

# Funding for park ranger approved

**MORENO VALLEY:** The City Council also OK's the hiring of a projects consultant.

BY LAURIE LUCAS  
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Moreno Valley will replace play structures at two parks, hire a consulting firm to help evaluate the city's capital improvement projects and pay for another park ranger to help curb gang activity.

These were among actions approved by the City Council earlier this week.

The total salary and benefits package for an additional park ranger is \$75,372. Since two rangers retired in fiscal 2009/2010, one position was filled and the other position was defunded to help reduce the deficit, said Mike J. McCarty, director of parks and community services.

The park ranger program is understaffed even though the city has added two new neighborhood parks and several aqueduct bikeways, according to a staff report.

In other business, the Council:

Approved replacing equipment and playground resurfacing with \$195,000 in developers' fees at Adrienne Mitchell Memorial Park and Moreno Valley Community Park.

Authorized the purchase of nutritional, after-school snacks at 40 sites for no more than \$460,000, provided through a federal grant.

Applied for a state grant for the Alessandro Boulevard corridor demonstration project, to develop a regional transportation link among the Riverside County Regional Medical Center, future March Field Metrolink station, civic center, City of Riverside, Meridian Business Park and future March Life Care.

Approved changes to the city's homebuyer assistance program to allow the inclusion of reasonable closing costs; require a minimum buyer's contribution of at least 3 percent of the purchase price, of which 1 percent must be of the buyer's own funds; and allow an equity share provision for loans pre-paid in full prior to maturity.

Approved hiring a consulting firm for \$285,000 to help evaluate the city's capital improvement projects on an as-needed basis for 15 months.

Approved extending the temporary reduction of developer's fees by 50 percent through December for single-family and affordable single family residences.

Approved guidelines for mounted shooting activities with non-projectile firearms only in the Moreno Valley Equestrian Park and Nature Center.

Approved an agreement that allows city management employees to accrue up to 1,664 hours of annual leave.

Approved a plan focusing on American with Disabilities Act access guidelines involving sidewalks, curbs, gutters, ramps, bus stops and traffic signals.

In other matters, resident/golfer Rick Madott suggested ways to increase revenues at the money-losing, aging Cottonwood Golf Center in the city. He said his committee is looking at fee increases for the council to approve and at least three opportunities to lease the clubhouse.

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# City OKs plans for historic site

**NORCO:** The detailed document could help preserve the Norconian hotel, lake and grounds.

BY LESLIE PARRILLA  
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Norco leaders are trying to preserve the old Norconian resort, saying it could be a future tourist magnet.

The vacant Lake Norconian resort sits beside a lake on about 350 acres. It opened in 1929 as a health and recreation retreat for the wealthy but remains closed because leaky roofs and decay have rendered it unsafe.

The Norco City Council voted 4-0 this week to implement the Norconian Strategic Plan, a roughly two-year detailed plan to protect the site, restore it, identify resources and create partnerships.

"We don't know what's going to happen in the future and it's more to protect those historic resources," said Kevin Bash, a councilman and historic preservationist. "Should there be a change of some kind, you're not going to look at condominiums around the base."

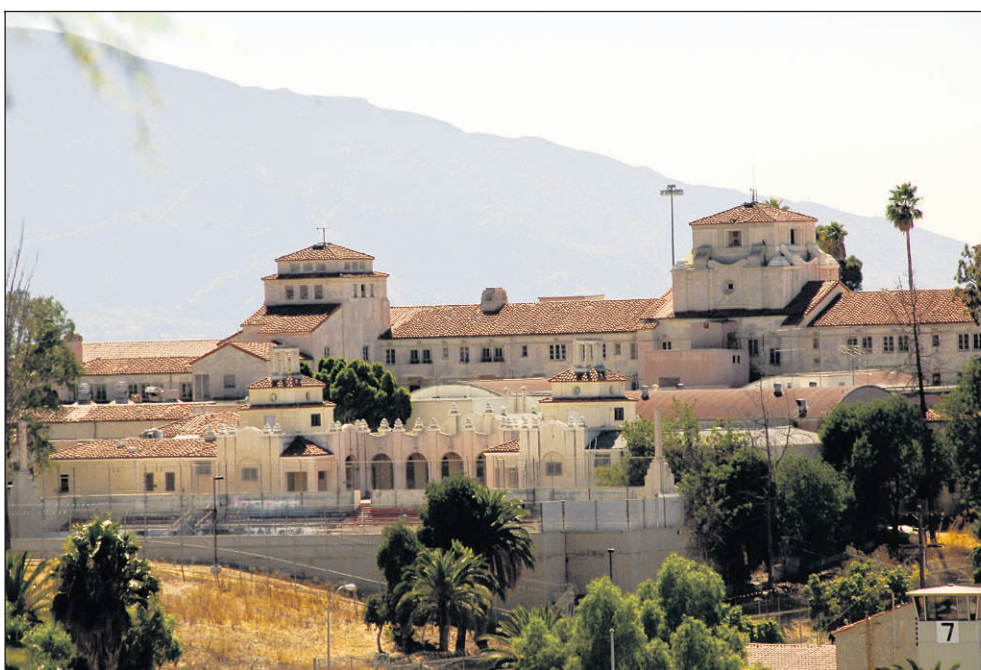
The plan focuses on documenting and designating historic features, maintaining and restoring them, continuing communication between all involved parties, public awareness of the site, planning for future uses on and around the Norconian and transferring land from government to private entities, according to a city report.

The Spanish-style resort was designed by well-known architects during the Depression-era. Past land sales now put it on U.S. Navy, state prison and Norco College property.

The strategic plan is expected to link those entities with the city to work together in preserving the site.

The Navy is conducting a historic study to survey historic sites on its portion of the property, Bash said.

The Norconian is the only historic site the city has on the National Register of Historic Places, said Bill Wilk-



RICH LINTON/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

The Norconian Strategic Plan would link the U.S. Navy, state prison and Norco College property, which all hold parts of the land, with the city in working to preserve the site.

man, a Riverside history researcher and cultural resource consultant.

Conservationists have

said that restoring it would benefit Norco and the region, despite the resort being a financial failure during

its heyday.

It was eventually converted to a naval hospital in 1941 during World War II. By

June 1957 the hospital closed its doors for good.

But conservationists foresee a historic district and public amenities around the old Norconian hotel, turning it into a visitor destination point.

"If in the future it changes hands and you get a developer that decides to come in and do something there, it would be a boon to the region," Bash said. "We (the city) don't have the money to go out and purchase the property."

The cost of the property is unknown. And despite years of failed efforts to restore it, preservationists are optimistic. They expect the strategic plan will take several years to complete.

The private nonprofit Lake Norconian Club Foundation was formed in mid-2007 to preserve historic buildings associated with the resort.

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