



MEMORANDUM

City of Angels City Council

Date: October 15, 2024
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 October 8, 2024.

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

Outdoor gym

The City received a final cost and design for the outdoor gym. A change order has been included in the council agenda packet addressing this item. Grading for the pad for the outdoor gym is in progress.

Fencing around New Lightner Shaft (adjacent to highway)

Fencing has been completed.

Pavilion

Metal roofing has been completed. Decorative rock has been applied. Skylights and caps on the decorative rock supports are anticipated for completion the week of 10/7.

Mark Twain Statue

The final location of the Mark Twain statue was established. It will reside to the north of the new stairway entry into the park from the highway. The front of the statue will face the park with the back facing the highway.

Utica Mine Disaster Memorial

The memorial was removed to accommodate road widening adjacent to the bathrooms. It is being relocated to the actual site of the mine collapse – the north shaft (the cement pad in Utica Park).

Next Steps

Grading for the interpretive and exercise trail, stage, sidewalks and bocce court is planned over the next two weeks.

Landscaping

Steve Williams and Amy Augustine met with the landscaping consultant team on 8/23/24 to review the City's needs related to irrigation and landscaping. Once a draft landscaping plan is available, it will be presented to the Utica Park Community Design Review Committee for review. Once established, the City will begin taking reservations for memorial trees to be planted at the park. An estimated 15 donated trees will be available. Additional trees may be added. It is anticipated that commemorative trees will cost approximately \$500 for a 15-gallon tree including a plaque. Staff recommends a reduced cost for trees and plaques commemorating veterans, at \$350.00.

Financial Impact

See attached budget.

Attachments

- A. Approved Site Layout
- B. Timeline
- C. Budget