



**MEMORANDUM**

Public Works Department

**DATE:** September 12, 2018

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Anne Marie Starr, Senior Civil Engineer  
Lisa Au, Principal Civil Engineer  
Michael A. Fuller, Public Works Director

**SUBJECT:** **Naming of New Community Garden at Shoreline Boulevard and Latham Street, Project 17-44**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Select at least two names for City Council consideration for the new community garden at the southwest corner of Shoreline Boulevard and Latham Street.

**FISCAL IMPACT** – The recommended action has no fiscal impact.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

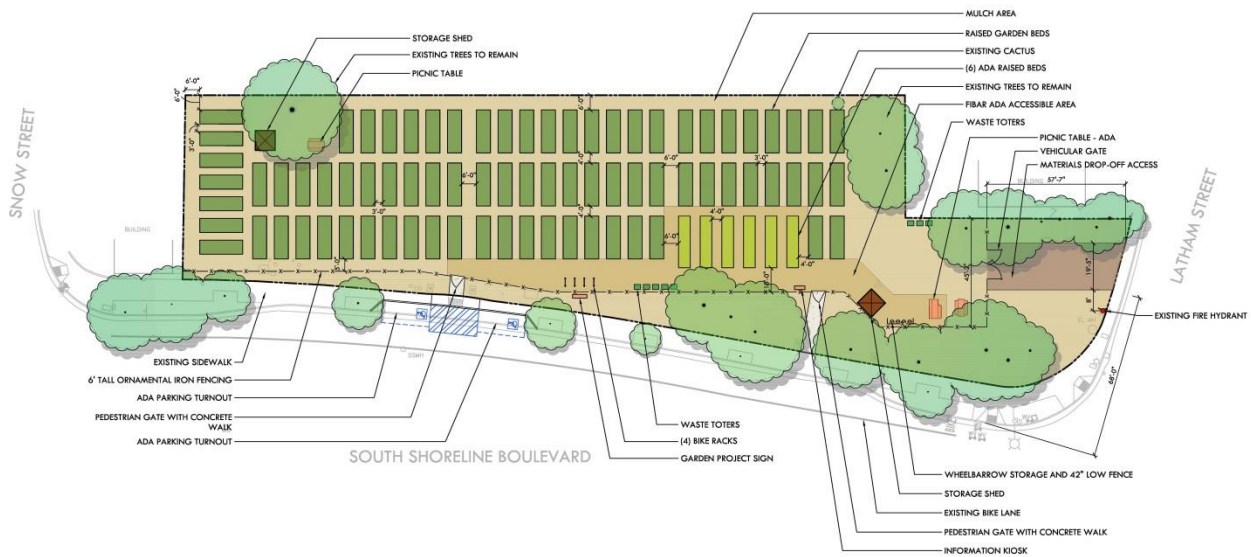
In June 2015, the City Council approved the use of an approximately 35,000 square foot (0.8-acre) City-owned property on the southwest corner of Shoreline Boulevard and Latham Street as a new community garden and a new capital improvement project was created to build the garden at this site.

A conceptual plan was developed for the garden which incorporated public input received at a focus group meeting with current and wait-listed gardeners (October 2017), a community meeting (December 14, 2017), and an informal neighbor meeting (March 20, 2018). This conceptual plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) on March 28, 2018. On May 8, 2018, the City Council approved the PRC recommendation for the conceptual plan of the Community Garden at Shoreline Boulevard and Latham Street with a couple of minor changes made to the plan to address neighbor concerns (a picnic table at the back of the site was removed and the shed near the back of the site was moved away from the fence a bit). The approved conceptual plan is shown below as Exhibit 1.

The design of the new park is progressing, and staff will submit a recommendation to Council in October 2018 to authorize the project for bidding to construct the new garden.

As shown in the approved conceptual plan, the new 0.8-acre community garden will include construction of planter boxes, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) planter boxes, an irrigation system, fencing, bike racks, picnic tables, pathways, sidewalk and ADA curb ramp improvements, as well as on-street, ADA-accessible parking. The design maintains all Heritage trees on the property and may include the following other optional items if the budget allows:

- Small tool sheds for communal gardening equipment.
- An information kiosk for gardeners.
- Landscaping along the garden frontage.



**Exhibit 1. Approved Conceptual Plan – Community Garden  
at Shoreline Boulevard and Latham Street**



## **Naming of the New Community Garden**

City Council Policy K-17, "Naming of City Parks and Other City Facilities," outlines the procedures for naming of City parks and recreational facilities (Attachment 1). The policy states that a park or City facility may be named for a school on which it is located or street it is adjacent to or for a historical figure or local landmark. Other park names will be considered only if one of the above criteria do not provide a name suitable for the park. The PRC must submit at least two names to the City Council for consideration and final name selection.

The new community garden is not adjacent to any schools, but there are opportunities to name the garden after an adjacent street, a historical figure, or a local landmark.

### ***Streets Adjacent to the Site***

The community garden is located adjacent to both Shoreline Boulevard (formerly Bailey Avenue) and Latham Street. Therefore, potential garden names that meet the Council's policy for naming parks could be: Shoreline Community Garden, Latham Community Garden, or Bailey Community Garden. Another potential name could be Shoreline/Latham Community Garden, a combination of the two current streets adjacent to the site.

However, there are several prominent destinations in the City that already have "Shoreline" in their names (Shoreline at Mountain View Park, Shoreline Amphitheatre, etc.), so using "Shoreline" in the garden name could create confusion for both the public and staff. For that reason, staff does not recommend naming the community garden Shoreline Community Garden or Shoreline/Latham Community Garden.

### ***Historical Figure Associated with the Site***

According to Council policy, a park can be named for a historical figure if the historical figure has been deceased for a minimum of five years. One potential historical figure is Chester Awalt.

Chester Awalt, a prominent Mountain View civic leader, lived on a portion of the current community garden site at 630 Bailey Avenue in the 1960s for at least eight years. His property was one of several properties purchased by the City in 1969 to make way for the widening of Bailey Avenue (now Shoreline Boulevard). The community garden site is a remnant property from that transaction.

Chester Awalt came to Mountain View in 1912 to work as a Southern Pacific depot agent, making his home in living quarters above the Mountain View train station. He later worked for many years for Bank of America and also was Treasurer for the City of Mountain View from 1948 to 1953.

One of Chester Awalt's chief contributions to the City was his public service on the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District board of trustees. He was elected to the board in 1921 and remained on the Board off and on until his retirement in 1969, serving nearly 40 years, in total, as a trustee.

He was so well respected by the community and his fellow school board trustees that in 1960, the newly constructed Chester F. Awalt High School (presently Mountain View High School on Truman Avenue) was named after him, a rare instance in which a school was named for a living person.

Because Chester Awalt was a historical figure in the Mountain View community and he also once lived on a portion of the site where the new community garden will be located, Chester Awalt Community Garden could be another potential garden name that meets the Council's guidelines for naming a park or City facility.

### *Nearby Local Landmark*

A potential community garden name, based on a local landmark, could be Eagle Park Community Garden.

Eagle Park is situated directly across Shoreline Boulevard from the new community garden and includes a park, playground, veterans' memorial, and a public pool. The park is located on what was previously Mountain View High School. In the early 1980s, Mountain View High School was relocated to its current location on Truman Avenue in what was the closed Awalt High School. At that time, the City purchased it and made it into a five-acre park. The public would easily be able to determine the location of Eagle Park Community Garden, knowing it is near Eagle Park.

### *Summary of Potential Garden Names*

Public Works staff mailed notices to current and wait-listed gardeners, as well as residents living within 1,000' of the garden requesting suggestions for a community garden name. Below is a summary of potential garden names, including suggestions from members of the community.

<b>Suggested Park Name</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
Latham Community Garden*	Street name
Shoreline Community Garden*	Street name (not recommended)
Shoreline/Latham Community Garden	Street name (not recommended)
Bailey Community Garden	Former street name
Chester Awalt Community Garden	Historical figure
Eagle Park Community Garden*	Local landmark
Beatrix Potter Community Garden*+	Named after the author of <i>Peter Rabbit</i> and other children's books
Posolmi Community Garden*+	Posolmi is the name of an 18th Century Ohlone settlement that existed near Moffett Field

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\* Garden names submitted by members of the community.

+ Garden names that do not conform to Council Policy K-17 for naming a park or City facility.

Staff will forward the Commission's recommendation of at least two names to the City Council for approval.

## **PUBLIC NOTICING**

In addition to the standard agenda posting, the residents and property owners within 1,000' of the community garden site, current community gardeners, those currently on the wait list for the Willowgate and Senior Gardens, and other interested parties received notices. The notice was also posted at the Willowgate Garden, the Senior Garden, and the project site. Information regarding the meeting was shared on the City's website and *Nextdoor.com*.

AF/2/CSD  
224-09-12-18M-1

Attachment: 1. City Council Policy K-17, "Naming of City Parks and Other City Facilities"

cc: PWD, CSD, APWD—Solomon, PCE—Au, ACSD, RS—Chilkotowsky, PSM—Trconic, PS—Youngberg, SCE—Starr, F/c (17-44)