

September 22, 2017

RIVERBEND PARK UPDATE

From: Feather River Recreation & Park District General Manager Apryl Ramage

Due to the recent social media interest regarding the transient population in our city including Riverbend Park here is a brief update to all of the hard work that is being completed to restoring our community park.

On September 21st FRRPD hosted a Special Board Meeting presenting a Request for Proposal Phase 1 restoration draft for approval. This request includes irrigation and electrical repairs to the site to begin full operations of the park once again. It also included any remaining public safety hazards and replacement of benches, trash receptacles, tables, fish cleaning station, disc golf tees and baskets. Phase 1 will include relocation of electrical boxes out of the flood zone for future mitigation efforts. It also includes revised landscaping elements which include adding drought tolerant landscaping and removing turf elements to assist with more efficient park maintenance. The timeline allows for a contractor to be on site in November. With this contract 24 hour security of the site will be provided. Along with this proposal a grant application request to the State of CA Habitat Conservation Fund developing the South end of Riverbend Park was presented. A grant for \$400k developing the south section into walking trails and pavilions has been applied for (map included). The development of this section will allow for additional public traffic, connection to the Brad Freeman Trail and deter transient activity. This is a huge step to developing remaining undeveloped areas of the site. This award will be announced in May 2018 and FRRPD has a good chance of being awarded. Every effort is being taken to ensure that immediate repairs addressed allow for as many community members as possible to continue visiting the site.

On October 18th at 5:30PM FRRPD will be hosting a Special Board Meeting Workshop focused on Phase 2 restoration and redesign elements of Riverbend Park. This is an opportunity for community and agency members to provide valuable input to the redesigning of the site. Phase 2 will include the soccer field renovations, additional landscaping, potential relocation of the dog park to a more accessible area, relocation of the water feature and upgrades, and possible addition of a fourth soccer field. Phase 2 is expected to begin in February 2018 with the intent to complete soccer field renovations by August 2018. As a reminder FRRPD is required to complete the formal bid process for each phase and follow the California Labor Laws of Compliance which includes paying prevailing wage rates. These obligations can slow the process and make it seem as if nothing is happening, however we assure you that plenty is happening to ensure we restore Riverbend Park to a position where it may be better than before.

We want to express the need for community members to continue to utilize the site. Abandoning the park only allows for transients to move in and take over. We are in full support of law enforcement efforts and are communicating with them frequently to help assist in this issue. FRRPD staff are park maintenance employees and not trained or equipped to handle hostile environments which can frequently involve transients. FRRPD must rely on the support of our local law enforcement and we are committed to assist in any way possible. With this growing problem we have developed the Park Watch Program which allows community members to become the "eyes and ears" for our community. Please

remember if you see something, say something. The more eyes and ears we have in the parks the less comfortable it makes for undesirables to take ownership.

Please share that FRRPD has begun adhering to the park hours of the site and will begin locking the entrance gate to Riverbend Park at dusk. The park gates will reopen at dawn. This is to ensure we are offering the best support we can to our local law enforcement agencies to allow them the ability to patrol the site and enforce the law. Each agency has multiple keys and have full access to the site. If vehicles are in the park at dusk they will be locked in. We have requested law enforcement visit the site each morning to issue citations or tow abandoned vehicles.

Below is a timeline to date of progress regarding restoration efforts of Riverbend Park.

In January 2017 Riverbend Park began flooding due to a record rainfall year. On February 12, 2017 Riverbend Park sustained further damage due to the Lake Oroville Spillway Crisis and mass releases to the river. On February 15, 2017 FRRPD hosted a Special Board Meeting to adopt NOTICE OF DISASTER DECLARATION regarding the February 12th incident. Riverbend Park was closed and utilities were shut off at the site. On February 23, 2017 FRRPD met with Butte County Office of Emergency Services to obtain information regarding applying for Federal Emergency Funding (FEMA). March 1, 2017 discussions began with Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA), FRRPD insurance carrier to determine the FRRPD level of flood insurance coverage for incident. March 2, 2017 FRRPD met with FEMA representatives on site to determine that a level of damage sustained ensured applying for FEMA funding. March 3, 2017 FRRPD hosted a Special Board Meeting Site Tour to visit the site and tour the damage. Multiple community leaders attended. On March 8, 2017 FRRPD met with Insurance Adjusters from McClarrens and Site Adjusters from MKA to begin negotiations regarding assessments to determine Scope of Work for project. March 2017 FRRPD spoke with and researched original contractors, permits, and history elements of the construction of Riverbend Park. FRRPD staff hosted several conversations with Fish & Wildlife, Army Core of Engineers, State Lands Commission, Butte County, Central Valley Flood Protection, and Cal fire to determine permitting and regulation requirements. Bi-weekly transient encampment cleanups began. March 15, 2017 FRRPD contracted with Melton Design Group (MDG) for assessment and design consulting of Riverbend Park restoration. March 17 & 20, 2017 FRRPD staff participated in a mandatory webinar series regarding applying for FEMA funding. March 23, 2017 FRRPD met with MDG to determine PHASE 1 cleanup and debris removal Scope of Work. March 28, 2017 FRRPD met with multiple agency leaders to begin discussions of agency assistance regarding cleanup and debris removal at Riverbend Park. March 31, 2017 FRRPD met with insurance adjusters and site adjusters at park to continue assessments. April 7, 2017 FRRPD spoke with Paul Farris, Department of Water Resources (DWR) appointed representative of FEMA. April 13, 2017 FRRPD participated in second mandatory webinar series regarding application of FEMA and also met with DWR representatives to continue discussions. FRRPD submitted FEMA application and received confirmation. April 14, 2017 FRRPD met with MDG and structural engineers at site to continue assessments. May 2, 2017 FRRPD met with insurance adjusters and site adjusters at site to continue assessments. May 4, 2017 FRRPD met with State Parks representatives and DWR representatives to discuss Riverbend Park cleanup and restoration. Also met with City CASP to begin discussions of required ADA and Code Compliance upgrades and necessary permitting. May 9, 2017 Cal Fire submitted a letter

of intent requesting the Riverbend Park boat launch area remain operational due to public safety water rescues. May 10, 2017 FRRPD hosted a Park & Rec Committee meeting focused on an update of Riverbend Park provided by staff and MDG. May 17, 2017 Insurance and site adjusters visited park to continue assessments. May 18, 2017 FRRPD filed a Notice of Exemption with Fish & Wildlife to begin PHASE 1 cleanup and debris removal. FRRPD met with Northstar Engineering permitting agents subcontracted by MDG to determine necessary permits are in place to begin PHASE 1. May 25, 2017 FRRPD received an update form SDRMA regarding the insurance process. Local agency assistance cleared the boat launch area of cobble due to public safety. May 31, 2017 FEMA representatives conducted an exploratory phone call with staff to begin the process. FRRPD submitted mandatory preliminary List of Projects. June 1, 2017 FRRPD sent out a request for agency assistance in a PHASE 1 cleanup and debris removal scheduled for June 23rd. Response was overwhelming with commitments from DWR, KIEWITT, CCC, CAL FIRE, NWLC, LOCAL CONTRACTORS, FISH & WILDLIFE, CALTRANS and BUTTE COUNTY. June 5, 2017 FRRPD received draft Preliminary Scope of Work from insurance representatives. June 6, 2017 FRRPD met with grant writer contracted with NorthStar Engineering. FRRPD communicated with State Lands Commission (due to land lease) the need for PHASE 1 and received authorization to move forward. June 7, 2017 FRRPD met with FEMA representatives for “kick off meeting.” Staff reviewed Preliminary Scope of Work presented by SDRMA with MDG. June 20, 2017 FRRPD hosted a Special Board Meeting to review update of Riverbend Park restoration and review preliminary scope of work. June 23, 2017 FRRPD hosted a mass cleanup and debris removal of the site with multiple agency assistance to successfully open the park up by July 4th for limited use. August 10th FRRPD hosted a Special Board Meeting to review entire scope of work of Riverbend Park. Staff presented a request to apply for grant funding for replacement of fitness courses at Riverbend Park. August 11th FRRPD filed a claim with DWR for damages to Riverbend Park.

We continue the commitment to offer safe and beautiful parklands for our community to enjoy. As always we appreciate the support and please feel free to stop by or reach out should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Apryl Ramage, General Manager