



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH PARKS, BEACHES AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Council Chambers - 100 Civic Center Drive

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - 5:00 PM

Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission Members:

Anne Yelsey, Chair
Amy Waunch, Vice Chair
Hassan Archer, Commissioner
Diane Daruty, Commissioner
Keira Kirby, Commissioner
Kate Malouf, Commissioner
Travis Piridy, Commissioner

Staff Members:

Sean Levin, Recreation & Senior Services Director
Justin Schmillen, Recreation & Senior Services Deputy Director
John Salazar, Acting Deputy Public Works Director
Kevin Pekar, Parks and Trees Superintendent
John Nelson, City Arborist
Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist

The Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Among other things, the Brown Act requires that the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission agenda be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of each regular meeting and that the public be allowed to comment on agenda items before the Commission and items not on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission. The Chair may limit public Comments to a reasonable amount of time, generally three (3) minutes per person.

It is the intention of the City of Newport Beach to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") The City of Newport Beach's goal is to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, we will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Recreation & Senior Services Department at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible at (949) 644-3158 or recreation@newportbeachca.gov.

As a member of the public, if you would like to participate in this meeting, you can participate via the following options:

1. You can submit your comments and questions in writing for Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission consideration by sending them to the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission at PBRcommission@newportbeachca.gov. To give the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission adequate time to review your questions and comments, please submit your written comments by Monday, April 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
2. In person in the Council Chambers; 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Please know that it is important to allow public participation at this meeting. While the City does not expect there to be any changes to the above process for participating in this meeting, if there is a change, the information will be posted to the City's website.

NOTICE REGARDING PRESENTATIONS REQUIRING USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT

Any presentation requiring the use of the City of Newport Beach's equipment must be submitted to the Recreation Department 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The City provides a yellow sign-in card to assist in the preparation of the minutes. The completion of the card is not required in order to address the PB&R Commission. If the optional sign-in card has been completed, it should be placed in the box provided at the podium. The PB&R Commission of Newport Beach welcomes and encourages community participation.

Public comments are generally limited to three (3) minutes per person to allow everyone to speak. Written comments are encouraged as well. The Commission has the discretion to extend or shorten the time limit on agenda or non-agenda items. As a courtesy, please turn cell phones off or set them in the silent mode.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

This is the time in which PB&R Commissioners may pull items from the CONSENT CALENDAR for discussion (Items V-A thru V-C). Public comments are also invited on Consent Calendar items. Speakers must limit comments to three (3) minutes. Before speaking, please state your name for the record. If any item is removed from the Consent Calendar by a PB&R Commissioner, members of the public are invited to speak on each item for up to three (3) minutes per item.

All matters listed under CONSENT CALENDAR are considered to be routine and will all be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. Commissioners have received detailed staff reports on each of the items recommending an action. There will be no separate discussion of these items prior to the time the PB&R Commission votes on the motion unless a Commissioner requests specific items to be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Meeting of March 3, 2026

Receive/File Report on past and upcoming projects and events.

[03-03-2026 DRAFT PBR Minutes](#)

B. MOD Activity Report

Receive/File Report on past and upcoming projects and events.

[MOD Activity Report](#)

C. RSS Activity Report

Receive/File Report on past and upcoming projects and events.

[RSS Activity Report](#)

VI. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Coast Live Oak Tree Donation - Castaways Park

Staff recommends the Parks, Beaches & Recreation (PB&R) Commission review and approve the donation of a coast live oak tree (*Quercus agrifolia*) at Castaways Park requested by Sherry Boston-Rennard. The proposed donation complies with City Council Policy B-17 - *Parks, Facilities and Recreation Program Donations*.

[Staff Report](#)

[Attachments A-D](#)

[Presentation](#)

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public comments are invited on agenda and non-agenda items generally considered to be within the subject matter jurisdiction of the PB&R Commission. Speakers must limit comments to three (3) minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

**Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
March 3, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.**

I. CONVENE MEETING OF THE PARKS BEACHES & RECREATION COMMISSION TO ORDER – 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Anne Yelsey, Chair
Amy Waunch, Vice Chair
Hassan Archer, Commissioner
Diane Daruty, Commissioner
Keira Kirby, Commissioner
Kate Malouf, Commissioner

Absent: Travis Piridy, Commissioner (excused)

Staff: Sean Levin, Recreation & Senior Services Director
Justin Schmillen, Recreation & Senior Services Deputy Director
John Salazar, Acting Deputy Municipal Operations Director
Kevin Pekar, Parks and Trees Superintendent
Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist
Kyle Aube, Associate Civil Engineer
Ben Zdeba, Acting Deputy Community Development Director

III. PRESENTATION

A. Presentation to Community Service Award Recipient Karen Yelsey

Recognizing Karen Yelsey for her leadership, service and contributions to the community through the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Newport Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD), and Newport Beach Police Foundation (NBPF) over the last four decades.

Recreation & Senior Services Deputy Director Justin Schmillen reported that Karen Yelsey has been selected for a Community Service Award, adding that she began her service to the City as a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) volunteer and later President, before becoming a 16-year member of the Newport Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) Board, including four years as its President. He added that Mrs. Yelsey was an advocate and active liaison for community programs, including the Mayor's Youth Council, the Spirit Run, and Newport Beach Special Olympics. He stated that she was also instrumental in creating the School Resource Officer partnership with the Newport Beach Police Department. He added that she also chaired the Newport Beach Police Foundation (NBPF) Board.

Recreation & Senior Services Director Sean Levin reported on observing Mrs. Yelsey's dedication to helping children while working with the Mayor's Youth Council. He thanked her for her service to the community and the City.

Commissioner Daruty stated that Mrs. Yelsey is heartfelt and open-minded. She lauded Mrs. Yelsey's support of the Spirit Run and added that she is happy to bestow this honor.

Commissioner Kirby stated that nearly all residents know of Mrs. Yelsey and her community involvement through both the City and the NMUSD. She stated that the award is well-deserved and congratulated her.

Commissioner Malouf stated that Mrs. Yelsey is legendary and that she would not be doing what she is now for the City without Mrs. Yelsey's mentorship and advice. She commended Mrs. Yelsey's listening ability for all groups, adding that it is an honor to be part of this recognition. She added that she enjoys serving on the NBPF Board with Mrs. Yelsey.

Chair Yelsey read a note of commendation from Mrs. Yelsey's children for her past work with school children and her ongoing work with the NBPF, making the community a better place.

Mrs. Yelsey expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the Commission for the award. She stated that she and her husband have loved living in Newport Beach for 50 years. She noted that her grandchildren will keep her interested and involved in the City's schools even in retirement. She accepted the award.

IV. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

None

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission Meeting of February 3, 2026

Recommendation: Waive reading of subject minutes, approve and order filed.

B. MOD Activity Report

Recommendation: Receive/file Report of past and upcoming projects and events.

C. RSS Activity Report

Recommendation: Receive/file Report of past and upcoming projects and events.

D. Request by Slammers Futbol Club for Weekend Light Usage at Arroyo Park

Recommendation: Approve the request from the Slammers Futbol Club to use lights on Sunday, March 22 & March 29 at Arroyo Park from Dusk to 8 p.m.

Chair Yelsey opened public comment.

Jim Mosher noted that the Municipal Operations Department (MOD) Report in Item No. VI-B reported that the Newport Bay Trash Interceptor collected 5.5 tons of trash during the February 18th storm, while 15 tons of trash were collected with the boom near the Newport Aquatic Center, in addition to the trash collected on the City's beaches. He inquired whether the trash collected on the beaches was predominantly man-made or vegetation. He noted that the Commission's light usage decision in Item No. VI-D can be appealed to the City Council.

Chair Yelsey closed public comment.

Motion by Chair Yelsey, seconded by Commissioner Malouf, to approve item VI. CONSENT CALENDAR.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VII. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Bonita Creek Park Synthetic Turf Replacement and LED Lighting Retrofit Project

Recommendation: Review and provide feedback for the proposed synthetic turf replacement, LED lighting retrofit and park upgrades at Bonita Creek Park.

Recreation & Senior Services Deputy Director Schmillen reported that the City installed a synthetic turf field at Bonita Creek Park in 2015, which has been used regularly for youth sports activities but has reached the end of its useful life.

Associate Civil Engineer Kyle Aube reported that Bonita Creek Park was the first of three City athletic fields to be converted to synthetic turf, occurring in 2015, and since then it has serviced youth flag football, soccer, and softball, along with adult slow pitch softball. He added that the service life of the field was anticipated to be 10 years, noting that this window has expired.

Associate Civil Engineer Aube reported that the Public Works Department has worked with youth sports leagues to figure out a better striping arrangement for the new turf to maximize use with fewer confusing field lines. He added that the dirt infield on the softball field will also be replaced by synthetic turf for better maintenance, while the backstop fencing and dugout benches will also be replaced. He added that the existing lighting will be upgraded to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting, noting that the existing lighting is substandard in addition to being costlier and less efficient. He reported that the drainage system will also be improved.

Associate Civil Engineer Aube reported that the benefits of synthetic turf are an increase in field capacity, especially after rain events, and limited maintenance costs, while switching to more energy-efficient LED lights will also save money for the City. He reported on the preventative maintenance efforts to maximize the life of the City's synthetic turf, including anti-microbial spraying applications for safety.

In response to Commissioner Kirby's inquiry, Associate Civil Engineer Aube confirmed that the LED lights will create less light pollution because they are more narrowly focused on the field. He noted that the LED lights installed at Arroyo Park reduced light pollution in the neighboring community.

In response to Commissioner Archer's inquiry, Associate Civil Engineer Aube clarified that gaps between the current lights leave dark spots on the field, while LED lights are also brighter.

In response to Chair Yelsey's inquiry, Associate Civil Engineer Aube clarified that the only changes to the dugouts are replacement benches.

In response to Chair Yelsey's inquiry, Recreation & Senior Services Deputy Director Schmillen reported that City staff worked with youth sports organizations on the synthetic turf infield. He added that benefits include cleaner bounces, less time expended preparing the infield, and resilience to puddles after rain events. He added that Arroyo Park has a synthetic turf infield that has been deemed successful.

In response to Commissioner Archer's inquiry, Associate Civil Engineer Aube reported that there were no community comments on the proposed lighting changes.

Chair Yelsey opened public comment.

Ms. Curran inquired if the area outside of the playing fields would remain natural grass.

Associate Civil Engineer Aube confirmed that the area outside of the playing fields will remain natural grass.

Chair Yelsey closed public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Archer, seconded by Commissioner Daruty, to approve the proposed synthetic turf replacement, LED lighting retrofit and park upgrades at Bonita Creek Park.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. General Plan Update: Final GPUSC/GPAC Draft Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element, Natural Resources Element, and Recreation Element

Recommendation: Review the Final GPUSC/GPAC Draft Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element, Natural Resources Element, and Recreation Element, which have been revised to incorporate the Commission's input from October 2025. The Commission may provide additional input and should conduct a vote to consider recommending the City Council adopt them as part of the comprehensive General Plan Update anticipated in May or June 2026.

Acting Deputy Community Development Director Ben Zdeba noted that this is the fourth time the Commission has discussed the ongoing comprehensive update to the City's General Plan. He reported on the updating process, noting that the City is in its final steps, with staff presently seeking formal approval from each board, committee, and commission on the final draft elements that are relevant to their work. He noted that the Commission has previously provided feedback on drafts, adding that staff seeks a recommendation from the Commission for the City Council to approve these final drafts.

Commissioner Kirby commended how responsive Acting Deputy Community Development Director Zdeba was to the changes recommended by the Commission and its General Plan Ad Hoc Committee.

Commissioner Daruty agreed.

Chair Yelsey agreed.

Chair Yelsey opened public comment.

Mr. Mosher reported submitting written comments, noting some defects in the current drafts. He stated that the Draft Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element is an imperfect marriage of the previous Harbor and Bay Element, with beach-related policies taken from other elements. He expressed concerns about Policy No. HBB-5.5 assigning matters of coastal resilience to the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands (WQ/CT) Committee despite the City Charter stating that the Commission should be the body advising the City Council on all beach-related matters. He stated that Figure NR-4 in the Natural Resources Element is missing many views from parks and other locations. He stated that the Draft Recreation Element includes a prominent image of a surfer but does not discuss surfing in any detail.

Laura Curran stated that the Natural Resources Element calls for the use of native plants in landscaping, a focus on water conservation, and the extensive retention of open space. She encouraged the Commission to consider how parks fulfill all three of these goals, citing positive experiences enjoying Civic Center Park. She commended City staff's work on keeping the promise made to residents at the park's creation of giving Civic Center Park a garden-like feel. She encouraged the commissioners to take her formal tour of the park to learn more about its native plants and wildlife.

Chair Yelsey closed public comment.

In response to Commissioner Kirby's inquiry, Acting Deputy Community Development Director Zdeba confirmed that Figure NR-4 can be updated in the future. He added that the figure is vastly improved from the current General Plan and can continue to improve.

In response to Commissioner Daruty's inquiry, Acting Deputy Community Development Director Zdeba agreed that the addition of beaches to the current Harbor and Bay Element is imperfect. He reported that the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) and General Plan Update Steering Committee (GPUSC) had a great discussion of who should be charged with beach oversight as it relates to matters such as sand replenishment. He stated that the GPAC found it to be more closely aligned with the WQ/CT Committee but noted that the Council can change the designation to this Commission. He added that the draft has only recommended language and remains a draft until approved by the Council. He stated that this concept can be flagged for Council review as part of its General Plan discussion.

In response to Chair Yelsey's inquiry, Recreation & Senior Services Director Levin confirmed that staff would like a recommendation to the Council. Acting Deputy Community Development Director Zdeba clarified that staff requests a Commission vote to support moving the drafts forward for Council adoption. He added that the Commission can include comments with its recommendation, such as its thoughts on the concept of the WQ/CT Commission being the point group for beach-related matters like sand replenishment.

Motion by Commissioner Kirby, seconded by Commissioner Daruty, to approve the item with a requested amendment to Draft Harbor, Bay, And Beaches Element Policy No. HBB-5.5 stating that the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission should be considered as an authority on beaches in partnership with the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee, if appropriate.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Continuation of Reforestation Request – 1441 Sandcastle Dr. – Front 4(a), 4(b), and 5

Recommendation: Consider approving the reforestation request of two Lemon-Scented Gum Eucalyptus (Corymbia citriodora) located at 1441 Sandcastle Drive due to a lack of structural roots present in a review of documentation. Also, Staff recommends PB&R Commission consider the reforestation request of a third Eucalyptus (with ID 8656649) due to various private property damage issues.

The applicant, Mr. Ammer Alselham (residing at 1441 Sandcastle Dr.), has provided the required association board meeting minutes along with the association board signature of approval to remove and replace the trees. If approved by the Commission, there will be a one-for-one replacement tree for each tree removed with Magnolia "Little Gem" (Magnolia grandiflora "Little Gem") 36-inch box trees installed at the applicant's cost.

Parks and Trees Superintendent Kevin Pekar reported that this item is the continuation of a reforestation request by Mr. Ammer Alselham of 1441 Sandcastle Dr. for three lemon-scented gum eucalyptus trees. He added that the home was extensively remodeled and newly occupied in 2025. He noted that the Commission saw the video clips included with the application at the February meeting documenting debris from the trees and damage caused by droppings and falling branches. He referenced the discussion at the February meeting and confirmed that eucalyptus beetle frass could be causing some of the stains, adding that the City has a prevention program for eucalyptus beetles that has shown some success.

Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar reported that, since the last meeting, staff has investigated root pruning conducted during the home's reconstruction before the driveway and segments of the sidewalk, curb and gutter were repaved. He reported that the contractor stated that he did not remove any roots but also did not find any concerning ones. In fact, photos illustrate no large structural roots, which concerns staff, as there have been issues in the Westcliff neighborhood with eucalyptus tree instability. He added that the contractor reported a major limb failure on one of the trees by the driveway during reconstruction, providing pictures. He stated that the updated recommendation from staff is to approve the reforestation of the two trees next to the driveway and let the Commission also consider reforesting the tree on the south side of the property.

Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar reported that the recommended replacement for the neighborhood is the Little Gem magnolia, noting that it can have an issue with tuliptree scale insect, although they have not been a concern in this community. He confirmed that the requisite area was notified of this meeting, adding that the applicant has received Homeowners Association (HOA) approval.

In response to Chair Yelsey's inquiries, Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar confirmed that the root situation is critical and the lack of structural roots increases the likelihood of the trees causing damage. He stated that the trees would be considered a moderate to high risk level due to the new information gained over the past month about their roots. He theorized that the lack of structural roots could be from an inability to penetrate the base of the road and a failure to grow in other directions. He added that it is possible that the third tree has a similar root system but noted that there was no reconstruction work around it for a root system inspection. He reported that there have been eucalyptus tree limb failures in this area, including two on the tree to the west side of the driveway, but there have not been any complete tree failures in this area. He noted that the documented repeated limb failure is considered a cause to remove the tree west of the driveway.

Commissioners Kirby and Malouf thanked staff for obtaining the additional documentation based on the previous meeting's discussion.

In response to Commissioner Malouf's inquiries, Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar stated that the tree to the south of the house appears to have a good structure

and canopy with no documentation of limb failure. He stated that it is in good condition and would likely be at a low to moderate risk of failure.

Commissioner Daruty stated that the evidence of potential danger from the trees is helpful in her decision-making and leaves a cleaner record.

Chair Yelsey opened public comment.

Steven Bright reported that he is a neighbor across Sandcastle Dr., the HOA Treasurer, and speaking on behalf of the applicant, stated that this is an easy decision due to the evidence of damage. Speaking on behalf of the HOA, he pondered why there would be any controversy if there was no net loss of trees. He reported that he has seen many eucalyptus tree limbs fall throughout the community over his 17 years living there, criticizing the infrequent City pruning. He added that the neighborhood is in a very high fire risk zone, so they should remove eucalyptus trees because they are full of pitch and oil, noting that a dozen other trees on Sandcastle Dr. are equally problematic.

Chair Yelsey closed public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Malouf, seconded by Chair Yelsey, to approve the reforestation of the two trees next to the driveway and deny the reforestation of the third tree (ID 8656649).

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

D. America 250 Plaque Donation – John Wayne Park

Recommendation: Review and approve The Newport Beach Foundation's request to donate a plaque at John Wayne Park commemorating the United States of America's 250th Anniversary and forward to City Council for consideration.

Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar reported that The Newport Beach Foundation (NBF) has requested a dedicated plaque at John Wayne Park to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States. He added that the NBF would be paying for the plaque and its pedestal, with installation to occur in May or June next to the plaque recognizing the country's bicentennial. He noted that the City Council would have final approval of the plaque, and staff is requesting the Commission's recommendation on the plaque. He added that the plaque is comparable to the one recently installed in Corona del Mar, recognizing the 100th anniversary of Duke Kahanamoku's heroism.

Chair Yelsey stated that the plaque is a great idea and thanked the NBF.

In response to Commissioner Kirby's inquiry, Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar reported that staff is planning to remove the bicentennial plaque from its concrete and form a matching pedestal.

Chair Yelsey opened public comment.

Will O'Neill reported that John Wayne Park is an ideal place for the plaque because several others there recognize American history. He stated that the plaque's verbiage was created by the NBF, and the project will be entirely funded by the NBF. He clarified that the plan is to put both the bicentennial and 250th anniversary plaques side-by-side on the same pedestal with an increased elevation from the current foot-level bicentennial plaque location, but still low enough as not to obstruct views.

Commissioner Daruty stated that the plaque is a great idea.

Commissioner Archer expressed his support for the plaque.

Ms. Curran commended Mr. O'Neill's reference to the Daughters of the American Revolution in his application. She stated she would like the application to request more information from the applicants.

Mr. Mosher inquired procedurally why this is only a Commission recommendation to the City Council and is not something that the Commission can approve on its own, like many other comparable donations, citing benches as an example.

Chair Yelsey closed public comment.

In response to Chair Yelsey's inquiry, Recreation & Senior Services Director Levin clarified that plaques are not allowed per Council Policy. City Council would have to waive its policy to accept it.

Motion by Commissioner Archer, seconded by Commissioner Malouf, to approve The Newport Beach Foundation's request to donate a plaque at John Wayne Park commemorating the United States of America's 250th Anniversary and forward to City Council for consideration.

The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Recreation & Senior Services Deputy Director Schmillen reported that the 2026 Youth Track Meet of Champions will be held on Friday at Newport Harbor High School with over 400 students registered. He stated that the Mayor's Egg Race will be held on March 28th at Civic Center Park. He added that Camp Newport registration opens on March 26th, encouraging residents to be ready to apply for the most popular programs when registration opens at 8:00 a.m. He reported that a festive St. Patrick's Day party will be held at the Organization for Active Seniors in Society (OASIS) Senior Center.

Acting Deputy Municipal Operations Director John Salazar reported that April 25th will be the City's annual e-waste and shredding event. He added that they do not

have a formal mulch give-away, but that mulch can be obtained for free at Bonita Canyon Sports Park, Grant Howald Park, and the Avon Street Parking Lot.

Commissioner Daruty recommended forming an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss the City Council's recent amendments to Policy G-1 with City staff on a more in-depth level to help inform the Commission about the implications.

Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar clarified that the Commission could form an Ad Hoc Committee to more robustly discuss the policy changes with staff, or the amendments could be presented to the full Commission without the additional step of an Ad Hoc Committee.

Commissioner Daruty recommended an Ad Hoc Committee because of a smaller setting's ability to take deeper dives into a subject, noting the efficiency of the General Plan Ad Hoc Committee.

Parks and Trees Superintendent Pekar noted that such a staff presentation would be strictly informational.

Commissioner Daruty agreed and stated that it would allow a more intense initial study with only three commissioners present.

Recreation & Senior Services Director Levin noted that an item to consider an ad hoc would need to be agendaized at a future meeting.

In response to Commissioner Kirby's inquiries, Recreation & Senior Services Director Levin reported that City staff is in discussions with the State about the expiring lease for the 15th St. bathroom, which is holding up the work. He added that the project is otherwise funded and ready to begin. He added that the new park signage will be coming back to the Commission at a future meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Mosher reported that the City Council recently approved an Ordinance creating new rules about shade structures on the City's beaches, expressing concerns that its phrasing is too broad. He lamented that the Ordinance was not reviewed by the Commission. He expressed concerns about the amendments to Council Policy G-1 and how it interacts with the Commission's scope of work, noting past Commission difficulties in properly interpreting Policy G-1 and an applicant's inability in the future to appeal decisions to the Policy's authors.

Ms. Curran agreed that the stakes are high on tree-related hearings. She noted that there were no printed meeting Agendas and staff reports available in the lobby outside of the Council Chambers, adding that the video screen outside says that the next meeting in this space is Thursday's Planning Commission meeting. She

encouraged having QR codes included in the new park signage for easier access to information about the parks on the City's website.

Commissioner Malouf thanked Mr. Mosher for his comments that questioned why the beach structure Ordinance was not brought to the Commission, agreeing that they should have been included in the process. She stated that the subject matter falls under the Commission's purview. She clarified that she does not fully disagree with the Ordinance but would have preferred it if the Commission was included in the process.

X. ADJOURNMENT – 6:33 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mariah Stinson, Administrative Support Specialist

Approved by:

Anne Yelsey, Chair



==== CITY OF =====

NEWPORT BEACH

Municipal Operations Department Monthly Activities Report

To: Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission
From: Municipal Operations Department
John Salazar, Acting Deputy Director



Compost and Mulch Program Update

The program is doing well. The 40-pallet inventory is delivered every two weeks and is depleted within the first four days. From mid-November 2025 to February 16, 2026, there have been three bagged compost deliveries (120 pallets) equating to about 49 tons, and four bagged mulch deliveries weighing approximately 28.5 tons (month of January).

In 2025, we distributed close to 150 tons of compost and 465 tons of mulch across the public spaces program, special event distributions, and through operational use.

On July 1, our bulk mulch and bagged compost/mulch supply may be altered due to a new waste disposal agreement with the County of Orange.



Planter Renovation

Parks Division staff are regularly reviewing the condition of City landscapes. Recently staff coordinated with its contractor to renovate the island planter located at Clubhouse and Finley Avenues. This planter bed previously held some out-dated and woody Bougainvillea. This area is now a beautiful gem that

includes California-friendly plant material and a dragon tree that was transplanted from the soon-to-be-reconstructed Balboa Library and Fire Station site. If you're in the area please stop by and check out our latest improvement.

Before



After



On-Going Park Renovations - Bonita Canyon Sports Park Tree Grates



During the passage of time trees can outgrow the infrastructure that they were originally planted in. Thankfully, many tree grate manufacturers design their tree grates to be easily modified to accommodate the growing diameter of trees in the landscape.

African Sumac trees are a very vigorous tree species, and a number of these trees at Bonita Canyon Sports Park, near the playground, were discovered to have outgrown the original tree grate openings.

With our talented City staff, we were able to pull the impacted grates, deliver them to the Corporation Yard, where Fleet Maintenance staff cut out the innermost ring of the tree grates to enlarge the openings and refurbish the grates. After a quick touch up, the tree grates were reinstalled, improving the safety of

patrons of the park and protecting the trees themselves. Additional tree grates are being refurbished and are expected to be completed in the coming months.

Special Tree Removals on Waterfront

On February 17, 2026, a Municipal Operations contractor conducted emergency removal of Special City California Pepper (*Schinus molle*) tree located at 2208 Waterfront Drive. The tree split at the base during an inclement weather event. A letter was sent to the property owner to allow them to select the tree replacement species.



On March 3, 2026, Municipal Operations Department received a report of an illicit removal of a Special City California Pepper (*Schinus molle*) located at 2220 Waterfront Drive. A field inspection confirmed the illicit removal upon the admission of the property owner. At the property owner's expense, the City agreed to replace the Special California Pepper with a 36-inch box tree of the same species in the same location



Trees Maintenance

During the month of February, Great Scott Tree Service (GSTS) trimmed trees in Grid 17 (Balboa Peninsula), Grid 12 (CDM), and Grid 13 (Irvine Terrace) responded to 8 tree-related emergencies, of which several occurred during one inclement weather event, plus completed 7 service requests.

Month of:	# of Trees Trimmed:	# of Trees Removed:	# of Trees Removed Because a Problem Tree:	# of Trees Planted:
February	1,583	53	0	34

Prepared By:

Kevin Pekar, Superintendent
Parks and Trees Division



NEWPORT BEACH

Recreation & Senior Services Department Monthly Activities Report

To: PB&R Commission
From: Sean Levin, RSS Director
Justin Schmillen, RSS Deputy Director



Camp Newport 2026: To the Beach and Beyond!

Registration is officially open for Camp Newport 2026! While our iconic coastline remains a staple, this year's "To the Beach and Beyond" theme highlights the diverse, world-class experiences available to both residents and visitors through our curated 'scenes':

- The Beach: Classic surf, sailing, bodyboarding, and ocean exploration camps.
- The Arena: Competitive spirit in soccer, volleyball, and gymnastics.
- The Studio: Creative expression through culinary arts, dance, and theater.
- The Lab: Immersive STEM+ camps covering robotics, science, and languages.
- The Hybrid: Our new Baseball & Beach Camp offers the best of both worlds.

With hundreds of full and half-day week-long options, we invite campers to find their perfect fit. Early birds who register at campnewport.com by April 23 will receive a 10% discount on most camps.



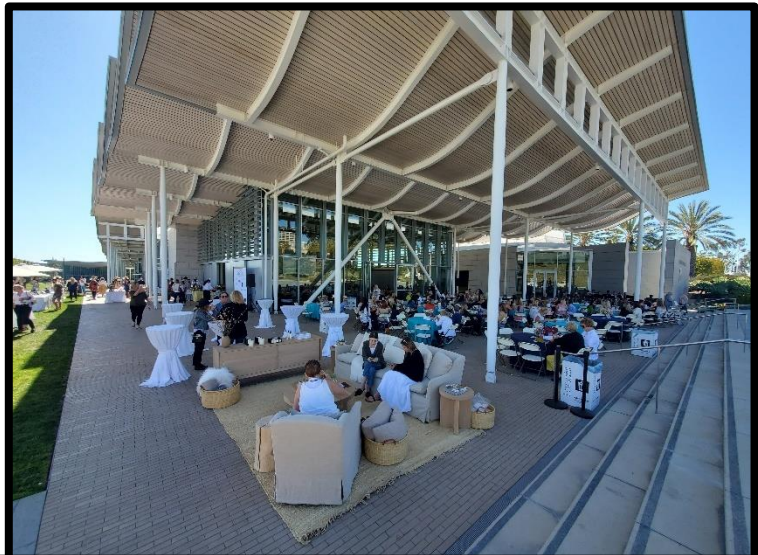
Track Meet of Champions

On Friday, March 6, the City of Newport Beach Recreation and Senior Services Department hosted the City's annual Youth Track Meet of Champions at Newport Harbor High School. In collaboration with the Newport Balboa Rotary Club, this year's event saw over 430 youth athletes participate in running, throwing and jumping events. This event has been held for over 60 years with the longest standing record dating back to 1968 in the Boys 13U Division long jump!



Civic Center Rental Facilities

The Civic Center Community Room continues to be a highly utilized and in-demand facility. For calendar year 2025, the space hosted 109 internal rentals and 230 external rentals. These numbers reflect the room's strong appeal for both City programming and community use. The facility regularly hosts a wide range of community groups and events, including organizations like the CDM Home Tour, several Corona del Mar High School banquets, and grant-funded programs such as Wake Up! Newport and Speak Up Newport. We are also excited about the addition of Witte Hall, which will accommodate a broader range of events.



OASIS Featured on Beach Cities Senior Center Tour

On March 10, OASIS hosted recreation professionals from across California as part of the California Parks and Recreation Conference in Long Beach. A total of 112 aging services professionals toured OASIS as part of a broader Beach Cities senior center tour, which also included visits to facilities in Long Beach and Huntington Beach.

During their visit, staff led four guided tours of the facility, highlighting specialized programming spaces, recent upgrades such as enhanced lighting, and the wide range of programs and services offered at OASIS.

Recreation & Senior Services Staff CPR/AED/First Aid Training

Over the last month, the Recreation & Senior Services Department provided Adult, Child and Infant CPR/First Aid/AED training to more than 60 department staff members. The training was conducted on two different days in February and March and were taught by Recreation Supervisors Cesar Armas and Jena Zapien, Recreation Coordinator Savannah Snyder, along with assistance from Assistant Recreation Coordinator Sydni White.

This year, a blended model was used to deliver lecture style content through an online course, while the in-person sessions allowed staff to practice and be assessed on hands-on CPR skills. The skills practiced included performing chest compressions, providing rescue breaths, using an AED and administering first aid care. Upon completion of the course, staff met the necessary requirements to become CPR/AED/First Aid certified for two years through the American Red Cross. This ongoing effort to train and certify Recreation and Senior Services Department staff helps ensure that team members feel equipped and prepared to respond to emergencies throughout the year. The trainers will host one additional training in May.



Teen Leader Program

Is your teenager looking for a way to make a difference in their community? Encourage them to join our Recreation team as a Teen Leader Volunteer! We offer three different locations for them to choose from:

- Pint-sized Camp at Newport Coast Community Center
- Day Camp at the Community Youth Center
- Day Camp at Newport Elementary
- Sailing and Boating Center at Marina Park

As Teen Leaders, they will assist Recreation Staff with daily tasks, gain valuable experience, earn community service hours, and enhance their resumes. To apply, teens must be between 13 and 15 years old. Visit our [website](#) to learn more and fill out an online application. We look forward to hearing from you!

Application Link: <https://fs23.formsite.com/cityofnb/dplop7dqta/index>

OASIS St. Patrick's Party

On Wednesday, March 18, the OASIS St. Patrick's Day celebration was a festive success, bringing the community together for an afternoon full of fun and cheer. With over 70 participants in attendance, the event offered a lively atmosphere filled with themed treats and great company. Guests enjoyed corned beef sandwiches from Gary's Deli, signature green pints, shamrock cookies, and a flavorful mocktail, all of which were crowd favorites. The celebration was made possible thanks to the efforts of those who assisted with setup, decorations, and day-of logistics, whose contributions helped create a welcoming and memorable experience for all.



Special Event Grant Applications

The City of Newport Beach is pleased to announce that applications for FY27 Special Event Grants will be open until April 21 at 5:00 p.m. Events must take place in Newport Beach between July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027, to be considered for a Special Event Grant. Please refer to our [website](#) for a full list of eligibility and qualification criteria as well as our online application.



San Joaquin Hills Tennis Court Resurfacing

Last month, City staff oversaw the complete resurfacing of the four tennis courts at San Joaquin Hills. The project included repairs and a fresh paint finish like the style seen on US Open courts, bringing a vibrant new look to this popular Newport Beach facility.



Bonita Canyon Pickleball Court Fencing Rehabilitation Completed

Work was recently completed on the pickleball courts at Bonita Canyon Sports Park, including the full replacement of the existing fencing with new materials. Identified in the Park Master Maintenance Plan as a priority amenity for rehabilitation, these courts continue to serve as a popular hub for Newport Beach's pickleball community.



Spring Break Camp

Get ready for a week of springtime fun! The City of Newport Beach is thrilled to announce its upcoming Spring Break Camp at the Community Youth Center, beginning Monday, April 6, 2026. Kids aged 5-12 will enjoy five days packed with creative crafts, exciting games, and plenty of engaging activities designed to keep them active and entertained. This year's highlight is a special excursion to Tanaka Farms on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, where campers will explore and learn in a hands-on farm environment. Don't miss out, register now and let your child experience a Spring Break to remember!

Mayor's Egg Race

The Mayor's Egg Race on March 28, 2026, was a success, bringing the community together for a morning full of fun and festivities! With an estimated 2,000 attendees, this year's event was truly egg-citing, featuring favorites like train rides, bounce houses, festive photo opportunities, and, of course, the always-popular egg roll races. Attendees also had the chance to connect with community groups, including the Police Department, Library Services, and Lifeguards. This year, the Arts Commission added a creative twist by hosting a spin art booth, giving participants a colorful, hands-on activity to enjoy. Altogether, the event created a lively and welcoming atmosphere, continuing its tradition as a beloved community celebration.



Bicycle Rodeo & Safety Fair

On Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Newport Beach Police Department along with the Recreation and Senior Services Department will be hosting a Bicycle Rodeo and Safety Fair at Newport Elementary School. This is a hands-on event where riders ages 10 to 17 can learn practical safety skills, go through agility courses and hear directly from our first responders. Parents and guardians will also have a chance to better understand what's allowed, what's not allowed and how to help keep their kids safe. Additional vendors and partners, including Hoag Hospital and Sgt Pepperoni will be on site to help round out the event and make this a fun afternoon for all!



**CITY OF
NEWPORT BEACH**

BICYCLE RODEO & SAFETY FAIR

FREE

**Saturday, April 18
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Spots are limited!

BRING:

- Helmet
- Bike
- E-Bike

REGISTER:
tinyurl.com/bicyclerodeocnb





Volunteer
RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY

APRIL

15

12:00 p.m.

EVENT CENTER

If you volunteered at OASIS within the past year, you are invited to attend our annual volunteer recognition luncheon!

Please RSVP by Monday, April 6th
at 949-644-3244

Save the Date: OASIS Resource Expo

The OASIS Senior Center is excited to invite the community to its upcoming OASIS Resource Expo on **Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** This highly anticipated event will feature more than 80 vendors offering valuable resources and services for older adults.

Attendees can also enjoy a free wellness screening provided by Hoag, a free senior self-defense class demonstration, complimentary breakfast, free giveaway, and opportunities to connect with local organizations and services. This exciting event is designed to empower seniors and their families with valuable resources and services, while offering a day of fun and engagement.

Mark your calendar and don't miss this engaging and informative community event!

**SATURDAY,
MAY 16
2026**

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
OASIS Senior Center

SAVE THE DATE
OASIS RESOURCE EXPO

**80+ Vendors, Free Wellness Screening by
Hoag, Free Senior Self-Defense Class
Demo, Giveaway, Free Breakfast, & More!**

 www.newportbeachca.gov/oasis



JOIN TEAM OASIS!

IN THE C&M SCENIC 5K

**TEAM SHIRT
INCLUDED!**



Saturday June 6

Team Photo Kicks Off Event at 7:15 a.m.



**Whether you're running
or walking, it's all about
fun, fresh air, and
friendly competition!**

**SPOTS ARE LIMITED
REGISTER TODAY!**

5K | 2 MILE WALK

SIGN UP TODAY!

**To register call 949-718-1819 or
email Ssnyder@newportbeachca.gov**

Park Patrol

Due to the timing of the meeting, these monthly summaries will be two months behind (i.e. in June you will receive April summary). During the month of **February**, Park Patrol had the following number of contacts:

PATROL CHECKS	
Youth Sports Groups	14
Field related issues/checks	248
Park/Picnic/reservation issues/checks	6
Community Center issues/checks	119
Playground checks	205
Other	218
PUBLIC CONTACTS	
Education	1
Alcohol	3
Dog related	266
Written Warnings	2
Citations Issued	3 (parking violations)

Special Event Permits

As of March 15, 2026, there were 28 Special Event Permit processed and issued for the year. Those events of note for this period are:

Event Name	Location	Dates	Attendance
NB Baseball Association Opening Day	Bonita Canyon Sports Park	March 8, 2026	400

Facility Use

During the period of February 16, 2026-March 15, 2026, were:

FACILITY USE (Indoor)	
Civic Center Community Room	16
Community Youth Center (CYC)	4
Junior Lifeguard Room	7
Marina Park Event Room	15
Marina Park Classrooms	62
Newport Coast Community Center	21
Newport Coast Community Center Gym	21
OASIS Event Room	5
OASIS Classrooms	11
FACILITY USE (Outdoor)	
Marina Park Picnic/Park Area	11
Picnic/Park Area	27
Fields	10



OASIS Senior Center - February 2026

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	9,196
RECREATIONAL CLASSES (unpaid)	1,236
FITNESS CENTER	7,465
PERSONAL TRAINING SERVICES	495
TRANSPORTATION RIDES PROVIDED	825
New clients	13
MEALS PROVIDED	2,154
Congregate Meals	102
Meals on wheels	2,052
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOANS	16
TOTAL RENTALS	10
Private	0
Commercial	0
Non-Profit	8
NMUSD	0
Internal	2
VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED @ OASIS	709
Congregate Meals	38
Greeters	122
General membership meeting	20
Gift Shop	132
Home delivered meals	170
Library	18
Travel Office	209
SOCIAL SERVICES & RESOURCES PROVIDED	669
Counseling	19
SHARP	5
Employment	2
HICAP	2
Housing	4
Information and Referral	500
Telephone reassurance	114
Senior assessment	1
Legal assessment	5
Caregiver Referrals	17

FRIENDS OF OASIS TRIPS & PARTICIPANTS	180
Jet Propulsion Laboratory 2/9	45
San Diego Wild Animal Safari 2/10	45
Three Italian Tenors at the Cerritos Performaing Arts 2/22	45
ABBA The Ultimate Tribute Experience 2/24	45
SPECIAL EVENTS/SCREENINGS/LECTURES PARTICIPANTS	171
Tech Tutoring 2/5 + 2/12	5
Music for your Mind 2/19	19
Veterans Social group 2/17	43
Mind Fit 2/19	18
Alz. Memory Screening 1/29	6
Art 4 Healing 2/26	16
HOAG CGM Lecture 2/24	7
Perfect Blend 2/18	32
Digital Safety Lecture 2/11	11
Blood Pressure 2/6	4
Bunco 2/4	10



NEWPORT BEACH

PB&R Commission Staff Report

Agenda Item **VI-A**
April 7, 2026

TO: Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission

FROM: Municipal Operations Department
John Salazar, Acting Deputy Municipal Operations Director
949 644-3055, jsalazar@newportbeachca.gov

PREPARED BY: Kevin Pekar, Landscape Manager
949 644-3055, kpekar@newportbeachca.gov

TITLE: Coast Live Oak Tree Donation – Castaways Park

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Parks, Beaches & Recreation (PB&R) Commission review and approve the donation of a coast live oak tree (*Quercus agrifolia*) at Castaways Park requested by Sherry Boston-Rennard. The proposed donation complies with City Council Policy B-17 – *Parks, Facilities and Recreation Program Donations*.

DISCUSSION:

City Council Policy B-17 establishes criteria for parks, facilities, and recreation program donations within the City of Newport Beach. The policy is structured to establish a fair, uniform procedure for making gifts to the City and to streamline the donation process for staff and donors.

The City has received a request to donate an oak tree at Castaways Park from Sherry Boston-Rennard for Zachary Boston. After a trip to the site it was determined a coast live oak tree would be an appropriate donation, placed in a triangulated position between two donated cottonwood trees (Attachments C and D – Location Map and Photo).

The cost of the 48-inch box oak tree installation and half the cost of 10-years of maintenance is approximately \$2,500. The donation request and proposed location were approved by the Municipal Operations Department. With PB&R Commission approval, per Council Policy B-17, Mrs. Boston-Rennard will be provided a certificate of acknowledgement in the name of Zachary Boston for the donation, and their names will be placed on the GIS Donation Map, with the donation location coordinates.

NOTICING:

Sherry Boston-Rennard and Council Member Erik Weigand have received a copy of this report. The agenda item has also been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the PB&R Commission considers the item).

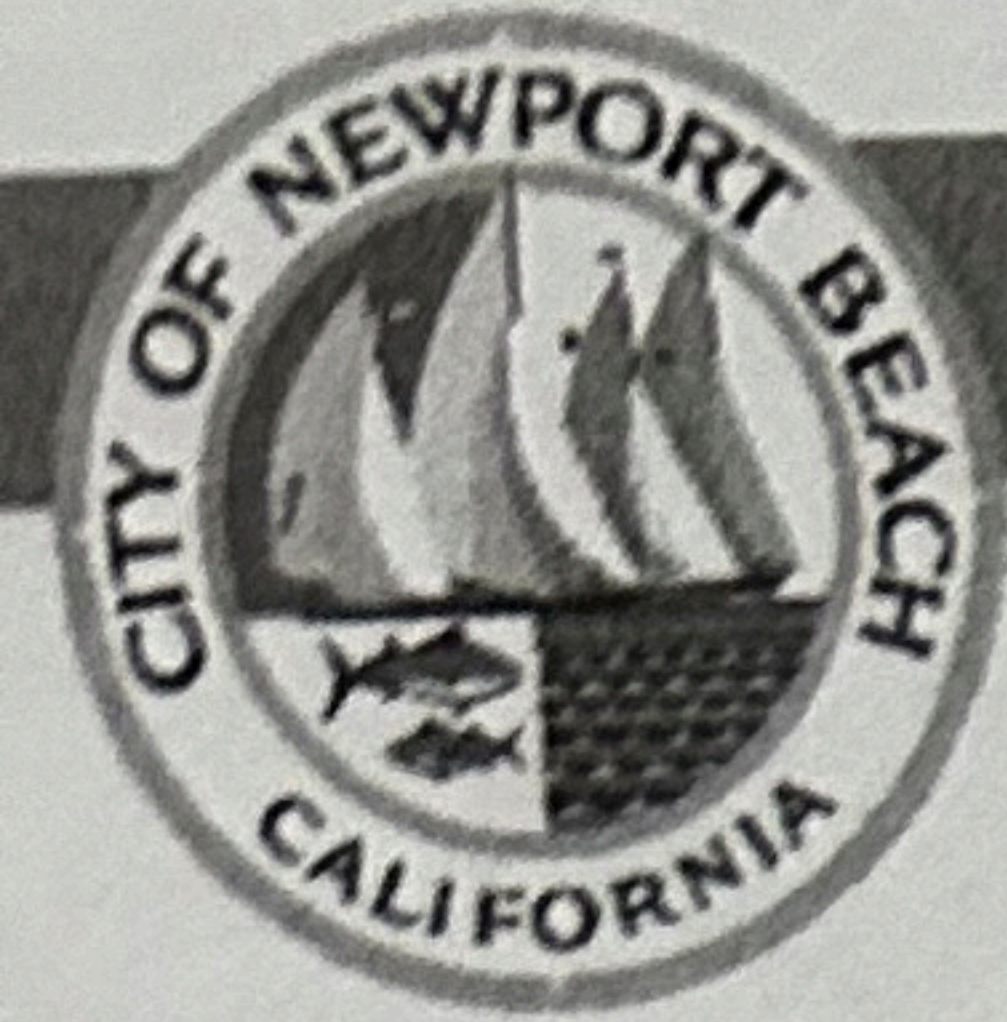
ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Donation Request and Letter

Attachment B – Photo of Coast Live Oak Tree

Attachment C – Location Map of the Tree Donation

Attachment D – Photo of Proposed Tree Location



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Donations for Parks, Facilities and Recreation Programs

oDONATION REQUEST FORM

Thank you for your interest in donating to the City of Newport Beach. The City's donation program is governed by Council Policy B-17 Parks, Facilities and Recreation Program Donations, and is included for your reference as an appendix.

This form must be submitted for all donations. A short list of common donation requests and approximate costs are provided. Other donation requests will be considered.

The Public Works and Recreation & Senior Services Department thank you for your interest in improving the City of Newport Beach Parks and Facilities!

Donation Item: (Please select all that apply)

Maintenance costs may apply and are not included in the prices listed below. Staff will provide quote prior to payment.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bench (4 styles)
\$2,800 and up | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree (48" box)
\$1,800 and up | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Bag Dispenser
\$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Table
\$1,300 | <input type="checkbox"/> Barbecue Grill
\$750 | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking Fountain
\$9,000 |

Other - If other, please describe: _____

Contact Information:

Name: Sherry Boston Rennard		Phone #: 949-274-3890	Email: coachsbr@gmail.com	
Mailing Address: 640 Taper Dr.		City: Seal Beach	State: CA	Zip: 90740
Signature: Sherry B. Rennard			Date: 2-4-2026	

Letter of Acceptance:

Donation information will be available online. The donor may request a certificate of acknowledgement as outlined in Council Policy B-17. Please contact City staff for more information at 949-644-3055.

Yes, I would like to request a Certificate of Acknowledgement

Name of Donor for Certificate:

Name: Sherry Boston Rennard	Name of 2 nd person if applicable: Gregory M. Boston
-----------------------------	---

Hi Rich,

Thank you for sending this information to me. I am attaching the filled-out Donation Request form. Below is a note describing what this means to me. Please let me know what the next steps are. I appreciate your help.

Donating a tree in honor of my son Zachary Boston is such a meaningful gesture for his family and friends to remember him. Zack spent a lot of time at the Castaways, both while growing up in Newport Heights and as an adult when he lived nearby and would often take his dog on walks there. We have many wonderful family memories at the Castaways including watching fireworks, walking our dogs, and visiting the annual Memorial Day flag display. Being able to have a place to visit, watch the tree grow and have fond memories of Zack would mean the world to me and the rest of his family and friends.

Thank you so much,
Sherry Boston Rennard

On Mon, Jan 26, 2026 at 12:36 PM Trevino, Ricardo <rtrevino@newportbeachca.gov> wrote:

Mrs. Sherry,

Again, sorry for your loss. Great news I asked the powers that be about castaways and they approved. So, thank you for your inquiry to donate a tree to the city of Newport beach in honor of your son. Enclosed in this email is a form you need to fill out and send back to me; I will also need a short bio of what this donation means to you. I would also love to meet you at castaways and show you a couple spots we have open. Please get back to me at your earliest convenience.



Rich Trevino

**Public Works Crew Chief Park
Maintenance**

Parks | Medians | Open Space

rtrevino@newportbeachca.gov

Office: 949-644-3176

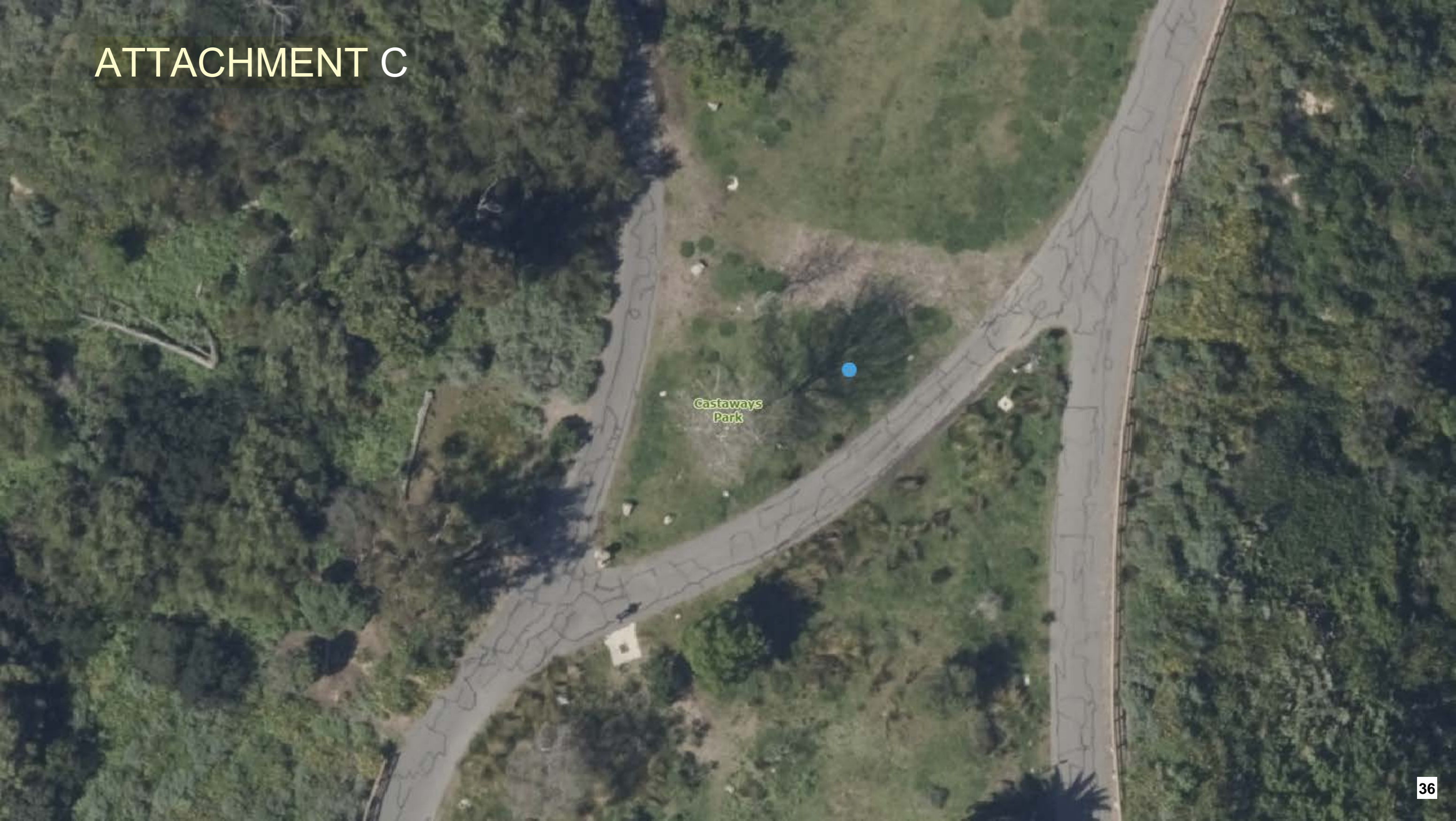
592 Superior Ave.

Newport Beach, CA 92663

--
Sherry Rennard
(949) 274-3890



ATTACHMENT C



Castaways
Park

ATTACHMENT D



PARKS BEACHES AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tree Donation at Castaways Park

April 7, 2026



CITY OF
NEWPORT BEACH

Background

- **Applicant:** Sherry Boston-Rennard
- **Donated For:** Zachary Boston (*son*)
- **Tree Location:** Castaways Park
- **Tree Species:** Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)

Map of Location



Photo of Location



Coast Live Oak



RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Parks, Beaches & Recreation (PB&R) Commission review and approve the donation of a coast live oak tree (*Quercus agrifolia*) at Castaways Park requested by Sherry Boston-Rennard.

QUESTIONS

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission

April 7, 2026

