



Paradise Recreation and Park District

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aquatic Park Pond Work to Start in August

Paradise, August 2, 2022 – Beginning in August, the Paradise Recreation and Park District (District) maintenance staff will begin deep cleaning the Aquatic Park Pond.

Over time, the pond has filled with organic material. Under current conditions, water flow is down due to the continuing drought from the natural inflow and the State of California restricting use of the creek diversion. To maintain water quality, the District operates a pond aerator (the center ‘fountain’), but its operation is hampered due to the amount of organic matter.

In some years, unattractive odors and algae occur during late Summer and early Fall. The drought conditions have worsened these issues. Waterfowl frequent the pond year-round, and stagnate, low oxygen, high protein organic matter may increase the potential to harbor and spread avian botulism. The current drought conditions allow park maintenance an opportunity to better access the pond for efficient cleaning.

To address these issues, the District will complete an extensive clean-up and repair of the pond. The clean-up requires draining the pond, relocating sizeable fish, and removing built-up organic matter and trash. The District has been working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on authorizing the project. The pond was last cleaned up in 2002.

Park Supervisor Mark Cobb notes, “The public will be happier with the smell taken care of and the look of the algae gone from the duck pond. Our maintenance team is ready to take on this project for our community.”

Plans of action include: installing water quality and vegetation protection measures; relocating fish larger than 6”; draining water; removing excessive biomass, debris, and trash; and fixing the edges, natural bottom, and aerator.

Afterwards, the pond will be allowed to fill naturally from winter rain runoff and the District will consider fish restocking options.

Work is anticipated to be completed by the end of November but may change based on weather conditions.

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Since 1948, the Paradise Recreation and Park District provides recreation facilities and programs to the residents of Paradise, the Butte Creek Canyon area, and the unincorporated communities of Magalia/Paradise Pines and Concow/Yankee Hill. The District serves 50,000 people living in a 170-square mile area and manages over 1,000 acres of park land and facilities.

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