The Renton City Council adopted an important recommendation Monday evening that was provided by a citizen’s advisory committee for a $14.5 million dollar funding package to address major maintenance needs of the parks system.

Many of these projects have been deferred over the years, due to other budget priorities, and require an investment to address needs brought on by increased levels of heavy use and increased safety concerns.

The result of their months of effort was a report that identified priorities for future parks and recreation needs for our community. The committee strongly recommended that the Council vote Monday to proceed with a funding package to provide these upgrades to ensure the major maintenance needs of the parks system, even if a proposal for adding new projects needed for Renton’s parks and trail system was not adopted at this time.

The Citizen Advisory Committee, recruited by the City Council, was comprised of current and former business executives, local financial experts and residents. They spent many hours reviewing data on Renton’s parks and trail system to better understand what is currently provided and what’s needed to meet the needs of our growing population base. They also reviewed the condition of existing parks and facilities to gain an understanding of what is required to improve and maintain them for future generations of use, prioritizing projects on a safety-first basis.

The vote Monday to proceed with a funding package to provide these upgrades will ensure Renton’s parks and trails system continues to thrive and require an investment to address needs brought on by increased levels of heavy use and increased safety concerns.

The Council votes to protect future of parks and trails

On tap this weekend

Two great events are happening this weekend. On Friday and Saturday it’s our third annual Multicultural Festival, a celebration of and by our diverse community. All events are free.

On Saturday is my annual Mayor’s Day of Concern for the Hungry. Collection bins are located at the QFC at 4800 NE 4th Ave and the Safeway at 200 3rd St. There will also be a bin at the Henry Moses Aquatic Center, and other popular programs offered at our community centers.

The vote Monday to proceed with a funding package to provide these upgrades will ensure Renton’s parks and trails system continues to thrive.