



Council Agenda Report

From: Angelica Fortin, Community Services Director

Subject: Approval of the Larry Moore Park Revitalization Concept and Authorization to Complete Final Design

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action, to approve the preparation of design documents and the finalization of traffic and environmental reports for the Larry Moore Park is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") as CEQA does not apply to feasibility or planning studies that will have no legally binding effect on later activities and will not approve the construction and operation of the Park. (CEQA Guidelines § 15262).

Date: April 21, 2026

Facts

1. Larry Moore Park was planned and developed in the 1980s as part of the Riverbank development and was intended to serve that neighborhood. The Riverbank development was included in the Paso Robles Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District, with resident assessments intended to help fund park maintenance.
2. Over time, assessment revenues have not keep pace with rising maintenance costs. As a result, the park fell into disrepair, and both the restroom and playground were eventually closed to the public.
3. In 2016, the City removed the park and adjacent landscaped parkway from the Landscape and Lighting District and accepted Larry Moore Park into the City's park system. The City subsequently installed a new playground and renovated and reopened the restroom.
4. Prior to this transition, the City conducted extensive neighborhood outreach to discuss the change from district maintenance to City maintenance. During one meeting, the City suggested improving the park with lighted youth baseball/softball fields, a multi-use turf area that could support youth soccer, as well as parking lot enhancements. Some community members expressed concerns about increased use, traffic, and neighborhood safety. The City contracted with a local firm to prepare two preliminary concept plans and committed to performing a traffic evaluation before advancing any improvements.
5. After the sale of a portion of Pioneer Park in 2024, proceeds from the sale, along with Parks and Recreation Facilities Development Fees, were used to fund landscape architecture and design services to develop a formal design for Larry Moore Park. The project scope included landscape architecture and design services with David Volz Design and a contract with SWCA Environmental Consultants to provide CEQA and transportation analysis services.
6. On May 20, 2025, after a discussion regarding youth athletic field capacity concerns, City Council unanimously directed staff to advance long-term strategies to meet growing demand for youth sports athletic fields, including continued development of the Larry Moore Park plan.
7. On December 8, 2025, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) unanimously endorsed the Larry Moore Concept Plan.

Community Outreach

As part of the design process, David Volz Design conducted three community outreach events to gather feedback on the future development of Larry Moore Park.

- **First outreach event:** Held the morning of Saturday, November 2, 2024. Participants were asked to act as “landscape architects for the day” to share priorities, ideas, and concerns prior to concept development. The majority of the 35-40 participants were neighborhood residents.
- **Second outreach event:** Held at Centennial Park on the evening of Thursday, May 8, 2025, with approximately 40 attendees, including residents and youth sports representatives. Two draft design concepts, developed from the first workshop’s input, were presented in an open-house format. Feedback gathered at this event was used to refine the concepts into a single preferred plan.
- **Third outreach event:** Held the evening of Wednesday, August 27, 2025, with approximately 25 neighborhood and athletic group participants. A refined single concept was presented, and additional feedback was collected to finalize the plan.

Options

1. Take no action;
2. Approve the Larry Moore Park Concept Plan and direct staff to complete the design documents;
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

Analysis and Conclusions

Larry Moore Park is an underdeveloped neighborhood asset located within an active, family-oriented area. Redeveloping the park to include additional youth sports fields will address documented field shortages while providing a high-quality, multi-use recreational amenity for neighborhood residents and the broader community. Given previously identified needs and Council direction, the City allocated funds from the sale of a portion of Pioneer Park to develop a formal concept plan for Larry Moore Park.

After a year-long process of gathering public feedback and refining concepts, a new vision for Larry Moore Park has been developed that addresses neighborhood concerns while expanding high-need park amenities for youth. The concept, designed by David Volz Design, was endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in December 2025 and includes the following elements:

- 2 lighted ball fields and 1 rectangular field (U12, shared use)
- Shaded spectator bleachers
- 2 thematic playground areas
- Rock climbing and slackline area
- Lighted basketball court and drop shot court
- Shaded senior-friendly outdoor fitness area
- Native demonstration garden
- Covered paseo for shade and food truck service
- Shaded picnic structures
- New restrooms and storage areas
- Field storage buildings
- Connection to the Riverwalk Trail system

Community concerns, particularly related to traffic, parking, homelessness, and neighborhood impacts of increased usage, were central considerations in the design process. Three outreach sessions over nine months were held to collect input and refine the design. Feedback received was incorporated into the design as follows:

- The plan proposes 97 parking spaces to address parking overflow.
- The parking lot is designed to be below grade to mitigate noise, visual impacts, and lighting concerns.
- Parking orientation directs headlights toward the park and away from homes.
- Entry and exit points align with roadways rather than residences to further reduce impacts.
- Proposed athletic field lighting will utilize a Musco LED system designed to minimize glare, light spill, and sky glow through precision optics, full-cutoff fixtures, and directional shielding.
- Athletic fields are designed specifically for youth sports, which limits use and reservation times.
- Lockable gates to prevent overnight parking or camping.
- Lighting throughout to increase visibility.
- Vehicle-graded perimeter trail to allow for emergency vehicle access to support increased patrolling of area.

To further evaluate potential circulation and safety considerations, a transportation impact analysis is currently underway. The study includes new traffic counts at four intersections along River Road during weekday morning and afternoon peak periods, as well as midday on a Saturday. Traffic speed data has been collected along Bridgegate Lane and Riverbank Lane, and recent collision data in the project vicinity is being reviewed. The analysis will assess traffic delay and queueing conditions with and without the proposed park improvements under both existing and future scenarios. Based on these findings, recommendations will be developed, as needed, to support safe and efficient traffic operations in the surrounding area.

City staff have also initiated environmental review in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Preliminary technical studies addressing biological resources, cultural resources, traffic, and air quality/greenhouse gas emissions are currently underway to inform the environmental analysis. Based on initial draft information and the current concept plan, no potentially significant environmental impacts have been identified at this time; however, this determination may be subject to change as project details are refined. Following City Council direction on the preferred concept plan, the technical studies and environmental analysis will be finalized to ensure the review accurately reflects the proposed project scope. An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) will be prepared and circulated for public review in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21092 and will be returned to the City Council for consideration and adoption concurrently with approval of the park project.

If City Council approves the concept, David Volz Design will proceed into the formal design phase and develop construction documents and SWCA will work to finalize traffic and environmental reports.

While the design concept for the project may be finalized at this stage, approval of a preferred concept will serve as a key milestone that triggers a subsequent process to develop a comprehensive funding strategy for implementation. This funding planning effort will be undertaken as a separate phase and will evaluate potential funding sources, phasing options, and prioritization within the City's broader capital improvement framework.

It is important to note that this project is one of several park and recreation initiatives identified as needing future funding. Competing priorities include, but are not limited to, construction of Beechwood Park, development of a Parks Master Plan, and identifying potential additional parks space on the west side of the City. Given the number of unfunded park projects, the development of a funding plan will require a coordinated, citywide approach to capital planning that balances community needs, available resources, and long-term maintenance obligations.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact related to receiving and approving the Larry Moore Park concept. City Council has already approved design funding for this project as part of the April 2, 2024 action. The remaining cost to complete the final design is approximately \$594,447

CEQA

The City finds that this action, to approve the preparation of design documents and the finalization of traffic and environmental reports for the Larry Moore Park, is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) as CEQA does not apply to feasibility or planning studies that will have no legally binding effect on later activities and will not approve the construction and operation of the Park. (CEQA Guidelines § 15262

Recommendation (Option 2)

Approve the Larry Moore Park Concept Plan, direct staff to complete the design documents, and find this action exempt from CEQA pursuant to State Guidelines Section 15262.

Attachments

1. Larry Moore Concept Plan