



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

RENAMING THE GREENBELT PEDESTRIAN TRAIL WITH A BENCH DEDICATED TO THE ACCESS HERMOSA WORKING GROUP AND IN MEMORIAM OF GEOFF HIRSCH AND CASEY ROHRER, AND RENAMING THE SOUTH PARK ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND IN HONOR OF CASEY ROHRER

CEQA: Approval of the renaming of the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail and South Park Accessible Playground would be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15304. The proposed renaming of each facility will have negligible or no permanent effect on the environment. (Community Resources Director Lisa Nichols)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Receive and file the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail and South Park Accessible Playground Renaming Joint Subcommittee (Subcommittee) Report (**Attachment 1**);
2. Adopt a resolution renaming the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail from Pier Avenue to 8th Street to the Greenbelt Accessible Trail (**Attachment 2**);
3. Approve the installation of a bench and plaque on the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail dedicated to the Access Hermosa Working Group and in memoriam of Geoff Hirsch and Casey Rohrer; and
4. Per the Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Advisory Commission (Commission) recommendation:
 - a. Adopt a resolution renaming the South Park accessible playground in honor of Casey Rohrer (**Attachment 3**); and
 - b. Approve the installation of a commemorative plaque on an existing bench near the South Park accessible playground.

Executive Summary:

The Subcommittee recommends City Council approve the renaming of the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail to the Greenbelt Accessible Trail.

Additionally, the Subcommittee recommends installation of a bench and a plaque on the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail dedicated to the Access Hermosa Working Group and in memoriam of Geoff Hirsch and Casey Rohrer.

The Commission recommends City Council approve the Subcommittee's recommendation to rename the South Park accessible playground the Casey Rohr Accessible Playground and install a plaque on an existing bench near the playground to acknowledge this designation.

Background:

The City's Municipal Naming, Monument, and Sponsorship Policy (**Attachment 4**) outlines the criteria and process for naming public facilities and outdoor spaces.

Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail Improvement Project

On July 9, 2024, City Council approved a construction contract for Capital Improvement Project (CIP) 502 Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail, which included an Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessible trail from Pier Avenue to 8th Street. The project was completed and opened for public use on February 12, 2025.

At the same meeting, Councilmember Deto, supported by former Councilmember Massey and Mayor Pro Tem Seamann, proposed a future agenda item to consider forming a Subcommittee to explore renaming the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail in honor of Hermosa Beach residents who were key advocates for accessibility improvements.

On August 13, 2024, City Council formed the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail Renaming Subcommittee, appointing Mayor Pro Tem Seamann and Councilmember Deto to the Subcommittee. City Council also directed the Commission to select two Commissioners to work collectively with the Council Subcommittee. At its September 3, 2024 meeting, the Commission selected Commissioners Ellman and Horowitz to serve on the Subcommittee.

Expansion of Subcommittee Scope

On October 22, 2024, former Councilmember Massey, supported by Councilmember Deto, Mayor Pro Tem Saemann and Mayor Francois, proposed a future agenda item to consider expanding the Subcommittee's scope to include evaluating renaming the South Park accessible playground in honor of Casey Rohrer. City Council approved the proposed subcommittee scope expansion at its January 14, 2025 meeting.

Joint Subcommittee Report

The Subcommittee met on November 6, 2024 and February 5, 2025 and prepared a report recommending the approval of the renaming of the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail from Pier Avenue to 8th Street in honor of late Hermosa Beach residents Geoff Hirsch and Casey Rohrer and the South Park accessible playground in honor of Casey Rohrer. On March 4, 2025, the Commission received and filed the Subcommittee Report and the recommended renaming of each facility to City Council.

On March 25, 2025, City Council continued review of the Commission’s recommendation to its next meeting to allow the Subcommittee an opportunity to meet an additional time to further review its recommendation.

Past Board, Commission, and Council Actions

Meeting Date	Description
July 9, 2024	<p>On July 9, 2024, City Council approved awarding a construction contract for CIP 502 Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail to SDC Engineering, Inc.</p> <p>Councilmember Deto requested, supported by former Councilmember Massey and Mayor Pro Tem Seamann, directing staff to return with an agenda item to create a Subcommittee to consider renaming the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail after Hermosa Beach residents who served as strong advocates of the project.</p>
August 13, 2024	<p>City Council selected Mayor Pro Tem Seamann and Councilmember Deto to serve on the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail Renaming Subcommittee and directed the Parks Commission to select two Commissioners to work collectively with the Council Subcommittee.</p>
September 3, 2024	<p>Commission selected Commissioners Ellman and Horowitz to serve on the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail Renaming Subcommittee.</p>
October 22, 2024	<p>Former Councilmember Massey requested, supported by Councilmember Deto, Mayor Tem Francois, and Mayor Francois, directing staff to return with an agenda item to expand the Subcommittee’s scope to include renaming the play area at South Park after Hermosa Beach resident Casey Rohrer.</p>
January 14, 2025	<p>City Council expanded the scope of the Subcommittee to include an evaluation of renaming the accessible playground at South Park in honor of Casey Rohrer.</p>
March 4, 2025	<p>The Commission received and filed the Subcommittee report and recommended City Council: adopt two resolutions; one renaming the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail in honor of Geoff Hirsch and Casey Rohrer, and the second renaming the South Park accessible playground in honor of Casey Rohrer; and the installation of a bench and a plaque on the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail, and plaque on an existing bench near the South Park accessible playground, to acknowledge each naming.</p>

Meeting Date	Description
March 25, 2025	City Council continued review of the Commission's recommendation to its next meeting to allow the Subcommittee an opportunity to meet an additional time to further review its recommendation.

Discussion:

The Subcommittee met on April 1, 2025, and revised its report (**Attachment 1**) and recommendation regarding the renaming of the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail from Pier Avenue to 8th Street. The Subcommittee maintained its initial recommendation regarding the renaming of the South Park accessible playground.

Renaming of the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail

The Subcommittee recommends City Council adopt a resolution (**Attachment 2**) renaming the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail to the Greenbelt Accessible Trail to further convey how this specific portion of the Greenbelt is inclusive, providing equal access for all its users.

Additionally, the Subcommittee recommends installing a bench on the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail dedicated to the Access Hermosa Working Group and in memoriam of accessibility advocates associated with the group, Geoff Hirsch and Casey Rohrer.

In 2016, per the direction of the City Council, the City Manager created the Access Hermosa Working Group to advise and support the City in improving ADA accessibility throughout the City. Hermosa Beach residents Geoff Hirsch and Beth Rohrer, mother of Casey Rohrer, served on the Access Hermosa Working Group. Through the Access Hermosa Working Group, Geoff actively pushed for accessibility improvements, particularly along the Greenbelt. Casey Rohrer, born with cerebral palsy, was wheelchair-bound. He was a strong supporter of the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail project and worked alongside his mother as part of the Access Hermosa Working Group.

If approved, the bench would be placed on the east side of the trail on an existing concrete pad, allowing ADA seating next to the bench. The plaque would read:

*Greenbelt Accessible Trail, Pier Avenue to 8th Street
Dedicated to the Access Hermosa Working Group &
In Memoriam of Geoff Hirsch and Casey Rohrer*

Should Council approve the Commission's recommendation, the City would coordinate a celebration for the renaming of the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail in May or June 2025, date to be determined, when it is anticipated that additional landscaping surrounding the trail would be established.

Renaming of the South Park Accessible Playground

The Commission recommends City Council approve the Subcommittee's recommendation to adopt a resolution (**Attachment 3**) to rename the South Park accessible playground in honor of Casey Rohrer.

Rohrer and his mother were instrumental in advocating for the 2016 renovation of South Park, which introduced accessible play features. Rohrer wished for a park that was accessible to all children. He was not only an inspiration for the project but was also involved in designing the universally accessible playground.

Additionally, the Commission recommends City Council approve the Subcommittee's recommendation to install a commemorative plaque on an existing bench overlooking the accessible playground to acknowledge the naming. Installation would occur following the completion of CIP 603 South Park Slope, Irrigation, and Landscape Improvements in July 2025, which includes a concrete pad under the existing bench that would allow ADA seating next to the bench.

The plaque would include the proposed name of the facility, "The Casey Rohrer Accessible Playground," and the following text providing information on the name of the facility.

*The Casey Rohrer Accessible Playground
Named in honor of Hermosa Beach resident, Casey Rohrer, who wished
for a park all children could enjoy and served as an inspiration for the
2016 renovation that provided the accessible playground.*

Following this text would be a quote by Rohrer given at the 2016 South Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the park's renovation: "This playground is great because all kids can play together now."

Should City Council approve the Commission's recommendation, the City would coordinate a celebration for the renaming of the South Park accessible playground in August 2025, following the anticipated completion date of CIP 603 South Park Slope, Irrigation, and Landscape Improvements.

General Plan Consistency:

This report and associated recommendations have been evaluated for their consistency with the City's General Plan. Relevant Policies are listed below:

Governance Element

Goal 1. A high degree of transparency and integrity in the decision-making process.

Policy:

- **1.6 Long-term considerations.** Prioritize decisions that provide long-term community benefit and discourage decisions that provide short-term community benefit but reduce long-term opportunities.

Goal 2. The community is active and engaged in decision-making processes.

Policy:

- **2.6 Responsive to community needs.** Continue to be responsive to community inquiries, providing public information and recording feedback from community interactions.

Mobility Element

Goal 3. Public rights-of-way supporting a multimodal and people-oriented transportation system that provides diversity and flexibility on how users choose to be mobile.

Policies:

- **3.1 Enhance public rights-of-way.** Where right-of-way clearance allows, enhance public rights-of-way to improve connectivity for pedestrians, bicyclists, disabled persons, and public transit stops.
- **3.2 Complete pedestrian network.** Prioritize investment in designated priority sidewalks to ensure a complete network of sidewalks and pedestrian-friendly amenities that enhances pedestrian safety, access opportunities and connectivity to destinations.
- **3.10 Require ADA standards.** Require that all public rights-of-way be designed per Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards by incorporating crosswalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals, and other components to provide ease of access for disabled persons.

Parks + Open Space Element

Goal 1. First class, well maintained, and safe recreational facilities, parks, and open spaces.

Policies:

- **1.4 Low-maintenance design.** Promote environmentally sustainable and low maintenance design principles in the renovation, addition, or maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.
- **1.5 Evaluate community needs.** Conduct a periodic review of community park needs and interests to inform maintenance and investment priorities.

Goal 4. Direct and accessible routes and connections to parks, recreational facilities, and open space are provided.

Policy:

- **4.4 ADA accessible park access.** Install ADA and universally accessible amenities and equipment so that all parks, beach, and trail networks are accessible to all persons.

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated total cost for renaming the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail and South Park accessible playground is \$7,850, which includes:

- Bench and plaque for the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail;
- Plaque for the existing bench at the South Park accessible playground;
- Shipping, tax, and installation costs;
- Concrete pad on the Greenbelt, and
- Concrete pad installation for the bench at the South Park accessible playground.

The applicable renaming costs would be absorbed by currently budgeted CIP 502 Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail or CIP 603 South Park Slope, Irrigation, and Landscape Improvements project budgets.

Attachments:

1. Subcommittee Report
2. Draft Resolution for the Renaming of the Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail
3. Draft Resolution for the Renaming of the South Park Accessible Playground
4. Municipal Naming, Monument, and Sponsorship Policy

Respectfully Submitted by: Lisa Nichols, Community Resources Director

Concur: Joe SanClemente, Public Works Director

Noted for Fiscal Impact: Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

Legal Review: Patrick Donegan, City Attorney

Reviewed by: Angela Crespi, Deputy City Manager

Approved: Suja Lowenthal, City Manager