



Regular Meeting Agenda

Parks and Recreation Commission

Maureen Grzan-Pieracci - Commissioner

Neil Berman - Commissioner

Craig van Keulen - Chair

Mary Seehafer - Commissioner

Matt Wendt - Commissioner

Richard Scott - Vice Chair

Ronald Locicero - Commissioner

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 6:00 pm

Council Chamber

17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

CALL TO ORDER

TRAINING

Training Anticipated to Last Until 8pm

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

DECLARATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

Per Government Code 54954.2

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public are entitled to address the Commission concerning any item within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction. Public comments are limited to no more than three minutes. Except for certain specific exceptions, the Commission is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. (See additional noticing at the end of this agenda)

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

BUSINESS:

1. APPROVE THE AUGUST 20, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation:

Approve Minutes.

2. USE OF HERBICIDES IN CITY PARKS

Recommendation:

1. Receive report on herbicide use in City Parks.
2. Recommend that the City not eliminate any specific herbicide use, but to direct staff to continue to work towards reduced use and possible future elimination of use of Glyphosate in Parks.

3. WATSONVILLE ROAD RECREATION AND GREENWAYS GRANT APPLICATION

Recommendation:

1. Receive report on planning efforts for the Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program funded from the Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018 (Proposition 68).
2. Provide staff with feedback relating to the grant program and the City's potential grant application.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS:

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body less than 72 hours prior to an open session, will be made available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk at Morgan Hill City Hall located at 17575 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA, 95037 at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. (Pursuant to Government Code 54957.5)

PUBLIC COMMENT

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 any issue that is on this agenda, please complete a speaker request card located in the foyer of the Commission Chambers, and deliver it to the Minutes Clerk prior to discussion of the item. You are not required to give your name on the speaker card in order to speak to the Commission, but it is very helpful. When you are called, proceed to the podium and the Mayor will recognize you. If you wish to address the Commission on any other item of interest to the public, you may do so during the public comment portion of the meeting following the same procedure described above. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less.

Please submit written correspondence to the Minutes Clerk, who will distribute correspondence to the Commission.

Persons interested in proposing an item for the Commission agenda should contact a member of the Commission who may plan an item on the agenda for a future Commission meeting. Should your comments require Commission action, your request may be placed on the next appropriate agenda. Commission discussion or action may not be taken until your item appears on an agenda. This procedure is in compliance with the California Public Meeting Law (Brown Act) Government Code §54950.

City Council Policies and Procedures (CP 03-01) outlines the procedure for the conduct of public hearings. Notice is given, pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, that any challenge of Public Hearing Agenda items in court, may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or on your behalf at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Commission at, or prior to the Public Hearing on these matters.

The time within which judicial review must be sought of the action by the Commission, which acted upon any matter appearing on this agenda is governed by the provisions of Section 1094.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure.

For a copy of Commission Policies and Procedures CP 97-01, please contact the City Clerk's office (408) 779-7259, (408) 779-3117 (fax) or by email cityclerk@morganhill.ca.gov.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (408)779-7259, (408)779-3117 (fax) or by email cityclerk@morganhill.ca.gov. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least two-full business days before the start of the meeting.

DRAFT



Meeting Minutes Parks and Recreation Commission

Maureen Grzan-Pieracci - *Commissioner*
Neil Berman - *Commissioner*
Craig van Keulen - *Chair*
Mary Seehafer - *Commissioner*
Matt Wendt - *Commissioner*
Richard Scott - *Vice Chair*
Ronald Locicero - *Commissioner*

Tuesday, August 20, 2019 7:00 pm

Council Chamber
17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Maureen Grzan-Pieracci	Commissioner	Absent	
Neil Berman	Commissioner	Present	
Craig van Keulen	Chair	Present	
Mary Seehafer	Commissioner	Present	
Matt Wendt	Commissioner	Present	
Richard Scott	Vice Chair	Present	
Ronald Locicero	Commissioner	Present	

DECLARATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

Per Government Code 54954.2

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 20, 2019 7:00 PM (BUSINESS:)

RECOGNITION

None

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion Seehaffer, Second Berman, Approved 6-0

BUSINESS:

1. APPROVE THE JULY 16, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation:

Approve Minutes.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Richard Scott, Vice Chair
SECONDER:	Ronald Locicero, Commissioner
AYES:	Berman, van Keulen, Seehaffer, Wendt, Scott, Locicero
ABSENT:	Grzan-Pieracci

2. COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT FACILITY RENTAL REPORT

Recommendation:

Receive report on facility rentals at recreation facilities.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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3. COMMISSION WORK PLAN UPDATES

Recommendation:

Review Fiscal Year 2019-20 Work Plan and provide updates on items.

Commissioners provided updates.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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4. DISCUSSION ON USE OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Recommendation:

Discuss potential use of the consent calendar.

Commission did not think we should eliminate staff reports. Commission did request that the chair and staff look at cancelling shorter meetings and moving items to support efficiency.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS:**ADJOURNMENT**

7:26pm

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 20, 2019 7:00 PM (BUSINESS:)



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 17, 2019

PREPARED BY: Chris Ghione, Public Services Director

APPROVED BY: Chris Ghione, Public Services Director

USE OF HERBICIDES IN CITY PARKS

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Receive report on herbicide use in City Parks.
2. Recommend that the City not eliminate any specific herbicide use, but to direct staff to continue to work towards reduced use and possible future elimination of use of Glyphosate in Parks.

REPORT NARRATIVE:

Background

Over the last several months numerous residents have reached out to City representatives regarding the use of herbicides on City property. Many of the requests from residents have been specific to eliminating the use of the herbicide Glyphosate. Multiple City Council Members have requested City staff review alternatives for the reduction in herbicide use. The City Council will review this subject on September 18, 2019. This report is intended to provide background information and potential next steps on herbicide use by the City. The Commission may choose to make a recommendation to the Council on the Herbicide use in Parks.

The City of Morgan Hill, through its own employees and landscape contractors, uses a variety of means to control weeds in various City owned locations. These locations include parks, medians, facilities, and right of way (ROW) areas adjacent to streets where typically no sidewalk is present. This maintenance occurs for both aesthetic and fire protection reasons. Herbicide use is currently a major component of weed abatement and Glyphosate is currently the most common herbicide used. This is due to its effectiveness. In the case of the ROW maintenance, the work is done completely for fire protection purposes and the weed abatement is performed almost completely by the spraying of Glyphosate.

Glyphosate is distributed commercially under the product name Roundup. Glyphosate was introduced commercially in 1974 and is now used in more than 160 countries. In early 2017, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) placed glyphosate on a list of potentially harmful chemicals. The list is in accordance with State law enacted by California voters in 1986 (Proposition 65) that mandates notification and labeling of all products which the State of California has determined to potentially add to a person's cancer risk, may cause harm to unborn children or other reproductive harm. The CalEPA list does not ban the use of chemicals but does require clear and

reasonable warnings for exposures to chemicals on the State's list under certain circumstances. The list itself includes over 1,000 chemicals, including things such as medications, alcoholic beverages, gasoline, etc.

Roundup is currently approved for use in the United States through the Environmental Protection Agency and California through the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Pesticides are currently categorized into three classifications, Caution (least toxic), Warning, and Danger (most toxic). Glyphosate has a Caution classification. The largest use of Glyphosate is in agriculture due to its use in on genetically altered crops designed to tolerate Glyphosate.

City Use of Herbicides

Use of herbicides within the City is managed through the Community Services Maintenance Division. The Division utilizes Glyphosate and other herbicides 1-3 times per year in park areas and the City ROW. The number of applications depends on the weather and needs of the specific area, which can cause a need to reapply. For the use of herbicides, the City is regulated by the County Department of Agriculture and the DPR. The City files reports on all use to both organizations. The City follows all federal, state and county guidelines and regulations when spraying. Use occurs both by City staff and maintenance contractors.

Over the last several years, the City has been updating its approach to herbicide use on an ongoing basis to ensure safety of staff and the public. Updates include:

- The City staff follow all guidelines and regulations, utilize all personal protective equipment and follow all procedures outlined for each specific herbicide. Staff stay trained, up to date and implement all new requirements immediately.
- Six years ago, the City began requiring the posting of herbicide use 72 hours prior to utilizing herbicides in any City parks or in areas near schools. Signs are removed no less than 24 hours following the application. This is not a requirement, but City staff felt important and began implementing.
- The City does not use herbicides in or near waterways, except for organic herbicides approved specifically for this use.
- The City recently implemented a pilot program at Paradise Park eliminating the use of herbicides completely. This park was intended as a trial site to assess the possibility and costs related to eliminating the use of Glyphosate and other herbicides in the future. The trial completed its second year this summer. In conjunction with the trial, the City has also tested two new organic alternative products to Glyphosate.
- All crews that apply pesticides are overseen by a maintenance worker on site with a valid California Pesticide Qualified Applicators Certificate (QAC), and all pesticide mixing is performed by a crew member properly trained and in possession of a valid QAC. We also assure no one is in the area of coverage while spraying which at times causes staff to wait for areas to be clear. Staff remain present until areas are safe to enter once the application is dry (as per the labels and training).

As noted, City staff have been experimenting with the use of alternate herbicides to Glyphosate. Unfortunately, this experimentation has not resulted in identifying an effective alternative to date. City staff has recently been in discussion with other agencies on an additional new organic herbicide that they have found effective. However, this new alternative as well as others will not be able to be tested until the Spring of 2020 as the weed abatement season is now over.

In reviewing alternative strategies City staff have spent considerable time evaluating options for reducing herbicide use and potentially eliminating the use of glyphosate. Unfortunately to date, there does not appear to be a path forward that will not result in increased costs or a significant decrease in the level of weed abatement services provided. The following chart outlines the City's weed abatement areas and the estimated staff hours committed to weed abatement. It further estimates the increased hours/costs associated with maintaining the existing service levels in each of the areas.

	Parks City Maintained	Staff	Parks, Medians, Landscaping Maintained Contract	by	Street Right of Way City Maintained	Staff
Size of Areas	17.6 acres		15.75 acres (estimate)		41.2 linear miles (10-foot width)	
Current maintenance hours	116 hours		NA		345 hours	
Estimated increased hours/costs without Glyphosate use	233 hours \$17,000 annually		NA \$24,900 annually		690 hours \$51,000 annually	
Estimated increased hours/costs without any herbicide use	928 hours \$68,000 annually		NA \$74,700 annually		2,760 hours \$203,000 annually	

It is important to note that weed abatement is not just for aesthetics, and maintenance of the City ROW is intended for fire safety. Ensuring weeds do not reach the roadway edges is important to fire prevention. To this point should the City determine it would like to eliminate the use of herbicides or Glyphosate in particular, just lowering the level of service would not be recommended.

Other Agencies

City staff recently did a survey of surrounding jurisdictions as it relates to use of herbicides in general and specifically the use of Glyphosate. The chart below provides general information on use by other agencies. It should be noted that this use may vary in both how and in what quantities each agency uses herbicides, so the information is general in nature.

Agency	Herbicides Used in ROW	Glyphosate Used in ROW	Herbicides Used in Parks	Glyphosate Used in Parks
Campbell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cupertino	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fremont	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gilroy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Los Altos	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Los Gatos	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mid-Pen Open Space Dist.	No	No	Yes	Yes
Mountain View	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*
Palo Alto	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
San Jose	Yes	Yes		
Santa Clara County	Yes	No	Yes	No
SCV Open Space Authority	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* Mountain View will discontinue use of Glyphosate in 2020.

Recommended Next Steps

City staff believe in working towards the reduction in herbicide use as well meeting the desire of the community members who would like to reduce or eliminate the use of Glyphosate by the City. However, the costs associated with this transition are significant and would need to be funded through the City's General Fund. General Fund resources are limited, and the Council has a significant number of unfunded priorities. City staff recommend no formal action at this time, but that the City staff be permitted to continue to explore alternate herbicide options to replace the use of Glyphosate. Alternate options would be tested in the Spring of 2020. City staff would then plan to report back to the Commission and Council in the Summer of 2020 with findings and any further recommendations.



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 17, 2019

PREPARED BY: Chris Ghione, Public Services Director

APPROVED BY: Chris Ghione, Public Services Director

WATSONVILLE ROAD RECREATION AND GREENWAYS GRANT APPLICATION

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Receive report on planning efforts for the Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program funded from the Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018 (Proposition 68).
2. Provide staff with feedback relating to the grant program and the City's potential grant application.

REPORT NARRATIVE:

The State of California, through the California Natural Resources Agency, is preparing to accept grant applications for its Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program. This grant program, funded by Proposition 68, allows for \$27.7 million in grant funding for projects that provide non-motorized infrastructure development and enhancements that lead to safer interconnectivity among parks, waterways and natural environments, and which encourage health-related active transportation and opportunities for Californians to reconnect with nature. Awards for each eligible individual project are capped at a maximum award of \$4 million. More information can be found at the State's Website at: <http://resources.ca.gov/grants/trailsandgreenways/>

City staff have identified two specific infrastructure recommendations for this grant which include the development of a Class I pedestrian/bicycle trail along the South side of Watsonville Road between Monterey Road and Sunnyside Avenue, as well as a pedestrian activated signal crossing across Watsonville Road which connects an existing trail on the north side of Watsonville Road to the future trail on the south side which is under development. The project plan is unique and innovative in its approach as it converts an existing right of way currently dedicated to cars, to a multi-use thoroughfare which provides not only for vehicular transportation but also accommodates a safe, dedicated passage for pedestrians and cyclists on a Class 1 multi-use trail that would be constructed on the South side of Watsonville Road. This will be accomplished with minimal impact to the environment, while accomplishing significant non-motorized recreational enhancements.

City staff are currently in the process of developing a concept design for the project, but due to grant timelines want to share this project with the Parks and Recreation Commission now. The trail and crossings would have a Recreation and non-motorized transportation benefit, but the City could see additional benefit from the traffic calming

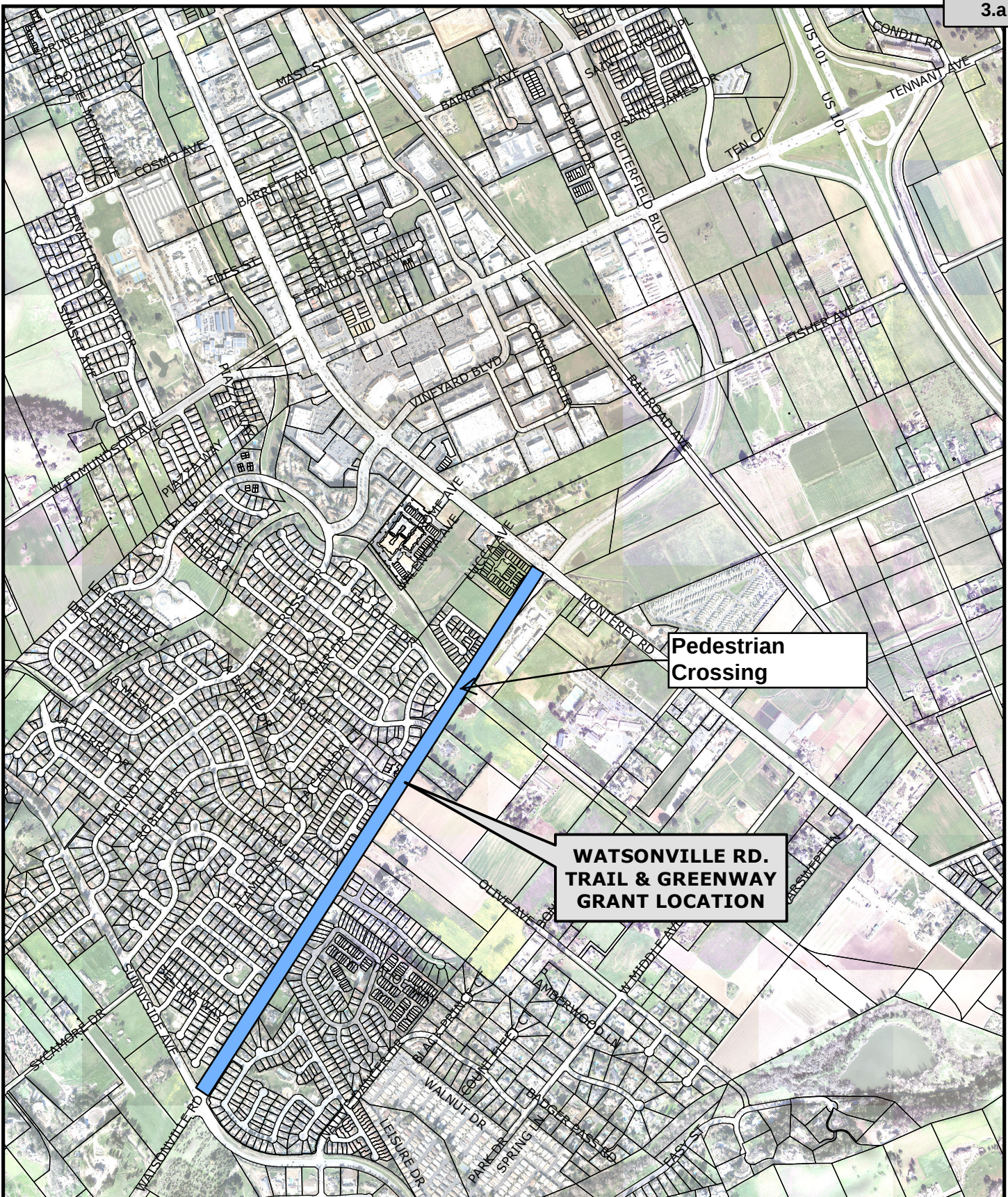
aspects of the design that would allow safer crossings of Watsonville Road and discourage speeding. The project area is outlined in Attachment 1.

The City has a good track record in competitive grant programs but will face some hurdles with this application due to the significant scoring emphasis allocated to statutory and program priorities including: developing projects which serve disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged youth; as well as addressing targeted environmental concerns such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and stormwater capture for infiltration or reuse. The proposed enhancements chosen for this grant will integrate into a much larger and expansive project already underway (West Little Llagas Creek Trail Project), which positively impacts every member of the Morgan Hill community, including the disadvantaged, by creating a continuous trail corridor between the Downtown core in the north and Lake Silveira and adjacent wetlands to the south of the City. Additionally, key features in the design will include enhancements to storm drainage to promote natural hydrologies and reduce pollution, along with tree planting to support clean air efforts.

Commissioners and members of the public are encouraged to provide City staff with feedback regarding this project concept and future implementation of this grant-related segment of the Morgan Hill integrated trail system.

LINKS/ATTACHMENTS:

1. Location Map_Watsonville Rd Trail and Greenway Project



CITY OF MORGAN HILL
Engineering and Utilities Department
CIP Engineering Division

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LOCATION MAP

**PROP 68 –
 TRAIL & GREENWAY GRANT PROJECT**



0 700 1,400 2,800 4,200
 Feet