



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

PREPARER: Emily Benvie, Environmental Services Deputy Director

DATE: July 28, 2025

TITLE: **Approve the Carlson Park Skate Spot Project Plans.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council approve the Carlson Park Skate Spot Project Plans.

INTRODUCTION:

This project is the final component of the larger Carlson Park Improvements Project, which has been a Council and community priority for the Valley West neighborhood for over five years. The Carlson Park Improvements Project was substantially completed in the fall of 2024; and now staff is seeking to advance construction of the final remaining park amenity, a small skate spot. The proposed skate spot will provide a safe, designated place for all wheeled-sport enthusiasts to develop their skills and enjoy the company of their peers. The skate spot will include elements geared toward beginner-level users while accommodating all age groups and ability levels. The design of the skate spot was completed by Primary Concrete and followed industry acceptable design standards.

BACKGROUND:

Since the City acquired the Carlson Park property along the Mad River from Caltrans in 2017, it has been a community priority to develop active and passive recreation opportunities to connect the Valley West neighborhood to the Mad River and provide further options for active living for all ages. Beginning in 2018, Environmental Services staff engaged the Valley West community in developing priorities for Carlson Park. These engagements informed draft design concepts which helped to secure two grant funding sources. In April 2023, Senator McGuire announced additional funding through a state budget allocation to ensure the project can meet community goals and include exciting features to draw in both residents and visitors.

During construction of the Carlson Park Improvements Project, the Parks and Recreation Committee identified a location within the park that could serve as a skate spot to provide additional recreational opportunities for the community. The skate spot includes construction of an approximately 480 square foot concrete skate area adjacent to the special event area and will support greater use of the space apart from special events usage. It also has appurtenant skate features that extend into the designated special event area, which do not interfere with special event usage. This further

investment in Carlson Park will create an even more welcoming community space, geared toward youth and beginner skaters.

If approved by Council, construction of the skate feature will commence in late August after summer camp has finished and will be completed before the 2025 rainy season.

DISCUSSION:

In April 2025, the City Council awarded a design-build contract for the Carlson Park Skate Spot Project to Primary Concrete. The contractor has been working collaboratively with City staff and members of the Parks and Recreation Committee to design the skate spot. The skate spot will include construction of an approximately 480-square foot skate bowl, a manual pad, and a skateable curb that will accommodate a variety of users and skill levels. The bowl is designed to visually represent an oyster, in acknowledgement of a beloved Humboldt County resource.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

On April 2, 2025, the City Council determined the Carlson Park Skate Project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15303.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The Carlson Park Skate Spot Design and Build Project is supported through a state budget allocation made possible by Senator Mike McGuire.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Motion to approve Carlson Park Skate Spot project plans. Consent Calendar vote.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Carlson Park Skate Spot 100% Design Plans