

Architectural Design Narrative:

Through thoughtful and user-focused design, the new Hearn Community Hub can improve the quality of life and foster a sense of safety and belonging for so many residents. The campus consists of a fire station and library tied together with a shared landscape. The fire station will stand as a symbol of protection, the library as a beacon in the community, and the interconnected spaces on the property will be used as gathering space around these two essential buildings.

The Fire Station has two simple forms: the apparatus bay whose red doors and distinct gable-shaped roof set it apart, and the flat-roofed “house” for the fire personnel. Both forms are clad in silver, vertical, ribbed metal panels. Our design approach prioritizes operational efficiency and personnel wellness. NFPA and other best practices have been employed to reduce turnout time, minimize carcinogen exposure, optimize cleaning stations, and reduce stress through contact with nature. The dayroom, dining and exercise rooms open to the centrally located exterior patio. This area extends the station’s usable area and provides welcome relief between emergency calls.

The Library is inspired by the rich agricultural tradition of Santa Rosa, and also establishes its presence as a contemporary public community building. Like the fire station, the primary exterior material is grey ribbed metal panels. Accents are provided by bright white horizontal siding boards. The library will feature an entry/marketplace space, meeting rooms, an adult area, teen area, children's area, flexible classroom, staff office and support spaces. A key design element is a dramatic flourish in the form of a sculptural tower within which is a children’s imagination room. This tower serves to draw the public from Hearn down Dutton, and towards the library which is placed at the center of the site. It features prominent signage and playful windows, and will serve as a beacon for the project, both figuratively and literally.

Civil Design Narrative:

The existing site currently drains from north to south, with sheet flow crossing the neighboring property before reaching Colgan Creek. There is no storm drain easement across the neighboring property to the south, preventing the installation of a gravity storm drain system large and deep enough to serve the entire development site. Additionally, the existing storm drain systems along Hearn Avenue are neither deep enough nor adequately sized to

accommodate drainage from the proposed site.

To reduce costs, the conceptual civil drawings propose directing the entire site’s drainage to a detention pond located on the remainder parcel at the northwest corner of the project site. A pump station will be installed on the remainder parcel to pump stormwater from the site into the existing Sonoma County Water Agency’s Hearn-Colgan Diversion storm drain system at the northwest corner of the project along Hearn Avenue. This design reduces the project cost by eliminating the need for extensive offsite storm drain improvements and underground stormwater detention shown in the criteria drawings.

Landscape Design Narrative:

The Hearn Community Hub site has a unique context; surrounded by orchards and agricultural lands that speak to the historic character of the valley. The landscape can recall this agricultural and natural history through its design and simultaneously support learning, social engagement, recreation and community safety.

The Landscape of this campus will knit the site, the fire station, the library and the future recreation center into a cohesive, welcoming hub that will stand the test of time. The landscape will also knit together the community through the design and programming of the amenity spaces, including spaces for gathering, respite, recreation and fun, collaboration, learning, and interaction. By activating the core of the site with seating areas, shaded patios, children's and demonstration gardens, the site will provide a sense of vitality and connection to the environment and community. In addition, the landscape functions as a model of sustainable design excellence and creates intellectual connections within the site context.

It is important to note that the site has edges that interface with key future community development, including the future multipurpose bicycle path and future recreation center project. The design of the core landscape areas and treatment of the edges is especially important to create a seamless connection to future projects without having to remove any installed landscape or trees.

Phased-Permit Packages

The Swinerton, SKA & Jayson design-build for the City of Santa Rosa Hearn Community Hub project has four phased design packages in order to meet the owner's completion date:

1. 40% Design Documents, 2. 75% Design Documents, 3. 100% Construction Documents and 4. an early site package. This approach is intentional so the team could commence with all the earthwork prior to the moratorium for California Tiger Salamanders, procuring the building's structural steel and core and shell materials while the interior phase was being designed and permitted.