



Paradise Recreation and Park District

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Park in Magalia Receives Development Funding

Paradise Recreation and Park District Wins Grant Award

Paradise, CA, December 9, 2021 – At the December 8, 2021 Board of Directors meeting, staff from the Paradise Recreation and Park District (PRPD, District) announced that the State of California selected the development of Lakeridge Park in Magalia for funding. The District also submitted a proposal for Noble Park in Paradise. The State will provide \$5.2 million in funding toward the project.

The Board also took action to add 1.26 acres to the Lakeridge Park property and accept a donation of land off Coutolenc and Jordan Hill Roads.

District Manager Dan Efseaff said, “This is one of the most transformative investments in the upper ridge in decades. We're gratified that the state of California will invest in this new park for residents of the upper ridge and our region. We are embarking on a whole series of investments that improves the lives of citizens of Magalia and transforms how residents of Butte County do recreation.” He added, “Just wait and see what happens next!”

The effort to build a park in Magalia began in 2006 after District staff received written pleas from elementary school children and their teacher requesting a park in Magalia. The effort initiated monthly community stakeholder meetings for several years with community members and District representatives.

Eventually, PRPD partnered with the Paradise Irrigation District (PID) for a 99-year lease on 26-acres of land overlooking the Magalia reservoir. In 2010 PRPD purchased 1.28 acres of property adjoining the PID land to create access into the park. Previous funding efforts to develop the Park fell short. In late 2019 and 2020, the District re-established input meetings with considerable participation to develop a new park with changing priorities in the community.

Assistant District Manager Kristi Sweeney noted, “This grant award is a huge win for the hundreds of residents that participated in community input meetings and workshops over the years. The passion of residents and the staff that preceded us kept inching this grant proposal forward and gave us a strong platform to launch the new community outreach campaign and competitive grant proposal.”

She added, “We also greatly appreciate the North Valley Community Foundation for their generous grant that helped fund updated conceptual park designs based on community input on preferred park features and amenities, and a CEQA study, both of which were required for the grant proposal.” The North Valley Community Foundation provided the District with planning funding that has resulted in park designs and due diligence to complete projects and acquisitions.

The project also contributes to District efforts to create wildfire risk reduction buffers for communities. This work stemmed from funding support from the Nature Conservancy.

The new park and hillside up from Dogtown Road provide opportunities for the District to develop a model forest and park to improve community protection and improves disaster preparedness and response. PRPD will work with a variety of partners to showcase how to develop a wildfire ready Wildland Urban Interface.

The park is one of only 50 new parks approved for funding out of 468 applications. The \$2.42 billion in requests competed for \$548.3 million in funding.

“California State Parks is incredibly proud to announce grant funding for projects that will improve access to parks and open space and contribute to a better quality of life for so many Californians,” said California State Park Director Armando Quintero. “Many of these projects will become a source of community pride, thanks to neighborhood residents, local park agencies and non-profit organizations who worked together to design vibrant parks reflecting each community’s unique needs and creativity.”

“These funding awards are a huge deal for Californians. Creating new parks across the state – including in many communities currently without adequate outdoor public space – will make a real, lasting difference in the lives of young people and all residents,” said California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot. “It’s one more way the Governor and Legislature are working to improve the lives of all Californians.”

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Go to the State Park Grant Programs Project Gallery to view all 174 grant projects between Rounds 3 and 4! The gallery can be found here: www.parksforcalifornia.org/projects

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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 nearly 500 acres of park land and facilities.

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