



## **CITY OF MENIFEE**

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SUBJECT: Heritage Park Discussion

MEETING DATE: December 5, 2024

TO: Parks, Recreation and Trails Commission

PREPARED BY: Mariana Mitchell, Community Services Manager

REVIEWED BY: Rebekah Kramer, Deputy City Manager

APPROVED BY: Rebekah Kramer, Deputy City Manager

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### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Review and discuss the information provided regarding a future heritage park.

### **DISCUSSION**

On January 13, 2022, the Parks, Recreation and Trails Commission (PRTC) requested information regarding a future heritage park for discussion as a future agenda item. As the Parks Master Plan (PMP) update was underway, it was decided that future agenda item requests would be reviewed for inclusion in the plan. The City Council adopted the 2023 PMP on July 19, 2023, following an extensive community outreach process, stakeholder interviews, and a review of planning documents to identify infill opportunities, park inventory, and alignment with national park system standards.

On August 3, 2023, staff presented a review of the commission's future agenda items to determine how they align with the recommendations of the PMP. It was determined that the concept of a future heritage park was addressed in Strategy 6: Placemaking, which emphasizes unique identity through public art, community engagement, and the promotion of local history and landscapes. As part of the FY 2023-24 Capital Program Budget, Community Services is establishing a public art in the park program and has identified nine potential sites for new city park spaces in Chapter 5 of the PMP.

At the October 5, 2023, PRTC meeting, the topic of a future heritage park was requested again as a future agenda item. Staff has prepared this report to provide further details for discussion and potential recommendations to City Council.

As a review, Table 1 below outlines the differences between the various factors that define a Heritage Park separate from a traditional Regional Park.

**Table 1 - Heritage Park and Regional Park Comparison**

	Heritage Park	Regional Park
<b>Focus</b>	Preserving and showcasing local cultural, historical, or natural heritage.	Providing recreational facilities and natural spaces for a broad regional audience.
<b>Audience</b>	Individuals interested in history, culture, and education; tourists; students.	Families, athletes, outdoor enthusiasts; serves multiple communities or cities.
<b>Size</b>	Typically smaller, ranging from <b>5 to 30 acres</b> , focusing on specific heritage themes	Generally larger, ranging from <b>30 to several hundred acres</b> , accommodating diverse recreational activities.
<b>Activities</b>	Guided tours, educational exhibits, cultural events, interpretive programs.	Sports, hiking, picnicking, large sporting events, environmental education.
<b>Design</b>	Thematic elements reflecting historical periods or cultural significance; may include restored structures and interpretive signage.	Functional layouts with facilities like sports fields, playgrounds, extensive trail systems, and natural habitats.
<b>Examples in Riverside County</b>	<p><b>California Citrus State Historic Park:</b> An open-air museum in Riverside that interprets the historic cultural landscape of the citrus industry.</p> <p><b>Jensen Alvarado Ranch:</b> A historic park and museum in Jurupa Valley, showcasing the region's agricultural history.</p>	<p><b>Lake Perris State Recreation Area:</b> Offers boating, fishing, camping, and hiking opportunities.</p> <p><b>Idyllwild Regional Park:</b> Provides camping, hiking, and picnicking in a forested setting.</p>

A large component of developing a heritage park involves identifying funding sources for land acquisition and park development. Options include exploring grants, sponsorships, development impact fees, and potential partnerships, while ensuring alignment with the PMP and the city's five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Site selection should prioritize locations with historical significance or central accessibility, while ensuring connectivity to Menifee's broader parks and trails system. ADA compliance and sustainable design features, such as eco-friendly materials and water-efficient landscaping, should also be integrated into the plan.

Once funding is secured, the park's design must authentically reflect Menifee's history, including Luiseño tribal heritage and early mining and agricultural roots. Collaboration with local historians, cultural organizations, and tribal representatives will ensure inclusivity and cultural accuracy. Community engagement through surveys and workshops can help identify desired amenities, such as interpretive signage, thematic recreational spaces, and interactive exhibits.

City staff are open to additional feedback and discussion on these items to identify potential recommendations for City Council consideration.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with the recommended action item. However, any future action on this item could result in additional fiscal impacts, based upon the parameters of any projects or programs that are developed and recommended by PRTC for City Council consideration. Future programs and projects would need to be assessed and budgeted for in the corresponding years' budget.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

Unique Identity

### **PARK MASTER PLAN**

Facilities & Amenities

- 1.6 Explore partnerships to develop regional parks
  - 1.6a Explore the development of regional open space park with educational nature center and hiking trails

Placemaking

- 6.1 Include public art
  - 6.1a Encourage public art that's representative of the community and build on local context
- 6.3 Increase identity and relation of the local natural context and built environment
  - 6.3a Identify and bring out history and culture of the site and City

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None