

Executive Summary

The District's mission:

“Our mission is to maximize all available resources to deliver well maintained parks, high quality recreation facilities, programs and events. We will do this through effective partnerships with other service providers thus helping meet the quality of life expectations, building community pride, and supporting the economic goals of the community. We will measure our success by providing adequate access and connections to trails, parks, sports and recreation facilities that meet the needs of our citizens and visitors to our community.” (2010 District Master Plan)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this Master Plan is to define a park project that is consistent with the principles outlined in the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District's 2010 *Master Plan for Parks, Facilities, & Recreation Services*, the adopted renovation design for the Fair Oaks Veterans Memorial Amphitheater and the Fair Oaks Village Enhancement Committee plan for Fair Oaks Village.

The preparation of this plan serves to document the master plan process and provide guidance for the development of the overall Plaza Park, Village Park and Community Clubhouse Park Complex. This is the first master planned park initiated by the 2010 District Master Plan. The report is organized into six chapters: Executive Summary, History, Site Setting, Design Considerations, Park Master Plan, and Implementation Strategy. The Executive Summary, History, Site Setting and Design Considerations chapters provide background on the project, describe the site's rich history, outline the planning process, record the community input and outline various factors that influenced the proposed plan. The Park Master Plan and Implementation Strategy chapters outline the various elements of the master plan utilizing detailed plans, images, costs, phasing, and next steps towards implementing the plan. There is also an Appendix which contains meeting minutes from the planning process, detailed cost estimates, and various studies and alternatives that were developed over the course of the planning process.

This Master Plan seeks to both enhance the facilities that the park currently provides and develop new

facilities to meet the various other needs based on the community input. The overall goals are to increase cohesion of the various facilities, implement the community's vision, add historic flavor that will complement and contribute to the eclectic flavor already celebrated in the Fair Oaks community.

The park complex consists of the Plaza Park, Village Park, Community Clubhouse and Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre and occupies approximately 4 acres in the heart of the historic Fair Oaks Village. Each area of the park functions independently of each other and provides distinct recreation activities.

Plaza Park is primarily used for family recreation activities such as feeding chickens, leisure walks, picnicking, and outdoor festivals. The park is home to many chickens that roam freely in the large grass field and in the planter beds. The large shade trees that surround the park cast deep shade which is great for the hot summer afternoons. Benches and picnic tables are dispersed throughout the park for park users seeking a quiet space to contemplate, read a book, drink coffee or observe the chickens. The park also includes two parking areas that are often filled with retail shop and restaurant patrons.

The Community Clubhouse is a historic building dating back to 1902 and hosts a variety of events such as community meetings, club meetings, recreation classes, and special events. The Clubhouse has two levels. It is located on a hill at the highest point of the site. This creates some challenges for access and



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parking as there is not an accessible entrance to the front of the building. The grounds in front of the Clubhouse include large river cobble retaining walls, palm trees, grass areas, parking and a steeply sloped entry path. The access drive is for drop offs and fire access.

Village Park is a neighborhood park with all the typical park elements like a large grass area for informal play, a playground, drinking fountains, picnic tables and pathways. Unique to this park is the band shell that hosts summer concerts and other group events. The park also has parking along two sides which serve the park users and the visitors of the adjacent library. The park also has an Arts and Crafts building with an adjoining restroom. A steeply sloped grass hill separates the building from the rest of the park making it difficult to see or access. The building is only accessible from the asphalt parking lot near the Clubhouse building.

The park complex also includes an outdoor amphitheatre located between Plaza Park and the Clubhouse. This Amphitheatre is only open during the theater events. The facility is fenced and gated year round. The Amphitheatre is a landmark for the community and the park complex. There is currently a plan in place to renovate and expand the facility. Once funding is available, this facility will receive a face-lift and have the capability to host indoor theater events.

The project will result in a continuous accessible path system linking Plaza Park, Village Park, the Community Clubhouse and the Amphitheatre with each other and to the historic Fair Oaks Village and the rest of the community.

Parking will be reconfigured around the Clubhouse to provide less conflict with the pedestrian and vehicular circulation patterns. Parking areas around the rest of the park will be added and expanded to provide an even dispersal of parking around the

entire park. The parking design will provide an overall net gain of parking space.

Monumentsignage,informationalkiosks,educational signs and gateways that reflect the style and character of the existing architecture and other site features are proposed throughout the park complex. This will bring cohesion and better organization within the park complex.

Lighting, landscaping, and other site amenities are included in the master plan that will provide safety and enhance the aesthetics of the park.

