



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Recreation Department

City Council Meeting Date: August 18, 2026

To: City Council
From: Andrea Miller, Recreation Director
Date: July 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) identification of opportunities for additional outdoor recreational amenities and development of language distinguishing "amenities" from "attractions."

BACKGROUND: On April 17, 2026, the City Council directed the City Manager to engage the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) to identify opportunities for additional outdoor recreational amenities and to develop language distinguishing "amenities" from "attractions." At the June 18, 2026 PRAC meeting, the Planning Director subsequently prepared background information outlining potential recreational amenities and summarized relevant language from the Sanibel Plan, which emphasizes protecting the Island's sanctuary character by discouraging land uses that generate significant off-island visitation and traffic. The Sanibel Plan distinguishes attractions that increase off-island traffic from amenities that primarily serve the needs of the Sanibel community.

Prior to the July 16, 2026 PRAC meeting, the committee was provided a recreational amenity ranking sheet (attached to the agenda) as well as draft definitions of "amenities" and "attractions." After reviewing the Planning Director's analysis and considering community recreation needs, PRAC recommended the following rankings and definitions at their July 16, 2026 meeting.

Top Five Recreational Amenity Priorities:

- Community Park Improvements #1
- Community Green Space / Event Space #2
- Dog Park (tie) #3
- Skate Park Area Renovations (tie) #3
- Ballfield Tot Lot Playground #5

The Committee also recommended the following definitions:

- *An attraction is a land use that generates a significant number of its daily and overall traffic from off-island locations.*
- *An amenity is a land use that serves on-island demand for short-term residents, long-term residents, and on-island guests, and is not anticipated to substantially increase off-island traffic volumes.*

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

Staff concurs with the Committee's recommended definitions with one minor clarification (in red) to the definition of amenity as follows:

- *An amenity is a land use that serves on-island demand for short-term residents, long-term residents, and on-island guests, and is not anticipated to substantially increase traffic volume from off-island trips.*

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consider definition options for distinguishing "attractions" from "amenities" as well as the Committee's recreational amenity rankings to guide future evaluation of recreational facilities and projects in a manner consistent with the Sanibel Plan and the City's barrier island sanctuary vision.

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