



Division of Parks and Recreation
Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Garapan
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2023 CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Who We Are: The Division Of Parks And Recreation is under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources with mandated duties to upkeep public parks, recreational facilities and tourist sites. Division of Park and Recreation was established through the passage of Public Law 11-106, 14-17 authorizing and enabling the division to continue promoting sound management practices while complying with CNMI's Local and Federal laws where its applicable. The division additionally guided by the established and approved regulation chapter 85-50.1, to implement fee collection and enforcement throughout its identified jurisdiction.

Our Vision

To avail the general public full access to enjoy nature at its best, granting opportunities to visit historical sites, structures and beaches that are significant to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (Saipan).

Our Goals

To improve Live/Work/Recreation/Health/Diversity/Customer Service and Environmental Sustainability

Parks & Recreation Values

Integrity, Community, Collaboration, Safety, Leadership, Positive Attitude

Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life in the CNMI by providing exceptional parks and recreation experiences while preserving significant natural and cultural resources and its economic stability.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR THE DIVISION WITHING THIS REPORTING PERIOD/FISCAL YEAR

- Marina Restroom renovated in collaboration with MVA, its been operational for the publics use 7 days a' week, from 8-4
- Assisted MVA in planting 30 Pink Tacoma's along Coral Tree Avenue in Western Garapan
- Assisted DPL in maintaining ~~KAAI~~ Pacific Property
- Continue to maintain Parks & Recreation jurisdiction as mandated by law, including tourists sites in Marpi
- Assist other government agencies with their immediate repair and maintenance needs
- Collection of data of numbers of tourists and residents entering Grotto Dive Site

Competing Interests

Parks and Recreational areas have been established by constitutional mandate and public laws to ensure that prime spaces under public land were maintained for community purposes and activities. Along with such acres developed exclusively for public recreational purposes, the neighboring vicinities have increased its land value by 100%, causing developers to race and retain private acres for hotels and other developments. These sureties assures private companies companies the potential to expand creating a booming economy in the CNMI.

Public input and analysis also identified a number of challenges to completion of individual projects as well as general direction about where the community would like to see action. The primary challenges of CNMI faces is the financial balance of moving projects forward and committing operations and maintenance resources to sustain the division once they were built.

There is a strong community support for completing projects in the CNMI is currently engaged in particular expansion of greenways and the joint facility with the tourism district. At the same time the recognition limited operating resources challenges the division to find new partnerships and commit additional operating resources prior to initiating new projects. However, with the division current partnership with the Marianas Visitors Authority, continues to remain strong and vibrant throughout these challenging times.

Another challenge that the community in indicated strong interest is in "how to increase access" to and us the parks in the most useful beneficial purposes. In addition safety and security are included in the concer increase due to the current population and popularity of Parks and Recreation.



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In addition to the public law, wildlife sanctuaries were designated as become a real issue due to market pressure for large tracts of undeveloped land. Because these conservation areas are, by definition, public land, developers and their local representatives, few conservation areas as perfect locations for development of golf courses, hotels and other developments. Some of the proposed solution is to highlight the value of these conservation areas for eco-tourism by developing scenic overlooks and trails throughout the forest with interpretive signage, and by developing camping sites so that both our tourists and our resident population can experience the beauty and the biodiversity that is unique to the Marianas Islands. This proposed solution recognizes the virtue of preserving our natural resources making them available for recreational (hiking, bird watching and camping) activities that end for eco-tourism development. These possible solutions should reframe the definition of preservation of these conservative areas, but viewed as wise forest recognition recreational sites, addressing questions of protection and promotion of our local resources while adding value to our economy, promoting ecotourism and providing recreational activities in our conservation areas.

Operation Expense

Division's Budget and Personnel: Total Of (\$ 1,100,000)

- Personnel Funding:
 - 50% CNMI General Funds
 - 50% DPL
- Revolving Funds Account
 - \$104,000.00
 - updated balance as of October 26, 2023
- Monthly Collection of Park Fees
 - \$8,500.00
 - Collected For Park Usage
 - Through Policy and Regulation Chapter 85-50.1
- Monthly Expense On Utilities
 - \$780.00 for power & \$50.00 for water
- Monthly Billing For Communication
 - \$300.00
- Monthly Billing For Fuel
 - \$5,500.00
- Monthly Billing For Operation Repair
 - \$1,000.00
- Division Operational Vehicles- 13 under Parks
- Division Operational Equipments, Machinery, and Tools
 - all small engines are working except for one John Deere Zero Turn Mower
 - Total John Deere Mowers: 2 units operational, 2 brand new (not used)
 - Total of 5 Zero Turn Mowers

