



MEMORANDUM

Public Works Department

DATE: September 12, 2018

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Rey S. Rodriguez, Senior Project Manager
Lisa Au, Principal Civil Engineer

**SUBJECT: Wyandotte Street Park Conceptual Review and Recommendation,
Project 17-40**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Review and comment on the recommended Wyandotte Street Park Conceptual Plan and recommend approval of the Plan to the City Council.
2. Review the proposed Heritage tree mitigation for Wyandotte Street Park, Project 17-40, and forward a recommendation to the City Council approving the staff-recommended mitigation of 2:1 tree replacements with 24" box trees for the removal of eight Heritage trees.
3. Select at least two names for City Council consideration for the new park at 2254 Wyandotte Street.

BACKGROUND

In February 2015, the City acquired the parcel at 2254 Wyandotte Street (0.88 acres) for a new park. The property was formerly used as a dog kennel and in early 2016 the City demolished the structures on the site.

In June 2016, Council approved the Wyandotte Park Design, Project 17-40, as part of the 2016-17 Capital Improvement Program. Council approved a design services agreement with SSA Landscape Architects on December 12, 2017.

ANALYSIS

Site Description

A canopy of 35 trees provides shade mainly over the back portion of the site. The trees are crowded due to the numerous structures that previously occupied the site. A combination of trees and shrubs screen the perimeter of the property. The site is located across from a small City-owned corner park constructed in 1999, which has a bench, a game table, and a short path and lawn. Before construction is scheduled to start for the park, 2254 Wyandotte Street is being used as a temporary storage yard by a City utilities contractor through spring 2019.

Community Meetings

The purpose of Community Meeting #1 held on April 26, 2018, was to obtain input from the community on the design and amenities of the new park. Approximately 23 people attended the meeting and provided input on the park design. The consultant team obtained input based on discussion of the existing conditions of the site and through using “Poll Everywhere” software that allows participants to vote with their smartphones (input provided on paper copies for those who preferred).

Community Meeting #2 held on June 7, 2018, reviewed three concepts for the new park which included features and amenities voiced at the first meeting.

Recommended Concept

Seventeen (17) attendees at the meeting voted on the three concepts using “Poll Everywhere,” with Concept A obtaining 71 percent of the votes (See Figure 1– Recommended Concept Plan A). The following is a summary of the amenities in Concept A:

- Provides natural discovery zones
- Maintain existing open space with mulch under trees
- Provide benches/pathway seating
- Minimal structure play/primarily organic play
- Water play feature— small trickle of water running through cobbles

- Loop trail within trees
- Large mounded lawn area



Figure 1 – Recommended Concept Plan A

There was discussion about a second entry into the park on the east which will be considered during the detailed design phase. In addition to the layout of the park, improvements to the crosswalk on Wyandotte Street which will help tie the site to the existing pocket park across the street and new curb and gutter will be included. Similar to other parks, no lighting is included because the park closes at sunset. Bollard lighting similar to lighting at Heritage Park will be included to light the pathway and provide modest lighting for security purposes. Two accessible parking stalls will be added along the street frontage. These will be added along the south side of the project.

A short fence is planned on the frontage, and permeable concrete pathways will accommodate City vehicles for maintenance purposes. Numerous benches for seating are located throughout the park, with two picnic tables, a bike rack, and landscape boulders in various areas. The perimeter fence will be replaced with a new “Good Neighbor” fence.

Heritage Trees

In March 2018, a certified arborist with HortScience, Inc., evaluated all trees on the site and prepared an arborist report for the project. As indicated in the report, there are sixteen (16) Heritage trees. Eight (8) of the Heritage trees recommended for removal are due to poor health (four trees) or because they are an invasive species (four trees). See Table 1—Heritage Tree List. Figure 2 shows the location of all Heritage trees and reflects trees proposed for removal.

	Tree No.	Species	Trunk Diameter (in.)	Justification for Removal	Status
1	24	Aleppo pine	25	Poor Health	Proposed for Removal
2	27	Aleppo pine	18	Poor Health/ Safety Concern	Proposed for Removal
3	13	Italian stone pine	15	Leaning/Poor Health/ Safety Concern	Proposed for Removal
4	2	Siberian elm	28	Poor Health	Proposed for Removal
5	25	Tree of heaven	20	Brittle wood/Poor structure/ Invasive	Proposed for Removal
6	29	Tree of heaven	20	Invasive	Proposed for

	Tree No.	Species	Trunk Diameter (in.)	Justification for Removal	Status
					Removal
7	36	Tree of heaven	18	Invasive	Proposed for Removal
8	39	Tree of heaven	34	Invasive	Proposed for Removal
9	1	California pepper	28		Tree to Remain
10	5	Evergreen ash	17		Tree to Remain
11	6	Italian stone pine	37		Tree to Remain
12	15	Evergreen ash	28		Tree to Remain
13	17	Evergreen ash	30		Tree to Remain
14	20	Evergreen ash	23		Tree to Remain
15	21	Evergreen ash	19		Tree to Remain
16	30	White mulberry	15		Tree to Remain

Table 1 – Heritage Tree List

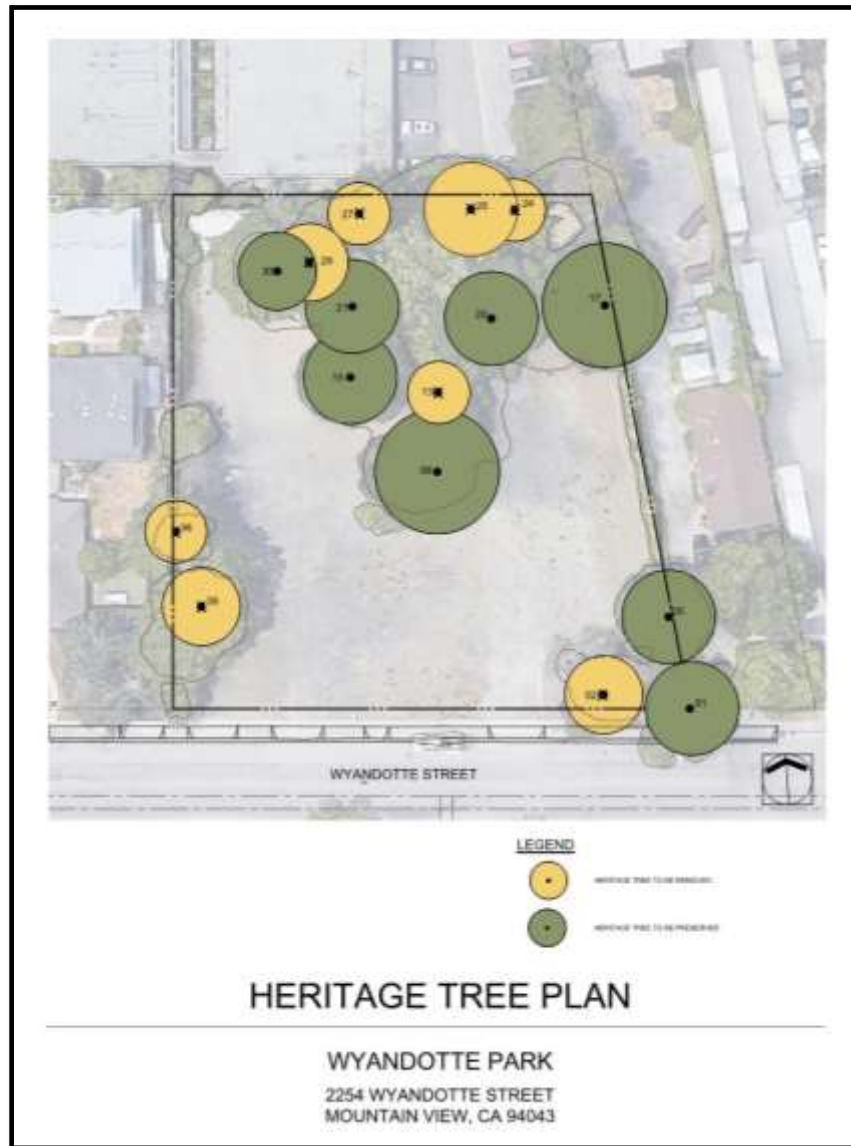


Figure 2 – Heritage Tree Plan

Staff recommends mitigation of 2:1 with 24" box trees for a total of 16 replacement trees. Tree selection will be both evergreen and deciduous trees that will provide shade, spring and fall color for interest, such as Chinese pistache, London plane, oak, arbutus, ginkgo, or others taken from the City of Mountain View Tree List. The final tree selection will be made with input from parks maintenance staff.

Park Naming

Staff initiated the park naming process at the Community Meeting on June 7, 2018, and solicited responses through August 21, 2018, and provided the criteria for naming a new park based on City Council Policy K17 (See Attachment 1). The policy states that a park may be named for a school on which it is located, street it is adjacent to, for a local landmark, or historical figure. Other park names will be considered only if one of the above criteria does not provide a name suitable for the park. The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) must submit at least two names to the City Council for consideration and final name selection.

Seven (7) responses were received by the deadline of August 21, 2018. Participants at the Community Meeting were informed they could attend the PRC meeting and submit suggestions at the meeting. The following park names are recommended options for the PRC's consideration:

Proposed Names

SUGGESTED PARK NAME	RELEVANCE
Wyandotte Park	Street name
Community Park	
Leon Robart Park	Only Mountain View resident/soldier killed in World War I
Chicken Park	Neighboring streets, including Wyandotte, are named after chicken breeds

"Wyandotte Park" is suggested by three (3) residents, based on the street the park is located.

"Chicken Park" is suggested since the neighborhood is considered to be in a portion of Mountain View with a history of chicken farms and the street names reflect chicken breed names, including Wyandotte Street.

The park name "Leon Robart Park" was submitted by John Kostka, a local high school student, as part of a research project he undertook during summer 2018. Leon Robart was killed in action during World War I and is the only listed individual on the Veterans Memorial Plaque at Eagle Park under the World War I section. Private First Class Leon Robart was a member of the 91st Division of the U.S. Army which participated in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the largest offensive in United States

military history, involving 1.2 million American soldiers. In 1932, Mountain View veterans inaugurated the new Leon Robart American Legion building at the corner of Church Street and Franklin Street. See Attachment 2—E-mail from John Kotska with additional information.

Staff will forward the PRC's recommendation of at least two names to the City Council for approval of a park name.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Wyandotte Park Construction, Project 18-34, is funded in the amount of \$2,580,000. The estimated construction cost for Concept Plan A is within the construction budget of \$1.6 Million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The next step is to submit the PRC recommended concept to Council for final approval this fall. Following Council approval, the design consultants will prepare detailed plans and be completed by March 2019.

PUBLIC NOTICING

In addition to the standard agenda posting, property owners and residents within 500' of the park received notices of the PRC meeting. A notice was placed on the City's website and Nextdoor, and e-mails were sent to attendees of the past community meetings.

RSR-LA/AF/3/PWK
999-09-12-18M

- Attachments:
1. City Council Policy K17, "Naming of City Parks and Other City Facilities"
 2. E-mail from John Kotska

CITY COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT: NAMING OF CITY PARKS AND OTHER CITY FACILITIES NO.: K-17

PURPOSE:

To establish criteria and procedures relating to the naming of City parks and other City facilities.

POLICY:

1. Naming of City parks and recreation facilities.
 - a. The following criteria shall be used in determining park or recreation facility names to be submitted to the City Council for consideration:
 - (1) A City park or recreation facility may be named for the school on which it is located or street it is adjacent to.
 - (2) City parks or recreation facilities may be named for a historical figure or local landmark. The historical figure must be deceased for a minimum of five years.
 - (3) City parks and recreation facilities may be named in conformance with the City Council Sponsorship Policy.
 - (4) Other park or recreation facility names will be considered only if the naming criteria listed above do not provide a name suitable for a park or recreation facility.
 - b. The process for naming a City park or recreation facility shall be:
 - (1) When a new park or recreation facility is constructed in the City, the Parks and Recreation Commission will submit at least two names developed under the criteria listed in Paragraph a above to the City Council for consideration.
 - (2) The City Council shall evaluate the merit of each suggested park or recreation facility name according to the criteria listed above. The City Council shall be responsible for the final approval of the name of all City parks and recreation facilities.

CITY COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT: NAMING OF CITY PARKS AND OTHER CITY FACILITIES NO.: K-17

2. Naming of a City building, structure, room, or other nonpark or recreation facility in memoriam.
 - a. All memorial-naming requests must be submitted in writing to the City Council Procedures Committee. The Committee shall evaluate the merit of each request according to the criteria listed in Paragraphs b and c below and provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding the approval or denial of the request. The City Council shall be responsible for the final approval or denial of the request.
 - b. In order for a City building, structure, room, or other nonpark or recreation facility to be named in memoriam, the person or persons must be deceased for a minimum of five years.
 - c. The following criteria shall be used in evaluating the merit of each memorial-naming request:
 - (1) The person or persons being memorialized died in the line of duty serving the City of Mountain View or the United States of America.
 - (2) The person or persons being memorialized made extraordinary, lasting, and significant contributions to the Mountain View community.
 - (3) The person or persons being memorialized died while performing a heroic act (e.g., saving the life of another person).
 - (4) The person or persons being memorialized made a significant donation to the City, resulting in the acquisition of property, buildings, etc.

Satisfying one or more of the eligibility criteria listed above does not assure City Council approval of a memorial request.
3. Other naming requests for City buildings, structures, rooms, or other recreation facilities may be considered in accordance with the Sponsorship Policy.

CITY COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT: NAMING OF CITY PARKS AND OTHER CITY FACILITIES NO.: K-17

4. Other naming requests for City buildings, structures, rooms, or other recreation facilities that are not addressed in this policy may be considered and acted on by the City Council at its sole discretion.

Revised: March 4, 2014, Resolution No. 17840

Revised: May 27, 2003, Resolution No. 16804

Effective Date: December 12, 2000, Resolution No. 16557

LF/6/CNLPOL

K17-601CP

From: [Public Works](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Rey](#)
Subject: FW: WYANDOTTE Park Name.
Date: Monday, August 20, 2018 7:51:30 AM

FYI

From: John Kostka [mailto:jckostka@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2018 12:02 PM
To: , Public Works
Subject: WYANDOTTE Park Name.

To the City,

One hundred years ago, The First World War was raging. The war was truly a worldwide affair, and did not leave Mountain View untouched.

On April 6th 1917, the United States declared war on Germany, and little more than a month later the men of the region were registered here in Mountain View at the old city hall for the draft that would expand the US Army from a small peacetime force to almost 4 million men by the end of the conflict.

I first learned about the person that I think the park should be named after at the veterans memorial at Eagle Park a few years ago. His was the only name on the plaque commemorating those from Mountain View who have been killed in conflict under the title "World War One". I was inspired to learn the story of this man and as such put some time in during Summer Vacation to visit the history center at the library and learn what I could.

Leon Robart was a resident of Mountain View in 1917, and was likely drafted into the army sometime in the Summer of 1917 after registering for the draft on June 5th 1917. He joined the 91st Division in Fort Lewis WA, which was newly created for the War, and made up of men from the Western US. Earning it the nickname "the wild west division".

After training with Company H, 363rd Infantry Regiment, 182nd Brigade at Fort Lewis under the command of Brigadier General Frederick S. Foltz for 10 months, in late June 1918 the Division was entrained and sent East. Part of Robarts regiment was sent through Canada on this journey, taking the soldiers on what might have been their first trip out of the country. The Division arrived at Camp Merritt, NJ between June 24th and 30th after a journey of 6 days across the country. The men remained there until July 5th, during which time they were given steel helmets and other equipment needed for trench warfare in France. On July 6th, the men of the division taken by ferry to the docks were they were to embark, and set off in convoy for England.

The men were packed into the troopships, as the Germans has launched a major offensive in March 1918, pushing almost all the way to Paris, thus necessitating major American reinforcement in France. They lived in very close quarters for the twelve days it took for the convoy to zig-zag it's way across the Atlantic, protected by British and US destroyers from the German Submarines that frequented the Atlantic at that time.

On July 17th at 6 o'clock, anchor was dropped in Liverpool. The troops were recieved by cheering civilians and disembarked to the strains of the regimental bands. Not all ships of the

convoy were put in at Liverpool, with some docking at Glasgow, Southampton, or proceeding directly to Le Havre, France. Those who had landed in Britain were transported by rail and channel ferry to France, where the first contingent arrived on July 23rd, 1918. The Division was encamped at Le Havre in a rest camp for several days before entraining for the French interior in small French Boxcars that were well known for their marking of: "40 hommes- 8 chevaux", 40 men-8 horses.

It is interesting to note just how far the men of the 91st Division had traveled in just a month. Many of the men had likely never been outside their home states, much less out of the country. It would have been an amazing experience for citizen-soldiers like Leon Robart, something that would have changed their view of the world.

The start of August 1918 saw the 91st undergoing rigorous training, with long hours of drilling, marching, and exercise to get the soldiers ready for combat. With this training period complete, the Division was judged to be ready for combat, and made it's way to the "front" on September 7th. From the 11th to the 13th, the 91st was held in reserve while the American 4th Corps and the French 2nd Colonial Corps reduced a German Salient near St-Mihiel. After this action, the 91st was slated to be one of the leading units in the next offensive through the Meuse-Argonne forest.

The objectives of the offensive was to capture important Railway lines that were used by the Germans to re-supply their troops in the West, and to force the Germans to retreat from Northern France lest they be outflanked from the South. The 91st Division was part of the American V Corps, attacking Avrocourt in the center of the line.

On September 25th at 11:30 P.M the preliminary bombardment of the offensive began, raining artillery fire down on the German trenches. Leon Robarts 363rd Infantry had no trenches for protection, and so simply lay down on the far side of a ridge for the duration of the barrage. When the leading waves of the assault went over the ridge and were concealed by smoke and mist as they crossed no-mans-land. The details of the attack are clearly laid out in a Book entitled The Story of the 91st Division, which is in public domain due to copyright expiration. I encourage the reader of this letter to reference it for further information considering the first four days of the attack, for I have made this much longer than it needs to be as it is.

By the 5th day of the offensive, September 30th 1918, the 182nd Brigade had advanced up to Exermont, North of Avrocourt, and was issued orders that the V Corps would not be attacking that day, but would resume offensive operations on the 1st of October. Leon Robarts 363rd Infantry Regiment was put into a line of surveillance near Exermont, where a large enemy force was thought to be. The regiment was near a wood called the Bois de Baulny, and it was on this uneventful day that Leon Robart was killed. His battalion of the 363rd lost ten percent of it's strength that day according to The Story of the 91st Division. It is that he was killed by shellfire, as the Germans would have likely been shelling the forest, but it is also possible that he was killed by small arms fire. I have not found documentation for a cause of death other than that he was killed in the war, so a conclusive answer eludes me.

He was buried in the American Meuse-Argonne Military Cemetery after the cessation of hostilities, from whence he was not expatriated after the war, and remains today.

I believe that his family may have lived on Independence Ave at the time, as his nephew was recorded as living on that street at the time of the Korean War. However, this is an assumption, and I have no proof beyond that, but seeing as the new park is near there, it may be appropriate to name the park for Private First Class Leon Robart. Also, in connection with the centennial of The Great War and recognizing our nation's involvement and the local history that pertains to it, naming the park for a local person who was involved in the conflict, yet little remembered seems like a good idea that I hope you will consider.

I thank the Mountain View History center for much of the research material I made use of.

John Kostka,
Age 16