



REPORT TO COUNCIL 8

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www.CityofSacramento.org

CONSENT
January 26, 2010

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

**Title: McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden Master Plan
Amendment (L19137200)**

Location/Council District: 601 Alhambra Boulevard /Council District 3

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution:** 1) approving the McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden Master Plan Amendment; and 2) directing Staff to focus giving programs to help raise funds for improvements to the McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden on a centralized, on-site recognition opportunity such as a stand alone monument to recognize donors at various contribution levels, as is typical with community built improvements in the City's park system.

Contact: Dennis Day, Associate Landscape Architect, 808-7633;
J.P. Tindell, Park Planning and Development Manager, 808-1955

Presenters: Not applicable

Department: Parks and Recreation

Division: Park Planning & Development Services

Organization No: 19001121

Description/Analysis

Issue: Long term designs of public facilities are to be reviewed and approved by the Mayor and City Council. In the past year, the Sacramento Rose Society and other volunteers have been working with City staff and Councilmember Steve Cohn's Office to help improve and maintain the McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden (Rose Garden). The Department of Parks and Recreation recommends a master plan specific to the Rose Garden be finalized and adopted to provide direction and further guide the planning and resource development process.

The Rose Garden is part of an existing 31.94-acre community park located in East Sacramento at 601 Alhambra Boulevard. A summary of the Rose Garden project history is included as Attachment 1 (page 5), a location map is included as Attachment 2 (page 10), and the proposed master plan amendment is included as Exhibit A (page 13). The proposed action would amend the existing McKinley Park Master Plan to include a new master plan for the Rose Garden to guide future improvements.

Policy Considerations: Providing parks and recreation facilities is consistent with the City's strategic plan to enhance livability in Sacramento's neighborhoods by expanding park, recreation, and trail facilities throughout the City.

Sufficient opportunities to provide input to the Rose Garden Master Plan were provided to the community in accordance with Policies 2.0 and 13.37 of the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2005-2010*. This is part of the Park Development Process as stated in the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2005-2010*.

Committee/Commission Action: On August 17, 2009, the Park Planning and Development Services Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) reviewed and supported the amended Rose Garden Master Plan as proposed. On October 1, 2009, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) reviewed and supported the Rose Garden Master Plan as proposed.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The Environmental Services Manager has reviewed this project and determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 Cal. Code Reg. § 15000 et seq.) sections 15301, 15302, 15303, and 15304 because it involves the minor alteration of existing public facilities; replacement or reconstruction of existing structures or facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced; new construction of small structures; and new landscaping, including replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient landscaping. Additionally, pathways will be created, consistent with the adopted guidelines for the treatment of historic landscapes prepared by the National Park Service.

Sustainability Considerations: The Rose Garden Master Plan project has been reviewed for consistency with the goals, policies, and targets of the City Sustainability Master Plan (SMP) and the Parks and Recreation Sustainability Plan (PRSP). If approved, the project will advance the implementation of these plans by: reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution through the addition of trees and other plantings; and, improving the health of

residents through access to a diverse mix of wellness activities. Individual products and manufacturers have not yet been chosen but the design will incorporate low-water use planting, native plants, new butterfly gardening, and shade coverings for reduced heat gain. The park development will also be consistent with sustainable design through the use of water efficient irrigation controlled by the centralized irrigation system, and low water use plant material.

Rationale for Recommendation: The Rose Garden has not received any renovation for the past several decades except for the installation of new arbors a few years ago. The irrigation system is old and inefficient and there has been a major break in the water main recently which flooded the Rose Garden. There has been a policy of no pesticides, fungicides, or herbicides applied in the Rose Garden for the past several years. This has caused many of the roses to become infected with disease and viruses which show in the lack of vitality and health of the Rose Garden. Nut grass and weeds can spread throughout the beds unchecked without regular attention or maintenance. The Rose Garden is also in need of accessible walkways, parking, benches and signage.

Financial Considerations: There are minimal funds from the General Fund and Park Development Impacts Fees (PIF) available for the development of the Rose Garden Master Plan Amendment. The City has not secured the necessary funding required to make any major improvements. Contributions in support of the Rose Garden continue to be received by Gifts to Share, Inc. on behalf of the City of Sacramento. The Volunteer Coordinator for the Department of Parks and Recreation continues to support maintenance and improvement activities and is accepting volunteers interested in either maintenance or improvements to the Rose Garden. The approval of this Master Plan does not obligate any city funds.

Staff will continue to plan phased improvements and enhanced maintenance with the Master Plan as the principal guide.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): No goods or services are being purchased as a result of this report.

Respectfully Submitted by:



JAMES L. COMBS
Director, Parks and Recreation

Recommendation Approved:


for RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

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Attachment 1

Background Information

McKinley Park is an existing 31.94-acre community park located at 601 Alhambra Boulevard in East Sacramento. The McKinley Park Rose Garden was designed and developed in 1928 by Frederick N. Evans, a well known landscape architect and Sacramento's first Parks Superintendent. The Rose Garden was named Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden on December 13, 1946, by City Council after Evans' death. The McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden (Rose Garden) has been known over the years for its beauty, as well as contemplative and memorial attributes. It has been used for small family events, mostly weddings and memorial services and has gained significance not because of its size or grandness but for the countless small events that have had personal meaning to so many.

The Rose Garden has not been renovated for the past several decades except for the installation of new arbors a few years ago. The irrigation system is old and inefficient and there has been a major break in the water main recently which flooded the Rose Garden. There has been a policy of no pesticides, fungicides, or herbicides applied in the Rose Garden for the past several years. This has caused many of the roses to become infected with disease and viruses which show in the lack of vitality and health of the Rose Garden. Nut grass and weeds can spread throughout the beds unchecked without regular attention or maintenance. The Rose Garden is also in need of accessible walkways, parking, benches, and signage.

The Sacramento Rose Society has proposed to replace roses in the Rose Garden. In response, the Department of Parks and Recreation initiated a new Master Plan process to guide the proposed improvements.

Two public meetings were held to discuss the Rose Garden and to present a Master Plan on April 22 and June 20, 2009. Those in attendance at the meetings were supportive of the proposed plan and any requested changes were integrated into the final plan including type of entry sign, maintaining existing dedication plaques, and presenting a modern rose display which groups roses by color and type.

Within the three mile service area radius for McKinley Park are the following existing City owned parks including 12 community parks, 34 neighborhood parks, 4 parkways, and 6 regional parks which are listed in the table below.

PARK NAME	Type	ACREAGE
BROCKWAY PARK	Neighborhood	0.88
CHAVEZ MEMORIAL PLAZA	Community	2.50
COLOMA PARK	Community	3.03
COLONIAL PARK	Neighborhood	2.17
CROCKER PARK	Neighborhood	3.62
CURTIS PARK	Community	18.32
DIXIEANNE TOT LOT	Neighborhood	0.15
EAST LAWN CHILDREN'S PARK	Neighborhood	0.39
EAST PORTAL PARK	Community	7.38
FOURTH AVENUE PARK	Neighborhood	1.07
FREMONT COMMUNITY GARDEN	Neighborhood	0.44
FREMONT PARK	Neighborhood	2.35
GARDENLAND PARK	Neighborhood	6.05
GLENN HALL PARK	Neighborhood	7.08
GRANT PARK	Neighborhood	2.34
GREENFAIR PARK	Neighborhood	0.67
HENSCHER PARK	Neighborhood	2.54
JOHNSON PARK	Neighborhood	0.91
JOHNSTON PARK	Community	26.03
LAND PARK	Regional	44.10
MARSHALL PARK	Community	2.50
McCLATCHY PARK	Community	15.20
MILLER PARK	Regional	3.00
MUIR CHILDREN'S PARK	Neighborhood	2.50
NINOS PARK	Neighborhood	4.18

PARK NAME	Type	ACREAGE
NINOS PARKWAY	Parkway	14.55
OAK PARK	Community	8.10
O'NEIL FIELD	Neighborhood	4.85
PARK SITE CC1	Neighborhood	0.89
PARK SITE EB1	Neighborhood	3.25
PIONEER LANDING PARK	Regional	0.12
PLAZA CERVANTES	Neighborhood	0.66
REA PARK	Neighborhood	0.35
REDWOOD PARK	Neighborhood	3.12
RIVER PARK	Neighborhood	1.58
ROBERT T. MATSUI WATERFRONT PARK	Regional	6.50
ROOSEVELT PARK	Neighborhood	2.50
SACRAMENTO NORTHERN PARKWAY	Parkway	22.87
SACRAMENTO RIVER PARKWAY	Parkway	25.73
SAINT ROSE OF LIMA PARK	Neighborhood	0.51
SIERRA 2 PARK	Community	5.57
SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY GARDEN	Neighborhood	0.75
SOUTHSIDE PARK	Community	19.50
STANFORD PARK	Neighborhood	2.74
SUTTER'S LANDING REGIONAL PARK	Regional	163.18
TAHOE PARK	Community	18.80
TEMPLE AVENUE PARK	Neighborhood	1.05
TISCORNIA PARK	Regional	14.40
TRIANGLE PARK	Neighborhood	1.00
UEDA PARKWAY	Parkway	19.00

PARK NAME	Type	ACREAGE
UNIVERSITY PARK	Neighborhood	2.20
WASHINGTON PARK	Neighborhood	1.53
WINN PARK	Neighborhood	2.50
WINNER'S CIRCLE PARK	Neighborhood	1.89
WOODLAKE PARK	Community	6.17
ZAPATA PARK	Neighborhood	0.94

The demographic information for the McKinley Park three mile service area has been provided below, illustrating that the population consists of 31.4% children and teens (ages 0-19), 60.8% adults (ages 20-59), and 16.7% older adults (ages 60+). The amenities proposed in the Master Plan will improve enjoyment of the Rose Garden for visitors of all ages.

McKinley Park Community Park Service Area Age Distribution (2009)	Total	Percentage
0-4	10,035	5.9%
5-9	8,928	5.3%
10-19	19,018	11.3%
20-29	31,782	18.8%
30-39	25,585	15.2%
40-49	23,833	14.1%
50-59	21,523	12.7%
60-64	7,022	4.2%
65+	21,137	12.5%
Total population within three mile radius	168,863	100%

Source: Applied Geographic Solutions, Thousand Oaks, CA, 2004 via City Economic Development Department website

The Rose Garden Master Plan Amendment consists of installing an accessible walkway through the center of the garden, accessible parking spaces, accessible benches, replacing damaged walkways around the park building, an accessible drinking fountain and a map. Other improvements would include replacement of existing mow strips dividing the rose planter beds with raised curbs to allow flood irrigation of the garden and installation of a new automatic irrigation system to irrigate planter beds and keep irrigation spray off the roses and onto the turf. The unhealthy roses would be replaced with healthy roses and rose trees, the perennial planter beds would be replanted, and a new garden entry sign installed with the name "Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden" that is consistent with the design of other signs in the park.

The City's top priorities for improvements to the Rose Garden are to install a new irrigation system and provide universal access improvements. The Sacramento Rose

Society has proposed to replace the existing damaged and unhealthy roses and tree roses once the City has replaced the irrigation system.

In the mid-1980s, City staff launched a giving program to secure funds to replant sections of the Garden and secure some maintenance funds. The public was allowed to dedicate sections of the Garden by replacing existing plaques identifying the variety of rose with a new plaque that included a personal inscription. Donors were asked to contribute between \$100 and \$200 to underwrite a section of roses with a typical life span of 15 to 20 years.

From the launch date through 1994, this opportunity met with overwhelming response from the community as an opportunity to honor a loved one at this cherished site. In response, Parks and Recreation staff expanded the giving program and added over 20 wrought iron benches with plaques, and approximately 24 tree roses with plaques. Significant staff time was spent working with donor families to organize and implement gifts, most of them memorials for recently lost loved ones.

Having maximized the opportunity for personalized inscriptions in the Garden, the giving program was closed in 1994. Since then, staff has heard from hundreds of families requesting a personalized plaque in the Rose Garden. Requestors are referred to other giving opportunities that include plaques, such as park furnishings and the South Natomas Community Park Rose Garden.

At the recent Master Plan meetings, past donors attended and expressed strong concern that the City maintain the plaques in the Rose Garden. As this is a sensitive issue for the families, staff recommends the existing rose dedication plaques remain in place for a period of 5 additional years, thereby affording each donor family an opportunity to have a plaque in the Rose Garden for at least 20 years.

To help raise funds for future major improvements, staff recommends a new giving program focus on a centralized, on-site recognition opportunity such as a stand alone monument recognizing donors at various contribution levels, as is typical with community built improvements in the park system.

No schedule has been developed for improvements to the Rose Garden until projects are further defined and estimated and project funding is secured.

Additional information on this project can be found at the Rose Garden website -- <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/recreation/rosegard.htm>.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

January 26, 2010

**APPROVING THE MCKINLEY PARK FREDERICK N. EVANS MEMORIAL ROSE
GARDEN MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT (L19137200)**

BACKGROUND

- A. Long-term designs of public facilities are reviewed and approved by City Council.
- B. McKinley Park is a 31.94-acre community park located in East Sacramento at 601 Alhambra Blvd. The McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden Master Plan was reviewed and supported by the Parks and Recreation Commission on October 1, 2009.
- C. The Environmental Services Manager has reviewed these projects for compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and determined that they are exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15303, 15304(b), and 15311(a) of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 Cal. Code Reg. § 15000 et seq.) Additionally, pathways will be created, consistent with the adopted guidelines for the treatment of historic landscapes prepared by the National Park Service.
- D. The McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden is a cherished site in the City of Sacramento's park system and currently includes approximately 100 personalized inscriptions throughout the Rose Garden with several hundred additional requests from citizens over the past 15 years.
- E. Given continued strong community interest in the Garden, staff recommends a new giving program to raise capital funds focused on a centralized, on-site recognition opportunity such as a stand alone monument, which is typical with community built improvements in the park system, and that this approach be approved by the City Council as part of this Master Plan Amendment.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. The McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden Master Plan, attached as Exhibit A, is approved and is party of this resolution.
- Section 2. Staff is directed to focus giving programs to help raise funds for improvements to the McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden on a centralized, on-site recognition opportunity such as a stand

alone monument to recognize donors at various contribution levels, as is typical with community built improvements in the park system.

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Exhibit A – McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden Master Plan

Exhibit A



McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden Renovation Master Plan

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden (also known as the McKinley Park Rose Garden) is located in McKinley Community Park, an existing 31.94-acre park at 601 Alhambra Boulevard in East Sacramento.

The McKinley Park Rose Garden was designed and developed in 1928 by Frederick Evans. Mr. Evans is a well known landscape architect and Sacramento's first Parks Superintendent. The Rose Garden was named Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden on December 13, 1946 by the City Council after Evans' death. The McKinley Park Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden (Rose Garden) has been known over the years for its beauty, contemplative and memorial attributes. It has been used for small family events, mostly weddings and memorial services and has gained significance not because of its size or grandness but for the countless small events that have had personal meaning to so many. The Rose Garden is over eight decades old and is in need of a significant renovation.

PLANNING PROCESS

In early 2009, the Sacramento Rose Society proposed to replace many of the roses in the Rose Garden. In response, the Department of Parks and Recreation initiated a new Master Plan process to guide the Sacramento Rose Society proposed improvements and incorporate them into a renovation Master Plan.

Two public meetings were held to discuss the Rose Garden and to present a proposed Master Plan renovation concept on April 22 and June 20, 2009. Those in attendance at the meetings were supportive of the proposed plan and any requested changes were integrated into the final plan including type of entry sign, maintaining existing dedication plaques, and presenting a modern rose display which groups roses by color and type.

On August 17, 2009, the Park Planning and Development Services Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) reviewed and supported the proposed renovation Master Plan. On October 1, 2009, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) reviewed and supported the proposed renovation Master Plan (see Master Plan graphic).

ELEMENT DESCRIPTIONS

The following are descriptions of the major elements of the renovation plan:

1. **Accessible Walkway:** Currently, all of the walks in the rose garden are turf. The plan calls for a central accessible walkway that will run from the new accessible parking area behind the existing Tiny Tot Building to the public sidewalk along H Street. The walkway will consist of a hard surface material (either concrete or brick) five feet wide. The central accessible walkway will branch off into two side walkways surrounding planters at the center of the rose garden creating a central garden area.
2. **Accessible Rose Garden Map:** An accessible rose garden illustrative map will be located in the accessible central garden area. The map will be mounted on a pedestal with color graphics and annotations describing features of the rose garden.
3. **Accessible Benches with Center Armrest and Adjacent Wheel Chair Spaces:** six new benches with center arm rests and adjacent wheel chair spaces will be located around the central garden area. End arm rests will be eliminated on one end of the benches to provide for easy transfer from a wheelchair to the bench. A 3 foot by 3 foot hard surface space will be located at the armless end of the bench to facilitate transfer from wheelchair to bench. In addition this space can also be used by wheelchair users that want to stay in their chair but stay out of the main path traffic.
4. **Accessible Parking Spaces:** Two accessible parking spaces will be provided in the existing paving area behind the Tiny Tot Building. These parking spaces will be available only to park patrons with California Disabled Person Parking Placards or Plates.
5. **Walkway and Pavement Repairs / Accessible Repairs / Accessible Drinking Fountain:** The existing paving at the Tin Tot Building will be renovated to provide better accessibility and to esthetically match the new central area and main walkway paving. In addition, an accessible drinking fountain will be installed in this area.
6. **Concrete Planter Curbs:** New concrete planter curbs will be installed at all planting beds throughout the garden.
7. **Bubbler Irrigation:** The existing spray irrigation is outdated and inefficient. In addition, direct water spray is not conducive to rose plant health and vitality. Therefore, a new bubbler system is proposed for the entire garden. This bubbler system will help improve plant health by delivering water only to the root system and improve water use efficiency by eliminating water loss due to overspray and evaporation.

8. **Entry Sign (Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden):** A new entry sign will be installed at the intersection of the main accessible walkway and the H Street sidewalk. The entry sign will be replicate the architectural character of the existing park sign by using the same forms and materials.

IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed improvements are significant and the costs will be substantial. Given the limited funding available for this effort implementation will occur in phases.

The City's top priorities for improvements to the Rose Garden are to install a new irrigation system and provide universal access improvements. The Sacramento Rose Society has proposed to replace the existing damaged and unhealthy roses and tree roses once the City has replaced the irrigation system.

No schedule has been developed for improvements to the rose garden until projects are further defined and estimated and project funding is secured.

EXISTING GARDEN DEDICATION PLAQUES

In the mid-1980s, City staff launched a giving program to secure funds to replant sections of the Garden and secure some maintenance funds. The public was allowed to dedicate sections of the Memorial Rose Garden by replacing existing plaques identifying the variety of rose with a new plaque that included a personal inscription. Donors were asked to contribute between \$100 and \$200 to underwrite a section of roses with a typical life span of 15 to 20 years.

From the launch date through 1994, this opportunity met with overwhelming response from the community as an opportunity to honor a loved one in this most cherished site.

In response, Parks and Recreation staff expanded the giving program and added over 20 wrought iron benches with plaques, and approximately 24 tree roses with plaques. Significant staff time was spent working with donor families to organize and implement gifts, most of them memorials for recently lost loved ones.

Having maximized the opportunity for personalized inscriptions in the Garden, the giving program was closed in 1994. Since then, staff has heard from hundreds of families requesting a personalized plaque in the Garden. Requestors are referred to other giving opportunities that include plaques, such as park furnishings and the South Natomas Community Park Rose Garden.

At the recent Master Plan meetings, past donors attended and expressed strong concern the City maintain the plaques in the Rose Garden. As this is a sensitive issue for the families, staff recommends the existing rose dedication plaques remain in place for a period of 5 additional years, thereby affording each donor family an opportunity to have a plaque in the Rose Garden for at least 20 years.

To help raise funds for future major improvements, staff recommends a new giving program focus on a centralized, on-site recognition opportunity such as a stand alone monument recognizing donors at various contribution levels, as is typical with community built improvements in the park system.