



MEMORANDUM

City of Angels City Council

Date: March 4, 2025

To: City Council

From: Amy Augustine, AICP – Contract City Planner

Re: Rural Recreation and Tourism Program - Utica Park Lightner Mine Expansion Project Update

Recommendation:

Acknowledge and accept updates.

Background:

Consistent with direction from the City Council, attached is an update on the above-captioned project through February 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

Park Opening

The City contract with Boyer identifies approximately April 2, 2025, as when construction should be completed, **weather permitting and unforeseen circumstances permitting**. As noted in the following; this is not intended to be a grand opening date for the park. It is possible that hydroseeded surfaces may require additional time to take root; however, hydroseeding has been moved up in the

schedule to avoid delays as much as possible. The City Council will determine when the park can be opened to the public.

Landscaping

Landscaping installation (irrigation) began the week of 1/27/25. Trees have been ordered from PG&E and are due to arrive by mid-March. Three trees have been sold. Fourteen remain for sale at a cost of \$500 each or, for a veteran, \$350.00. The park will be hydroseeded after irrigation is installed. Staff is researching the amount of time necessary before hydroseeded patches can allow for public use (i.e., how long it takes for hydroseeding to take root). Therefore, it is possible that portions of the park that are hydroseeded may not be immediately usable when the park opens.

Lighting and Electric

The City met 1/7/25 with Calaveras Public Power Agency (CPPA) and began the process of applying for a grant to assist in funding proposed replacement lighting (two streetlights, kitchen lighting, old bathroom lighting, pavilion lighting). The Angels Camp Veteran's Memorial District has generously donated the cost of lighting the flagpole. The City met with PG&E on 2/6/25. PG&E anticipates that it could take many months to process the city's permit to re-install two light poles. To avoid these delays and allow the City greater flexibility to control the amount of lighting, and light maintenance; the City has asked PG&E to sell the six existing streetlights in the park to the City. The City already is installing non-PG&E lighting in the remainder of the park.

Infrastructure

Much of the electrical infrastructure has been installed. Landscaping irrigation is ongoing through late Feb/early March.

Seal coat for driveway and parking

A cost of \$26,582 was approved to seal coat the parking area (and line parking spaces) following city crews performing crack sealing. The activity would be one of the final actions taken by Boyer at the park before completing their work.

Mark Twain Statue

Boyer is coordinating with Sutton Enterprises to return Mark Twain to the park. Once returned, the jumping frogs removed from the statue decades ago will be restored to the statue and a final seal coating will be applied.

Bocce Court

The bocce courts have been installed. The Council elected to use oyster shell surfacing, as originally proposed.

Hardcourts

The hardcourts are poured. Fencing is completed. Hoops will be installed at the courts just before the park opens to discourage trespass. Lining for three pickleball courts was approved with assistance from local pickleball enthusiasts and will be included on the hardcourts.

Outdoor gym

The outdoor gym equipment has arrived and is installed. Rubber surfacing was disturbed by premature walking on the final layer. The city is awaiting a repair to the surfacing.

Parcourse

The general layout of the parcourse has been established. Surfacing is underway. Equipment for the parcourse will be added in future months.

Benches

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

Stage

Amphitheatre wingwalls, walls, roof, and concrete have been installed. Metal roofing is expected to be installed the final week of February or the first week in March. Plastering on the walls is expected in early March.

Stairway

The new stairway from the highway into the park has been completed.

Trespass

Staff installed twenty "No Trespass" signs on the fencing at the park in response to public comment at the 1/21/25 City Council meeting.

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 is 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.

Non-Smoking Park

Staff met 2/25/25 with Calaveras County Health Department's Tobacco Prevention team to add signage encouraging youths not to smoke.

Rain

Boyer will continue park construction as weather permits.

Financial Impact

See attached budget.

Attachments

- A. Approved Site Layout
- B. Budget