



MEMORANDUM

City of Angels City Council

Date: September 17, 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 September 10, 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

Phase II Plans for the park have been received and are currently under City review. (Phase 1 included the park and bathroom, Phase II includes the pavilion, hardcourts, bocce, stage).

Hydration Stations

Staff contacted the T-Stan IRWMA. Funding for hydration stations has been exhausted. However, there are funds available for hydration stations accessible to the underhoused. **Staff requests**

direction from the Council. If Council approves acquiring hydration stations accessible to the underhoused, staff will submit a formal request to T-Stan IRWMA for the hydration stations.

Outdoor Gym

The City expects to receive an updated cost for this park feature and order the equipment in September. It will be located adjacent to the playground. Equipment is not expected to arrive prior to December (if it can be ordered soon). Staff may ask Council to consider a task order in early October to allow Boyer oversight to order the equipment and coordinate installation.

Playground

The last of the playground equipment has installed (minus two swings which are on site). The first (black) layer of the poured-in-place rubber surfacing was completed approximately 9/9/24. The second (blue) will be installed commencing the week of September 9th. The surfacing provides a spongy rubber material that allows ADA access and safe landing zones for children within the playground boundaries. The remaining open areas will be filled with chips. A third-party playground inspector will then inspect the playground, tentatively scheduled for the week of 9/23/24. The City will use CSG's CASP (ADA) inspector to ensure ADA accessibility.

It was determined that shade is cast across the playground commencing around 5 p.m. at this time of year based on the strategic location of the existing cedar tree. An ASTM (safety) approved shade structure is not available for the Neptun (rope climbing) structure.

Boyer has installed sidewalks surrounding the playground with fence installation around the playground pending the week of 9/16.

Once inspections are completed, the playground will be opened for use. Please note that completion of surrounding equipment (outdoor gym) and features (staircase, statue re-installation) may require temporary closure of the playground from time to time until the entire park is completed.

Fencing around New Lightner Shaft (adjacent to highway)

Fence posts were installed as of 8/27/24 and panels were completed on three sides. Caltrans approved work within Caltrans' ROW for the fence. The fence will be allowed to rust naturally (i.e., will not be painted). Public Works has approved the location and design of the man-gate for the fencing. The fence is slated for completion the week of 9/9/24.

Pad over Old Lightner Shaft (in the pit)

The 50 X 50 pad over the Old Lightner shaft has been completed. Some residents have asked if the pad is the same as the hardcourt for the park. It is not.

Stage and Pavilion.

Metal roofing colors on the Pavilion and Stage will match (as closely as possible) the roofing color on the new bathroom. Roofing has been ordered. Preparation for painting the pavilion is tentatively slated for the week of 9/16. Decorative rock material has been approved for the surrounds at the bases of the Pavilion supports.

Landscaping

Steve Williams and Amy Augustine met with the landscaping consultant team on 8/23/24 to review the City's needs relative 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 trees will be available. Additional trees may be added.

Black Walnut Benches

Millworkz presented the City with a mock-up of one of the benches created from the black walnut trees from the park. Authorization was given allowing variable sizing (none shorter than four feet) to maintain the natural beauty and shape of the wood milled from the trees. Four of the twelve benches have been reserved @ \$1,500 with other reservations anticipated soon. The benches can be reserved by families, as a memorial, or by local

organizations. Benches are not available for advertising. A bench can be reserved by contacting cda@angelscamp.gov. (Photos are of an unfinished bench. Each will be different.)



Financial Impact

See attached budget.

Attachments

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