

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2010-038**

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

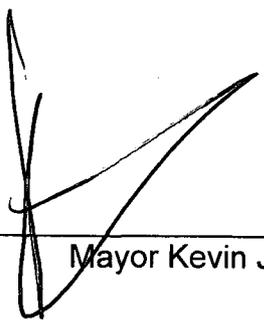
Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on January 26, 2010 by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Cohn, Fong, Hammond, McCarty, Pannell, Sheedy, Tretheway, Waters, and Mayor Johnson.

Noes: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

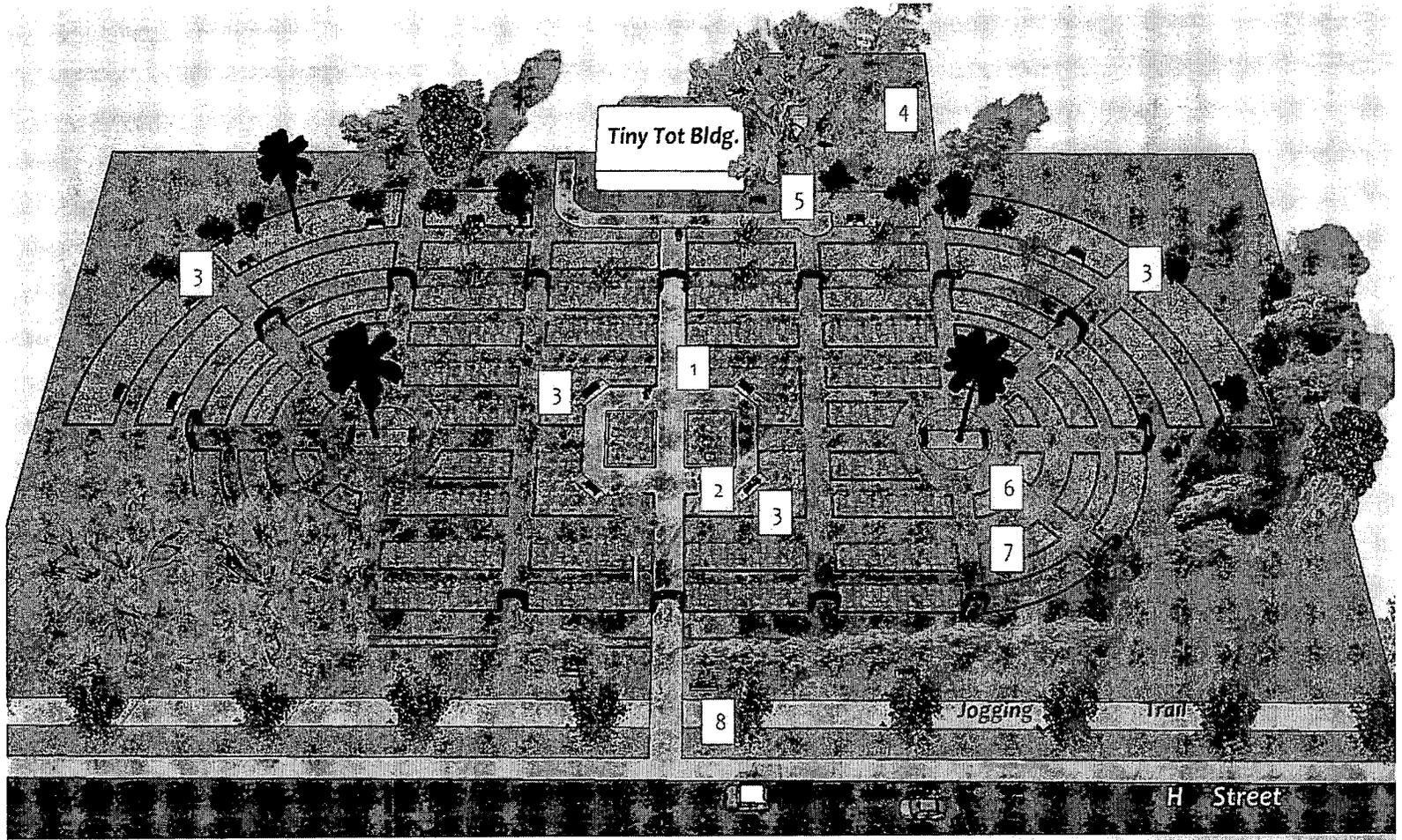


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Mayor Kevin Johnson

Attest:

  
Shirley Concolino  
Shirley Concolino, City Clerk



**Proposed Improvement Plan for  
McKinley Park  
Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden  
CITY OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

 Not to Scale

**PLAN LEGEND**

- 1 Accessible Walkway
- 2 Accessible Rose Garden Map
- 3 Accessible Benches w/ Center Armrest /Wheelchair Spaces (6)
- 4 Accessible Parking Spaces (2)
- 5 Walkway and Pavement Repairs /Accessible Drinking Fountain
- 6 Concrete Planter Curbs
- 7 Bubbler Irrigation System
- 8 Entry Sign (Fredrick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden)

# **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.