

The CAO Weekly Report

The week of January 26, 2015



Monterey County Administrative Office

Lew C. Bauman, CAO

In this edition:

- Parks Strategic Plan draft complete
- County support of economic development sees results
- Pajaro Park continues to gain acclaim



Parks Department Strategic Plan Draft Online for Community Review



A combination of parks department staff and other county department leaders participate in the strategic plan workshop last November. The workshop discussion and results were part of the strategic plan process.

The six-month effort to create a strategic plan for the future of the Parks Department and the county park system is complete. The public is invited to review and make comments on the plan which is available [online](#). A public forum about the document is set for next month's Parks Commission meeting.

Parks Department employees were first to get a copy of the report this week, and had the chance to talk about the results with department leadership.

The challenges the Parks Department has been facing over the past year are well known. To create a new vision for the department, an intensive six-month process was undertaken. The process included data review, interviews with community leaders, an employee survey and focus group, a customer survey and inter-agency discussions. Oversight for the process was provided by an ad hoc committee of the Board of Supervisors.



Parks Planning Manager John Akeman shares his group's thoughts on goals and strategies for the various county parks.

To fine tune how to move forward with information collected, consultants engaged by the county to produce the strategic plan held a workshop last November. Parks Department staff and other county employees came together to discuss principles, goals and strategies for the department but also delved into such topics as business plans for each park, marketing and potential partnerships. The group viewed a detailed presentation which provided an overview of the parks system, the latest department fiscal issues, county demographics and the results of employee and park user surveys.

The Parks Commission will discuss the draft plan at its meeting on February 4th and hear community comments before voting on a recommendation which will be sent to the Board of Supervisors. Anyone with comments can send their thoughts via email to BeardsallLD@co.monterey.ca.us or by regular mail addressed to:

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County Support of Economic Development Projects Pays Off

Monterey County's participation in economic development organizations and its investment in business support projects is seeing some really significant results.

Economic Development Director Dave Spaur says a local technology company, which received contract application help through a business support and counseling program of which the county is a major funder, has won a multi-million dollar NASA contract.



Help for this company came from the Monterey Bay PTAC (Procurement Technical Assistance Center), a program of the Monterey County Business Council. PTAC played an important role for MTI, Monterey Technologies Incorporated (MTI). MTI's CEO asked the PTAC to review the company's draft proposal prior to submitting it to NASA. Senior Procurement Specialist/Counselor Jeff Cuskey reviewed the company's first draft and provided numerous substantive recommendations to improve the competitiveness of the proposal. That effort was rewarded as MTI recently learned it was awarded a five-year contract worth up to \$40 million from NASA Ames Research Center.

MTI will conduct rotor wing research and development that will provide new technologies for helicopters and advanced vertical lift aircraft. You can find out more about the NASA Ames Rotary Wing Project [here](#). Monterey Technology Incorporated, whose offices are located near Ryan Ranch, was one of five companies competing for the contract and was the only small business to win one of the contract awards.



“Monterey County businesses have received small military and government contracts over the last three years,” says Spaur. “This is the first large contract over \$10 million for one of our home-grown businesses!”

The Monterey Bay PTAC is designed to help generate employment and improve the general economic condition of the Monterey Bay by helping small businesses sell their goods and services to federal, state and local government agencies. Monterey County provides \$50,000 in matching funds to the Business Council in support of the PTAC.

“Success stories such as the recent contract award demonstrates the economic value provided by MCBC and the Monterey Bay PTAC,” says Jeff Cuskey. “Both are extremely grateful for the funding provided by the County of Monterey.”

Since its inception in October 2012, the Monterey Bay PTAC has helped small business clients win 142 government contracts valued at more than \$118 million.



Pajaro Park Continues to Receive Accolades

Pajaro Neighborhood Park, which opened last April, continues to earn well-deserved accolades for its design and the way it serves the community.

Years in the making, the park was a community collaboration between the County,



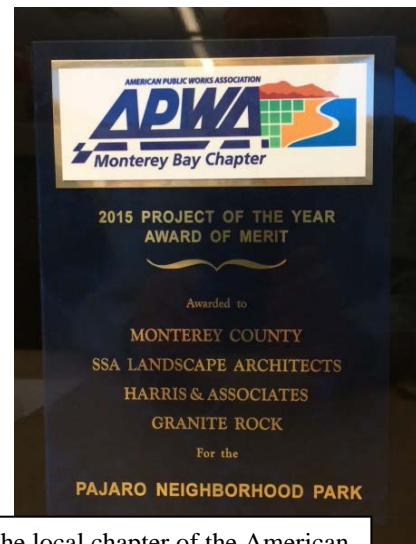
Children at play in the playground area during the park's opening day. More than a thousand people turned out to inaugurate the park last year.

Granite Construction and Pajaro/Sunny Mesa Community Services District. Costing \$6.2 million to build (a combination of redevelopment and grant funding), the park boasts a three-acre synthetic-turf sports field, a basketball court, two small playgrounds, picnic and barbecue areas, and a 40-foot diameter pavilion. It also includes special touches from local organizations such as artwork created by students with the Arts Council for Monterey County and landscaping assistance provided by Boy Scout Troop 505 of Pajaro.

Recently, the project was awarded honors here in Monterey County and at the state level.

The American Public Works Association Monterey Bay Chapter has awarded the park its 2015 Project of the Year Award of Merit. This award recognizes the partnership between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer, and the contractor who, working together, complete public works projects. Nick Nichols, Civil Engineer in the Resource Management Agency, accepted the award this week on behalf of the county. Also honored were partners SSA Landscape Architects, Harris & Associates and Granite Rock Construction.

The park is also getting noticed at the state level. The California Parks and Recreation Society, which recognizes outstanding achievements in community improvements, facility design and park planning, has selected Pajaro Neighborhood Park for its Statewide Award of Excellence for Park Facility Design.



The local chapter of the American Public Works Association selected Pajaro Neighborhood Park for its Award of Merit.

