

FY 2021-22 Budget Board of Supervisor Inquiry Form

Deadline: August 31, 2021

Please email: CAO-Budget@sonoma-county.org

Board Member	
Gorin	
Rabbitt	X
Coursey	
Gore	
Hopkins	

Department: Regional Parks

Date: _____

Inquiry Number: 80

Request/Question:

FORECAST STRATEGY: What is your forecast and strategy for addressing the growth in parks acres?

Response:

The Regional Park system has expanded rapidly over the past 18 months with 5 new future parks. We are anticipating additional growth in park acreage primarily focused on expanding existing parks when those acquisitions provide benefits to trail connectivity, natural resource protection, habitat corridors, and an equitable distribution of parks based on community demographics. Regional Parks continues aggressively fundraising for park redevelopments and the acquisition and development of new parks leveraging federal, state and private sources with local non general funds.

As the park system continues growing, the Department is focused on increasingly larger investments with the proceeds from the Measure M sales tax, grants and other revenues to:

- address deferred maintenance at aging facilities
- develop trails, trailheads and restrooms
- grow the staffing capacity to operate, maintain, and steward the facilities and parklands
- provide youth, family and targeted environmental education and recreation programs for the community
- manage vegetation with ongoing expansions to grazing, shaded fuel breaks and prescribed fires

While the acreage of the system has expanded steadily with predominately new open space facilities, the fiscal strategy is to invest in high quality / low maintenance restrooms, trailheads and trails that can withstand the rigors of climate change while providing a high quality outdoor experience for park visitors. Regional Parks is anticipating further open space park acquisitions and expansions in the years ahead including portions of the Sonoma Developmental Center, Hood Mountain, Helen Putnam, Russian River access points, and Crane Creek. The primary sources of ongoing funding to operate these facilities will be revenues from parking fees, park memberships, and the Measure M sales tax.