



# Memorandum

**TO:** PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION

**FROM:** Steve Hammack

**SUBJECT: KELLEY PARK DISC GOLF COURSE DATE: 11-14-14**  
**UPDATE**

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Approved

Date

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the installation of a temporary 18-hole disc golf course at the orchard at Kelley Park.

## **BACKGROUND**

Kelley Park is a major regional park in San José that serves the local neighborhood, the community at large, and the entire South Bay region. For years, the Orchard has been plagued by illegal activities, including unauthorized camping, drug use, vagrancy, and prostitution. Surrounding neighbors have expressed a desire for the mitigation of these undesirable activities. At the November 6, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, The Silicon Valley Disc Golf Association (SVDGA) brought forth a proposal to install a temporary disc golf course in the Orchard at Kelley Park.

## **ANALYSIS**

Last fall, the PRC directed staff to investigate the feasibility of the installation of a temporary disc golf course. As part of this process Parks staff has completed the following:

- Reviewed the 1991 Kelley Park Master Plan and 1990 Coyote Creek Plan
  - Project found to achieve integrity of the creek environment, while balancing the need for outdoor recreation and public access.
- Conducted California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) evaluation
- Confirmed feasibility with the Planning Department.
- Coordinated a partnership with the SVDGA to include:
  - public use and hours of operation
  - volunteer maintenance plan
  - community outreach
  - operations plan
  - no financial obligation to the City of San José

## **ANALYSIS (cont.)**

- Orchard management
- Habitat restoration of riparian area
- Public meeting held at Kelley Park, Wednesday, September 10, 2014, to discuss the project
  - Meeting was well attended with 60+ members of the public in attendance, including local neighbors, constituents and disc golf enthusiasts
  - Questions were raised and answered
  - Meeting was closed with a noted approval of the project
- A temporary use permit through the Special Park Use Unit has been drafted and can be issued at anytime

### *Next Steps*

- 1) Upon PRC approval, a temporary use permit will be issued to SVDGA for the installation and public use of the temporary disc golf course;
- 2) SVDGA will complete fundraising to pay for entire course installation;
- 3) Installation will begin after the first of the New Year;
- 4) Temporary disc golf course will open by spring of 2015;
- 5) Parks staff and the SVDGA will monitor use and continue to communicate with neighbors after the opening of the course; and
- 6) A Kelley Park Master Plan update will begin spring 2015, which will identify long term use for the Orchard property.

### **CONCLUSION**

A disc golf course has a relatively low capital and maintenance costs, is environmentally sound, and is enjoyed by all ages, for minimal cost. The installation of a disc golf course in the Orchard at Kelley Park will program and occupy a previously blighted and misused section of the park. The introduction of the first 18-hole disc golf course in San José will expose park patrons to a fast growing sport, and offer a safe family friendly activity to the residents of San José.



STEVE HAMMACK  
Deputy Director  
Department of Parks, Recreation and  
Neighborhood Services

For questions, please contact Troy N. Trede, Senior Maintenance Worker, at (408) 794-6637.

[\\* California Environmental Quality Act \(CEQA\) Attachment \(link\)](#)