



## MEMORANDUM

### City of Angels City Council

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**Date:** April 15, 2025

**To:** City Council

**From:** Amy Augustine, AICP – Contract City Planner

**Re:** Rural Recreation and Tourism Program - Utica Park Lightner Mine Expansion Project Update and establish a firm park opening date

**Recommendation:**

1. Acknowledge and accept updates for the Utica Park/Lightner Mine Expansion Project.
2. Establish a firm park opening date

**Note:** Staff will provide a more up-to-the-minute project status at the meeting.

**Background:**

Consistent with City Council direction, attached is an update on the above-captioned project through March 25, 2025.

**Strategic Plan Alignment**

**A4: Economic Development: Promote a wide variety of economic opportunities consistent with the city's social, cultural, environmental, and aesthetic resources.** The proposed Rural Recreation and Tourism grant park project is intended to increase tourism through park enhancements including a stage, historical (cultural) interpretation trail, and improved pavilion for outdoor events. A new children's playground, adult/teen exercise equipment, bocce courts, hardcourts, improved pavilion and stage are intended to encourage social interactions with local theatre productions, local musical performances, movies in the park and enhanced outdoor spaces for other local events.

**A5: Economic Development: Maintain and enhance the city's economic vitality while conserving the city's social, cultural, environmental, and aesthetic resources.** See above.

**B2 Community Identity: Design new development to be compatible with the natural, scenic, and cultural resources and rural character of Angels Camp.** The Community Stakeholders Design Committee will assist with park design to ensure compatibility with cultural resources and rural character.

**C7: Public Facilities and Services: Maintain or increase the levels of service currently available within Angels Camp for park facilities and infrastructure.** The project will increase the size of Utica Park by 3.8± acres, add or improve numerous park amenities, and upgrade and expand infrastructure, increasing the level of park facilities available to all age groups and ability levels for residents and visitors.

## **Discussion**

Staff will provide an up-to-the-minute update on the park status at the meeting. At the 4/1/25 meeting, the City Council discussed tentative dates for opening the park. By 4/15/25, park construction should be completed and a firm park opening date can be established. Staff is requesting that the Council adopt a firm park opening date.

### **Landscaping**

Trees from PG&E were delivered and planted. Three trees have been sold as community recognition trees. Fourteen trees remain for sale at a cost of \$500 each or, for a veteran, \$350.00. Hydroseeding (weather dependent) is scheduled for the week of 3/24/25.

### **Seal coat for driveway and parking**

City crews performed crack sealing on 3/25/25. Council approved seal coating for the parking area. Once seal coated, parking will be restriped. Restriping will be one of the final actions taken by Boyer at the park.

### **Mark Twain Statue**

The Mark Twain statue was returned to the park. The jumping frogs were reinstalled on the statue 3/24/25.

### **Bocce Court**

The bocce courts are installed. Staff requested that oyster shells be installed at the end of park construction to maintain the surface.

### **Hardcourts**

Hardcourts are complete and lined. Hoops are installed.

### **Trail and Parcourse**

The trail/parcourse surface is complete. Parcourse station pads are installed. Parcourse equipment will be added in future months. Staff is anticipating a community workday to install parcourse equipment once it is purchased and delivered.

### **Stage**

The sound stage structure is complete. Turf will be added to complete the facility prior to 4/4/25. Final lighting is being installed.

### **Benches**

The completed benches made from black walnut trees removed from the park due to rot were delivered and are in storage at the park. Approximately six are still available for purchase at a cost of \$1,500 each.

### **Kitchen**

Staff prepared a resilience center application to PG&E to assist with kitchen renovations that would allow for commercial use during emergencies and to investigate wiring the pavilion to the site generator to provide lighting during public safety power shutdowns. Staff will report to Council once PG&E makes a decision.

### **Interpretive signage and plaques**

Staff continues investigating alternatives for interpretive signage and plaques for tree and bench dedications. These are outside the scope of Boyer and will be completed in-house and with local vendors. Staff is continuing to draft interpretive signs.

### **Cameras**

Staff is meeting with the Police Dpt. the week of 3/10/25 to discuss potential locations for security cameras and availability of infrastructure for them.

### **Financial Impact**

See attached budget.

### **Attachments**

- A. Approved Site Layout
- B. Budget