

San Clemente Beaches, Parks, and Recreation Master Plan

Outreach Overview

The City of San Clemente engaged the community and key stakeholders in several days of interviews and workshops to gain a qualitative understanding of important issues and opportunities. The stakeholder interviews were held during the week at City Hall. The Community Workshops were held in the afternoon and evenings during the week. Each group received an overview of the master planning process with supporting information presented on population trends for San Clemente, benefits of parks, and types of parks and recreation programs being planned today. The presentation and raw outreach data is attached in the appendix. Informal surveys were taken during park assessments to ask park visitors what they liked, and what could be improved upon about San Clemente's Beaches, Parks, and Recreation system. These responses are in the appendix as "Caught in the Act Surveys." In addition, the City invited community comment on its website and through social media.

Three primary questions were asked to spark conversations and gather information:

1. What are the strengths of the Beaches, Parks, and Recreation system?
2. What could be improved to make the Beaches, Parks, and Recreation system better?
3. What is your top priority as we look to the future of Beaches, Parks, and Recreation in San Clemente?

What follows is a summary of the community's feedback on the strengths, opportunities, and top priorities for the Beaches, Parks, and Recreation Master Plan.

Stakeholder Interviews

Two days of stakeholder interviews, November 2nd and 3rd, gathered responses from two dozen elected officials, parks commissioners, and representatives of non-profit organizations, sports groups, and the business community. Full notes from the stakeholder interviews are attached in Appendix A.

Stakeholder responses

Strengths

- Beautiful beaches
- Great variety and quality of programming and events
- Facilities such as the new Vista Hermosa Sports Park and Courtney's Sandcastle
- Number and dispersal of parks
- BPR Department does a great job taking care of things

Opportunities for improvement

- Sustainable sand replenishment program
- Connecting parks with trail system, or better education/wayfinding on those connections
- Addressing park equity in neighborhoods where there are fewer and older facilities
- Meadow at Vista Hermosa could be an amphitheater or a flexible event space
- More opportunities for kids to skate and/or bmx bike
- More places where dogs can be off-leash, even on the beach

Top priority

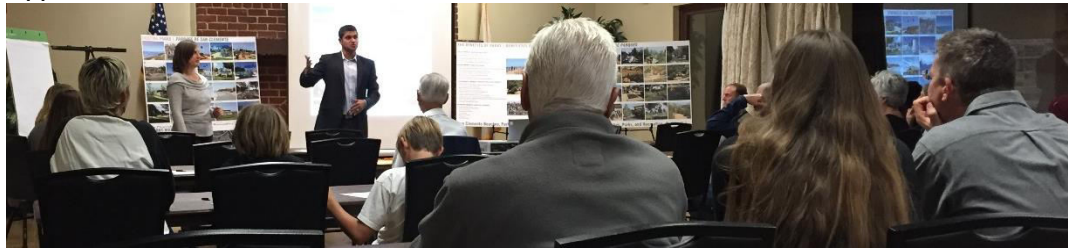
- Sustainable sand replenishment plan
- Identifying community wants

Community Workshops

Two community workshops with presentations were held on consecutive weekday evenings at the Community Center, with a third workshop to capture parents and park users at Max Berg Plaza Park held on Thursday right after school. The second and third workshops were offered with a Spanish interpreter.

The first workshop at 6 pm on Wednesday, November 16th, engaged over 40 people, many of them children. Three quarters of the group prioritized expanding Ralph's Skate Park and/or adding new skate parks in other parks of the city. Other priorities included pickleball, addressing beach erosion, lawn bowling, a mountain bike/bmx/pump track, and off-leash dog areas or a dog beach.

The second workshop, at 6 pm on Thursday, November 17th, engaged just over 20 people, with skateboarding advocates as well as advocates for a dog park at San Geronio Park and opening the beaches during morning hours and/or in the off-season to dogs. Notes from these two workshops are in Appendix B.



Community Workshop at the San Clemente Community Center. November 17, 2016.

The Max Berg Plaza Park workshop at 3 pm on Thursday, November 17th, received 80 completed questionnaires with 51 of the respondents asking for more open swim hours and/or swimming lessons for children at Ole Hanson Beach Club and 16 stating their top priority was skateboarding.

Community members also advocated for pickleball courts, bmx bike parks and/or trails, and sand volleyball courts. In addition to the written questionnaires, over two dozen children drew the park they'd like to see. Drawings are in Appendix D.



Community members write and draw their park goals at Max Berg Plaza Park. November 17, 2016.

In addition to the in-person responses at the workshops, participants had the opportunity to fill out a questionnaire. All questionnaires are attached in Appendix C.

Community responses

Strengths

- Parks are clean and well maintained in general
- Great places to play, picnic, and be in the community
- Access to different programs and parks
- Beach trail

Opportunities

- Keep Ole Hanson Beach Club open to the public during the week and on weekends
- Summer and spring swim lessons at Ole Hanson Beach Club
- More skate boarding opportunities
- Better security at Max Berg Plaza Park
- Restrooms at Linda Lane Park
- Restroom doors for Max Berg Plaza Park
- Restroom updates for San Gorgonio
- Netting at Vista Hermosa to protect kids
- ADA accessibility at all parks, and beach access
- Extend beach trail to Trestles Beach
- Other places to fish besides the pier
- Update old parks instead of build new ones
- Dog waste bags for Max Berg Park
- Sand replenishment

- Modern soccer center
- Open space + trail system
- New lawn bowling surface
- Need parks director

Top Priorities

- Swim lessons and longer public swim hours at Ole Hanson pool
- More skateboarding opportunities for the kids
- Safety

Caught in the Act Surveys

As the consulting team assessed each park and facility, they found park visitors to ask two questions. The most frequent answers are listed below. Full analysis can be found in Appendix E.

Park visitor responses

What do you like about the Beaches, Parks, and Recreation system in San Clemente?

- Clean beaches, parks, and facilities/restrooms
- Good access to parks, beaches, and trails
- Good equipment and facilities/restrooms
- Abundance of beaches and parks
- Good for family/kids

What is the one need that could be addressed through this Needs Assessment?

- Parking is lacking
- Park is not maintained
- Shade and/or seating is lacking
- Need more restrooms
- More/cleaner fountains for drinking and washing off
- Missing doors on restroom stalls
- Need night lighting

Website Comments

This city will continue to gather community and stakeholder comments from its website for the duration of the planning process, and beyond. Below are a few of the comments. Appendix F includes the complete list.

Website comments

- Rugby field at the vacant lot at Vista Hermosa Park
- Please provide more recreation programs for the growing population of special needs children and adults
- San Luis Rey Park needs an upgraded playground and basketball courts with lighting. South side has been abandoned for some time.
- Increase swim hours at Ole Hanson Pool