



Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Agenda Report

From: Angelica Fortin, Community Services Director

Subject: Recommend the Renaming of Oak Creek Park

Date: February 10, 2025

Facts

1. In 2025, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. In commemoration of this anniversary and in recognition of the longstanding relationship with the City and the numerous Veterans that live within the City, the Paso Robles VFW Post 10965 has requested the re-naming of Oak Creek Park to Veterans Park.
2. Oak Creek Park is a passive park located on the South Side of Creston Rd. along Cedarwood Dr. The Senior Center and Veteran's Memorial Building are both located immediately behind the park with a vista of the park from the back area of the buildings.
3. The VFW Post 10965 is interested in raising funds to develop a public art memorial in celebration of local veterans within the park.
4. Immediately adjacent to Sherwood Forest Park and Sherwood Park, Oak Creek Park is included in the Sherwood Park Master Plan adopted by City Council in February 2019. Subsequent floodplain issues have resulted in the need to re-imagine the overall design of the parks. With the exception of the [Pickleball Court Complex](#) approved at the November 19, 2024, City Council meeting, there are no immediate plans or funding in place to update the park.

Options

1. Take no action;
2. Recommend the re-naming of Oak Creek Park to Veterans Park and support the VFW Post 10965's efforts to explore the development of a concept for a Veterans Memorial art installation at Oak Creek Park;
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

Analysis and Conclusions

In 2025, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. In commemoration of this anniversary and in recognition of the longstanding relationship with the City and the numerous Veterans that live within the City, the Paso Robles VFW Post 10965 has requested the re-naming of Oak Creek Park to Veterans Park. The park is located immediately behind the Veterans Memorial Building with a vista of the park from the back area of the building. Because of its location, renaming the park would be in alignment with the City's Naming Policy which outlines that public facilities shall carry designations befitting their intended function and use, origin and/ or location.

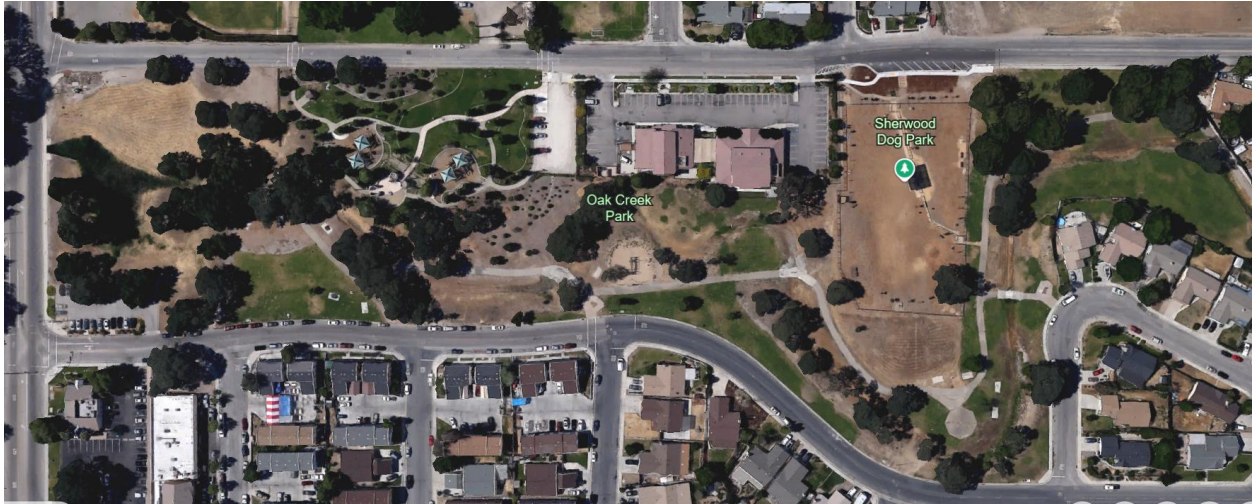


Figure 1 Aerial View Oak Creek Park

Oak Creek Park is a passive park that includes a walking trail and picnic benches sprinkled throughout. VFW Post 10965 is interested in raising funds to develop a public art memorial to celebrate local veterans within the park; no such memorial exists within the City. If the VFW Post 10965 is successful in raising funds and developing a concept for a memorial, the concept will be brought forward to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and subsequently to Council for consideration in line with the Paso Robles Arts in Public Places Policy. VFW Post 10965 is aware that the park may be re-developed in the future and will take this into consideration when developing a concept for the memorial.

One area of interest for such a memorial is a vacant circular sandbox immediately behind the Veterans Memorial Building. Due to safety issues, the playground in this sandbox was removed in 2022. With a limited budget and an active playground at the adjacent Sherwood Forest Park approximately 400 ft from the vacant sandbox, there is currently no replacement plan in place.



Figure 2 Oak Creek Park Sandbox, Sherwood Forest Playground, Veterans Memorial Building

Fiscal Impact

There are minimal impacts associated with renaming the park and no fiscal impact related to supporting the VFW Post 10965's efforts to explore the development of a concept for a Veterans Memorial art installation at Oak Creek Park.

Recommendation (Option 2)

Recommend the re-naming of Oak Creek Park to Veterans Park and support the VFW Post 10965's efforts to explore the development of a concept for a Veterans Memorial art installation at Oak Creek Park.

Attachments

1. City of Paso Robles Facility Naming Policy
2. Arts in Public Places Policy