



DISCUSSION ITEM

Agenda Item # 7

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: January 11, 2021

Subject: Establishment of Permanent Dog Parks

Prepared by: Donna Legge, Recreation and Community Services Director
Manny Hernandez, Maintenance Services Director

Approved by: Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

Attachment(s):

1. Proposed Dog Park Location Map
2. Recommended North and South Locations
3. Proposed Dog Park Locations
4. Proposed Dog Park Location Notes

Initiated by:
City Council

Previous Council Consideration:

February 12, 2019; November 10, 2020; February 9, 2021; February 23, 2021; September 21, 2021; and October 26, 2021.

Fiscal Impact:

If approved, with recommended locations, the Park Improvement CIP for Fiscal Year 2021-22 will be increased by \$100,000. The funds will be allocated from the City's Park in Lieu Funds. There is no impact to the City's General Fund.

Improvements will be necessary at each dog park location and will come forward as part of the normal budget process.

Environmental Review:

The City Council finds the development of one fenced-in dog park in north Los Altos located adjacent to the Civic Center Soccer Field and one fenced-in dog park in south Los Altos at McKenzie Park West (Project) to be exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption), 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), and 15305 (Minor Alterations to Land Use Restrictions) in that the proposed dog parks established hereby is not anticipated to have any significant adverse impact upon the existing environment, will involve the use of an existing recreational facility, and will not significantly alter existing facilities or existing land use restrictions. The City Council also finds that none of the exceptions

Reviewed By:

City Manager

GE

City Attorney

JH

Finance Director

JE



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set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 to the availability of the foregoing categorical exemptions applies to the Project. The City Manager or designee is hereby directed to prepare and file a notice of exemption in connection with this ordinance, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

- Does Council want to approve two fenced-in dog parks?

Summary:

- In accordance with LAMC 5.08.010, dogs are prohibited to be off-leash in Los Altos parks
- Residents do not have a place to take dogs off-leash, legally, within the Los Altos community
- The Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) evaluated the off-leash pilot program and recommended that the Hillview Baseball Field program be discontinued and further recommended that the PARC explore additional options for dogs in Los Altos
- Council directed staff to work toward identifying possible locations for fenced in off leash/dog park options in Los Altos and to bring the possible locations and proposals to Council in January 2022

Staff Recommendation:

Based on Council making the above CEQA findings, the staff recommends the development of one fenced-in dog park in north Los Altos located adjacent to the Civic Center Soccer Field and one fenced-in dog park in south Los Altos at McKenzie Park West (Attachment 2) and increase the current fiscal year budget by \$100,000 allocated from Park in Lieu funds.

Should Council wish to consider a third fenced-in dog park, staff recommends Heritage Oaks before Rosita Park.

If approved by Council, staff will return with changes to the City's Municipal Code, policies and procedures, and appropriate findings as required.



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Purpose

To determine preferred locations to develop one fenced-in dog park in north Los Altos and one fenced-in dog park in south Los Altos.

Background

At its regular meeting on October 13, 2021, the PARC evaluated the 6-month off-leash pilot program at the Hillview Baseball Field held between April 1 and September 28, 2021. The PARC recommended that Council discontinue the off-leash program and further recommended that the PARC explore additional options for dogs in Los Altos.

Staff presented the recommendation to Council at its regular meeting of October 26, 2021. Council directed staff to work toward identifying possible locations for fenced-in dog park options in north and south Los Altos, and to bring the possible locations and proposals to Council by January 2022.

Discussion/Analysis

City staff used the following criteria to rank the ability of each location to accommodate a fenced-in dog park:

- a. Sufficient size
- b. Sufficient parking
- c. Buffer from residential homes
- d. Access to water
- e. Not on shared use field
- f. Shade and/or seating
- g. Feasibility

Based on the criteria, staff identified and ranked the following nine different fenced-in dog park locations in order, by the highest score:

1. McKenzie Park West
2. Heritage Oaks Park
3. Civic Center - Soccer Field East
4. Rosita Park
5. Marymeade Park
6. Grant Park
7. Civic Center – Hillview Baseball Field
8. Civic Center - Community Center East
9. McKenzie Park East



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Not Feasible

- a. Civic Center – Oak Tree Location (property is currently under lease to Friends of Library and was not fully vetted)
- b. Lincoln Park
- c. Montclair Park

A further consideration to the criteria listed above is the geographic balance and placement of the potential dog parks and are overlaid with the boundaries of the city in Attachment 1.

Based on geography as a primary filter, the nine locations are ranked as follows:

North Los Altos:

1. Civic Center - Soccer Field East
2. Rosita Park
3. Civic Center - Hillview Baseball Field
4. Civic Center - Community Center East

South Los Altos:

1. McKenzie Park West
2. Heritage Oaks Park
3. Marymeade Park
4. Grant Park
5. McKenzie Park East

Attachment 3 includes the locations in north Los Altos (2 through 4) and south Los Altos (2 through 5), as alternatives to the preferred locations. It is important to note that the proposed dog park areas shown in the attachments are conceptual and are not engineered or to scale. Upon direction from Council, staff will fence the identified areas securely and appropriately for dog parks, make the minimal necessary improvements, and then begin to design permanent features and improvements for the dog parks. These designs and associated costs will return as part of the normal budget process.

In north Los Altos there are four proposed dog park areas, spread over two locations.

The Civic Center site has three potential locations. The area located to the east of the soccer field is the recommended site for a dog park in the north. In addition to meeting the ranking criteria, it is in an area that is not currently programmed and is anticipated to have limited residential impact.



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The other two locations at the Civic Center site are anticipated to have a higher impact on nearby residences. In addition, the Hillview Baseball Field removes a portion of the outfield permanently, while the east area behind the Community Center has a planned and funded pickleball court and half-basketball court ready for construction. This area would also have a high impact on residential properties close by.

The preferred alternative site in north Los Altos is to fence a portion of the Rosita Park multi-purpose athletic field. In addition to meeting the criteria listed above, this area provides the largest square footage for a dog park in the northern area of Los Altos and includes sufficient space to add shade structures and seating at a minimal cost. This site will displace current use(s) of the park and parking could be problematic during heavy field use and tournaments.

In south Los Altos, the areas under consideration include McKenzie Park West; Heritage Oaks Park; Marymeade Park; Grant Park; and McKenzie Park East. The recommended location in south Los Altos is McKenzie Park West. This site has the least residential impact; does not displace or remove current amenities; and has sufficient access to water and shade. In addition, staff believes parking by City and employee vehicles can be accommodated in the Municipal Services Center lot, making public parking more accessible.

The preferred alternative location in south Los Altos is to fence in the undeveloped portion of Heritage Oaks Park. This site has a greater impact on residential homes than McKenzie West, but meets all the other criteria, including greater access to parking. The site has no programming currently in place and is an unused/vacant area in the City's park system.

Other locations in south Los Altos should be considered if the two preferred locations are not selected. For a greater analysis on each of the sites, please see Attachment 4, which contains specific notes on each of the locations.

Recommendation

Based on Council making the above CEQA findings, staff recommends the development of one fenced-in dog park in north Los Altos located adjacent to the Civic Center Soccer Field and one fenced-in dog park in south Los Altos at McKenzie Park West (Attachment 2) and increase the current fiscal year budget by \$100,000 allocated from Park in Lieu funds.

Should Council wish to consider a third fenced-in dog park, staff recommends Heritage Oaks before Rosita Park.

If approved by Council, staff will return with changes to the City's Municipal Code, policies and procedures, and appropriate findings as required.

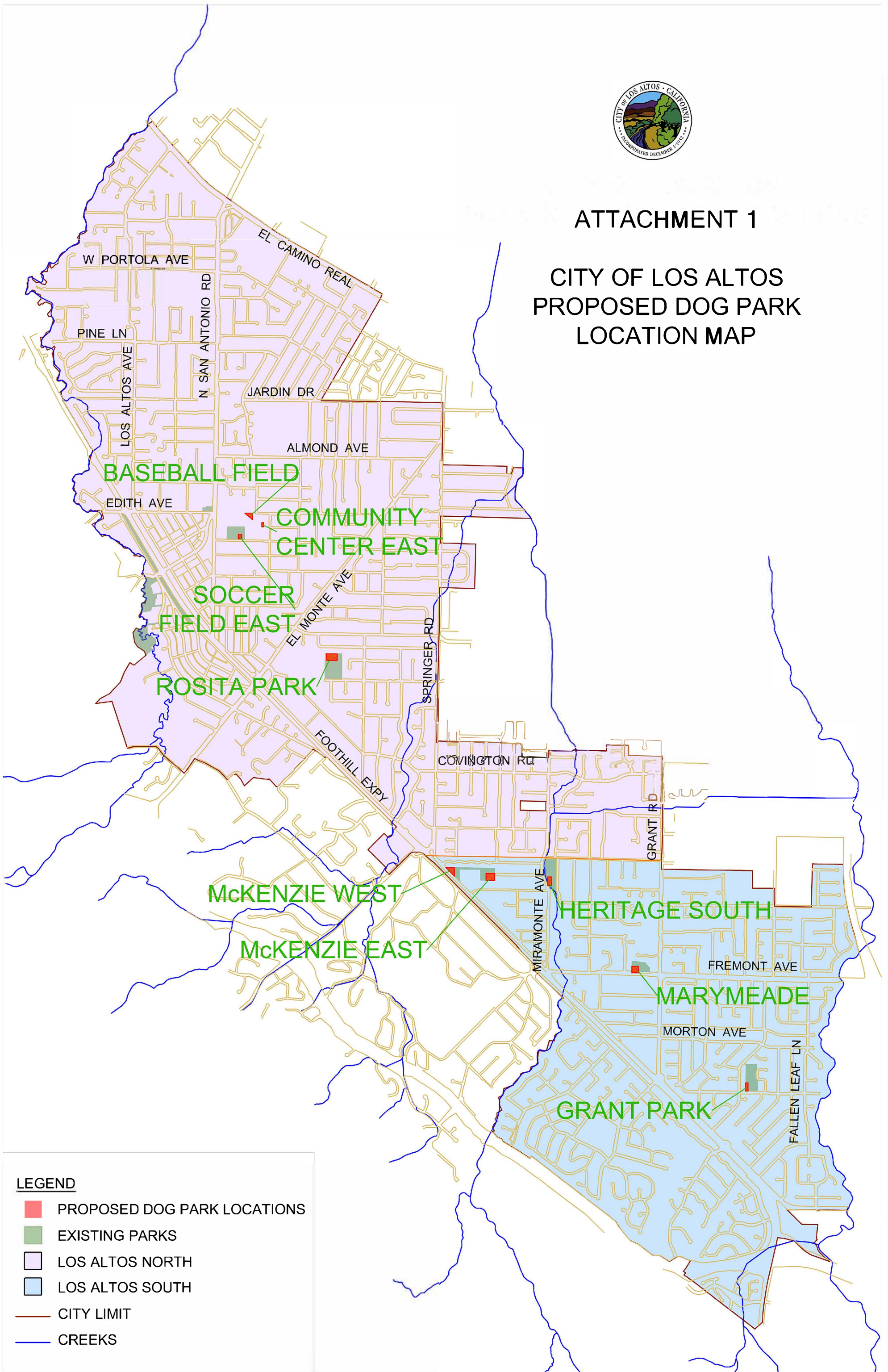


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ATTACHMENT 1

CITY OF LOS ALTOS PROPOSED DOG PARK LOCATION MAP



LEGEND

- PROPOSED DOG PARK LOCATIONS
- EXISTING PARKS
- LOS ALTOS NORTH
- LOS ALTOS SOUTH
- CITY LIMIT
- CREEKS



Recommended North and South Dog Park Locations

North Los Altos - Soccer Field East

(97 Hillview Avenue)

Soccer Field East (80' x 100')



Soccer Field East (80' x 100')



South Los Altos - McKenzie Park West

(707 Fremont Avenue)

McKenzie West (20000 Sq Ft.)



McKenzie West (20000 Sq Ft.)



Proposed Dog Park Locations



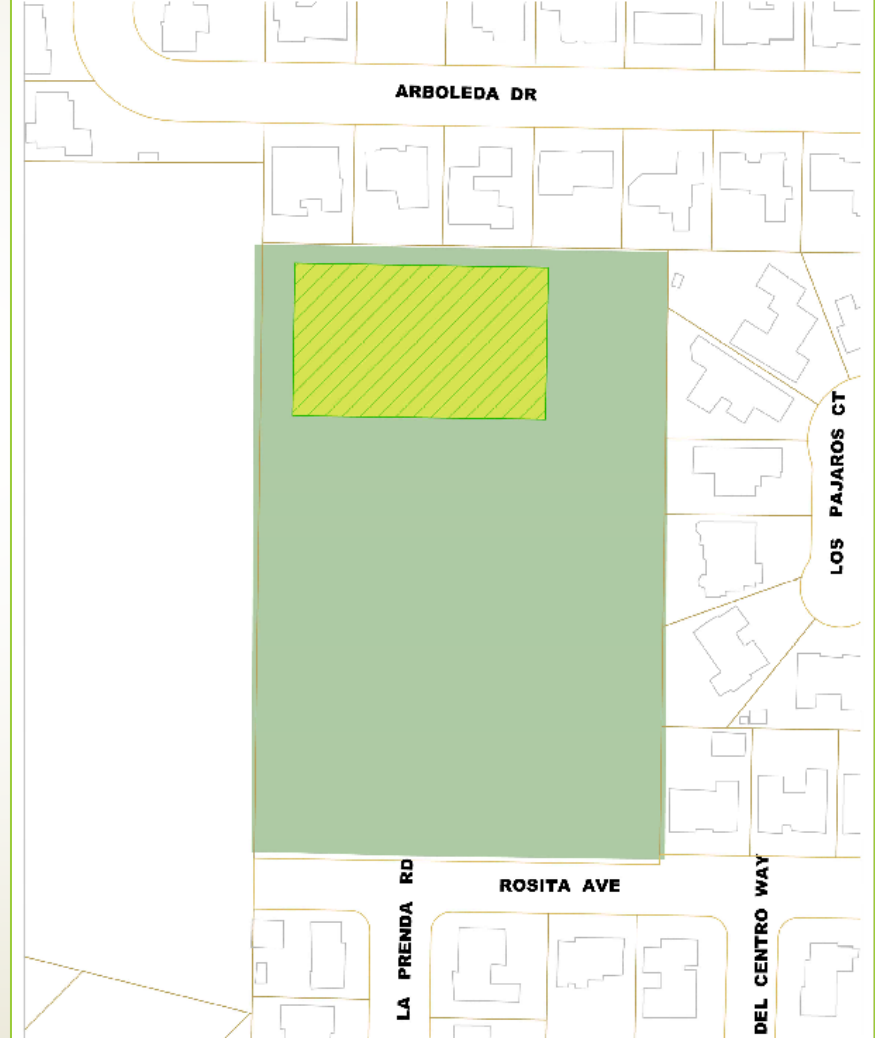
North Los Altos - Rosita Park

(401 Rosita Ave)

Rosita North West (250' x 150')



Rosita North West (250' x 150')



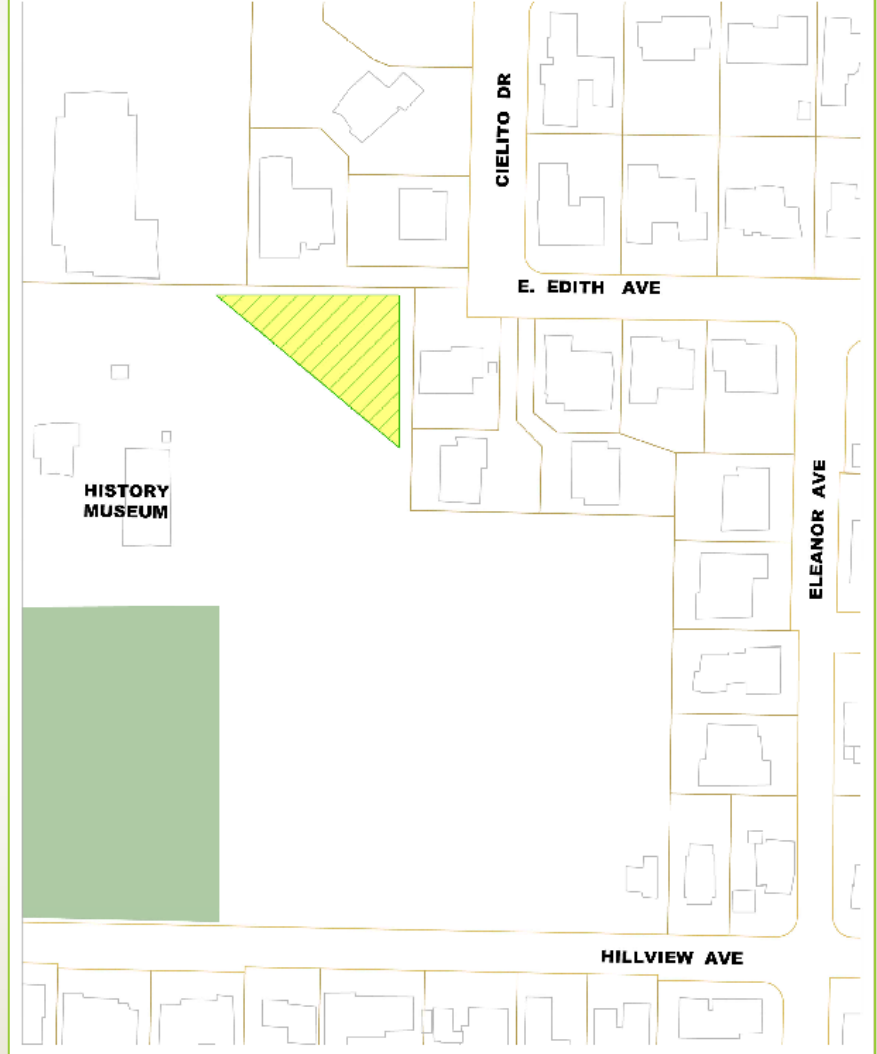
North Los Altos - Hillview Baseball Field

(97 Hillview Ave)

Hillview Baseball Field (13500 Sq Ft.)



Hillview Baseball Field (13500 Sq Ft.)

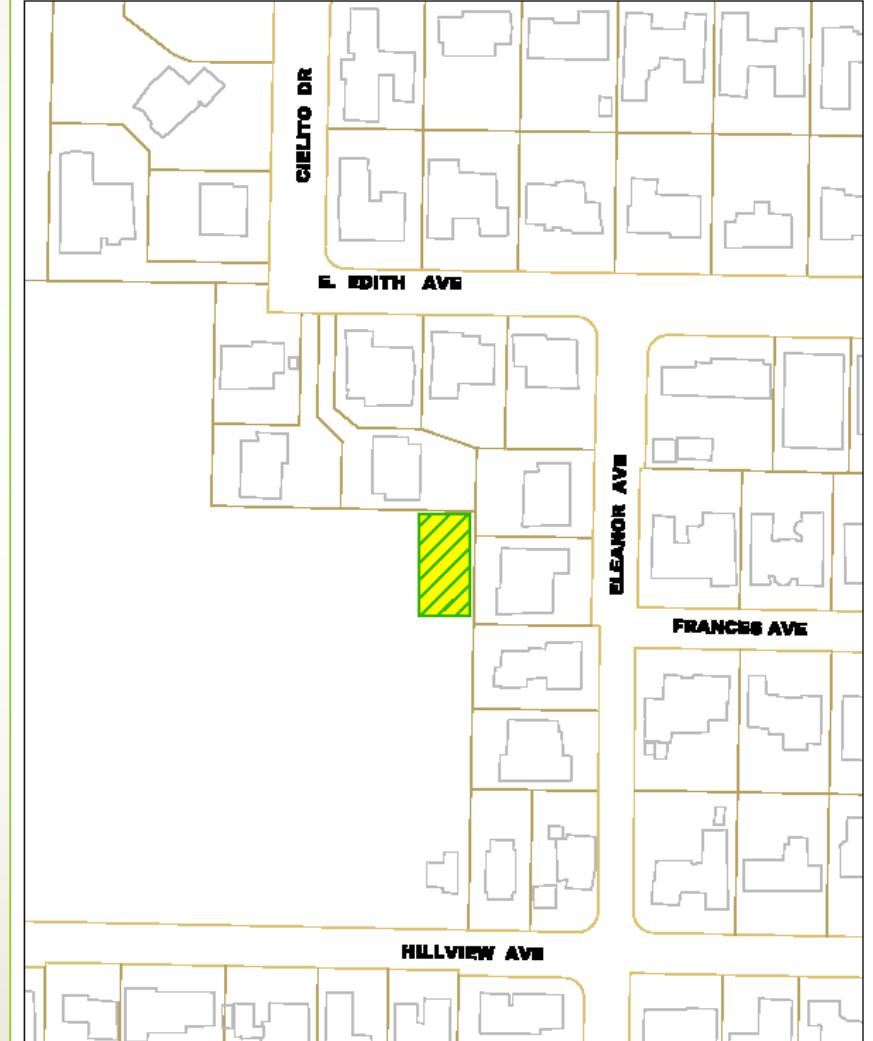


North Los Altos - Community Center East (97 Hillview Ave)

Community Center East (50' x 100')

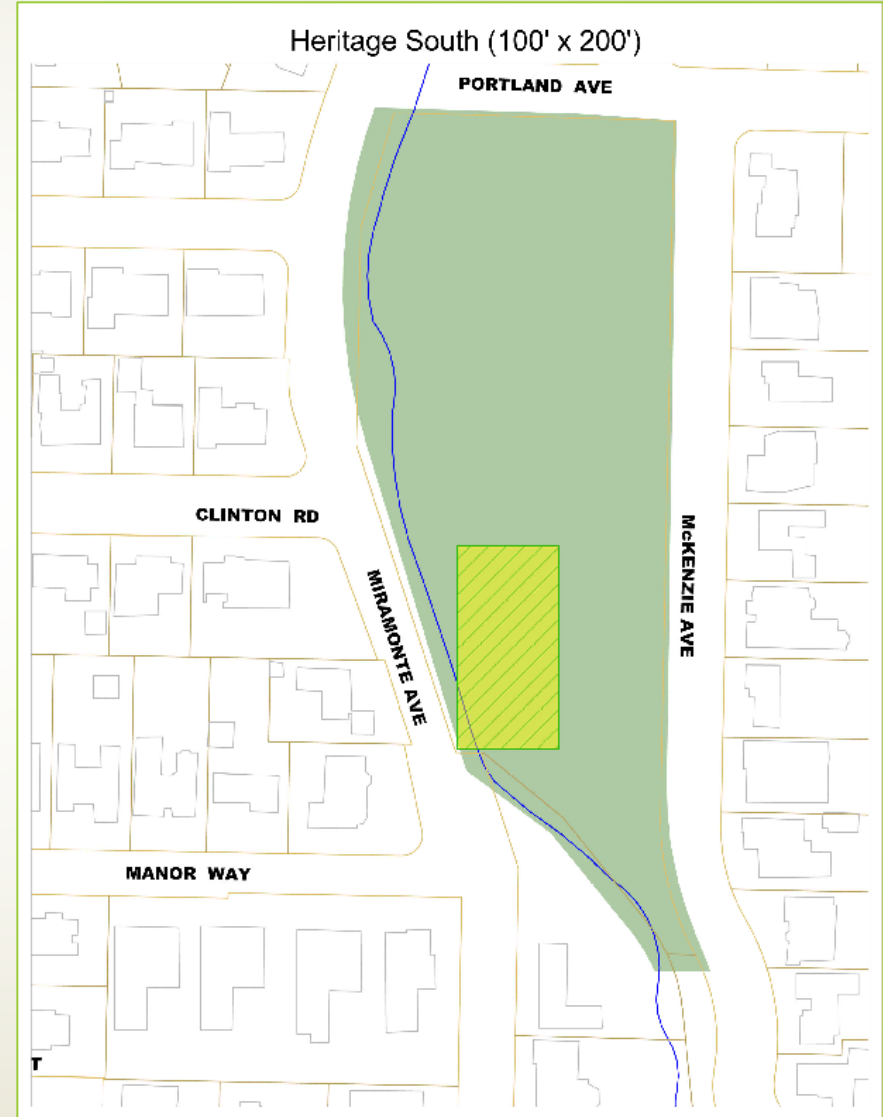
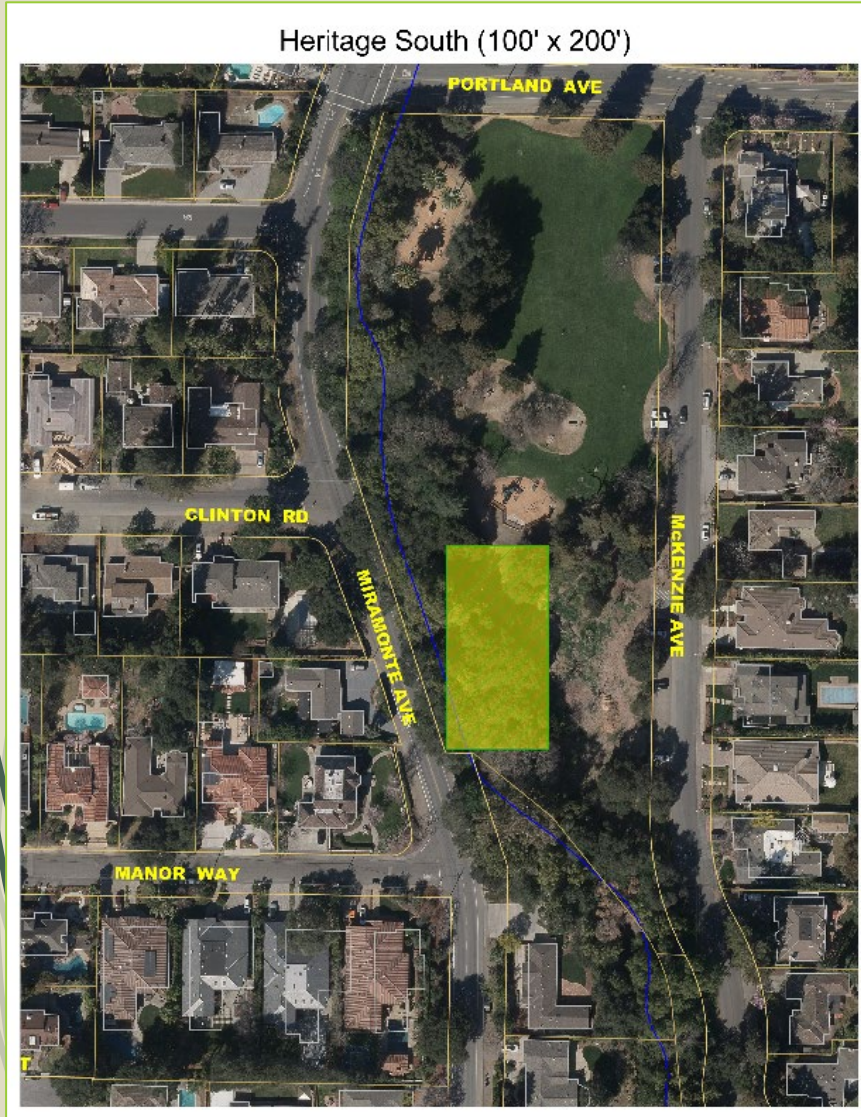


Community Center East (50' x 100')



South Los Altos - Heritage Oaks Park

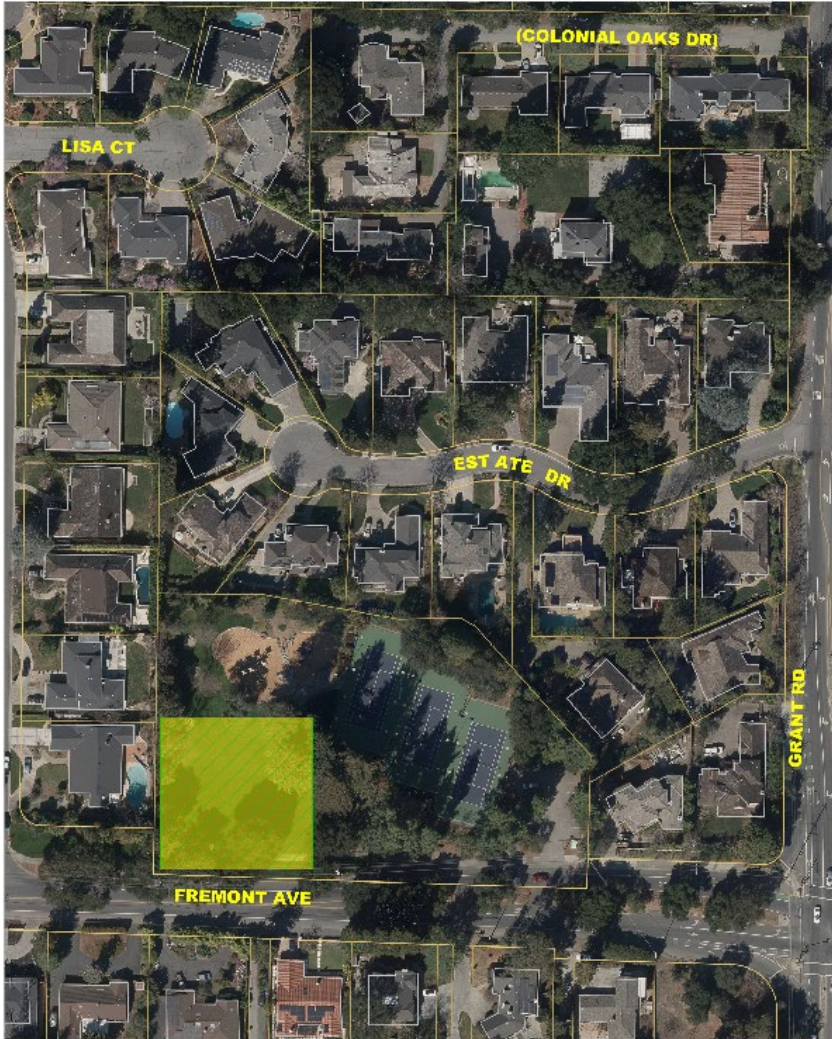
(Portland Ave / Miramonte Ave)



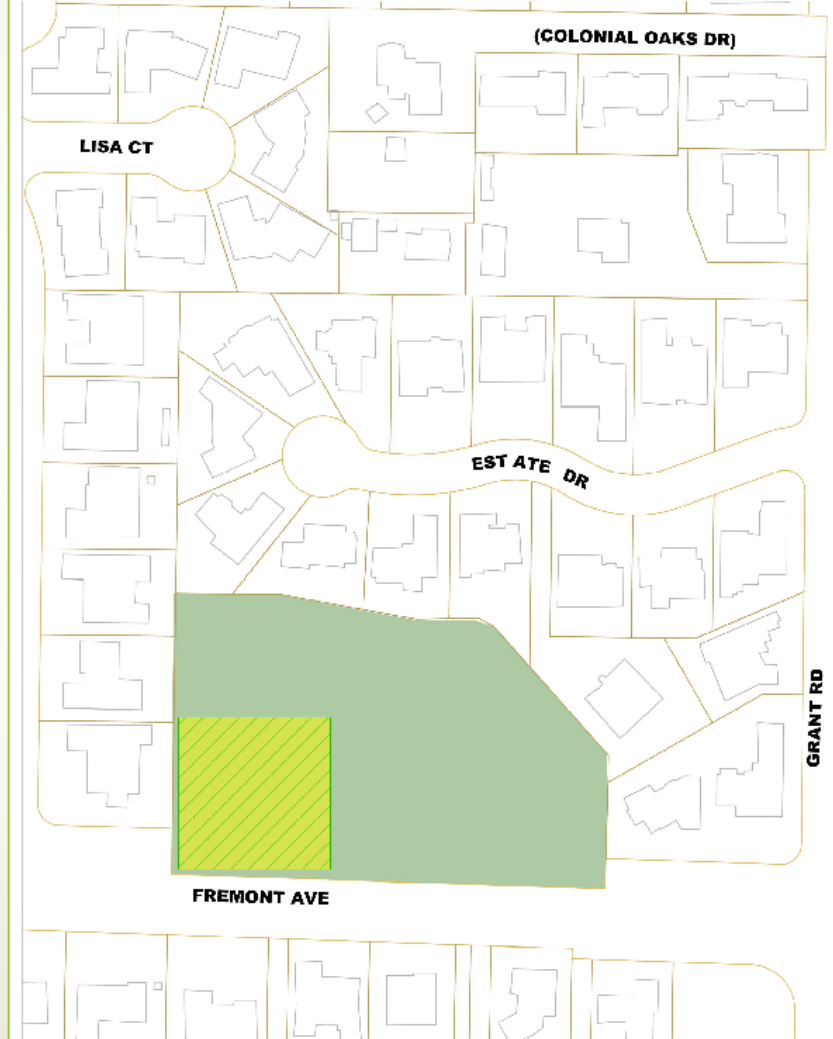
South Los Altos - Marymeade Park

(Fremont Ave / Grant Rd)

Marymeade Park (150' x 150')



Marymeade Park (150' x 150')



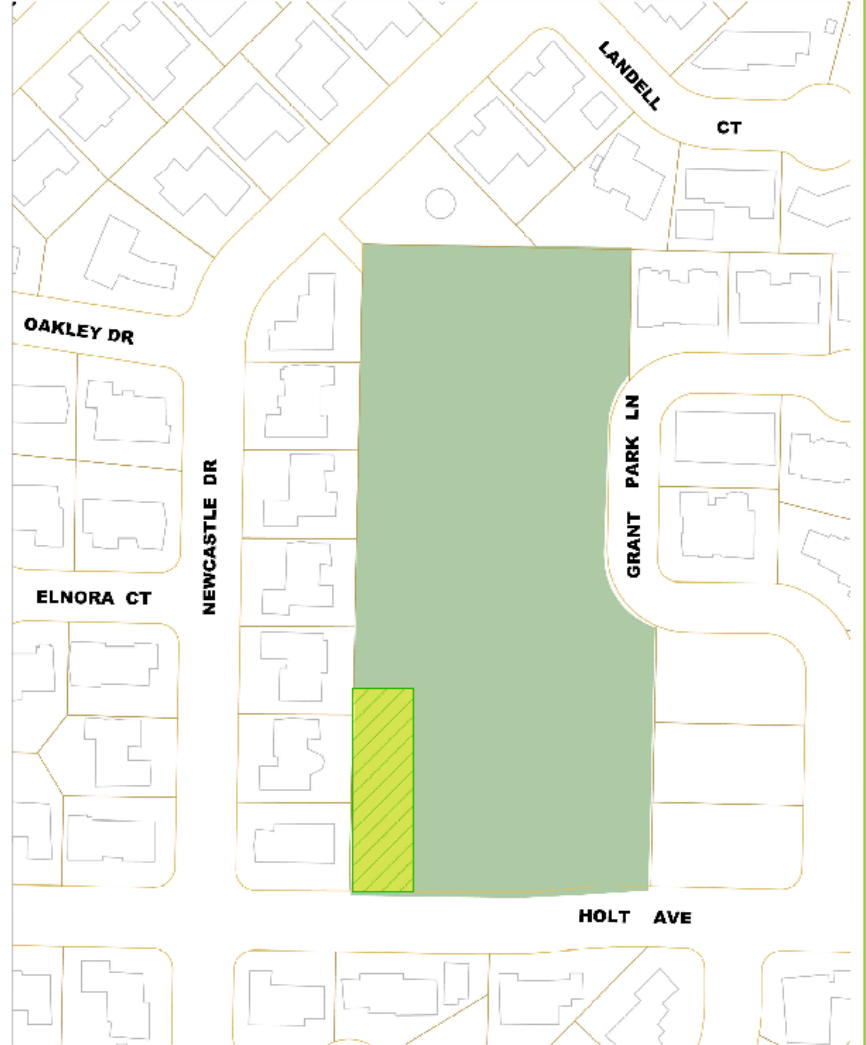
South Los Altos - Grant Park

(1575 Holt Ave)

Grant Park (60' x 200')



Grant Park (60' x 200')



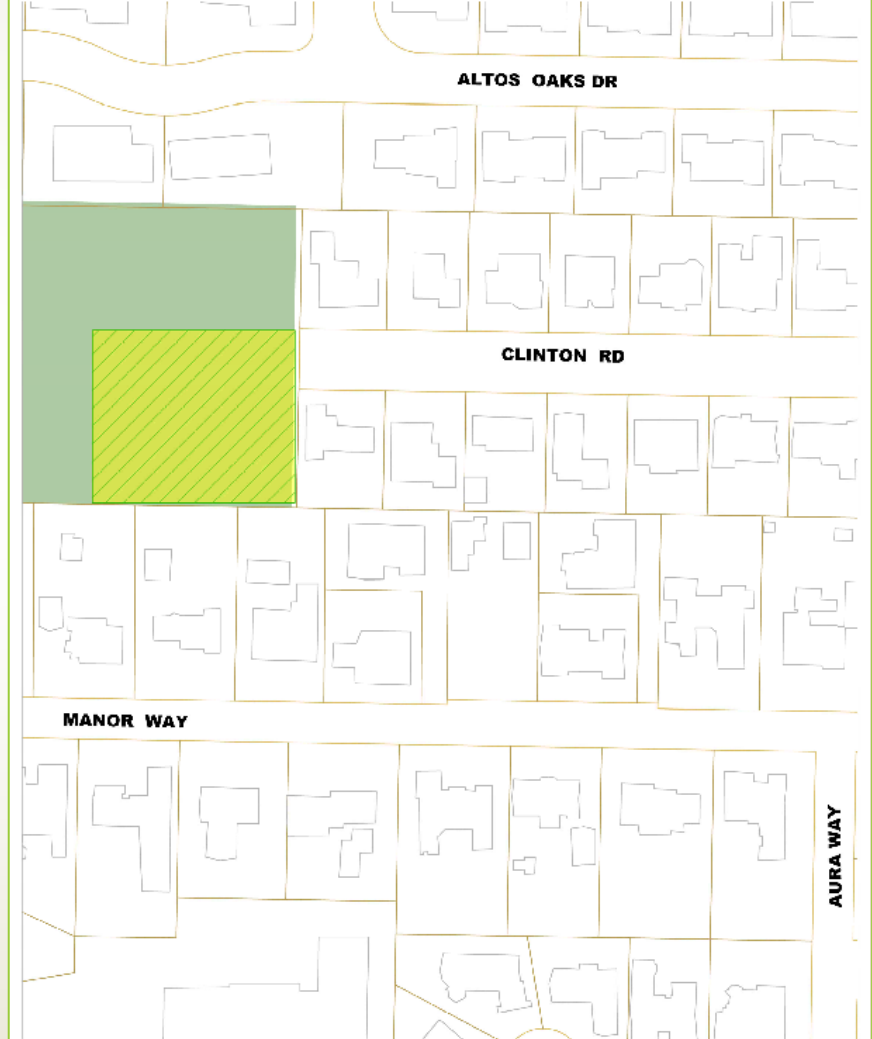
South Los Altos - McKenzie Park East

(707 Fremont Ave)

McKenzie East (200' x 175')



McKenzie East (200' x 175')



Proposed Dog Park Location Notes

North Los Altos Locations

Staff Notes

Civic Center Soccer Field East	1) Minimal residential impact; 2) Some shade; 3) Access to water, restrooms, and sufficient parking; 4) Seating could be incorporated; 5) No displacement of current uses; 6) Due to new configuration of Community Center Parking lot and additional turf area, there is sufficient space.
Rosita Park	1) Seemingly minimal residential impact; 2) Access to water and restrooms; 3) Shade and seating could be incorporated; 4) Parking sufficient - may be difficult during heavy-use, tournaments, and events; 5) Will not displace any current uses; 6) Need to coordinate/confirm with current users.
Civic Center Hillview Baseball Field	1) Some direct residential impact; 2) Minimal shade and seating; 3) Water can be incorporated; 4) Access to restrooms and sufficient parking; 4) Would require installation of a permanent outfield boundary fence; 5) Defines and separates current uses; 6) Increases availability of ideal hours with fence; 7) Space will be reduced from pilot program space.
Civic Center Community Center Northeast	1) Some direct residential impact; 2) Access to water, shade, restrooms, seating, and parking; 3) Southeast area is planned for basketball and pickleball courts; 3) Does not displace any current uses.

South Los Altos Locations

Staff Notes

McKenzie Park West	1) No residential impact; 2) Access to shade, water, seating, and restrooms; 3) Does not displace current uses; 3) Sufficient parking if employee and city vehicles are accommodated by MSC; 4) Remove existing climber; 5) offer limited time for parking to increase availability of spaces to park users.
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Heritage Oaks Park	1) Some direct residential impact; 2) Access to water, shade, and restrooms; 3) Some parking; 4) Seating could be incorporated; 5) No conflicts with other park uses; 6) Undeveloped/vacant area of park – maximizes available park land.
Marymeade Park	1) Some direct residential impact; 2) Access to shade, seating, water, and restrooms; 3) Additional parking would have to be explored - parking on site is not sufficient.
Grant Park	1) Some direct residential impact; 2) Access to water, restrooms, seating, shade, and parking; 3) Park is heavily programmed and may reduce flexible open use.
McKenzie Park East	1) Some direct residential impact; 2) Access to shade, water, seating, and restrooms; 3) Supplementing use of large open/green space; 4) Does not displace current uses; 5) Sufficient parking if employee and city vehicles are accommodated by MSC; 6) Offer limited time for parking to increase availability of spaces to park users.