ROSELAND CREEK COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN: RESCISSION OF APPROVALS AND DIRECTION FOR PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

City Council Meeting
January 25, 2022

Sue Gallagher, City Attorney
Jen Santos, Deputy Director - Parks

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Roseland Creek Community Park Location Map

Roseland Creek Community Park Aerial Map

ROSELAND COMMUNITY PARK

ROSELAND CREEK ELEMENTARY

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Master Planning Process

Since 2009, the City has engaged with the Roseland Community to develop a Master Plan:

- 2009 – 2018: more than 17 public meetings and approximately 7 community events
- 2019: 6 public meetings
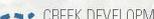- 2021: 1 public meeting, 6 listening sessions

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Environmental Review

- March 28, 2018, began the full Initial Study (environmental review process)
- Initial Study analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the Master Plan for Roseland Creek Community Park
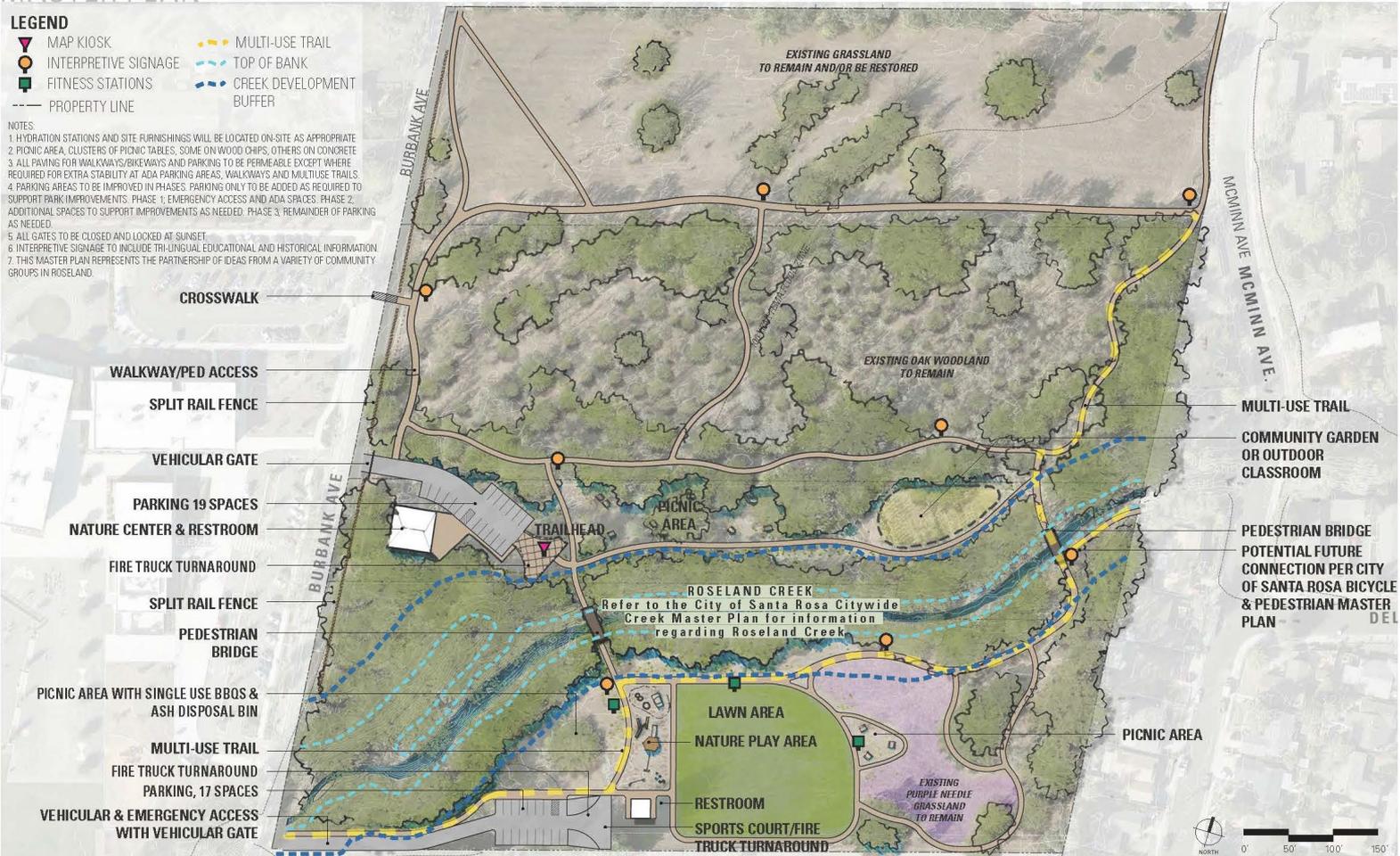- Full Environmental evaluation of the site

Roseland Creek Community Park 2021 Master Plan

ROSELAND CREEK COMMUNITY PARK | CITY OF SANTA ROSA

Roseland Creek Community Park at City Council

Master Plan at City Council September 28, 2021:

- Council received presentation documenting the Master Plan representing all community feedback received 2009-2021 and environmental review process

- Council approves community developed Master Plan and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

- Notice of Environmental Declaration filed with State Clearinghouse

Lawsuit

October 28, 2021, Roseland Action and Duane DeWitt filed a lawsuit:

- Challenges the City's adoption of the MND and the Master Plan
- Lawsuit could significantly delay the project and likely add well over $150,000 in increased costs
- Park remains undeveloped for use from the community for potentially three additional years

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Analysis of Next Steps

Two primary options:

- Defend Master Plan and MND, which could result in significant delays and costs of approximately three years and more than $150,000

- Rescind the approval of the Master Plan and MND to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) with likely delays of 7 months and approximately less than $100,000

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Rescission of Approvals

- Process to open park to the community at 12 + years

- Rescission of Approvals of the Master Plan and MND reduces the amount of delay

- An EIR developed in approximately 7 months with the Master Plan

- Staff return to Council for adoption of the EIR and current Master Plan in Fall 2022

- Park open to the community sooner with rescission

Recommendation

It is recommended by the City Attorney's office and the Transportation and Public Works Department, Parks Division, that, in order to avoid the significant expense and delays associated with engaging in litigation filed against the City by Roseland Action and Duane DeWitt challenging the Council's prior approval of the Roseland Creek Community Park Master Plan, the Council, by Resolution: 1) rescind Resolution No. RES-2021, which adopted the Mitigation Negative Declaration for the Roseland Creek Community Park Master Plan and approved the Roseland Creek Community Park Master Plan; and 2) direct staff to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Roseland Creek Community Park Master Plan as currently drafted.

QUESTIONS