

Park Advisory Councils

Park Advisory Councils 101

A park advisory council (PAC) serves as an advocate and supporter for its local park (or even parks), by serving as the eyes, ears and even hands of the park. PACs are made up of people who generally live close by and use the park for recreation programs, gardening, meeting friends and neighbors, or simply for the quiet and respite that parks provide. The goal of the park advisory council is most often to ensure that the park is the heart and center of the neighborhood and that the park is brimming with people, sports and activities for children and adults all year long.

The term “park advisory council” is very specific language to the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District and oftentimes elected officials and community members know what the term means. In other cities, similar groups are known as “Friends of” groups, instead of “_____ Park Advisory Council.” All PACs look different, and vary in sophistication, community transparency and inclusion, and activity. Here are various roles and activities that park advisory councils take on:

- Advocate for park programs
- Work with the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District on issues in their park
- Fundraise for new playgrounds and park improvements
- Host Movies in the Park
- Work with elected officials and community members
- Coordinate volunteer Park Improvement projects
- Plan special events such as concerts, parades, festivals, community events in the park
- Host community meetings and planning charrettes as needed
- Advocate for new facilities, parks and open spaces
- Influence the design of new playgrounds and parks

- Protect park from land infringements and by reporting misuse through a Park Watch Program
- Give park tours
- Promote the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District by being a community contact and outreach source.

The Park Advisory Council system is beginning today and District Board members continue to advocate for and support their parks, and the Park Advisory Council will bolster their work and build their capacity by providing programming and one-on-one technical assistance.