



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Albert Balagso

SUBJECT: SELMA OLINDER PARK
MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

DATE: 10-25-06

Approved

Deanna Rubin

Date

10/30/06

Council District: 3
SNI Area: Five Wounds/
Brookwood Terrace

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of an amendment to the Selma Olinder Park Master Plan to include a dog park.

OUTCOME

Approval of the Selma Olinder Park Master Plan amendment will enable staff to proceed with the design of a new dog park within Selma Olinder Park. See attached map for location of dog park.

BACKGROUND

Selma Olinder Park is a newly built park in District 3 that stretches between Interstate 280 (south) and East William Street (north) and is bounded by Woodborough Drive to the east and Coyote Creek to the west. Current park amenities include a sports field, tennis courts, picnic benches, a restroom, trail and open turf areas.

Over the past several years, staff has continued to pursue opportunities for off-leash dog facilities throughout Council District 3. Staff evaluated vacant parcels, City surplus parcels and existing park sites. The criteria used to evaluate new land include the potential cost of the land, location, size or footprint of programmable space, proximity to residents, available parking, visibility, and accessibility. The criteria used to evaluate existing park space include location, size of programmable space, impacts to current park uses, the proximity and impacts to residents, parking and access.

Concurrent with the search for potential sites, staff held several meetings with Council District 3 neighborhoods to provide updates on progress and to solicit input on evaluating potential locations. As a result of this public input, the community clearly expressed their strong desire for the City to provide more dog parks. Residents prefer to have a dog park within walking distance of their homes; however, the park needs to be large enough to accommodate the expected usage. On the other hand, staff has also met resistance from residents not desiring off-leash dog areas located within their neighborhoods, citing numerous impacts such as traffic and odors, among other undesirable issues.

As a result of the closure of Watson dog park, staff worked with residents of the Five Wounds/ Brookwood Terrace neighborhood to plan and develop a dog park at Selma Olinder Park. The proposed site is an unused area at the southernmost portion of the park. Staff held community meetings in November 2005 and February 2006 to solicit input and comments as well as to obtain consensus among community members to develop a dog park at Selma Olinder Park. At a community meeting in February 2006, the community soundly endorsed staff's recommendation to develop a dog park at this location.

ANALYSIS

This master plan amendment proposes to include the addition of an off-leash dog area at Selma Olinder Park. The off-leash area will be situated on a 3/4-acre site at the south end of the park and will be designed to have common areas for both big and small dogs. To minimize operation and maintenance costs, its surfacing will consist mainly of artificial turf, decomposed granite, and wood chips. The project will include new parking spaces, fencing, site furnishings, and other amenities.

The proposed off-leash dog area would have a minimal impact on neighbors at its proposed location. This location is away from the main active areas of the park and will not obstruct sports and other park activities. It will be accessible from homes through walkways, roadways, and trails. The dog park will not only provide dog owners an enclosed off-leash area for their dogs to recreate but also provide neighbors opportunities to meet and socialize. In addition, dog park users will provide "more eyes" and thus improve security at this area.

The proposed location at the southernmost portion of Selma Olinder Park is currently undeveloped and underutilized. The site is relatively flat and is presently populated by remnants of an almond orchard that could be pruned or removed. A number of mature trees will be protected and preserved. The design and development of this project fits within the guidelines of the City's Greenprint for Parks and Community Facilities and Programs.

PRNS staff is currently holding meetings with Council offices to develop the Proposed 2007-2008 Capital Budget. As part of this process, priority projects and funding sources are discussed and identified. Approval of the master plan amendment to add the dog park will allow staff to proceed with necessary steps to identify the elements of the new dog park as well as obtain the necessary funding level to complete the project.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criteria 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criteria 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criteria 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

Staff initiated a community outreach process that included two general community meetings (November 2005 and February 2006) to gather public input on the project. This follows the standard community outreach process for capital projects, including master plan amendments. The Parks and Recreation Commission heard this item at their meetings on September 20 and October 4, 2006, and approved the Selma Olinder Park site for the dog park.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Budget Office and the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement.

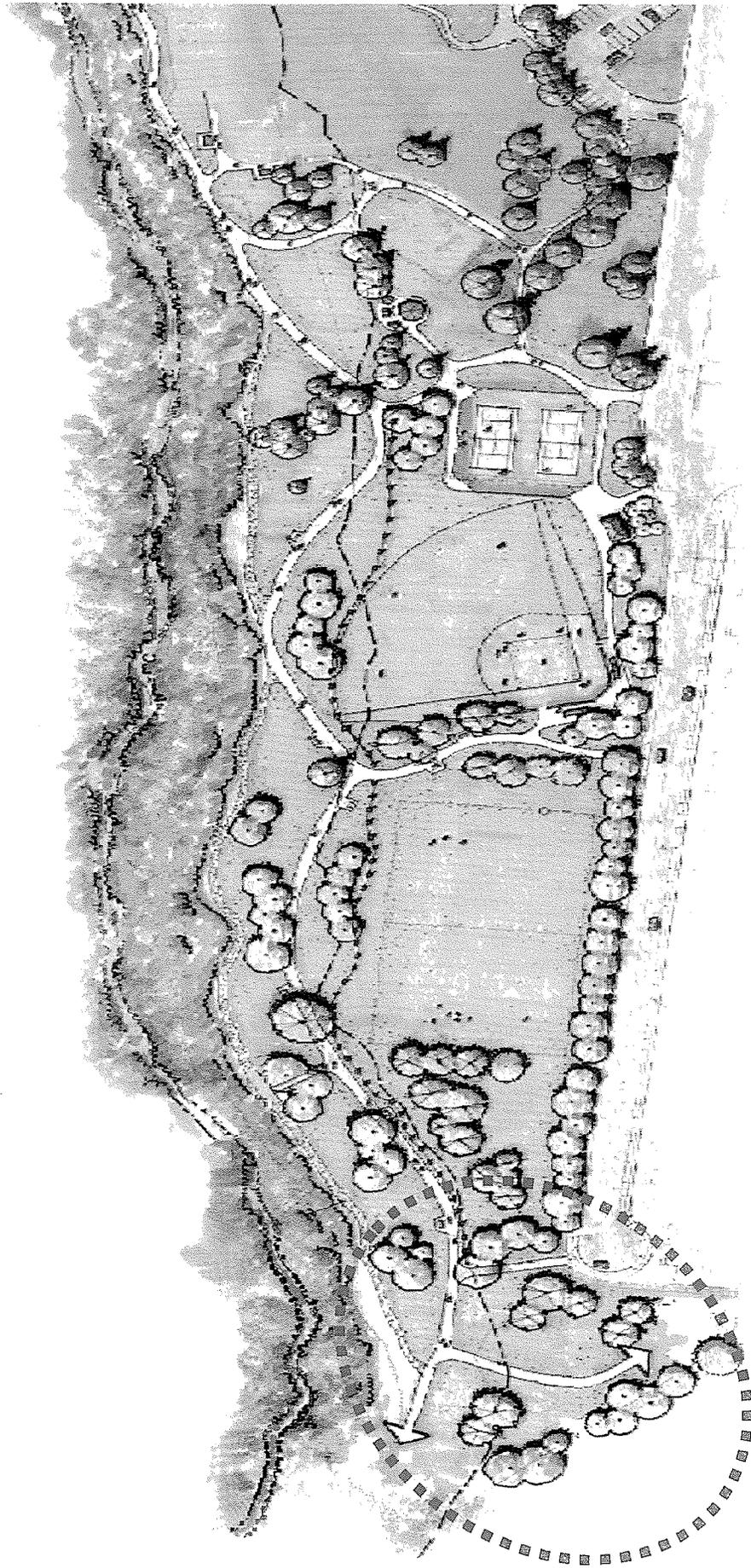
FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

This project is consistent with the Council approved Budget Strategy Economic Recovery section in that it will spur construction spending in our local economy.

CEQA

CEQA: Addendum to Negative Declaration, PP06-127.


ALBERT BALAGSO
Acting Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services



Park improvements to include a restroom, picnic area, softball field renovation, open lawn area, tennis courts, fencing, landscaping and trail.

Dog Park Location