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## City of Sebastopol Public Arts Committee Staff Report

Meeting Date: February 3, 2021  
Agenda Item: 6A  
To: Public Arts Committee  
From: Ives Park Subcommittee (Planning Commission)  
Subject: Discussion of Art Opportunities in Ives Park and other City Parks and Locations  
Recommendation: Discuss with the Subcommittee members

### **Introduction:**

The Planning Commission would like to learn more about the work and mission of the Public Arts Committee and to support public art in our parks. The Planning Commission is also the Parks Commission. We have a wonderful parks system and want to continue supporting and upgrading our public parks, particularly Ives Park.

### **Discussion:**

As Ives Park hosts many public events, is located downtown, contains the Arts Center and is walkable to many downtown neighborhoods, we see it as a key arts and culture location in Sebastopol and downtown highlight.

At this point, the Planning Commission has formed an Ives Park Subcommittee which is focused on improving the public's experience at Ives Park. The Commission is greatly looking forward to the installation of the sculpture garden and thanks the Public Arts Committee for supporting this project and bringing it to fruition through their hard work and vision.

We would like to hear if there is more potential for public art at Ives Park. We have been discussing a mural around Ives pool. As we will soon have the sculpture garden at the High Street entrance, it might be compelling to have a sculpture at the Jewell Street entrance as a kind of visual continuation of the sculptures on High Street and to establish the park as also a place of art and nature.

The Ives Park Master Plan also indicates that the three main access points into Ives Park from the surrounding neighborhoods: one on each of Jewell Ave, Willow St, and S. High St could be opportunities for entry features/sculptures. All entry features would

work to strengthen the park's identity and highlight the importance of the major park entrances.

We have also discussed ideas of sculpture that could be used at the trail entrances within the Laguna to amplify the connection between nature and human creativity. It could be a compelling statement to have artwork at all the entrances to the Laguna which highlight the natural world and the ways in which it is interpreted by contemporary artists.

**Attachments:**

Ives Park Master Plan Diagram

You can see examples of this in Andy Goldsworthy's work in the Presidio.

<https://www.presidio.gov/places/andy-goldsworthys-wood-line>

<https://www.presidio.gov/places/andy-goldsworthys-spire>

<https://www.presidio.gov/places/andy-goldsworthys-earth-wall>

<https://www.presidio.gov/places-internal/Shared%20Documents/Goldsworthy-Brochure.pdf>



**Creek improvements**

1. Remove chain link fencing & guardrails. Remove safety hazards from creek walls. Patch and repair creek wall as necessary. Restore natural channel in meadow area and rose garden area; underground creek in picnic area. Expand to rose garden area. Remove central bridge and relocate northern bridge. Add natural creek edge and seating.

**Site improvements**

2. Install sculpture garden along entry walk from High Street.

3. Install new ADA ramp and stairs, develop new entry node.

4. Install new ADA ramp.

5. Update flatwork to be ADA compliant & develop a new entry node.

6. Convert existing park restrooms into storage for pool needs.

7. Remove selected billboards at baseball field to increase visibility and add shrubs .

8. Provide new large central green space by relocating playground (see 14).

9. Cap creek to form a large central green space and relocate picnic areas along a new perimeter walk.

10. Install new stage.

11. Install a new perimeter path behind the baseball field.

12. Relocate pool fencing along Willow Street to allow more space for pedestrians. Install planting to screen chain link fencing. Replace sections of the perimeter pool screen with transparent panels to allow for more visibility and park connection

13. Remove existing baseball restroom structure and install new prefabricated restroom structure with new drinking fountain that accomodates the park and baseball users.

14. Install new trellis/seating/performance area

15. Install new entrance gateway features

**Playground improvements**

16. Relocate new playground adjacent to open turf park area and restrooms. Install diverse types of play equipment to encourage a variety of active play as well as social and creative play.

**Planting improvements**

17. To improve security and access, reduce or remove areas of perimeter planting along Jewell Ave. and Willow St.

18. To improve security and access, reduce or remove areas of perimeter planting between the Veterans Hall and the park

19. Replace redwood trees that are in declining state. Move to edge of turf to open up area for informal use.

20. Remove and thin out planting at the "onion patch."

21. Remove and thin out planting between the baseball field and residential lots. Coordinate with home owners.

22. Install edible gardens.

23. Install bio-basin / stormwater filter

24. Remove concrete stage at west end of pool.

25. Convert turning lane to parkland and interpretive garden.

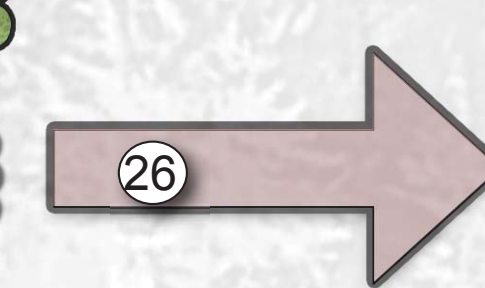
**Off-site improvements**

26. Look for opportunities to provide direct pedestrian access to South Main Street

27. Improve pedestrian safety by adding bulb outs and crosswalks at major crossings.

**General**

- Update irrigation system and incorporate water savings strategies.
- Install educational signage about park history and ecology.
- Replace park lighting with improved security lights.
- New site furnishings (lighting, benches, trash receptacles, recycling, drinking fountains).
- New park planting to be native.
- Asphalt & concrete flatwork to be replaced; install root barriers.



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