



## ACTION ITEM REPORT

**Item Title:** Consideration and ACTION to approve funding for engineering services to prepare a plan and cost estimate for the use of the old city landfill property as a park.

**Recommendation:**

In June this item was brought up for discussion by Council Person Juan Munoz. I was asked to do some research on the viability of utilizing this property. Here are my thoughts without having specific costs.

1. Street: The street leading to this area would have to be vastly improved. It is too narrow and it is part caliche. If it was an industrial development, an alternate route would need to be utilized for higher traffic and trucks and an alternate route might also need to be done with a sports type of park as well. This would require purchase of property for the street.
2. Water: Water would have to be extended to the area. Minimum water line required is 8 inches and would include fire hydrants and a looped system for it to be done correctly. We could probably leave it as a dead end line but it would create regular work in monitoring and flushing of the lines. The good thing is the water plant is not too far away.
3. Sewer: Sewer service would need to be extended to that area and most likely at least a small lift station built. The good thing is the sewer plant is not too far away.
4. Dirt: Fill dirt would need to be brought in to get it out of the flood zone level. If it was just ball fields it would not be necessary need to be raised but when we had the first big rain event causing the fields to be flooded and ruined, the decision to spend that kind of money on something in a flood zone would be highly questioned.
5. Cost to build what is desired.

Baseball and softball is taken care of as far as numbers of fields. We have 2 terrific fields at the Community Park. The third field at that location at Lopez-Riggins needs some work on the actual field, new fencing, and new bleachers to get it to the standards of the other 2 fields which would include drainage and lighting. We also have the availability of 3 great fields with lights, parking, restrooms and concessions at the Laureles Park within 3 miles. These fields hardly get utilized. I do not think it is wise for the city to spend more funds for baseball fields when others are readily available.

Soccer fields with lighting are being built for games at the Laureles Park. They should be ready in a few months. The CDC has provided many soccer goals that are set up and are being utilized daily at Memorial Park. Once the Laureles Park is complete there will be plenty of places available for soccer.

Football fields are lacking, but the soccer fields are utilized for football when not in use for soccer, eliminating that need and also we do not have a big football need since the school district provides that beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The Boys & Girls Club provides flag football for those ages prior to 7<sup>th</sup> grade to fill that void. Games are played at Memorial Park. Lighting would be a need that could be addressed for that if they do not go to Laureles Park where there are lights available.

The big need people mention are areas for teams to practice that have lights. This is a problem in every city and I do not know of any that provide lighting for practice because you can never provide enough. If we did provide it would then become an issue of who gets to use them. When there are no lights, that is not a problem. We are fortunate to have large areas available for practice. Unfortunately,

they do not have lights. The areas used now are owned by the Los Fresnos School District, the Los Fresnos Fire Department and the Los Fresnos Rodeo. If the city thinks we should provide lights, we should take advantage of these areas owned by others and see if an agreement could be reached for the city to provide lighting in some of these areas. Plans will have to be made on how to determine who gets to use the lighted areas and who takes care of the scheduling and of course the funding for the lights, poles and electrical hookups and ongoing electrical costs. The price we have for replacing the poles and lights at the baseball field at Community Park is \$140,000 and that's the bare minimum cheapest system. The County spent way more than double that amount on the lights at the Laureles Park. I don't see that as a viable option at this time.

If you want costs with an actual plan for the old landfill property, Hanson Professional Services has provided a quote of \$5,000 for them to provide that.