



## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Meeting: June 4, 2026

#### Subject

Santa Clara County Library District StoryWalk Initiative - Park Recommendation

#### Recommended Action

Receive a presentation from the Santa Clara County Library District and rank the three potential park locations for installation of the StoryWalk Initiative for recommendation to City Council.

#### Discussion

The Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) has approached the City of Cupertino (City) about partnering on its StoryWalk initiative. The StoryWalk initiative features pages from a children's book displayed on signs installed along a park pathway, creating an interactive reading experience for families and children. Stories are carefully selected by Library staff and reflect the unique character and diversity of the communities in which the StoryWalk is located. In Cupertino, story selections could celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the community.

StoryWalk displays are designed to be visually engaging and may include illustrations, puzzles, and questions that encourage curiosity and interaction. As families walk along the pathway, they encounter pages of the story one at a time, promoting literacy, outdoor activity, and family engagement. To keep the experience fresh and engaging, stories would rotate multiple times throughout the year, encouraging repeat visits while introducing children to a variety of authors, genres, and cultural perspectives.

#### **Responsibilities of the City**

The City would undertake the following responsibilities:

1. Provide a public space for the StoryWalk installation.
2. Coordinate with SCCLD on installation of the StoryWalk.

#### **Responsibilities of SCCLD**

SCCLD would undertake the following responsibilities:

1. Purchase the StoryWalk display system, including story licensing, design services, printing services, and hardware.
2. Perform installation of the StoryWalk.
3. Rotate and install new stories three (3) times per year.
4. Process and document payments for the project using SCCLD funding.
5. Provide ongoing maintenance of the signage.

The StoryWalk displays are designed to accommodate 18-inch by 24-inch story pages mounted at a 45-degree viewing angle. Display frames and posts are constructed of powder-coated aluminum and are installed approximately 28 to 32 inches above grade. Laminated story pages are protected from the elements by acrylic covers.

Ideal StoryWalk locations typically include the following features and amenities:

- Parks with high visitation by young families
- Pathways connected to main entrances or parking areas and located along well-used routes
- Pathways that lead to or pass by playgrounds
- Sufficient linear pathway length to accommodate up to 17 display frames within visible proximity of one another
- A route length of approximately one-third to one-half mile, with roughly 100 feet between each sign

City staff identified three potential park locations that meet the criteria established by SCCLD:

- Varian Park
- Wilson Park
- Jollyman Park

Following the Parks and Recreation Commission's ranking of the proposed park locations, the item will go to City Council for final approval. Upon approval, the Parks and Recreation Department will coordinate with Public Works and SCCLD to determine the final placement of the StoryWalk signage within the selected park.

#### Sustainability Impact

No sustainability impact.

#### Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact.

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