



DATE: November 13, 2018

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Wyandotte Street Park, Project 17-40 – Approve Conceptual Plan and Related Actions**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the conceptual plan for the Wyandotte Street Park Design, Project 17-40.
2. Approve the removal of and mitigation for eight Heritage trees and replacement at a ratio of 2 to 1 with 24" box trees.
3. Approve "Wyandotte Park" as the name for the new park at 2254 Wyandotte Street.

BACKGROUND

In February 2015, the City acquired the parcel at 2254 Wyandotte Street (0.88 acre) for a new park (see Figure 1 – Project Location). The property was formerly used as a dog kennel, and in early 2016, the City demolished the structures on the site. For the design of the new park, Council approved a design services agreement with SSA Landscape Architects (SSA) on December 12, 2017.



Figure 1 – Project Location

Site Description

The site is located at the intersection of Wyandotte Street and Reinert Road and is across from a small City-owned corner park constructed in 1999. A combination of trees and shrubs screen the perimeter of the property with a canopy of 35 trees, providing shade mainly over the back portion of the site.

Community Meetings

Two community meetings have been held to gather input on the design of the new park. The first meeting, held April 26, 2018, was attended by twenty-three (23) community members who provided input on the park design.

At a second meeting on June 7, 2018, the designers presented three (3) proposed conceptual plans for the park, which included features and amenities discussed at the first meeting (see Attachment 1). At the end of the meeting, the seventeen (17) attendees selected Concept Plan A.

ANALYSIS

Based on the input received, SSA developed a conceptual plan to present to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC). The design will utilize the existing open space at the front of the property for natural turf and create a meandering, “wooded” experience under the existing trees at the rear of the property. Other aspects of the park include:

- Natural discovery zones.
- Open space with mulch under trees.
- Benches/pathway seating.
- Minimal structured play/primarily organic play.
- Water play feature – small trickle of water running through cobbles.
- Loop trail within trees.
- Large mounded lawn area.

Play areas in the park will primarily utilize logs and boulders near or under the tree canopy for organic play. The park will include minimal standard play equipment and swings that will be constructed with rubberized fall zones.

Some residents asked about a second entry into the park from the east side, which will be considered during the detailed design phase. In addition to the layout of the park, improvements to the crosswalk on Wyandotte Street will help tie the site to the existing pocket park across the street, and new curb and gutter will be included. 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 on Wyandotte Street.

A short fence is planned on the frontage, and permeable concrete pathways will accommodate City vehicles for maintenance purposes. The perimeter fence will be replaced with a new good-neighbor fence. Numerous benches and landscape boulders will be located throughout the park, as well as two picnic tables, a hydration station, and a bike rack.

On September 12, 2018, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) reviewed the proposed conceptual plan, heard input from the community, and unanimously recommended that the City Council approve Concept Plan A, as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2 – Recommended Concept Plan A

Based on public input, the PRC requested the project include an art component. City Council Policy K-5 – Public Art and CIP Projects – specifies 1 percent of the construction budget for public art and is intended to address City building projects with art that can be integrated in the design, such as interior or exterior walls. The project budget does not include an art budget based on past practice. Therefore, staff does not recommend art for the project.

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. The site has sixteen (16) Heritage trees

which are listed in Table 1. Eight (8) of the Heritage trees recommended for removal are due to poor health (4 trees) or because they are an invasive species (4 trees). Figure 3 shows the location of all Heritage trees and reflects trees proposed for removal.

	Tree No.	Species	Trunk Diameter (Inches)	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 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

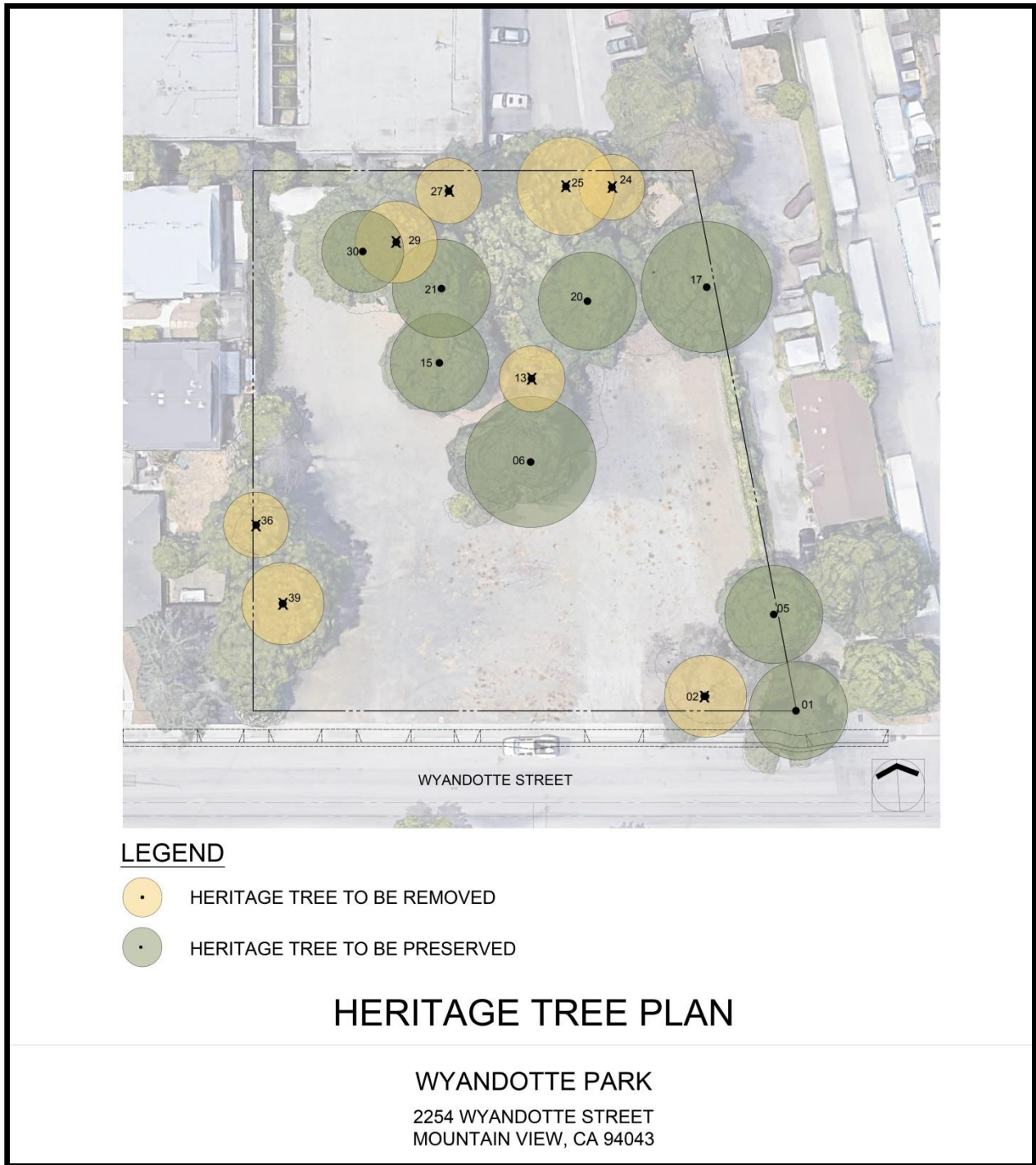


Figure 3 – Heritage Tree Plan

Staff recommends a mitigation ratio 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 with 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.

On September 12, 2018, the PRC reviewed the mitigation plan and unanimously recommended a mitigation of 2:1 replacement with 24" box trees.

Park Naming

Staff initiated the park naming process at the community meeting on June 7, 2018, and solicited responses through August 21, 2018. Staff provided the criteria for naming a new park based on City Council Policy K-17. The policy states that a park may be named for a school on which it is located, street it is adjacent to, 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 PRC must submit at least two names to the City Council for consideration and final name selection.

Seven responses were received by the deadline. Participants at the community meeting were informed they could attend the PRC meeting and submit suggestions at the meeting. The following park names were options provided for the PRC's consideration with Reinert Park proposed by the PRC:

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 Street, are named after chicken breeds
Reinert Park	Street name proposed by PRC

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

"Chicken Park" was suggested because 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 Kotska, 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. In 1932, Mountain View veterans inaugurated the new Leon Robart American Legion building at the corner of Church and Franklin Streets. Attachment 2 is an e-mail from John Kotska with additional information.

On September 12, 2018, the PRC made recommendations for the name of the new park. They recommended Wyandotte Park and provided Reinert Park as a second recommendation.

Next Steps

After Council’s approval of a conceptual plan for the park, staff will work with the design consultants to complete final design of the project. Staff plans to remove the trees for the project in the next few months, prior to bird nesting season. Upon completion of project design documents, staff will return to Council for approval of plans and specifications for construction in spring 2019. Park construction is scheduled to begin in late spring 2019 and be completed by fall 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT

Wyandotte Park Design, Project 17-40 is funded in the amount of \$535,000 and Construction, Project 18-34, is funded in the amount of \$2,580,000, both from the Park Land Dedication Fund. The estimated construction cost for Concept Plan A is within the construction budget of \$1.8 million, including an upgraded crosswalk across Wyandotte Street.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this project has been determined to be categorically exempt as Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, for the new park.

CONCLUSION

The PRC recommends the park be named Wyandotte Park. The recommended conceptual design for this park utilizes the existing trees with a meandering path to create a wooded walk experience. The front portion with the mounded lawn creates an

open area for free play. The additional trees and play areas will provide a pleasant park destination for the neighborhood.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide other recommendations for the conceptual plan.
2. Make other recommendations for the Heritage tree mitigation.
3. Select an alternate name for the park.
4. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING

Agenda posting. Noticing for this meeting included a mailer to residents and property owners within 500', lawn signs at the project site, and an announcement on the City website.

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RSR-LA/TS/2/CAM

943-11-13-18CR-4

- Attachments:
1. Park Concepts A, B, and C
 2. E-Mail from John Kotska for Park Name

cc: CSD, ACSD, APWD – Solomon, PCE – Au, SPM – Rodriguez, SMA – Goedicke, PA – Li, File (17-40)