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New Champion for San Mateo Parks Joanne Magrini Chosen as Next Parks & Recreation Director

San Mateo, CA – There will soon be a new champion for the City of San Mateo’s beloved parks and recreation amenities with Joanne Magrini having been chosen to join the City’s executive team.

Magrini will serve as the new director of the Parks and Recreation Department, and brings years of professional experience as well as personal passion for the role. She is a San Mateo County native who grew up playing sports in San Mateo parks and dedicated her career to giving back to the community. Magrini is the current director for the City of Cupertino’s Parks and Recreation Department, and will begin with the City of San Mateo on July 11.

“San Mateo has set the standard for how a high-performing Parks and Recreation Department should function. I am humbled and honored to step into a strong organization and look forward to building upon long-established successes while continuing to collaborate with the community on innovative approaches to provide the highest level of service,” Magrini said.

She will step into the position following the retirement of long-time San Mateo Parks and Recreation Director Sheila Canzian, who is retiring on June 9 after an influential 52-year career with the city. The position is responsible for management of the City’s 35 parks, six recreation/community centers, two pools, community gardens, the Marina Lagoon and the Poplar Creek Golf Course. The director oversees a department with a \$19 million budget and 120 staff, which includes 64 full-time employees. City Manager Drew Corbett appointed her to the position after a competitive search for a new director.



“San Mateo’s parks and recreation programs are some of the most important services we provide to the community and our department has benefited from a history of strong leadership,” Corbett said. “Joanne is a collaborative and innovative leader who has the experience and passion to be a champion for our department. I look forward to her joining our executive team and supporting her efforts to enhance recreation in San Mateo.”

In addition to managing the City’s award winning-parks, San Mateo’s Parks and Recreation Department provides numerous special events like the Central Park Music Series and Eggstravaganza, offers seasonal activities and programs for people of all ages, and is responsible for ongoing maintenance as well as capital improvements to recreational facilities. Community Services Manager Bob Palacio will serve as interim director in between Canzian’s retirement and Magrini’s start date.

Magrini has a master’s degree in sports and fitness management, and a bachelor’s in communications. Prior to working as Cupertino’s department director, she served as director of San Bruno’s Community Services Department, and as an associate director for the University of San Francisco where she also taught recreation management courses. She is an avid sports fan who continues to recreate in the San Mateo parks she grew up in.

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