



## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Meeting: June 1, 2023

#### Subject

Update on the community input and conceptual design progress of the Memorial Park Specific Plan project.

#### Recommended Action

Receive an update on the community input and conceptual design progress of the Memorial Park Specific Plan project.

#### Reasons for Recommendation

The Memorial Park Specific Plan project team shared the design concept drawings with the community in January and February via a number of public events, including an online survey which closed at the end of February. The project team has refined the design concept in response to the public input. We return to this commission to report on the design progress and to receive input prior to presenting to City Council to share the status of the project.

City Council will be asked to provide feedback prior to the project team's finalization of the design and environmental report.

Design and Construction of the park improvements at the Memorial Park are dependent on future planning and City Council budget approvals. The phasing and duration of construction will be dependent on the requirements of the adopted/final design elements.

#### Background Information:

The purpose of the Memorial Park Specific Plan is to determine how to best meet the future recreation, community gathering, event, and open space needs of citizens through enhancement of the site, following the findings and recommendations of the City's Parks and Recreation System Master Plan.

In July 2022, Gates and Associates (Gates) was hired to develop the Memorial Park Specific Plan. The City worked with Gates to develop a process for implementation of the project. The project has been divided into phases, which include:

- Research and Analysis
- Initial Community Engagement
- Conceptual Design
- Schematic Design
- Environmental Assessment

The Site Assessment and Outreach Summary was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on February 2, 2023. The project team has recently completed a second outreach engagement to determine the community preference on three conceptual design alternatives.

#### *Conceptual Design Phase*

The three alternatives were Concept A - Community Focus, Concept B – Nature Focus, and Concept C - Civic Focus. The project team conducted additional outreach activities to provide information and solicit feedback on the three conceptual design alternatives. Information about the survey and future events is provided to residents using mailings, social media posts, Items of Interest, the City’s Engage Cupertino websites, and at the events themselves. The events to encourage public engagement were:

- Online community survey January 25 - February 22, 2023 (1011 responses)
- Community Open House at the Cupertino Senior Center on February 4, 2023 (approximately 50 participants)
- Virtual community meeting on February 9, 2023 (approximately 16 participants)
- Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on February 2, 2023
- Bicycle Pedestrian Commission Meeting on February 23, 2023

The focus of this meeting’s discussion will include updates on the latest public outreach, and next steps in the design process for the Memorial Park Specific Plan project.

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Outreach*

The project team is looking for Commission’s input on the single design concept considering the responses from the second community outreach. The data from the online survey is attached as Attachment A. Some key findings are:

- Concept A was the most preferred concept in all three outreach forums (Open House, Survey, Webinar) collecting 50% or more of the total votes in each.
- Recreation, nature, and play are top priorities for the park.
- Most Important/favorite features: Passive Garden walk, relocated/upgraded restrooms, dedicated pickleball courts, upgraded playground, relocated/expanded playground, picnic areas with shade, nature playground, upgraded amphitheater, educational garden zone.
- Two distinct playgrounds are preferred (multi-age play area & nature playground).

- Separating tennis and pickleball is preferred.
- Event lawn and expanded/integrated deck are preferred upgrades to the area next to the Senior Center.
- Trees, shade, sustainability, native plants, and green space are important natural features of the park.

### *Schematic Design*

Currently, the project team is applying the feedback from the public outreach efforts, as well as Commission comments, to develop a preferred singular design layout and park features that reflect the community's priorities. These are being incorporated into an initial schematic design plan as presented. Once this is further developed and presented to City Council, this design will be used to initiate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) clearance.

### *Preferred Singular Design Concept*

Taking Concept A as a base, the design team has added various attributes from the other concepts to put together a preferred singular design concept. Concept A removed the underutilized softball field and various amenities have been worked in. Some key elements to this plan are:

- Multi-age play area with an open turf area near adjacent playgrounds for the different age groups.
- Added individual Pickle ball courts
- New basketball and bocce courts
- A large area for passive garden walks with a nature play area nearby
- Improved amphitheater with connected walkway
- Enhanced bathrooms and an additional centrally located bathroom
- Central emergency access
- Better connections to the park from the Senior Center
- Enhanced picnic areas and benches
- Two open lawn areas preserved and enhanced for large community events.
- Added parking lot off of Anton Way

### *Next Steps: Environmental Assessment*

After the Schematic Design is approved, the project team will pursue CEQA Clearance. Depending on the design and the duration of the public circulation period for the final environmental document, the projected timeframe for CEQA clearance varies anywhere from six to twelve months. Once CEQA clearance is obtained, the project can continue with further development of the design and into construction documentation.

### *Next Steps: Design and Construction*

Design and Construction of the park improvements at the Memorial Park are dependent on future planning and budget approvals. The phasing and duration of

construction will be dependent on the requirements of the adopted/final design elements.

Sustainability Impact

This project aligns with multiple objectives outlined City's Climate Action Plan 2.0. In particular, development of the Memorial Park site will enhance bike and pedestrian paths (Measure TR-1), an opportunity to create new natural areas in existing parklands (Measure CS2.1).

Fiscal Impact

Receiving the Presentation does not incur fiscal impact.

California Environmental Quality Act

As noted in this report, CEQA review and clearance will be pursued once the schematic design is completed and before the City commits to undertaking a defined project.

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A - MPSP Survey round 2 results