

DATE: March 8, 2023

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission and Urban Forestry Board

FROM: Marichrisse Hoang, Associate Civil Engineer
David O. Printy, Principal Project Manager
Edward Arango, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer

SUBJECT: Evelyn Park Conceptual Review and Recommendation, Project 21-60

RECOMMENDATION

1. Review and comment on the revised Evelyn Park Conceptual Plans and recommend a preferred conceptual plan for approval to the City Council.
2. Select at least two names for City Council consideration for the new park.

BACKGROUND

The proposed 0.68-acre park site located at 525 East Evelyn Avenue was dedicated to the City for park use by the developer of the 525 East Evelyn Avenue development project (see Figure 1). In June 2020, Council approved Evelyn Park, Project 21-60, as part of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Council approved a professional design services agreement with Callander Landscape Architects on January 25, 2022.



Figure 1: Project Location

Two community meetings were held to obtain input on July 19, 2022 and September 26, 2022, in which attendees expressed a preferred concept.

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

On November 9, 2022, the concepts for the new park were presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) to obtain a recommendation to Council for the conceptual plan and for naming the new park. The PRC discussed the concepts presented at the meeting, provided feedback on changes to themes and features, and requested staff to return with additional options.

ANALYSIS

Following the November 9 staff presentation of the concept and discussion, the PRC provided the following comments to assist with a revised concept development:

- Relate park design to the building architecture and circulation.
- Provide lawn area and consider expanding it.
- Incorporate central gathering area.
- Locate play area away from center of park.
- Consider effects of shade from adjacent buildings on park design.
- Align park features with program of the adjacent development.
- Screen Evelyn Avenue through street trees or other features.
- Avoid creation of fragmented spaces within park.
- Consider adding trees adjacent to the development's Emergency Vehicle Access (EVA) aisle.
- Remove fitness area.
- Reduce size of habitat garden area.
- Clearly identify location of adjacent building's facade proximity to park.
- Provide cross sections.
- Consider a greater quantity of trees.

- Consider larger trees but fewer in quantity.
- Consider entrances to the park from the development sides and less of an entry emphasis from the street side.

Two revised concepts were prepared to address the comments received:

- Concept D (see Figure 2) provides a central picnic and seating area, plaza spaces on the east and west corners of the park, and a majority of larger trees.
- Concept E (See Figure 3) has similar features but locates the picnic seating further from the street, provides a gathering area surrounding a focal specimen tree, and includes a mix of larger and medium-sized trees.



Figure 2: Concept D

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Lawn | 6. Planting/Groundcover |
| 2. Specimen Oak Tree (Typ. of 3) | 7. Existing 20' Wide EVA Access Road |
| 3. Concrete Pavement, Seating, and Picnic Tables | 8. Existing Pedestrian Walkway |
| 4. Linear Pavers to Match Existing | 9. Existing Leasing Office |
| 5. Play Area with Rubber Surfacing | 10. Park Boundary |



Figure 3. Concept E

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Lawn | 6. Planting/Groundcover |
| 2. Decomposed Granite, Seats, Picnic Tables | 7. Existing 20' Wide EVA Access Road |
| 3. Specimen Oak Tree (Typ. of 5) | 8. Existing Pedestrian Walkway |
| 4. Linear Pavers to Match Existing | 9. Existing Leasing Office |
| 5. Play Area with Rubber Surfacing | 10. Park Boundary |

Similar to the concepts presented at the November 9 PRC meeting, the revised concepts include a play area, benches, picnic tables, pet station, bike racks, and drinking fountain. Both also include large open lawns and gathering spaces. Other features similar in both concepts include:

- The play area is located to the back and perimeter of the park.
- The existing private pathways surrounding the park are utilized to improve circulation and allow more space for park amenities.
- Per the development's solar site study (see Figure 4), the multi-story buildings place the park site in shade for significant periods of time throughout the year. Therefore, the lawn area and larger shade trees are placed closer to the Evelyn Avenue frontage to promote successful growth.
- Entrance points and plaza areas are incorporated in the northeast and northwest corners adjacent to the EVA and leasing office, respectively.
- A row of trees and other screening features are placed along the Evelyn Avenue frontage.
- Trees are placed adjacent to the EVA area.
- The location of programming elements allows for a more fluid experience.
- Fitness equipment was removed, and habitat garden areas have been reduced.
- The location of the adjacent building's facade is outlined for clarity.
- Cross sections are included in Figures 5 and 6 to illustrate the park's relationship with the development.
- Due to the grade changes on the adjacent development and the need to have the park site be compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, only the northern portion of the park areas can integrate seamlessly with the adjacent private EVA area and sidewalk.



Figure 4: Site Solar Study



Figure 5: Site Cross Section N-S



Figure 6: Site Cross Section E-W

The 525 East Evelyn development is nearing completion, and, at the time this park project completes construction, anticipated at the end of 2024, park visitor parking will be available at the development site in the underground parking lot.

There will be a public art component included in the park. Staff will follow City Council Policy K-5, which involves the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) to select the artist and art. Once the park concept is approved by City Council, the VAC will begin their process.

Staff is requesting the PRC recommend one of the two concepts to the City Council for approval.

Park Naming

At the November 9 PRC meeting, staff presented a list of 23 different park names submitted by the community (see Table 1). The PRC requested that staff look further into the submitted park name submission of Yñigo Park in honor of Lopez (Lopé) Yñigo.

Yñigo was of Costanoan or Ohlone Indian descent born and raised in Mountain View. In 1844, Yñigo was given a 1,696-acre Mexican land grant under the name Rancho Posolmi, which today is Moffett Field. He was once recognized by the Mountain View Pioneer and Historical Association. See Attachment 1 for additional information.

With assistance from the Mountain View Historical Association, staff connected with and discussed the name nomination with the senior archaeologist and ethnohistorian for the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. Based on the discussion, there were no concerns in naming the park in honor of Lopé Yñigo. If this direction is chosen, they suggested that park signage be included to recognize and educate the public about his legacy and linkages to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe.

Table 1: Park Name Suggestions for Consideration

Suggested Park Name	Council Policy K-17 Relevance	
Flower Mart Park	Site of development used to include a flower market.	
Dorothy Vaughn Park	"Notable African American mathematician and human computer."	
Robert Noyce Park	Credited with inventing the first commercially practical integrated circuit.	
Rosemary Stasek Park	Former City Councilmember and Mayor.	
Lakeina Francis Park	Specialist seaman.	
Yñigo Park	Historical figure.	
Evelyn Park	Street name adjacent to park.	
Dali Park	Street name close to park.	
Other Suggested Park Names		
Bernardo Botanica Park	Evelyn Fields Park	Choo Choo Park
FlowerBern Park	Ohlone Community Park	Flower Park
Evelyleaf Park	George Washington Park	Apricot Heritage Park
Everlynfern Park	Moogs Park	Old Apricot Park
Eden Flowers Park	Evelinita Park	Joan MacDonald Park
Strawberry Fields Park	Pleasant View Park	

The PRC is required to submit at least two names to the City Council for consideration and final name selection. After reviewing all names on the list and the application of Council Policy K-17, staff recommends the PRC submit Evelyn Park and Flower Mart Park as the two names for Council consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT

Evelyn Park, Project 21-60, is currently funded in the amount of \$2,395,000 from the Park Land Dedication Fund. The estimated construction cost for either of the two concepts are within the construction budget of \$1.5 million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The next step is to submit the PRC-recommended concept and park names to Council for final approval in May 2023. Following Council approval, the design consultants will prepare detailed plans, which are scheduled to be completed in early 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICING

In addition to the standard agenda posting, property owners and residents within 750' of the park received notices of the PRC meeting. A notice was also placed on the City's website and NextDoor.

MH-DOP-EA/AF/6/CSD

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Attachment: 1. Email Park Name Suggestion—Yñigo Park

cc: PWD, APWD—Arango, PPM—Printy, ACE—Hoang, F/c