



Agenda Report

Fullerton City Council

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 17, 2021

TO: CITY COUNCIL / SUCCESSOR AGENCY

SUBMITTED BY: STEVE DANLEY, ACTING CITY MANAGER

PREPARED BY: ALICE LOYA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
GINGER IVEY, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST

SUBJECT: FULLERTON POOCH PARK RELOCATION

SUMMARY

This report explores relocating the Fullerton Pooch Park to a more central and accessible location and requesting approval to move the Fullerton Pooch Park to the Brea Dam Park using Per Capita State grant funds.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve relocating the Fullerton Pooch Park to Brea Dam Park.
2. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-XX.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-XX - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE FULLERTON POOCH PARK FOR PER CAPITA GRANT FUNDS

3. Appropriate receipt and use of Per Capital Grant Program Allocations.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff estimates the costs to relocate the Fullerton Pooch Park at \$250,000 to \$300,000. The City will receive \$266,093 in funding from the State Per Capita Grant Program allocations for urban cities. Any additional funding needed will come from available Park Dwelling fund balance.

BACKGROUND

In June 2007, the Parks and Recreation Department opened the Fullerton Pooch Park on a trial basis at the Hunt Branch Park and Hunt Branch Library property. It became a permanent facility in 2009. The Pooch Park has continuously operated since 2007 (temporary COVID-19 closures notwithstanding). The Pooch Park is 1.5 acres divided into three separate fenced-in areas: a grass yard for large dogs, a grass yard for small dogs and a wood chip yard for overflow or inclement weather. The Fullerton Dog Park Foundation has operated the Pooch Park since 2011 through an operations agreement with the City. The Foundation manages the ongoing day-to-day operations of the Pooch Park. The operations include opening and closing the park, providing volunteers during peak hours, regular clean-up including litter and dog waste and light maintenance. The City is responsible for park maintenance and improvements.

DISCUSSION

The Fullerton Pooch Park is a popular venue, however, residents have difficulty finding the park and it is not centrally located in the City. During the height of the COVID-19 shut-down, staff received an equal number of calls requesting Pooch Park reopening information as it did about playgrounds.

Recent planning regarding the future of the Hunt Branch Library site led City Council to direct the formation of an ad-hoc committee to address the library site as it relates to its future uses. The committee looked at possible uses of the building and surrounding areas of the general site. That study ultimately resulted in discussions to create a new public / private venue utilizing the Hunt Branch Library as a cultural center, including possible new uses for its surrounding areas that encompass the Pooch Park. The committee had some discussion of the possibility of leaving a smaller sized dog park at Hunt Branch Park. After further discussions with the Fullerton Dog Park Foundation regarding their limitations to manage two locations, City staff is no longer considering this option. The City held several public meetings with the residents surrounding Hunt Branch Library and Park to determine the needs and future use of the park and library property.

As a result of the meetings and planning sessions, staff determined that relocating the Pooch Park would enhance the Hunt Library renovation project. The Hunt Branch Park property will remain a park. Staff explored the relocation of the Pooch Park to a more accessible and central location in the city. Staff considered several sites with the following in mind: size, suitability, access, parking, shade, impacts to adjacent areas, existing infrastructure, amenities and cost. Staff identified the Brea Dam Park, located at 1700 North Harbor Boulevard, at the base of the Brea Dam, as the best fit for the Pooch Park. The Brea Dam Park is centrally located, easily visible and accessible and has sufficient parking, restrooms and a large open turf area. In addition, there are no residential neighborhoods near the Brea Dam Park.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) owns the Brea Dam Park and leases to the City for Parks and Recreation. The City is responsible for operations and maintenance of the open space and park spaces. The USACE is responsible for the dams, spillway and flood control. The USACE has no objections relocating the Pooch Park to the Brea Dam Park since the park sits outside of the sensitive habitat area. Staff has reviewed the

relocation with the Fullerton Dog Park Foundation. The Foundation is fully supportive of the relocation as it will be more accessible to the community.

The new Pooch Park will include two separate yards for small dogs and large dogs, human and dog friendly drinking fountains in each yard, benches, trash cans, ADA pathways, signage and trees for shade. The slope area adjacent to the park will remain outside of the fenced-in sections and park will not affect it in any way. Staff estimates the cost to relocate the Pooch Park at \$250,000 to \$300,000, including removing the fencing at the Hunt Branch Park location.

The Parks and Recreation Commission considered the Pooch Park Relocation project on June 14, 2021 and unanimously recommended City Council approval of the project and use of the grant funds.

GRANT FUNDING

The City will receive grant funds in the amount of \$266,093 from the State's Prop 68 Per Capita Grant program. The Per Capita grant is a non-competitive grant that provides funding to all cities with an amount based on the city's population. The grant is restricted to funding park acquisition and park improvement projects. The Pooch Park serves the entire City rather than a specific neighborhood. For this reason, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the relocation of the Pooch Park project as the Per Capita grant project.

Recipients of the Per Capita grant funds must submit a City Council resolution supporting the project funded by the grant. The State Parks Department must approve resolutions no later than December 31, 2021. State Parks requests Cities submit no later than October 2021 to allow sufficient time to process the grant contracts prior to the December deadline.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Aerial Map of Current Pooch Park
- Attachment 2 – Aerial Map of Brea Dam Park
- Attachment 3 – Per Capita Resolution