

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: November 22, 2004

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE WASHINGTON PARK MASTER PLAN AND
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Approve the Initial Study and Adopt the Negative Declaration prepared for the Washington Park Master Plan;
- 2) Adopt the De Minimis Finding of No Impact on Fish and Wildlife;
- 3) Adopt the Washington Park Master Plan;
- 4) Direct the City Clerk to certify the Notice of Determination, Negative Declaration, and Certificate of Exemption from Fish and Game fees with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

REVIEW BY COMMISSIONS:

The Washington Park Master Plan was presented to the Recreation and Parks Commission, the Northwest Commission, the Design Commission, the Planning Commission, the Accessibility and Disability Commission, and the Urban Forestry Advisory Commission during June and July of 2002. None of the comments received at any of the Commission and Committee presentations recommended any modification to the proposed plan. On June 4, 2002 the Recreation and Parks Commission recommended that the City Council grant conceptual approval of the Washington Park Master Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The process of revising the Washington Park Master Plan began in September 2001 with the formation of the Washington Park Master Plan Stakeholders Group, which is comprised of local community members who have taken an interest in Washington Park. The goal of the project was to update the park's 1980 Master Plan. City staff from Public Works, Human Services and Recreation, and the Police Department also participated. As a result of the community driven workshop process, a new Master Plan has been created for the park (Attachment A).

CITY COUNCIL
ADOPTION OF THE WASHINGTON PARK MASTER PLAN AND NEGATIVE
DECLARATION
November 22, 2004
Page 2

The first workshop was held on January 15, 2002. The intent of this workshop was to draw out as many thoughts and ideas as possible. The outcome of this workshop was a list of ideas for improving the park. These ideas fell into several categories: Guiding principles, passive features, active/sports features, parking/access/safety, and activities that are not suitable for the park. The majority of the participants felt very strongly that the historic character of the park should be preserved and enhanced. This became the predominant theme throughout the Master Plan process.

The second workshop, held on February 19, 2002, focused on prioritizing the ideas that were brought forth in the first workshop. There was also unanimous support from the workshop group and the stakeholders to acquire property as parkland if and when it becomes available.

The third workshop, held on March 19, 2002, gave the stakeholders an opportunity to see the draft Master Plan that graphically represented the proposed improvements (Attachment A). The goals of this workshop were to review this plan and to finalize the list of projects and establish a short list of the highest priority projects.

The majority of the proposed improvements are focused on rehabilitating and enhancing the existing infrastructure in the park. The only major new feature proposed is a 2000 square foot "Community House", adjacent to the parking lot on Washington Boulevard, which would house restrooms, storage, a meeting room and an office for Recreation staff and would replace the existing restroom facility.

When completed, the proposed high priority projects would eliminate safety hazards and barriers to access that exist in the park. Several of the improvements are identified and funded in the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget. These improvements include the replacement of the play equipment and the tennis court fencing and the resurfacing of all sports courts. Other high priority projects include restoration and enhancement of the streambed area, renovating the picnic area, construction of a shelter near the play area, and the construction of a trash enclosure.

On August 19, 2002, the City Council reviewed and conceptually approved the draft Washington Park Master Plan. An Initial Study was prepared and circulated, and a Negative Declaration has been prepared. Staff now seeks the adoption of the plan that will formalize these community efforts.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

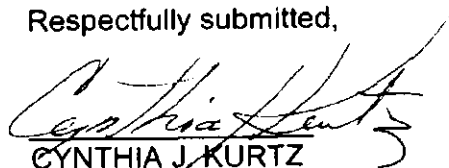
An Initial Study has been completed and a Negative Declaration prepared for the Master Plan. Both documents were approved by the Environmental Administrator. A Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration was published between September 22, 2004 and October 22, 2004. No comments were received during that period.

CITY COUNCIL
ADOPTION OF THE WASHINGTON PARK MASTER PLAN AND NEGATIVE
DECLARATION
November 22, 2004
Page 3

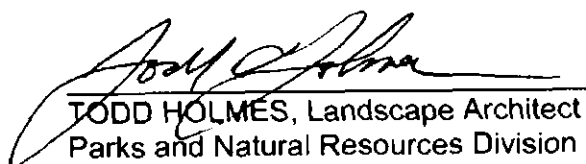
FISCAL IMPACT:

The total estimated cost of the improvements proposed in the Master Plan is \$1,597,000. A total of \$626,544 has been approved in the FY '04-08 CIP, leaving \$970,000 unfunded.

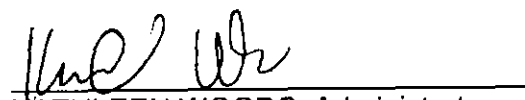
Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments:
Washington Park Master Plan

ATTACHMENT A

