

STAFF REPORT – MEETING #1 (SPP PARK GRANT)

Subject: Community Engagement Meeting #1 – North Park Development (Statewide Park Development Program - SPP)

1. RECOMMENDATION

Conduct the first community engagement meeting to initiate the planning and design process for the proposed North Park project and gather public input required for the Statewide Park Development Program (SPP) grant application.

2. BACKGROUND

The Newberry Community Services District is pursuing funding through the California Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP) to develop a new community park on the North Park site.

The SPP program provides up to \$8.5 million in funding to support the creation of new parks and recreational amenities in park-deficient and disadvantaged communities. The program requires a minimum of five community engagement meetings to ensure that the project reflects community priorities.

This meeting represents Meeting #1 of the required 5-meeting community engagement series and will focus on identifying community needs, barriers, and desired park amenities.

3. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Introduce the North Park project and SPP funding opportunity
- Identify community needs, gaps, and barriers to park access
- Collect input on desired recreational amenities and community features
- Initiate the formal community engagement process required for grant eligibility

This meeting is structured in accordance with best practices for community-based park design, including surveys, mapping exercises, and facilitated discussion.

4. DISCUSSION

Staff and the project team will facilitate an interactive engagement process designed to capture meaningful community input.

Key Activities Include:

- Project overview presentation
- Community needs assessment survey (paper and QR code)
- Small-group discussions identifying:
 - Barriers (safety, heat, lighting, access, flooding)
 - Current gaps in recreational services
- Interactive mapping exercise (community identifies priority areas and issues)
- Collection of written comments and feedback

As discussed in the planning session, the meeting will utilize tools such as sticky note exercises, visual boards, and real-time polling to maximize participation and documentation.

5. PROJECT SCOPE (PRELIMINARY)

While final design will be determined through community input, potential project elements may include:

- Community park amenities (playgrounds, sports courts, open space)
- Shade structures and cooling features
- Walking paths and lighting improvements
- Community gathering spaces
- Potential community center/gymnasium (as a separate or integrated phase)

Important:

Consistent with SPP requirements, this grant will focus solely on recreational and park-related improvements. Non-eligible components such as retail or fire station facilities will be addressed through separate funding opportunities.

6. RELATED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT)

Staff is concurrently evaluating additional funding sources to complement the park project, including:

Urban Greening Grant (CNRA)

- Funding for trees, shade, and green infrastructure
- Supports reduction of extreme heat and greenhouse gas emissions

- Can fund:
 - Tree canopy expansion
 - Shade structures
 - Green infrastructure and landscaping enhancements

Positioning Strategy:

Urban Greening will be layered onto the park design to enhance climate resilience and environmental benefits.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

To remain competitive and compliant, the project must:

- Conduct a minimum of five (5) community meetings
- Provide multilingual outreach and ADA accessibility
- Collect and document:
 - Surveys
 - Sign-in sheets
 - Photographs
 - Meeting notes

All engagement will follow a structured 5-meeting framework progressing from needs assessment to final design validation.

8. NEXT STEPS

- Conduct Meeting #1 (Needs Assessment)
- Compile and publish “You Said → We Did” summary
- Prepare for Meeting #2 (Amenities & Program Development)
- Continue outreach and stakeholder engagement
- Integrate Urban Greening and climate elements into concept design

9. FISCAL IMPACT

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with conducting the community meeting. Grant funding will be pursued to support project design and construction.

10. ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution
- 5-Meeting Community Engagement Plan
- Grant Program Summaries
- Map of project location

RESOLUTION NO. [XXXX]

A RESOLUTION OF THE Newberry Community Services District APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (SPP) AND AUTHORIZING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH PARK PROJECT

WHEREAS, the California Department of Parks and Recreation administers the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP) to fund the creation and expansion of park and recreational facilities in underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, the Newberry Community Services District serves a community that meets the program's eligibility criteria for park-deficient and disadvantaged areas, including limited access to recreational amenities and park space; and

WHEREAS, the Newberry Community Services District desires to develop the North Park Project, which will provide new recreational opportunities, improve community health, and enhance quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, the SPP program requires a minimum of five (5) community engagement meetings to ensure that project design reflects community priorities and needs;

WHEREAS, the Newberry Community Services District is committed to conducting a robust and inclusive community engagement process, including outreach to disadvantaged populations, multilingual participation, and accessible meeting formats; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project may include park amenities such as recreational facilities, open space, shade structures, walking paths, and community gathering areas, with final design to be determined through community input;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [Governing Board] of the Newberry Community Services District hereby:

1. Approves participation in the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP) for the development of the North Park Project.
2. Authorizes staff and consultants to conduct a minimum of five (5) community engagement meetings, outreach activities, and data collection efforts required to support the grant application.
3. Directs staff to ensure compliance with all program requirements, including documentation of community engagement, accessibility standards, and eligibility criteria.

4. Authorizes the [Title – e.g., General Manager/Executive Director] to prepare, execute, and submit all necessary applications, documents, and agreements related to the SPP grant.
5. Authorizes staff to pursue complementary funding sources, including Urban Greening and other State or federal programs, to enhance project scope and maximize funding opportunities.
6. Directs staff to return to the Board with the preferred park design, project scope, and funding strategy prior to final grant submission, if required.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Chair/President

ATTEST:

Clerk/Secretary

Project Narrative Summary

Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP)

North Park Project

Project Overview

The Newberry Community Services District proposes the development of the North Park Project, a transformative investment that will create a new, fully accessible community park in a park-deficient and disadvantaged area. The project is designed to directly address longstanding inequities in access to recreational space, public health resources, and safe outdoor environments.

This initiative will deliver a community-driven park system that reflects local priorities, enhances quality of life, and provides critical infrastructure for recreation, wellness, and social cohesion.

Community Need and Equity Impact

The project area meets SPP eligibility criteria as a park-deficient community with limited access to recreational amenities and outdoor space. Residents currently face multiple barriers to park access, including:

- Lack of nearby recreational facilities
- Limited shaded areas and protection from extreme heat
- Safety concerns related to lighting and visibility
- Insufficient infrastructure to support multi-generational use

Through targeted outreach and engagement, the project prioritizes underserved populations, including low-income households, youth, seniors, and families with limited mobility or transportation access.

The North Park Project will directly address these disparities by delivering equitable access to safe, high-quality recreational space.

Community Engagement and Co-Design

The project is grounded in a robust, structured five-meeting community engagement process, ensuring that the final design reflects authentic community input and priorities.

Engagement strategies include:

- Multilingual outreach and accessible meeting formats
- Surveys, mapping exercises, and interactive design workshops
- Real-time prioritization of amenities through community voting
- Documentation of all feedback, including sign-ins, photos, and summaries

This process ensures that the project is not only community-informed but community-driven, with clear documentation demonstrating how public input directly shapes the project scope.

Project Scope and Recreational Benefits

The North Park Project will deliver a comprehensive set of recreational amenities designed to serve residents of all ages and abilities. Based on preliminary input, the project is anticipated to include:

- Playgrounds and youth activity areas
- Open space and passive recreation zones
- Walking paths and accessible circulation routes
- Shade structures and seating areas
- Lighting and safety enhancements
- Community gathering spaces

All amenities will be designed to support inclusive, multi-generational use, ensuring that the park serves as a central hub for recreation, wellness, and community connection.

Public Health and Environmental Benefits

The project will generate significant co-benefits aligned with State priorities, including:

- Improved public health outcomes through increased opportunities for physical activity
- Heat mitigation through shade structures and potential tree canopy integration
- Enhanced safety through lighting and improved site visibility
- Mental health and social benefits through accessible outdoor gathering spaces

The project will also be strategically designed to integrate complementary funding opportunities, such as Urban Greening, to expand tree canopy and reduce urban heat impacts.

Project Readiness and Implementation Strategy

The Newberry Community Services District is prepared to advance the project through a structured planning and implementation process, including:

- Completion of required community engagement activities
- Development of a preferred park concept and phased implementation plan
- Coordination with partners and stakeholders
- Preparation of all required environmental and compliance documentation

The project is designed to be grant-ready, with a clear pathway from community input to final design and construction.

Strategic Alignment with SPP Objectives

The North Park Project directly advances the goals of the SPP program by:

- Expanding access to parks in underserved communities
- Addressing park deficiency and equity gaps
- Delivering community-driven recreational infrastructure
- Enhancing public health, safety, and quality of life

Conclusion

The North Park Project represents a high-impact, community-driven investment that will deliver lasting benefits to a historically underserved population. By aligning with SPP program priorities and leveraging a robust engagement process, the project is well-positioned to compete successfully for funding and deliver measurable outcomes for the community.