



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2019**
FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT **WARD: 2**
SUBJECT: LAND DONATION OF 4.1 ACRES FROM THE RIVERS & LANDS CONSERVANCY FOR EXPANSION OF ISLANDER PARK - NORTH OF THE EASTERN TERMINUS OF BIG SPRINGS ROAD (APN 258-130-002)

ISSUE:

Accept a fee title land donation of 4.1 acres (APN 258-130-002) from the Rivers & Lands Conservancy for expansion of Islander Park, north of the eastern terminus of Big Springs Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Accept the fee title land donation and transfer of ownership to the City of Riverside from the Rivers & Lands Conservancy of 4.1 acres of property (APN 258-130-002); and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute any and all documents necessary to complete the transfer of ownership of the property, including making minor and non-substantive changes.

BACKGROUND:

The 4.1 acres of land to be donated (APN 258-130-002) ("Donation Property") is currently owned by Richard Block, Jane Block, and the Block Family Living Trust ("Property Owners"). Per the attached Donation Agreement, the Rivers & Lands Conservancy will acquire the Donation Property from the Property Owners, and then donate the property to the City of Riverside for use as open space and trails, expanding Islander Park.

DISCUSSION:

The Donation Property is located north of the easterly terminus of Big Springs Road at the base of the Box Springs Mountains and immediately abuts the eastern boundary of the City's Islander Park. Islander Park has two distinct zones: 1.5 acres of developed park land and 19 acres of undeveloped park land. The smaller developed portion of the park is in the southwest corner of the site, and includes a public pool, a bathhouse/restroom building, a concession stand, a sand volleyball court, and a parking lot, all open for summer and private rental use only. The

undeveloped portion of the park is used as open space for activities such as walking, running, and bike riding.

Islander Park was formerly an access point for the community to hike to the “Big C,” a local point of interest which is located on the Box Springs Mountain. Access to the Big C from Islander Park was cut off by the development of the Perris Valley Metrolink Train line in 2016. The Donation Property may be useful in providing a future connection across the train tracks in order to restore public access to the Big C from Islander Park.

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is responsible for the maintenance of Islander Park. Only 1.5 acres in the southwestern corner of Islander Park is developed with a public pool and pool building, landscaping, and irrigation, requiring a higher level of maintenance. The remaining portion of Islander Park is 19 acres of undeveloped land. Since the property to be donated is immediately adjacent to the undeveloped portion of Islander Park, maintenance costs for the additional 4.1 acres of undeveloped land is not expected to significantly increase the cost of maintaining the park property.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with receiving the land donation. Minimal maintenance costs will be absorbed into the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department budget.

Prepared by:	Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by:	Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Donation Agreement
2. Site Map