



# **FAIRMOUNT PARK MASTER PLAN**

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**Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department**

**Cultural Heritage Board**

Agenda Item: 5

January 21, 2026

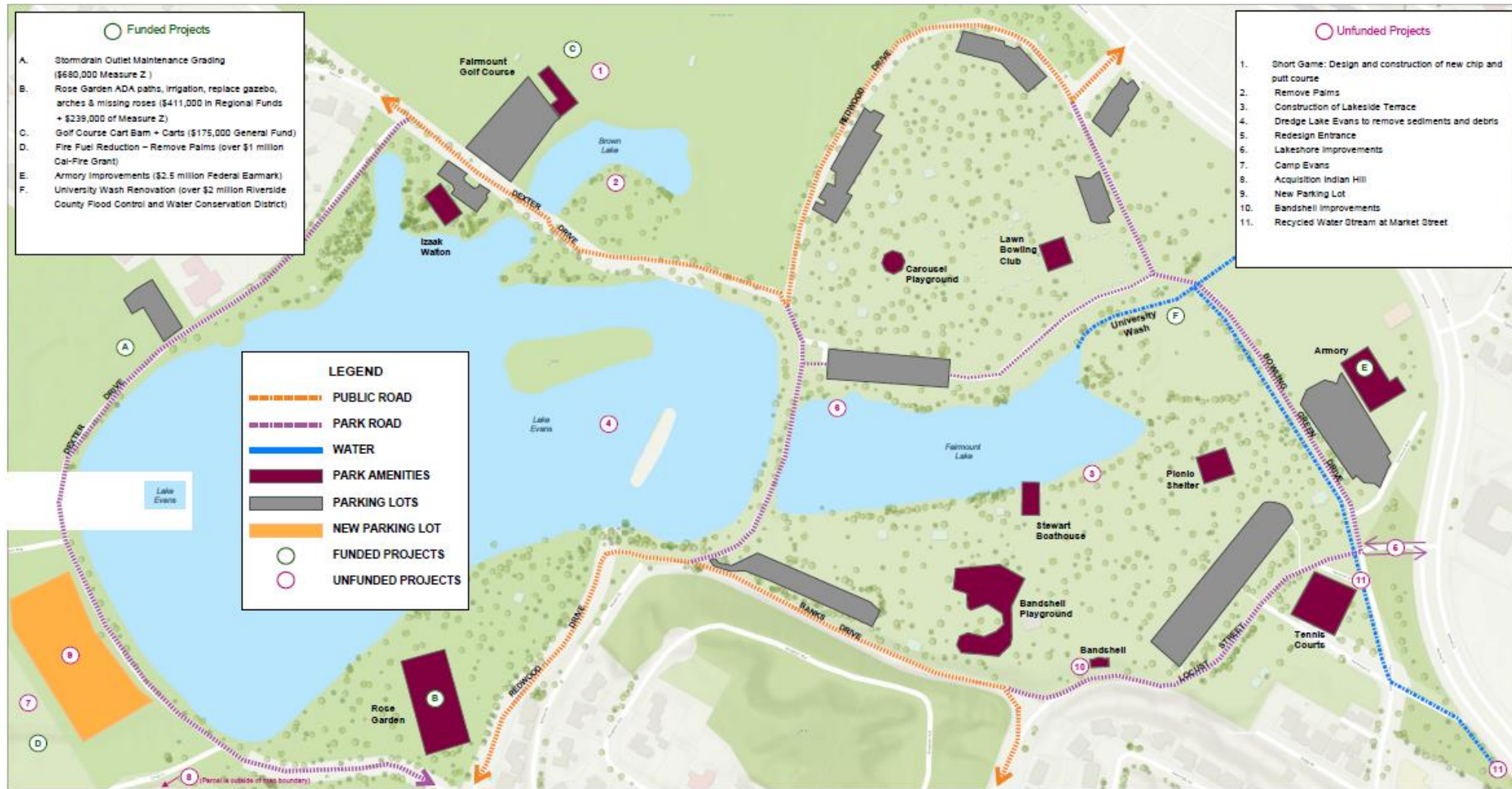
# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## 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





# 1911 FAIRMOUNT PARK OLMSTED BROTHERS PLAN







# FAIRMOUNT FORWARD

COMMUNITY  
MEETING

— PRESERVING WHAT MATTERS, PLANNING WHAT'S NEXT —



FAIRMOUNT PARK  
MASTER PLAN



# COMMUNITY INPUT



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





# *FAIRMOUNT* **FORWARD** COMMUNITY MEETING



FAIRMOUNT PARK  
MASTER PLAN

# *SURVEY RESULTS*



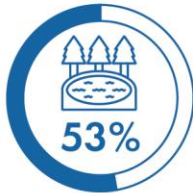
## YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES OF FAIRMOUNT PARK



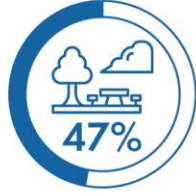
Walking or  
Riding Bikes



Feeding  
the Ducks

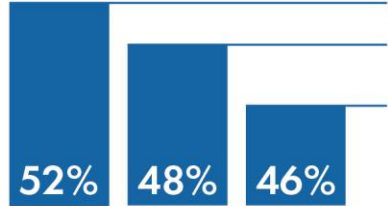


Spending Time  
at the Lake



Picnics with  
Family & Friends

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



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)

## 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:



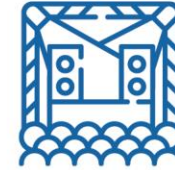
**73.9%**  
You see potential in  
Fairmount Park to be  
a peaceful space of  
reflection.

## TOTAL OUTREACH



**75,000**

Total reach over  
Instagram and Facebook



**4 Concerts  
in the Park**

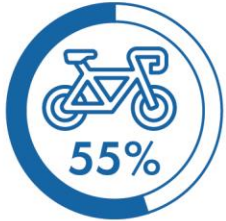
where this survey was promoted  
at community engagement booths.



**73 Responses**  
through survey monkey.



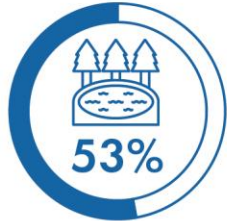
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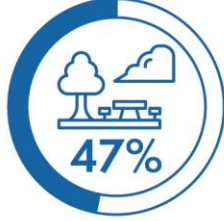
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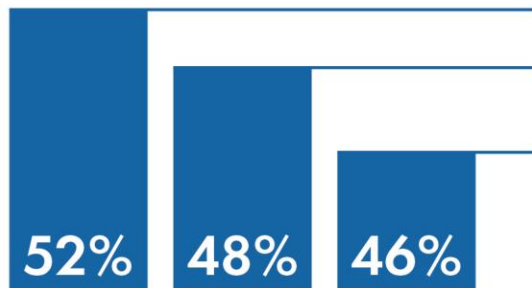
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# PROJECT GOALS

## **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

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# 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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**PARK PLANNING  
& DESIGN SECTION**  
PARKS RECREATION & COMMUNITY  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

FAIRMOUNT PARK  
HISTORIC CORE  
IMPROVEMENT CONCEPTS  
SEPTEMBER 2006



RiversideCA.gov



# 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



Aurthur 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



# 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



# EXISTING BANDSHELL



The existing bandshell cannot accommodate modern concerts



# BANDSHELL REPLICATION PROPOSAL



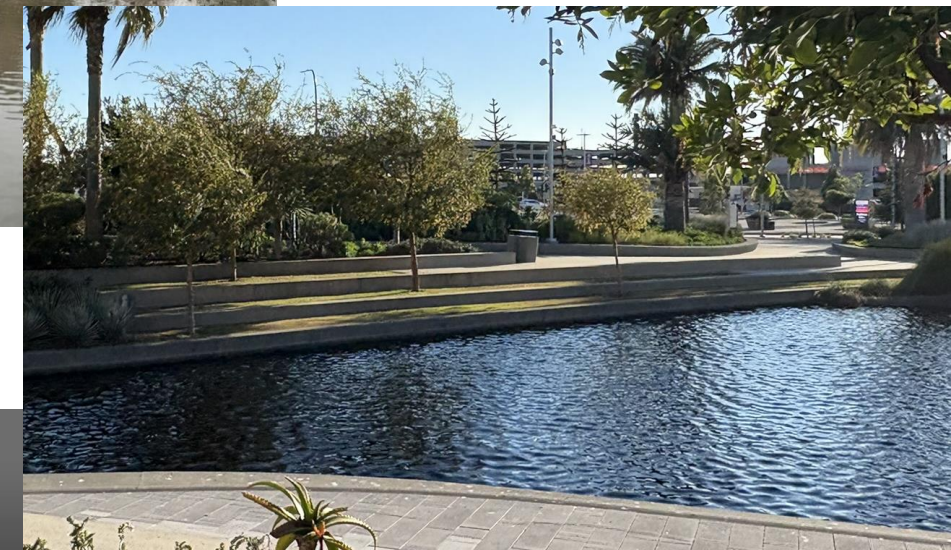
Recreate the original bandshell :

- 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

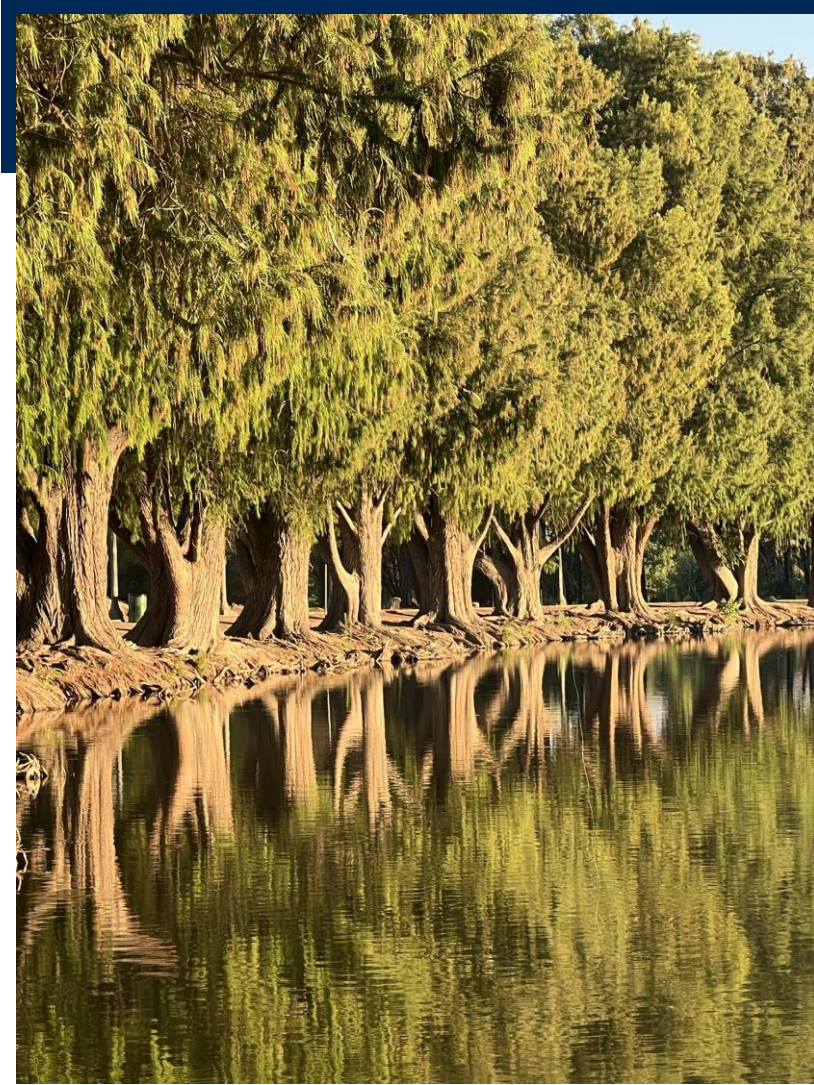
Shoreline on northside of Fairmount Lake could be improved by removing palms and planning more cypress trees



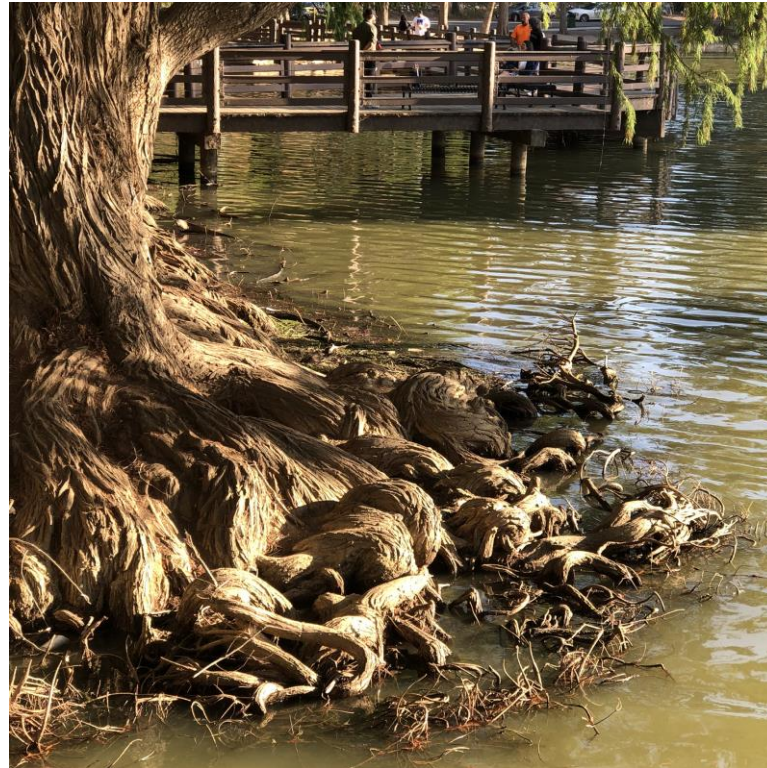


# TREES

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



Photos by Sue Mitchell





# WHITE BRIDGES

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



*Fairmount Park Riverside Cal*

Historic Photos care of Glenn Wetzel



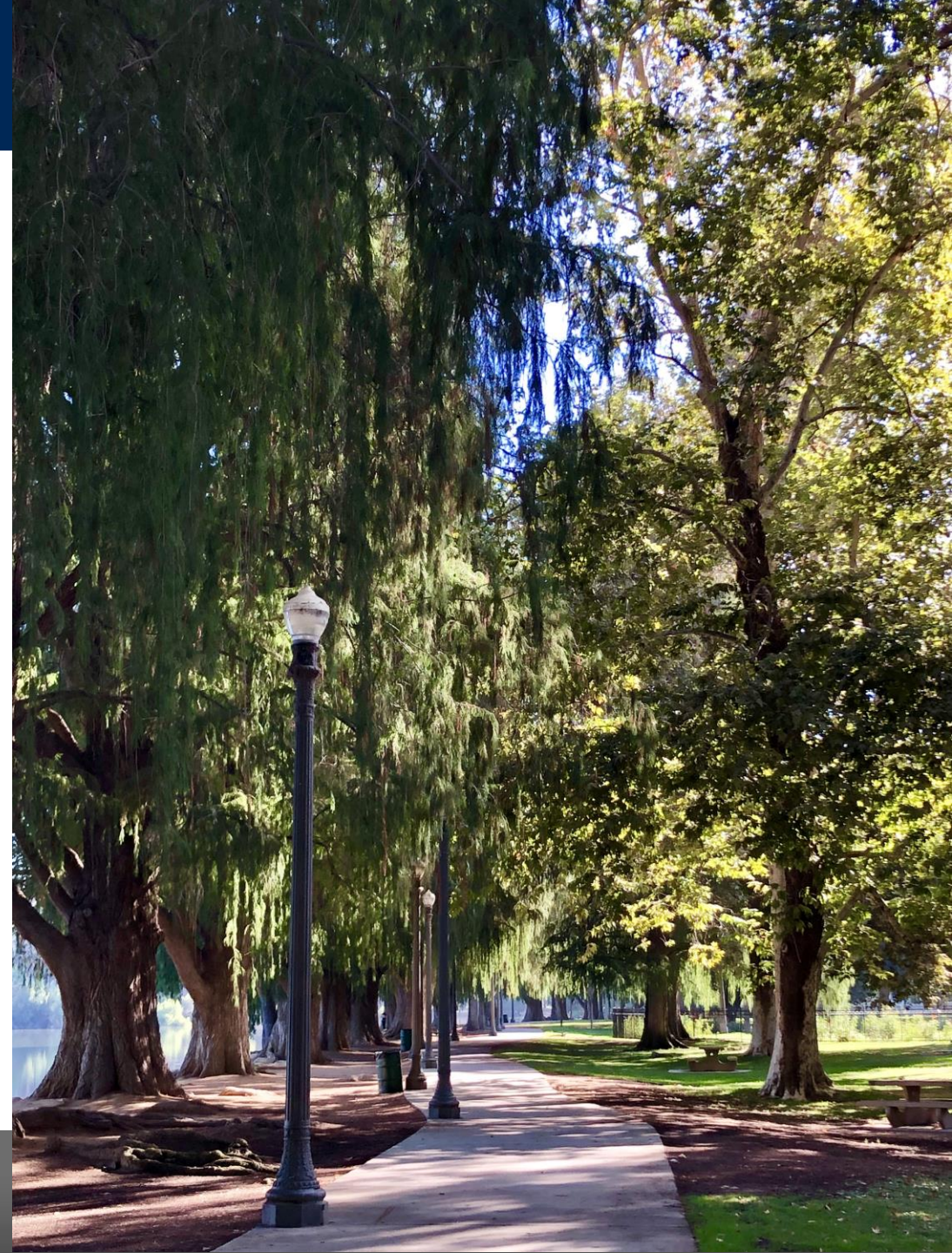
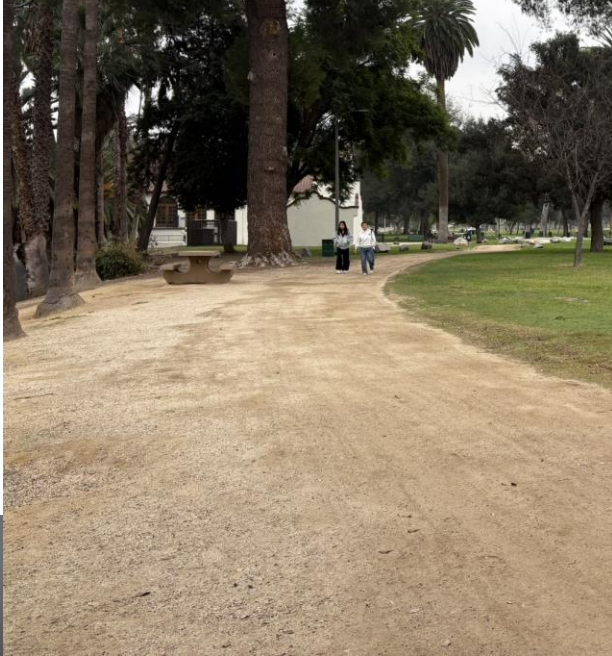
*RIVERSIDE*





# SIDEWALKS

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





# AXILLARY BUILDINGS



Explore adaptive reuse of existing buildings





# GOLF COURSE OPTION



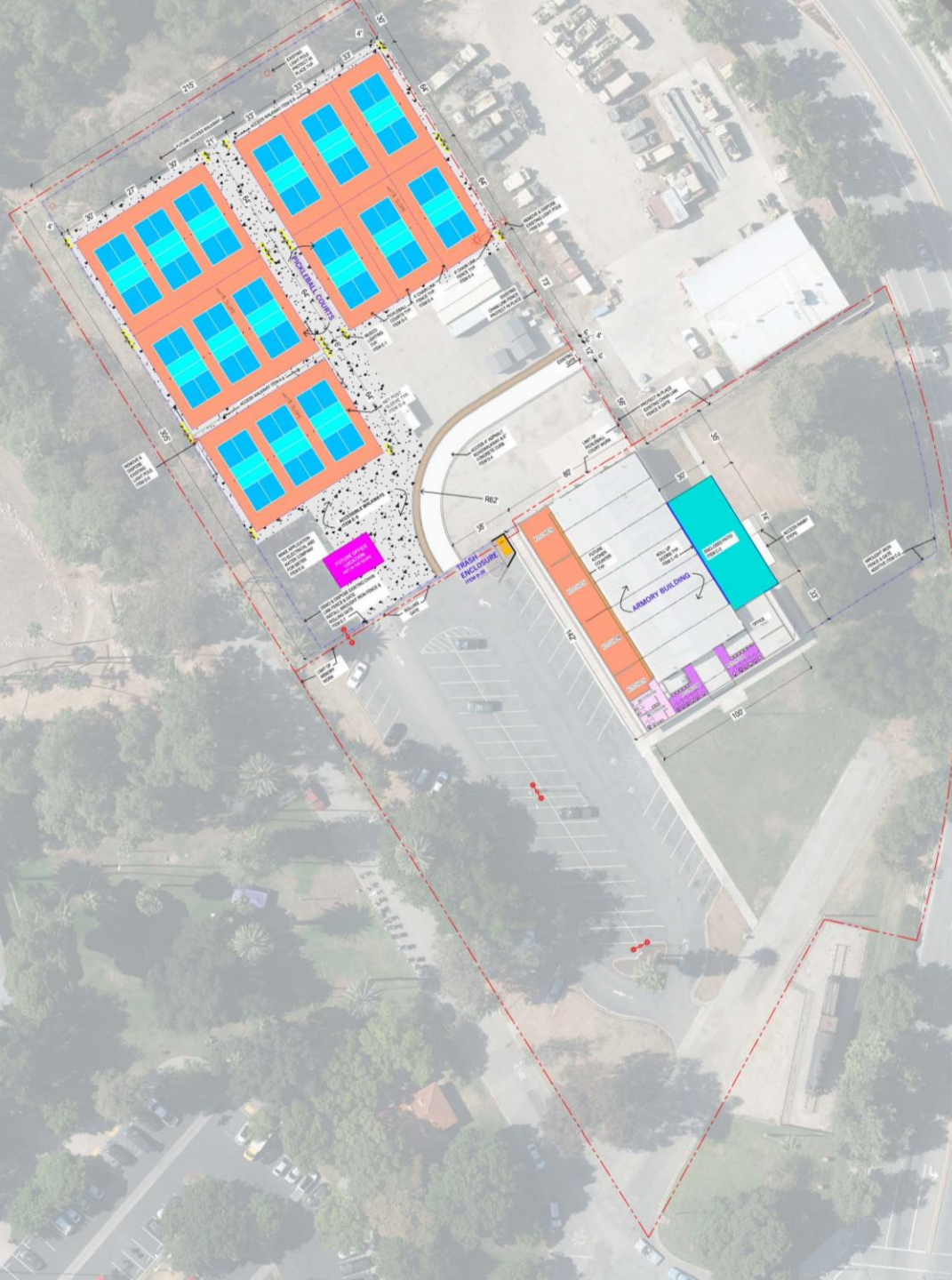


# GOLF COURSE OPTION





# 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



# 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