



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: JULY 16, 2018**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON TRAIL REPAIRS AT MT. RUBIDOUX AND ST. FRANCIS FALLS,
AND TRAILHEAD AMENITIES TO SUPPORT THE SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL**

ISSUE:

Receive an update on repairs to the unpaved trails at Frank A. Miller Mt. Rubidoux Memorial Park (Mt. Rubidoux), repairs to historic St. Francis Falls, and trailhead amenities to support the Santa Ana River Trail.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive a report on repairs to the unpaved trails at Frank A. Miller Mt. Rubidoux Memorial Park, repairs to historic St. Francis Falls, and trailhead amenities to support the Santa Ana River Trail.

BACKGROUND

On September 23, 2014, the City Council approved the submittal of a grant application and a supplemental appropriation of Regional Park Special Capital Improvement funds (413 funds) for this project. The grant in the amount of \$93,000 has since been awarded to the City by the State Parks Department.

On October 2, 2015, the City of Riverside Historic Preservation Fund Committee approved \$25,000 in grant funds for repair of historic St. Francis Falls, located at the base of Mt. Rubidoux and easily accessed at the back of Carlson Park.

On May 17, 2018, staff presented the Mt. Rubidoux Trail Concept Improvement Plans to the Friends of Mt. Rubidoux community group, and on May 21, 2018, staff presented the plans to the Downtown Area Neighborhood Association community group. Both groups were supportive of the proposed improvements.

DISCUSSION:

An existing firebreak runs up the hillside from the base of Mt. Rubidoux. Due to use of the

firebreak as a trail, the footprint of the firebreak has expanded to over five times its needed width, and has been subject to heavy erosion damage sending dirt and debris down the hill into Carlson Park, onto the Santa Ana River Trail, and leaving large holes in the hillside. To protect the park and reduce erosion, the following tools will be implemented:

- Gabion check dams and swales to reduce erosive force and direct storm-water running down the mountain;
- Barriers to block unauthorized routes, many of which contribute to erosion problems;
- Retaining walls to shore up unstable slopes; and
- Wayfinding, public education, and interpretive signs to direct people.

Current drainage patterns cause extensive erosion above the waterfall each time there is a significant rainfall. In order to minimize further damage and protect the waterfall from being undermined, the trail and drainage pattern above the waterfall need to be modified. Several holes in the plaster structure of the waterfall need to be repaired to prevent water intrusion behind the plaster.

The trailhead at the back of Carlson Park has become more frequently used by Mt. Rubidoux visitors since parking at the Ninth Street gate has been redirected to other entrances. Trailhead support amenities will be added at the back of Carlson Park, at the base of Mt. Rubidoux. Amenities include benches, bike racks, a drinking fountain with filtered water and water bottle filler, a kiosk with a trail map, and shade trees and/or a small shade structure. These improvements will benefit both Mt. Rubidoux and Santa Ana River Trail visitors, who also use the Carlson Park parking lot as a staging area.

The storm water and erosion management work is planned to start in November 2018 using the California Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC has the required specialized trail-related construction and repair experience, and has successfully completed other projects in Riverside and throughout the Inland Empire. Repairs to St. Francis Falls and the trailhead improvements will be undertaken using other contractors and City staff after the storm water and erosion management work is done on the hillside above.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated project cost is \$186,000. The project funding sources are summarized below.

Funding	
Description	Amount
California State Parks Habitat Conservation Fund Grant (9895200122-44022000)	\$93,000
City of Riverside Historic Preservation Fund Grant (9895700885-44030900)	\$25,000
Regional Park Special Capital Improvement (413) Fund (9895220245-44030500)	\$49,300
California Conservation Corp donated labor and City staff labor	\$18,700
TOTAL	\$186,000

Prepared by: Randy McDaniel, Principal Park Planner/Project Manager
 Approved by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
 Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

- 1. Mt. Rubidoux Unpaved Trail Repair Concept**
- 2. Presentation**