

FAIRMOUNT PARK MASTER PLAN

Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Cultural Heritage Board

Agenda Item: 5

January 21, 2026

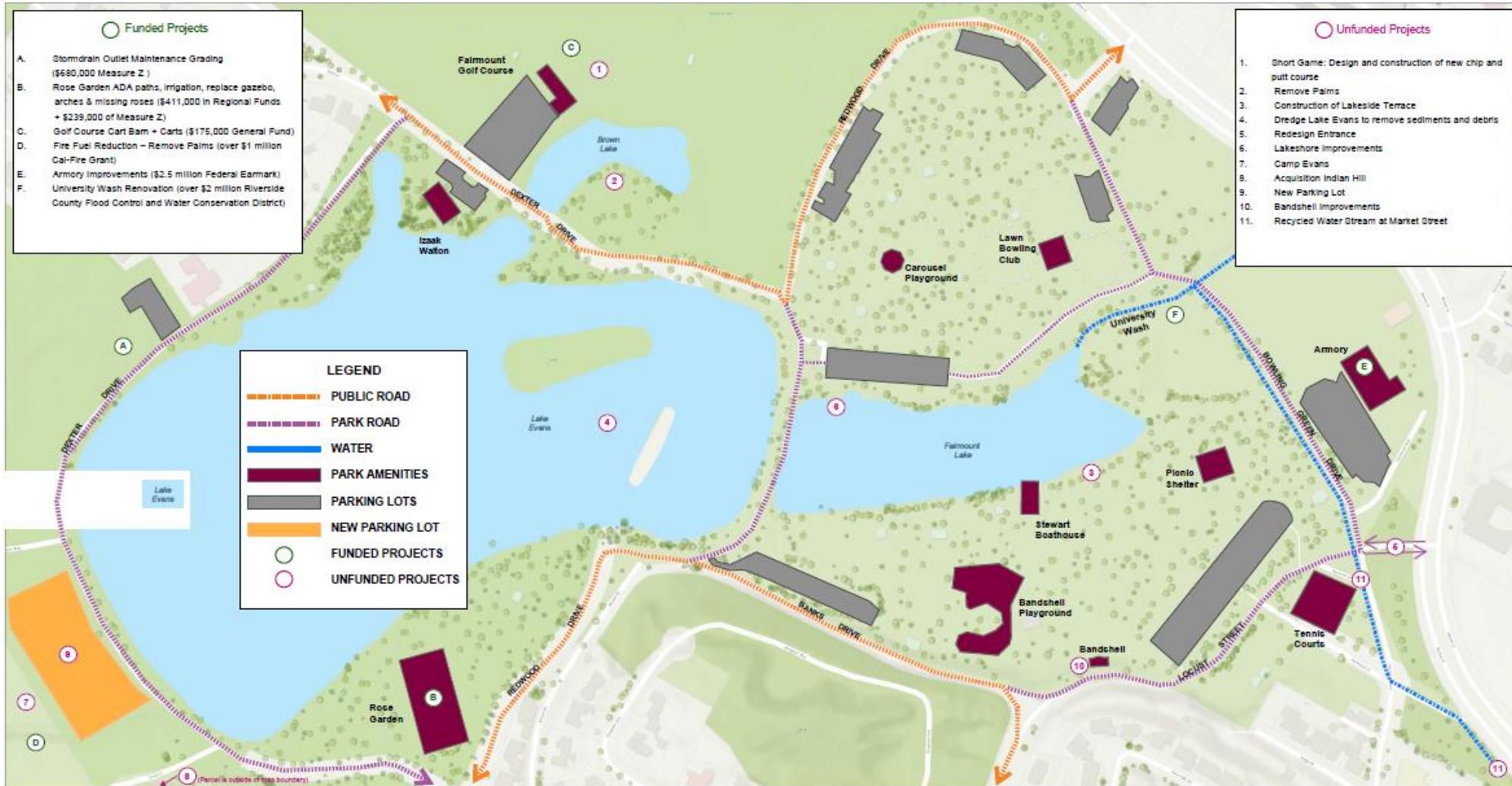
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Riverside County

- **Cahuilla**
- **Gabrielino-Tongva**
- **Luiseño (also known as Payomkawichum)**
- **Yuhaaviatam (clan of Maara'yam/Serrano)**



CURRENT AND PLANNED DEFERRED MAINTENANCE



1911 FAIRMOUNT PARK OLMSTED BROTHERS PLAN



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FAIRMOUNT FORWARD

COMMUNITY
MEETING

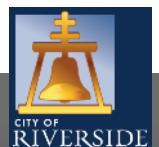
PRESERVING WHAT MATTERS, PLANNING WHAT'S NEXT



COMMUNITY INPUT



June 26, and November 3, 2025, at the Armory



FAIRMOUNT FORWARD

COMMUNITY
MEETING



SURVEY RESULTS

YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES OF FAIRMOUNT PARK



Walking or
Riding Bikes



Feeding
the Ducks



Spending Time
at the Lake



Picnics with
Family & Friends

WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME AT FAIRMOUNT PARK?



WHAT TYPES OF EVENTS OR PROGRAMMING WOULD YOU ATTEND?

- 1 Cultural Festivals
- 2 Outdoor Movie Nights or Concert
- 3 Educational Workshops or Guided Nature Walks



YOUR TOP TWO FAVORITE ACTIVITIES



56.2%

Walk or Jog



49.3%

Spend Time at the Lake

YOUR TOP PRIORITY



**Renovating
the lake**
was your top priority!

FAIRMOUNT PARK HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SERVE AS:



73.9%

You see potential in
Fairmount Park to be
a peaceful space of
reflection.

TOTAL OUTREACH



75,000

Total reach over
Instagram and Facebook



4 Concerts in the Park

where this survey was promoted
at community engagement booths.



73 Responses

through survey monkey.



YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES OF FAIRMOUNT PARK



Walking or
Riding Bikes



Feeding
the Ducks



Spending Time
at the Lake



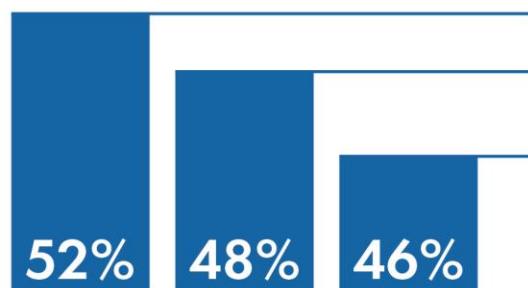
Picnics with
Family & Friends

WHAT TYPES OF EVENTS OR PROGRAMMING WOULD YOU ATTEND?

- 1 Cultural Festivals
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WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME AT FAIRMOUNT PARK?



- More Lighting & Improved Safety Features
- Better Roads, Parking, Sidewalks, and Bike Paths
- A Community Space Inside the Former Armory (E.g. Cafe, Brewery, Music Hall, Gallery)



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PROJECT GOALS

PRESERVING WHAT MATTERS, PLANNING WHAT'S NEXT by:

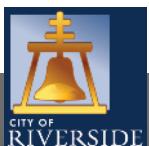
- Enhancing the park to increase activity
- Preserving the historic integrity of the park

Key groups:

- Taks force
- Indigenous Tribes
- Public

Deliverables:

- Cultural landscape master plan of the entire 280 acres
- Focused plan of the park historic core



PROJECT GOALS

Improve Circulation

- Improve backbone road with better lighting
- Rename backbone road
- Eliminate one-way roads
- Stop drive through traffic by blocking Fairmount Blvd and Locust St
- Add new accessible pedestrian walkways throughout the park
- Convert decomposed granite walkways to accessible concrete
- Improve directional wayfinding and signage
- Increase number of parking spaces
- Improve bicycle circulation including enhancing access to the Santa Ana River Trail and a bike path around golf course



EMERGING IDEAS



EAST ENTRANCE



- Improve entrance circulation
- Add parking
- Potential Scouts Headquarters
- Art opportunities
- Water feature
- Reconfigure tennis courts

MARKET STREET WATER FEATURE



A new water feature can circulate and clean the lake water



BANDSHELL CONDITION



The original bandshell was destroyed in a fire and today a mobile stage is placed in front of the bandshell because it does not function for musical performances



TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION IN 2006



Create an amphitheater in front on the existing bandshell:

- drainage problems
- killing of mature trees
- create hiding places

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BANDSHELL PROPOSAL



Recreate the original bandshell as a modern performance venue:

- Move the bandshell forward to allow for a rear loading dock
- Secure storage for equipment
- Add greenroom with bathroom
- Modern audio-visual amenities
- Engineering booth and AV towers in front

BANDSHELL LIGHTING AND CREST



Arthur Benton's creation was the state-of-the-art bandshell that was beloved by the community for decades

A recreated bandshell could have lighting and modern audio-visual amenities

Historic Photo care of Glenn Wetzel

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ORIGINAL BANDSHELL STENCILING

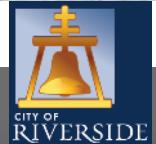


Details such as the original stenciling could be recreated



Historic Photo care of Glenn Wetzel

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BANDSHELL CREST AND ROCKWORK



The original shape of the bandshell could be recreated with details such as the crest and rockwork

Historic Photo care of Glenn Wetzel

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THE BANDSHELL IN ITS GLORY



Historic Photo care of Glenn Wetzel



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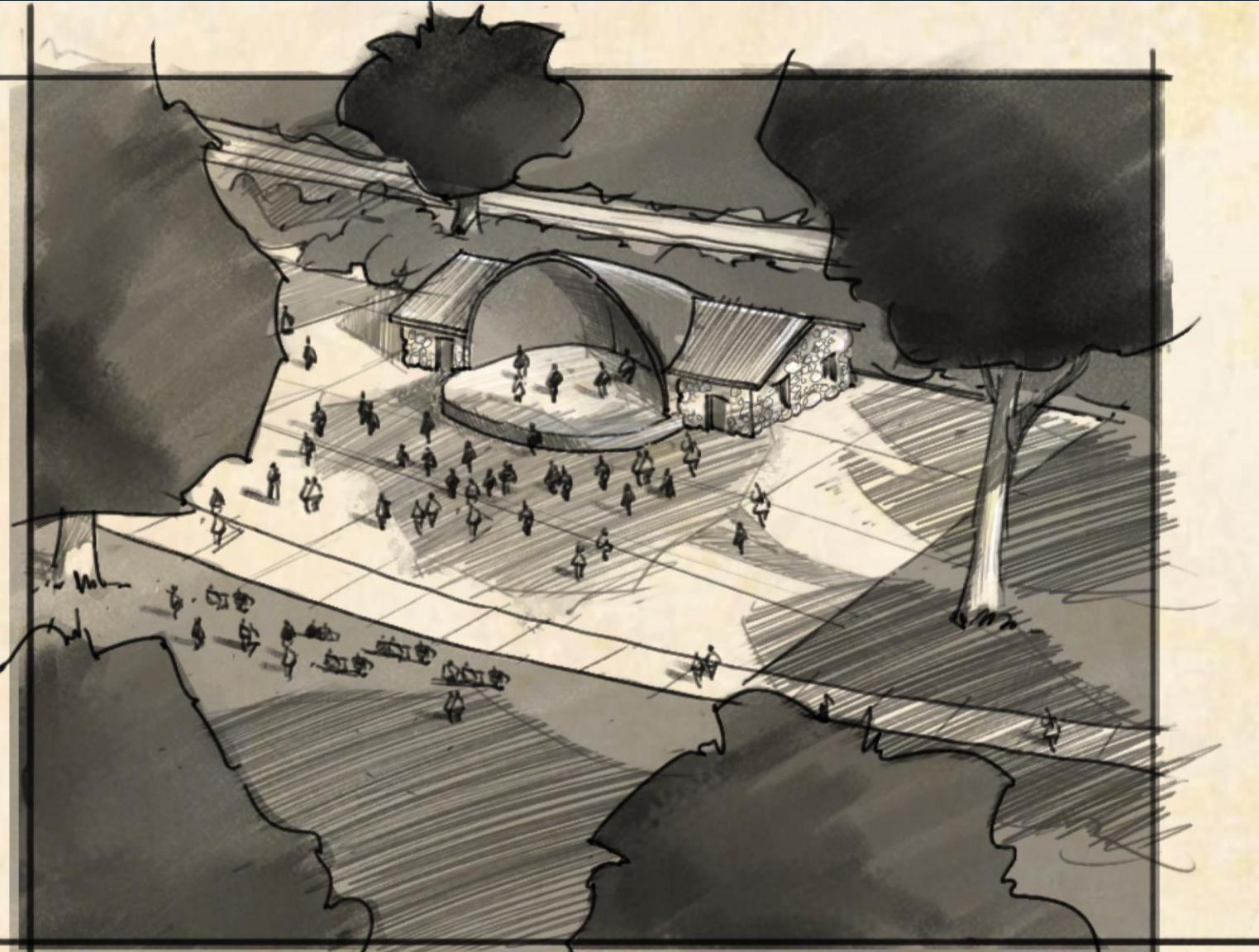
RiversideCA.gov

EXISTING BANDSHELL



The existing bandshell cannot accommodate modern concerts

BANDSHELL REPLICATION PROPOSAL

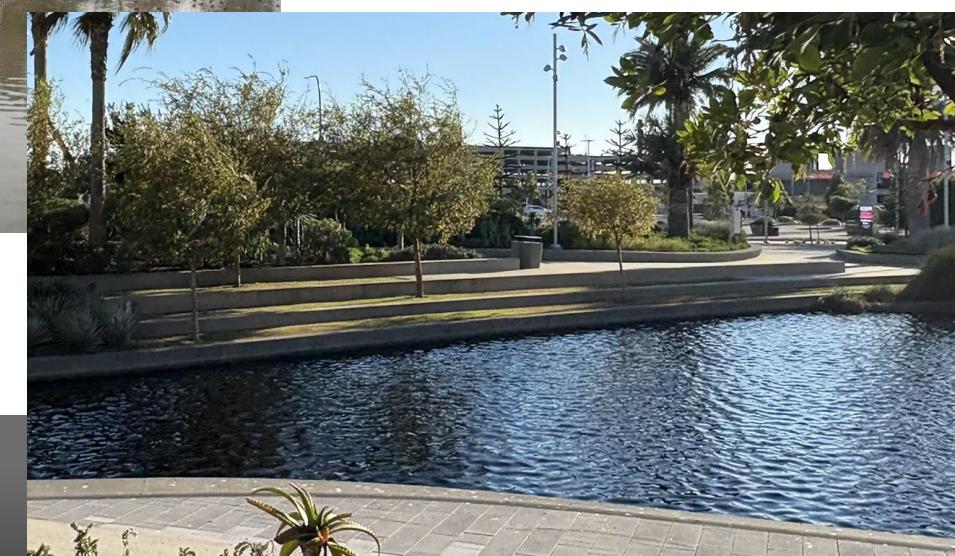


Recreate the original bandshell :

- Architecturally recreate original bandshell
- Mimic form and shape of bandshell
- Maintain Proportions
- Salvage, replace, or recreate materials such as stone and barrel tile on roof
- Rebuild wings to serve as greenroom and secure storage for equipment
- Recreate details such as the decorative stenciling, rockwork, and crest
- Restore tablets and rededicate the new bandshell

LAKESIDE ACCESS

A terraced shore will be more accessible with seating terraces formed with low retaining walls that are also an opportunity for public art and natural grass planted between them



Example from SoFi Stadium

EXISTING SHORELINE

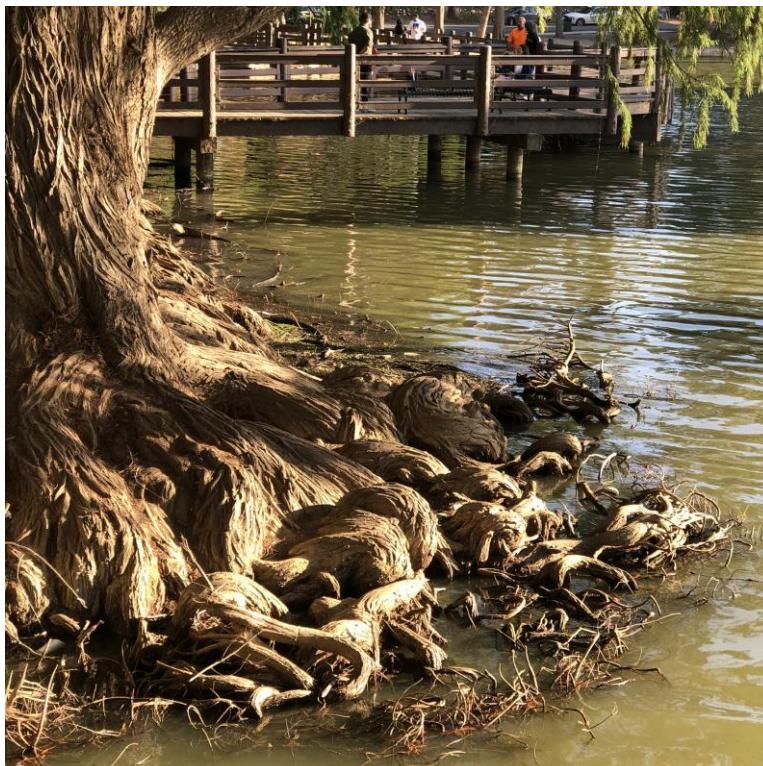


Today areas of shoreline are muddy and not accessible

Shoreline on northside of Fairmount Lake could be improved by removing palms and planning more cypress trees



TREES



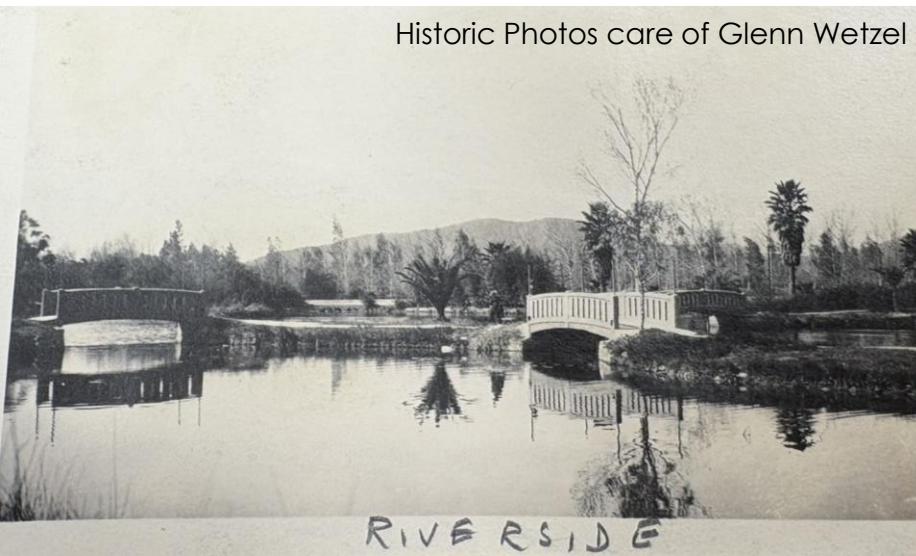
Photos by Sue Mitchell

The best shoreline is probably the tree roots so the proposal is to plant more cypress trees and remove the palms trees around the shoreline

WHITE BRIDGES



Historic Photos care of Glenn Wetzel



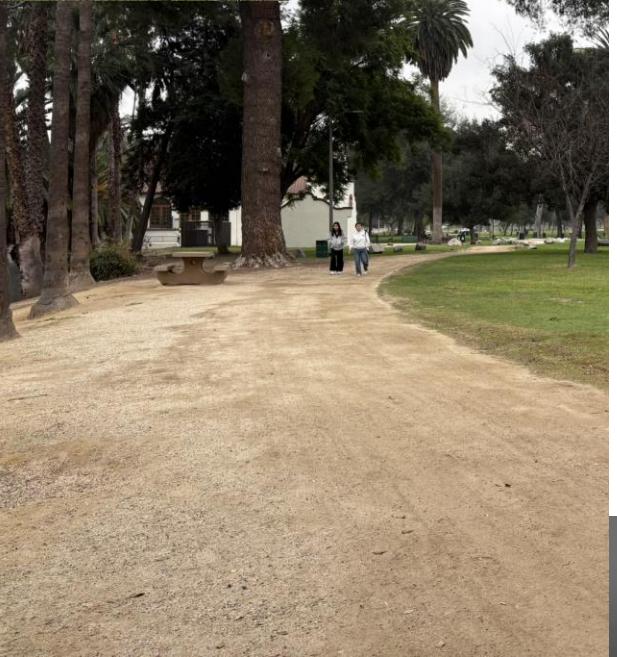
The white concrete bridges replaced the original wood bridges after 1920

The white bridges will likely be removed for the reconstruction of the Lilly ponds and improvements to the Springbook Arroyo



SIDEWALKS

Goal is to pave muddy paths to create connected, accessible and clean sidewalks through the park



AXILLARY BUILDINGS



GOLF COURSE OPTION



GOLF COURSE OPTION





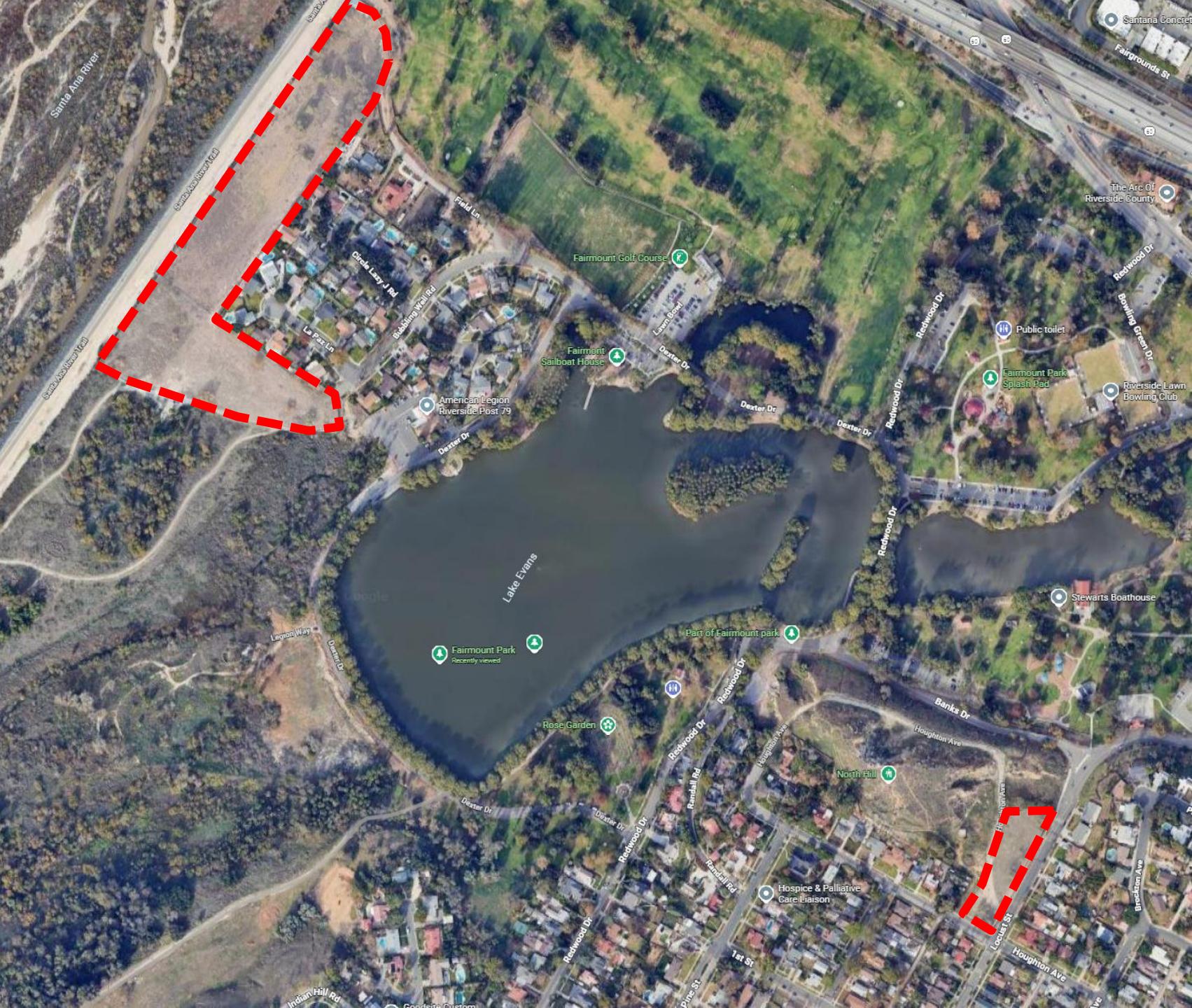
ARMORY ADAPTIVE RE-USE



LAND

Surplus parkland
that could have a
better use

Acquisition of
parkland that could
contribute to
Fairmount Park



HISTORIC INDIGENOUS VILLAGE

Indigenous Village was called
Spring Rancheria
for more information see
Pá'Čapa A Mt Rubidoux Story _ CC
on YouTube



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ART AND INTERPRETATION



Existing artwork at city hall



Artwork at the beach in Santa Barbara interpreting the Chumash people



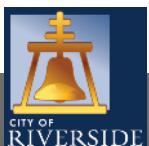
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Process to Register Fairmount Park on the National Register of Historic Places

1. **Criterion A (Event):** Association with significant historical events
2. **Criterion B (Person):** Association with important historical figures
3. **Criterion C (Design/Construction):** Embodying distinctive design, construction, artistic value, or representing a significant entity
4. **Criterion D (Information Potential):** Likely to yield important historical information
5. Generally, properties must be at least 50 years old and maintain their integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association

Fairmount Park meets all of this criteria!



LEGACY GIVING AND NAMING RIGHTS

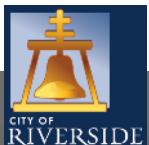
FAIRMOUNT FOREVER

LEGACY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES AND NAMING RIGHTS



NEXT STEPS

- Complete draft master plan
- Refine the cost estimates
- Consider the process for applying to the National Register of Historic Places
- Seeking funding for improvements



RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Cultural Heritage Board provide input on the Fairmount Park Master Plan

