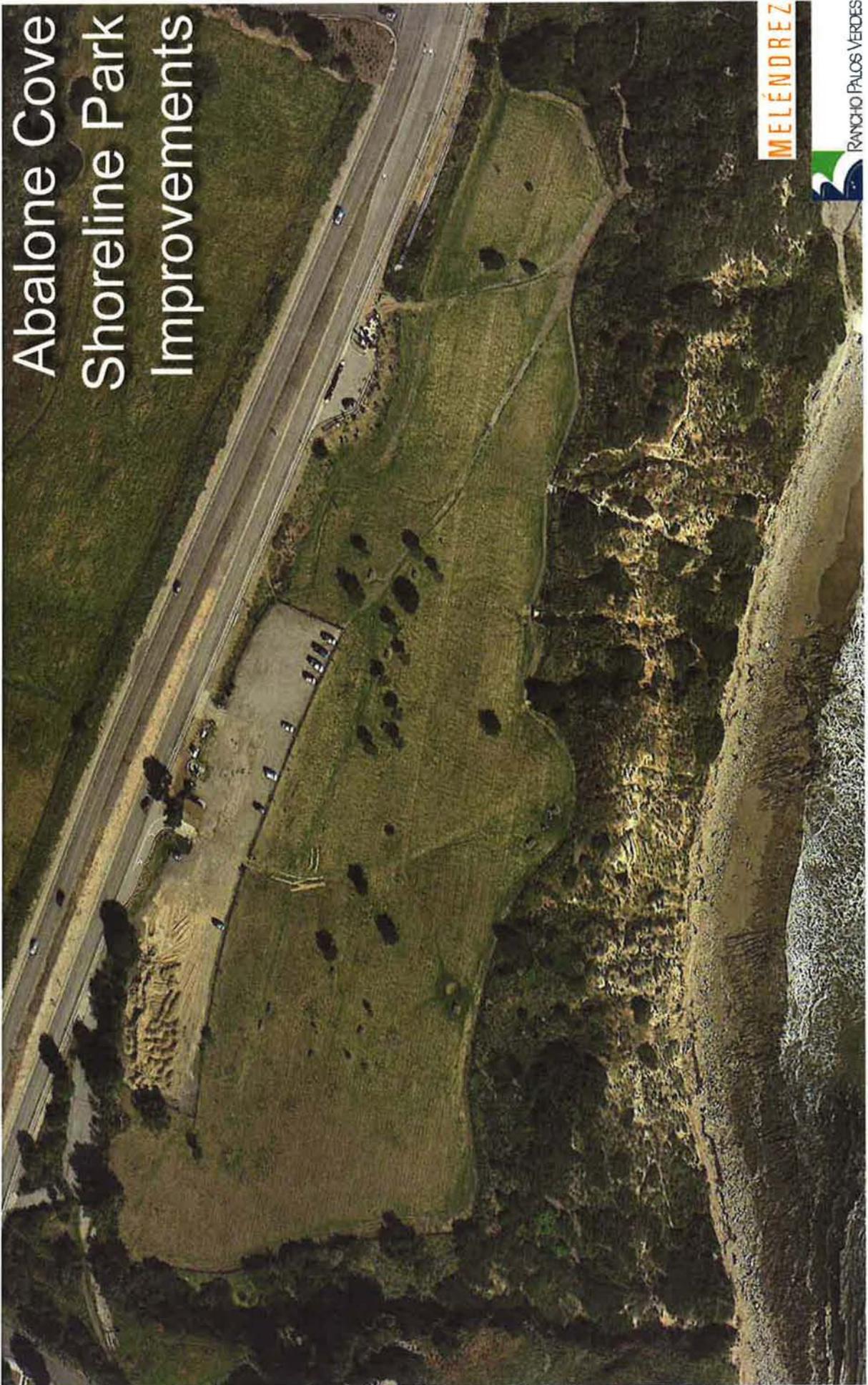
**Abalone Cove Shoreline Park  
Improvement Project  
April 2, 2013  
City Council Meeting**



**Focus Group Presentation No. 1  
February 25, 2013**

**Abalone Cove Shoreline Park  
Improvement Project  
April 2, 2013  
City Council Meeting**

# Abalone Cove Shoreline Park Improvements



MELÉNDRIZ



RANCHO PALOS VERDES



# Abalone Cove Visioning **Concept**





# Abalone Cove Visioning **Play**

MELENDREZ





Each point of view  
 with clarity  
 ourselves  
 our world  
 what perspective to see



MARIO BENTON/STUDIO  
 THE ARTS  
 FRESH HUMANITY SPACES  
 BENEVOLENT SOCIAL SERVICES  
 MAKE US FEEL  
 BUT HIGHER THAN TRUCKY  
 PALERENE



# Abalone Cove Visioning Learn







# Abalone Cove Visioning Site Furniture

MELENDREZ

## **Schematic Design:**

**Focus Group Meeting #1 - Feb. 25, 2013**

Introduce Design Team  
Refresh Focus Group on Design  
Review Materials Palette

**Focus Group Meeting #2 - March 25, 2013**

Design Team to Present Schematic Design and Alternatives  
Question and Answer Period

**Update to City Council - April 16, 2013 (tentative)**

**Focus Group Meeting #3 - April 29, 2013**

Revisit Schematic Design if Necessary  
Discussion of Next Steps

## **Design Development:**

Anticipated to be completed at end of May 2013  
(with presentation to Focus Group)

## **Construction Documentation:**

Completed by August 15, 2013



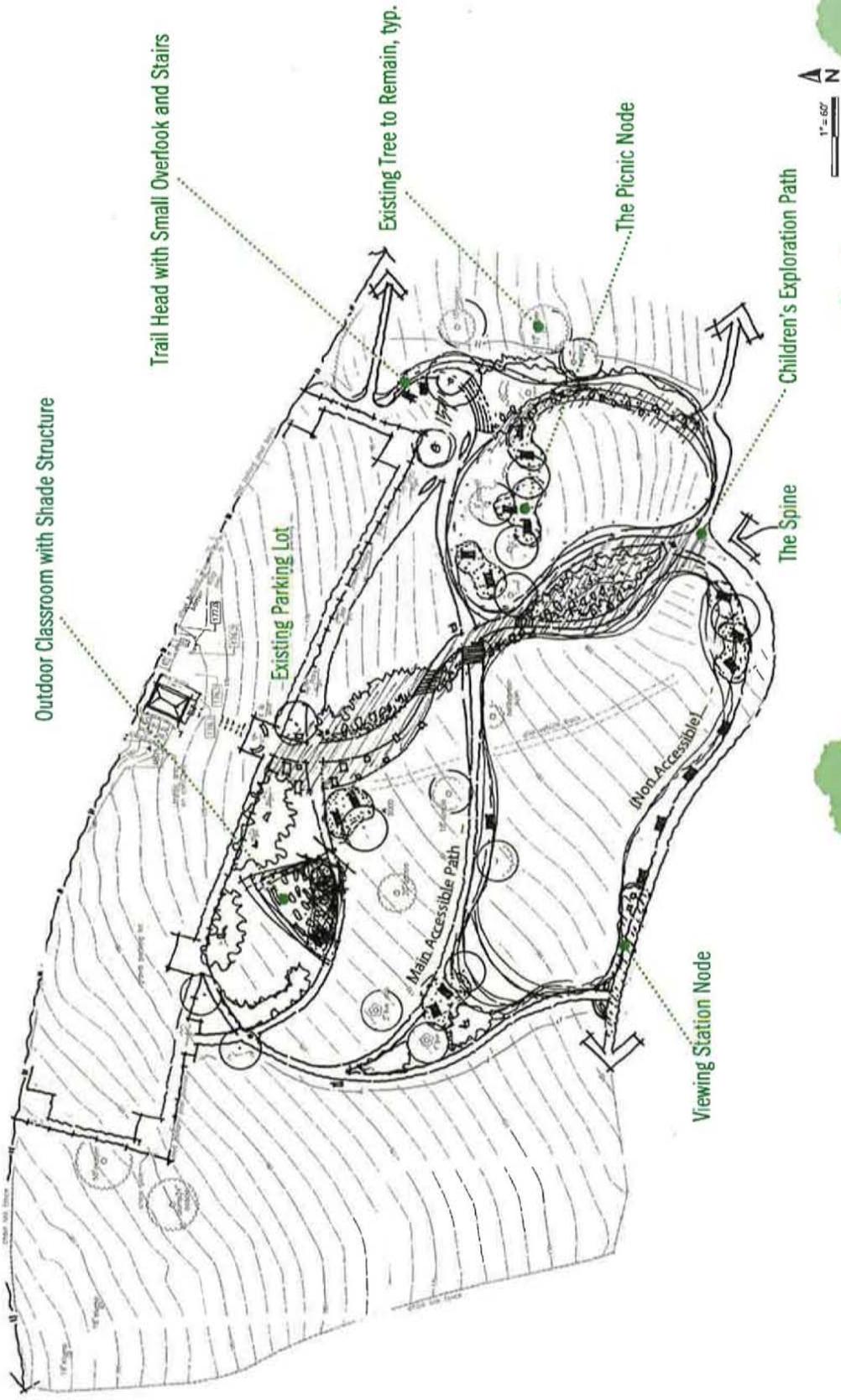
**Focus Group Presentation No. 2**  
**March 25, 2013**

**Abalone Cove Shoreline Park**  
**Improvement Project**  
**April 2, 2013**  
**City Council Meeting**



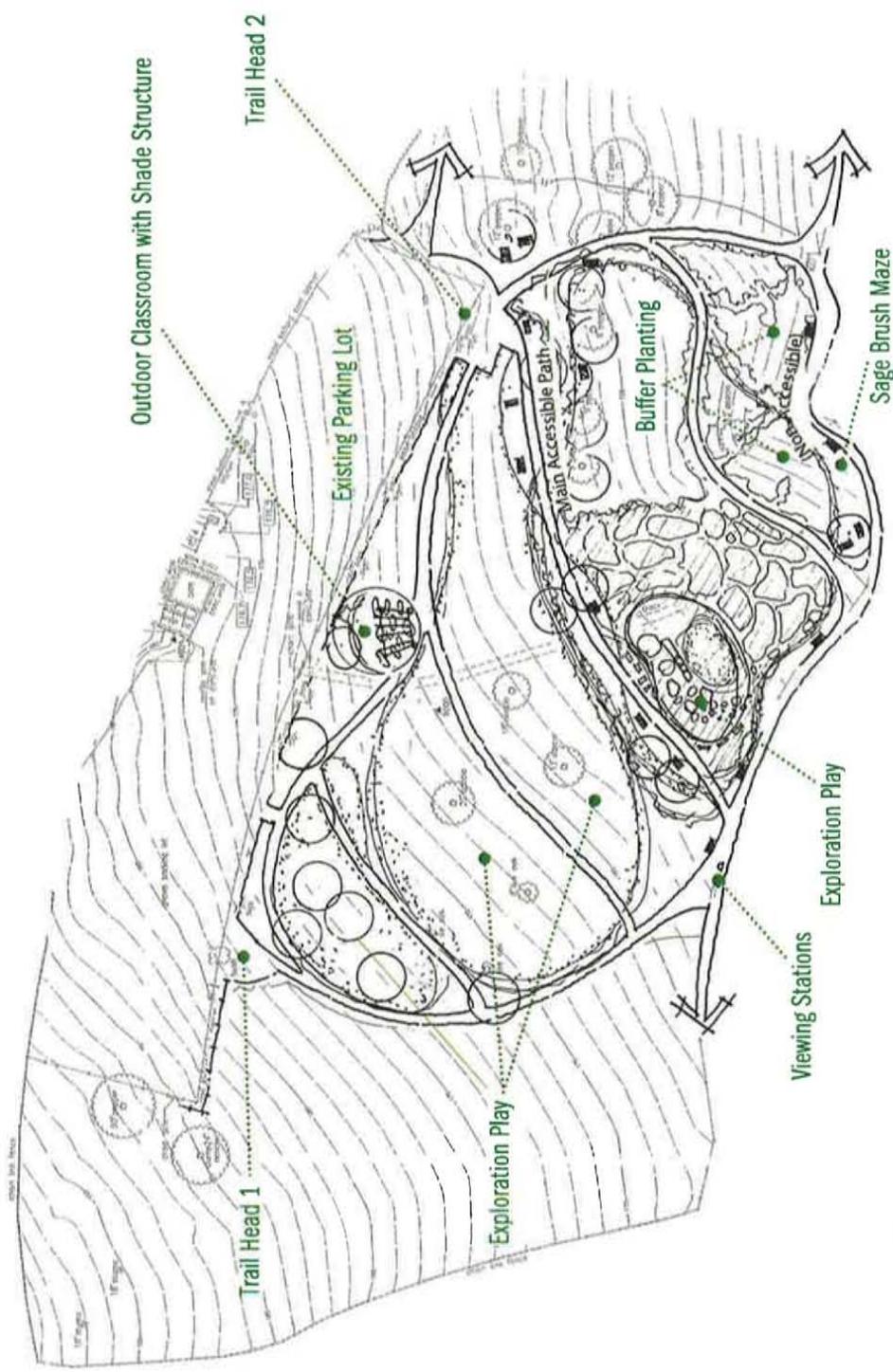
# Abalone Cove Visioning **Concept**





Concept #1 THE EXPLORATION SPINE

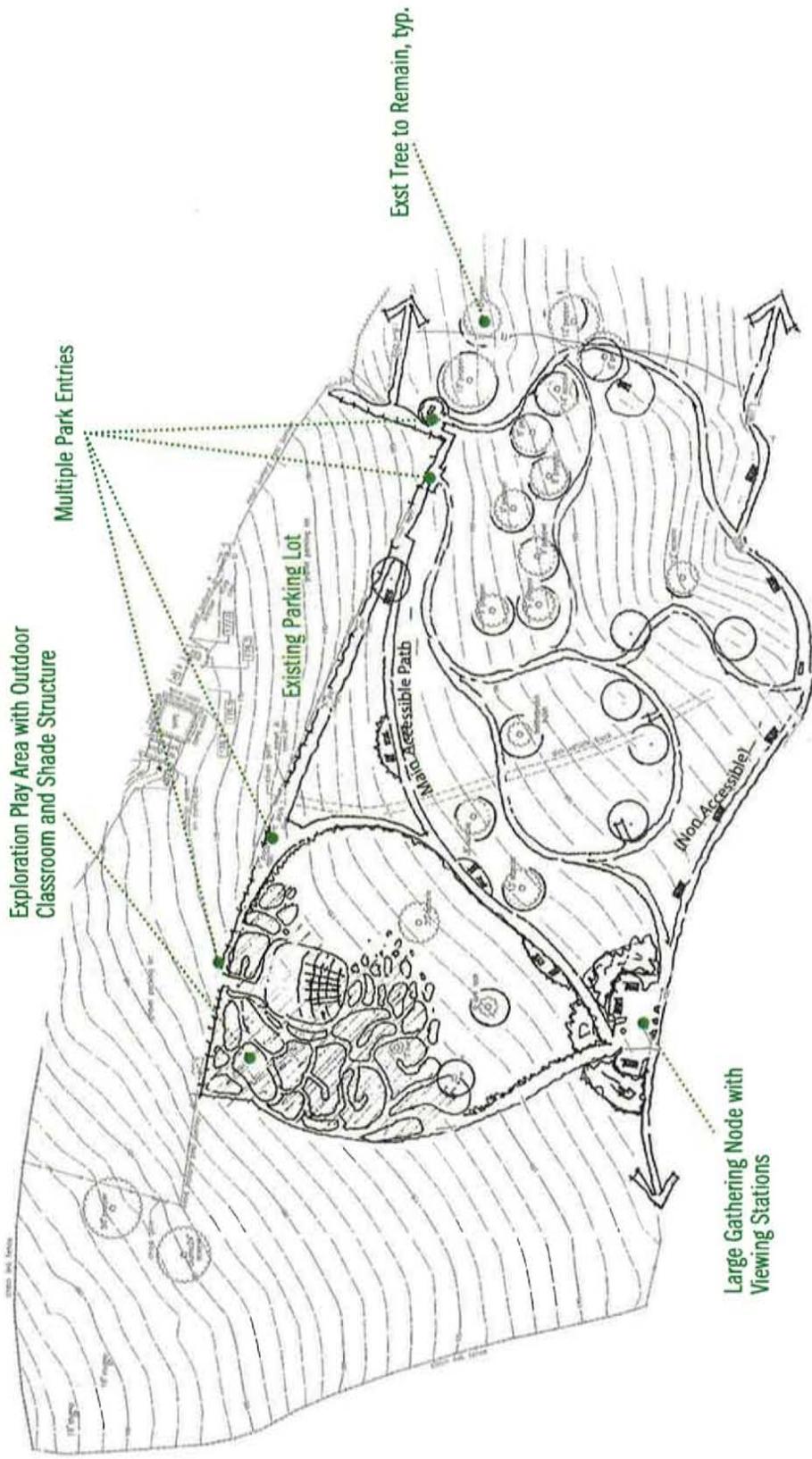
# Abalone Cove Visioning



Concept #2 TRANSECT: HUMAN TO NATURE

# Abalone Cove Visioning





LEARN  
GATHER  
Concept #3 EXPLORE



# Abalone Cove Visioning





TABLE



TELESCOPE



TRASH RECEPTACLE



BENCH WITH BACK



PET WASTE STATION



SHADE STRUCTURE

### Site Furniture



PRESERVE EXISTING TREES



WATER-WISE PLANTING



NATIVE GRASSES



NATIVE COASTAL SHRUBS

### Planting



DECOMPOSED GRANITE TRAILS



CHILDREN'S EXPLORATIVE MAZE



EDUCATIONAL DISCOVERIES / GEOCACHING



INTERPRETIVE TIDE POOL

### Exploration



BOULDER CIRCLE



OUTDOOR TEACHING



DECOMPOSED GRANITE / BOULDERS



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM ALONG A PATH

### Gathering



ANIMAL TRACKS



SEA LIFE



HISTORY



ENVIRONMENT

### Learning

# **Spring 2012 City Newsletter**

**Abalone Cove Shoreline Park  
Improvement Project  
April 2, 2013  
City Council Meeting**



# CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

OFFICIAL NEWS LETTER • 30940 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275 • WEBSITE: WWW.PALOSVERDES.COM/MPV • (310) 377-0360

## TWO PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION PROJECTS COMING YOUR WAY

Over the past several months, the City has been the recipient of two significant grants to fund two major improvement projects that support outdoor recreation along the City's coastline for the public's enjoyment. These projects involve improving the grounds and amenities at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park and completing the City's segment of the California Coastal Trail.

### ABALONE COVE SHORELINE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program, administered by the National Park Service, provides funds to all 50 states for developing outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Under the provisions of the California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan Act of 1967, the expenditure of these funds to California is administered by the

California State Parks and Recreation Department. On November 1, 2010, pursuant to Council authorization, the City filed a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application with the California State Parks and Recreation Department for public improvements at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park estimated to cost \$665,176. The LWCF grant is a reimbursement program and has a match requirement of 50%, thus the grant reimburses the City for 50% of the project cost. On December 7, 2011, State Parks notified the City that it is the recipient of the LWCF grant, in the amount of \$332,588, for the Abalone Cove Shoreline Park Improvement Project.

The Abalone Cove Shoreline Park Improvement Project derives from the Council adopted Coast Vision Plan (Vision Plan) and public input



from a focus group comprised of community stakeholders. The improvements at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park propose to:

- Replace picnic tables and park benches;
- Construct shade structures;
- Replace trash receptacles;
- Install a drinking fountain;
- Install mutt mltt dispensers;
- Improve trailheads and all trails/paths;

- Replace bluff top fencing;
- Install interpretive signs;
- Construct viewing areas;
- Provide public art nodes;
- Install landscaping and irrigation;
- Create an exploration play area; and,
- Install a Preserve kiosk sign.

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## HIDDEN GEMS IN YOUR BACKYARD: THE MIRALESTE RECREATION AND PARKS DISTRICT

Most Rancho Palos Verdes residents are familiar with the City's parks, such as Hesse Park and the Point Vicente Interpretive Center, and our many miles of public trails, such as the ones found in the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve or along the coast at Ocean Front Estates and Trump National Golf Course. However, are you familiar with Frog Pond Park, Miltenberger Park or the Siena Loop Trail? Although each one is located within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, the last three, and several others besides, are owned and maintained by the Miraleste Recreation and Parks District, which is an independent special district.

The District is governed by a five member board of directors and was formed in 1940, long before the City was incorporated, when the Palos Verdes Homes Association deeded 60 acres to the District for park and recreational purposes. Much of the 60 acres consists of the canyons

running behind the homes in the Miraleste area of the City and other adjacent hilly terrain. The goal of the District is to beautify and improve the Miraleste community and provide park and recreational opportunities by maintaining Miraleste parks, hiking trails, and open spaces; planting trees and shrubs; removing fire hazards and some non-native species; and helping to maintain the landscaping and mature trees which make the area both beautiful and unique.

The District has done a wonderful job of turning much of the 60 acres of challenging terrain into park and recreational opportunities. In 2002, the District acquired a \$220,000 grant through the California Department of Parks and Recreation which enabled it to develop trails within the canyons that run throughout the area. Below is a

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## RPV PARTNERS FOR PETS



In 2009, the City of Los Angeles' Harbor Animal Care Center contacted the City about providing a venue for pet adoptions. After some discussion, the upper picnic area at Hesse Park was chosen as a

possible site. The first pet adoption event was held in October 2009 and deemed a success! Since that time,

the two agencies have coordinated monthly Saturday pet adoptions at Hesse Park, providing a place where people may come and view the pets available for adoption and interact with them in a safe and relaxed setting. If you or someone you know is looking for a forever friend of the furry variety, check out the monthly pet adoption dates and details on the City's website at [www.palosverdes.com/rpv](http://www.palosverdes.com/rpv), or view the homeless animals available at the Harbor Shelter by visiting their website at [www.laan-animalservices.com](http://www.laan-animalservices.com).

## PET VACCINATION, MICROCHIP AND LICENSING CLINIC

Wednesday, May 23, 2012 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park  
29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes



The City is proud to co-host this annual event with the Los Angeles County Animal Care & Control Department. Please be sure to have your dog on a leash or your cat in a secure carrier, and be prepared to clean up after your pet. Licensing for cats is voluntary.

Rabies vaccinations for cats will be available at the Clinic. Credit cards will not be accepted, so please bring either two checks or cash.

Pet owners may renew or apply for a new dog license via the internet at anytime by visiting the County Animal Care & Control website at <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>. For more information about the Pet Clinic, please call Los Angeles County Animal Care & Control Department at (562) 728-4706 or RPV City Hall at (310) 544-5268. View the City's website at [www.palosverdes.com/rpv](http://www.palosverdes.com/rpv) for more details.

## PUBLIC RECREATION continued from page 1

These park improvements will significantly enhance the public's experience at the park, while improving access and the educational experience.

### RANCHO PALOS VERDES SEGMENT OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL

Enacted in 1976, the State Coastal Conservancy Act calls for the California Coastal Conservancy to have a principal role in the implementation of a public trail system along the state's coastline, known as the California Coastal Trail (CCT). The Coastal Conservancy pursues this mandate in part by awarding grants to public agencies. Once completed, the CCT will extend approximately 1,200 miles from the Oregon to Mexico boundary lines, including a segment through the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

In the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, the CCT extends the entire length of the City's 7.5 mile coastline between the boundary lines of the City of Palos Verdes Estates and the City of Los Angeles. In an effort to enhance public trails and recreational opportunities at a minimal cost to the City, the City, in partnership with the Palos Verdes

Peninsula Land Conservancy, submitted a grant application to the State Coastal Conservancy for completing the City's segment of the CCT. On October 21, 2010, the State Coastal Conservancy Board awarded the City \$500,000 for completing the City's segment of the CCT with a City match of \$60,000.

The route of the City's segment of the CCT is primarily along Palos Verdes Drive West and South with portions of the trail traversing the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, Terranea Resort and Spa, and Trump National Golf Course. While some of the CCT through the City is completed, a good portion of the City's segment of the CCT is unimproved. This grant allows for completion of the CCT by funding the following improvements along the trail route:

- Construction of a decomposed granite trail in unimproved areas along the Palos Verdes Drive West and South trail route;
- Replacement of the asphalt bluff top trail at Lower Point Vicente with a decomposed granite trail;
- Installation of trail markers and interpretive signs;
- Installation of viewing nodes with benches and trash bins; and,

- Construction of an unpaved parking lot to accommodate 15-20 cars at the Gateway Park area adjacent to Palos Verdes Drive South in the Portuguese Bend landslide area.

The completion of the City's segment of the CCT will provide the public with a continuous coastal trail that is as close to the ocean as possible, creating connections to the City's beaches, parks, and preserve areas. When completed, the coastal trail will foster the public's appreciation and stewardship of the scenic and natural resources of the coast while promoting outdoor recreation.

These two projects are currently in the design and development stage. Construction of the California Coastal Trail improvements are anticipated to begin in late summer 2012, while the Improvements for Abalone Cove Shoreline Park are likely to begin mid-2013 after further collaboration with the focus group. Information, including the



conceptual plans, can be found on the City's website for each of these two projects. Furthermore, join the listserv to receive electronic updates on the progress of both projects.

