



Council Agenda Report

From: Angelica Fortin, Community Services Director

Subject: Renaming of the New Turtle Creek Park and Oak Creek Park

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.

Date: March 18, 2025

Facts

1. On February 20, 2020, City Council approved the Olsen-Chandler Ranch Specific Plan which included the development of a new public park referred to as an extension of Turtle Creek Park. This new section of the park is designed to be primarily passive in nature but will include pickleball courts, restrooms, and a picnic area.
2. The new park is located on Parkview Lane alongside Turtle Creek and will connect to the existing Royal Oak Meadows Park and Turtle Creek Park, in the Sierra Bonita neighborhood, via a pedestrian and bike trail. Because Royal Oak Meadows Park is located between the existing Turtle Creek Park and the new Turtle Creek Park extension, referring to the new park as Turtle Creek Park has caused confusion.
3. The park is expected to be completed in 2025 and renaming the new park now will eliminate confusion and facilitate the acceptance process.
4. At the [January 13, 2025](#) meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) meeting, the committee voted to recommend the re-naming of Turtle Creek Park to Creekside Park.
5. 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.
6. Oak Creek Park is a passive park located on the South Side of Creston Road along Cedarwood Drive. 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. The VFW Post 10965 is interested in raising funds to develop a public art memorial in celebration of local veterans within the park.
7. At the [February 10, 2025](#) PRAC meeting, the committee voted to recommend the re-naming of Oak Creek Park to Veterans Park.

Options

1. Take no action;
2. Approve resolution 25-XXX(A), renaming the new area of park currently referred to as Turtle Creek Park in the Olsen Chandler Ranch Specific Plan to Creekside Park as Creekside Park and approve resolution 25-XXX(B), renaming Oak Creek Park as Veterans Park and support the VFW Post 10965's efforts to explore the development of a concept for a Veterans Memorial art installation at the park;
3. Establish a City Council ad-hoc committee to consider the re-naming requests;
4. Provide alternative direction to staff.

Analysis and Conclusions

In alignment with the City’s Naming of Public Facilities Policy which states that public facilities “shall carry designations befitting their intended function and use, origin and/or location,” it is recommended that the new park be renamed Creekside Park due to its adjacency to the newly rehabbed creek. The creek will be a highlight of the new neighborhood. The trails that connect the park along the creek to the rest of the City will make it a destination for the entire community.

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 renaming 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. Renaming this park is in alignment with the City’s Naming of Public Facilities Policy due to location and the policy’s prioritization of “names which commemorate the culture and history of Paso Robles.”

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.

Current Paso Robles Parks include:

- Barney Schwartz
- Centennial Park
- City Park
- Larry Moore Park
- Lenco Park
- Mandella Park
- Oak Creek Park (recommended for re-naming)
- Pioneer Park
- Robbins Field
- Royal Oak Meadows Park
- Sherwood Forest
- Sherwood Park
- Turtle Creek Park
- Uptown Family Park

Fiscal Impact

There are minimal impacts associated with renaming the parks 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 the park currently known as Oak Creek Park.

CEQA

The City finds that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.

Recommendation (Option 2)

It is recommended that City Council make the following actions:

1. Approve Resolution 25-XXX(A), renaming the new area of park currently referred to as Turtle Creek Park in the Olsen Chandler Ranch Specific Plan to Creekside Park; and
2. Approve Resolution 25-XXX(B), renaming Oak Creek Park as Veterans Park and support the VFW Post 10965's efforts to explore the development of a concept for a Veterans Memorial art installation at the park.

Attachments

1. Resolution 25-XXX(A) – Renaming Turtle Creek Park as Creekside Park
2. Resolution 25-XXX(B) – Renaming Oak Creek Park as Veterans Park
3. City of Paso Robles Facility Naming Policy
4. OSCSP Park Concept - Turtle Creek
5. Map of Oak Creek Park
6. Arts in Public Places Policy