



# Memorandum

**TO:** PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION

**FROM:** Nicolle Burnham,

**SUBJECT: SEE BELOW**

**DATE:** January 19, 2021

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Approved

Date

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**COUNCIL DISTRICT: 5**

**SUBJECT: NAMING OF A NEW PUBLIC PARK AT GIMELLI WAY, NEAR NORTH  
CAPITOL AVENUE**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) Recommend an official park name to the City Council based on the following alternatives:
- (1) Confirm “Delano Manongs Park” per naming process; or
  - (2) Select an alternative park name from the list of eligible names generated through the public outreach process;

## **OUTCOME**

Approval of this recommendation will inform the City Council’s decision to officially name a new neighborhood park in conformance with City Council Policy 7-5; Naming of City-Owned Land and Facilities.

## **BACKGROUND**

The 0.56-acre park is part of the Orchard/ Merlino Mixed Use development. It is in the North Capitol Avenue/McKee Road Urban Village in the Alum Rock Planning area in Council District 5. The park site is located in the northeast portion of the development, along the south side of Gimelli Way and near Beechnut Drive as shown in the Park Location Map (Attachment A). The park is bounded by single-family residential homes to the north; single-family residential homes to the south; North Capitol Avenue to the east, and Interstate 680 to the west.

The Orchard/ Merlino Mixed Use development project includes 493 residential units, commercial space, and over an acre of publicly accessible recreational space on a 10.6-acre site. The publicly accessible recreational space includes 0.56-acres of dedicated and improved parkland and 0.67-acres of privately-owned and publicly accessible recreational amenities.

The neighborhood park is currently under construction and is targeted to be open to the public by this summer (2021).

The public park includes a children's playground, a gathering plaza, an open sporting lawn, and seating and tables, as shown on the approved Master Plan (Attachment B).

A majority (72%) of community members who participated in an online public survey process voted for the name "Delano Manongs Park." The name honors the organizers of the Delano Grape Strike, which increased wages and improved working conditions for Filipino farm workers in the 1960s as further described below.

## **ANALYSIS**

City Council Policy Number 7-5, Naming of City-Owned Land and Facilities (Policy) establishes guidelines and procedures regarding the naming of City-owned land and facilities that are not public streets, such as public parks. Per the Policy, official names must be reflective of one of the following criteria:

- (a) Geographic location;
- (b) Prominent geographic feature or local reference point;
- (c) Adjoining subdivision/community;
- (d) Historical event;
- (e) An individual who has been deceased for at least five years;
- (f) An individual via a donation or sponsorship agreement; or
- (g) A group via a donation or sponsorship agreement.

Staff finds that naming the park "Delano Manongs Park" aligns with the Policy in that it pays homage to an allegiance between two prominent agricultural labor forces (historical event) and honors Filipino Americans (local reference point).

On September 8, 1965, over 1,000 Filipino American farm workers in the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) started a strike against the Delano grape growers for poor working conditions and low wages. Cesar Chavez, the leader of the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), joined their strike. This created an unprecedented collaboration between the Filipino American AWOC and Mexican American NFWA. The strike was characterized by its grassroot efforts that included consumer boycotts, marches, and nonviolent resistance.<sup>1</sup> The strike received widespread support throughout the United States. The grape strike and boycott

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ufw.org/1965-1970-delano-grape-strike-boycott/>

ended in 1970 with a labor contract that included increased wages and improved working conditions. The movement contributed to the passage of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975, which established collective-bargaining power for farmworkers statewide.<sup>2</sup>

“Manong” is from the northern Philippines dialect, *Ilocano*. It is a term of respect and is best translated as “older brother.” The term is often used for the wave of Filipino immigrants who came to the United States in the 1920s and 1930s.<sup>3</sup> Including the term in the park name would give appreciation to the Filipino American farmworkers and the Mexican American farmworkers who have contributed to the worker’s rights movement.

This would be the first public park in San José to have a Filipino name and would represent a large Filipino American population that reside within the park’s zip code as shown in Table 1 below.<sup>4</sup>

**TABLE 1 – Filipino American Portion of Population**

Location	Number of Filipino American	Percent of Population
California	1,288,414	3.3%
San José	56,398	5.5%
Park Site Zip code 95133	3,871	13.6%

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Staff completed three rounds of online public surveys to engage the public.

- The first survey, circulated between September 4, 2020 and September 14, 2020, solicited name nominations.
- The second survey, circulated between November 30, 2020 and December 7, 2020, allowed the public an opportunity to vote on qualifying names received during the solicitation process.
- Since no name in the second survey received a clear majority of votes, a third survey, circulated between December 11, 2020 and December 18, 2020, allowed the public to vote on the three names which received the most votes as recorded in the second survey.

**Outreach**

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.history.com/news/delano-grape-strike-united-farm-workers-filipinos>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.npca.org/articles/1555-remembering-the-manongs-and-story-of-the-filipino-farm-worker-movement>

<sup>4</sup> [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0400000US06\\_1600000US0668000\\_8600000US95133&tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP05&hidePreview=true](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0400000US06_1600000US0668000_8600000US95133&tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP05&hidePreview=true)

The surveys were distributed through the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department’s (the Department) electronic communication and social media networks. Council District 5 staff, San José Park Advocates, San José Park Foundation, the Youth Commission, the Senior Commission, and five schools located within a mile of the park. The Filipino American National Historical Society of Santa Clara Valley also shared the third survey on their social media and website.

**Translations**

The first survey and outreach materials were translated in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Staff did not receive any responses to the first Vietnamese survey. Additionally, staff did not receive any requests for Vietnamese translation; therefore, the second and third surveys, outreach materials, and narratives were provided in English and Spanish.

**First Survey – Name Solicitation**

Staff received 26 names from the first survey, with 11 meeting the required Policy criteria. Table 2 provides a summary of the solicitation survey results.

**TABLE 2 – Summary of Name Solicitation Survey**

Number	Name	Name Reasoning	Does it Fit the Policy?	Explanation
1	Apricot Tree Park	To honor the apricot orchard that was located on the future park site from the 1920s to the 1980s.	Yes	Geographic location and historical event
2	Captain Jason Dahl	To honor the San José native, San José State alumni, and pilot who died in the September 11 attacks.	Yes	An individual who has been deceased for at least five years
3	Cedarville-Giannotta Park	To reference the neighborhood name.	Yes	Adjoining subdivision/community
4	Chavacano Park (Apricot in Spanish)	To honor the apricot orchard that was located on the future park site from the 1920s to the 1980s.	Yes	Geographic location and historical event
5	Delano Manong Park	To honor the organizers of the Delano Grape Strike, which increased wages and improved working conditions for Filipino farm workers in the 1960s.	Yes	Historical event and individuals who have been deceased for at least five years

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Number	Name	Name Reasoning	Does it Fit the Policy?	Explanation
6	Gimelli Park	To reflect the name of the adjacent street.	Yes	Geographic location
7	Heart's Delight Park	To reflect Santa Clara Valley's past nickname, which references the area's beauty, mild climate, and fruit trees.	Yes	Historical event
8	Johnny Johnston Park	To honor the founder of the Alum Rock Airport, established in 1919. The airport was located on the north side of Alum Rock between Capitol Avenue and White Road.	Yes	An individual who has been deceased for at least five years
9	Muwekma Ohlone	To honor the Native American tribe that lived in the Bay Area. The tribe had a rich culture and history before European colonization.		Geographic location/ Historical event
10	Orchard Park	To reflect the orchard history in San José. In the early 1900s, San José was dominated by family owned orchards.		Historical event
11	Pala Park	To honor the area's: 1) Pala subtribe of the Muwekma Ohlone Native American tribe, 2) Rancho Pala in the early 1800s, 3) Pala agricultural district in the 1860s, and 4) Pala school established around the 1860s. Pala means "shovel or spade in" in Spanish.	Yes	Historical event
12	Baton Rouge Park	Name of street 300 feet from park site.	No	The name does not represent a geographic location that is representative of the park's location
13	Bay Area Strong 2020	N/A	No	Does not align with the policy
14	Black Lives Matter	To honor the Black Lives Matter Movement.	No	Does not align with the policy
15	Capelli Park	Capelli means hair in Italian.	No	Does not align with the policy

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Number	Name	Name Reasoning	Does it Fit the Policy?	Explanation
16	Cosmopolitan Park	To honor San José's residents from all races, religions, and all ethnicities.	No	Does not align with the policy
17	Gilchriat Park	To honor the name of the adjacent neighborhood.	No	The name does not represent a geographic location that is representative of the park's location
18	Hope Park	N/A	No	Does not align with the policy
19	Jim Plunkett Park	To honor the San José native and two-time Superbowl winner.	No	Parks must be named after individual who have been deceased for at least five years
20	Little Gem Park	To reflect the adjacent street, Gimelli Avenue.	No	The proposed name does not clearly represent the adjacent street
21	Luis Valdez Park	To honor the San José native, playwright, actor and film director.	No	Parks must be named after individual who have been deceased for at least five years
22	Microchip Park	N/A	No	Does not align with the policy
23	Santiago Park	To honor a 10-year-old San José resident battling brain cancer.	No	Does not align with the policy
24	Spark Park	To celebrate someone's dog.	No	Does not align with the policy
25	Susan Hammer Park	To honor San José's former mayor.	No	Parks must be named after individual who have been deceased for at least five years
26	Unity Park	To represent San José's diversity.	No	Does not align with the policy

**Second Survey – Name Voting**

The second survey allowed the public to vote on the 11 names that met Policy criteria and included a 15-page narrative that provided more information about each of the names, Attachment C. This second survey collected 111 responses. The results are shown in Table 3.

**TABLE 3 – Summary of Name Voting Survey**

Number	Name	Votes	Percent
1	Delano Manongs Park	27	24%
2	Muwekma Ohlone Park	19	17%
3	Pala Park	16	14%
4	Gimelli Park	14	13%
5	Chavacano Park (Apricot in Spanish)	10	9%
6	Captain Jason Dahl Park	8	7%
7	Heart’s Delight Park	8	7%
8	Cedarville- Giannotta Park	5	5%
9	Apricot Tree Park	3	3%
10	Orchard Park	1	1%
11	Johnny Johnson Park	0	0%

**Third Survey – Top Three Name Voting**

Since one name did not receive an overwhelming majority of the votes, a third survey was posted which allowed the public to vote on the top three names that received the most votes from the voting survey. This third survey also included a narrative describing each of the three names. The third survey received 326 votes with 234 votes for Delano Manongs Park. The third survey results are shown in Table 4.

**TABLE 4 – Summary of Top Three Votes Survey**

Number	Name	Votes	Percent
1	Delano Manongs Park	234	72%
2	Pala Park	54	16%
3	Muwekma Ohlone Park	38	12%

**Park Names Submitted via Email**

In addition to the surveys, the public could send Staff name suggestions. If Staff determined the name fit the Policy, it was included in the survey and/or staff helped to complete a name nomination form if the second survey was already released.

Staff received two names via email:

- Pala Park on September 13, 2020 and
- United We Stand Park/Unidas Estamos Park on December 1, 2020.

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Staff determined that Pala Park fits the Policy. Since it was emailed during the first survey, it was included in the second survey.

Staff determined that United We Stand Park/Unidas Estamos Park does not meet the Policy and did not complete a name nomination form. This was not received on time to be able to include it in any public surveys.

**CEQA**

Not a Project, File No. PP17-008, General Procedure & Policy Making results in no changes to the physical environment.

/s/

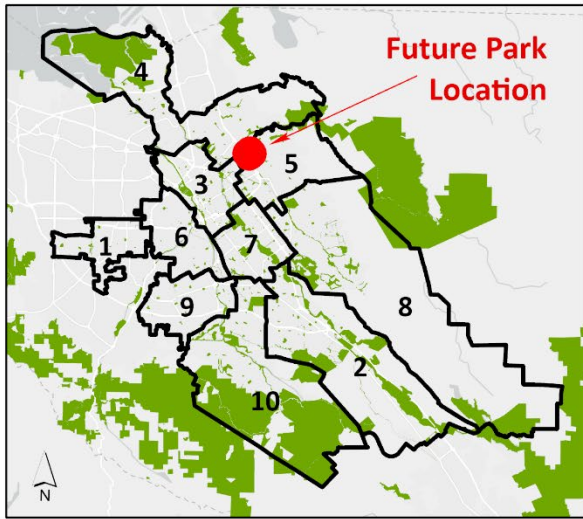
Nicolle Burnham  
Deputy Director of Parks,  
Recreation and Neighborhood Services

For questions, please contact Rebekah Ross, Planner IV by email at [rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov).

**Attachments:**

- A) Location Map
- B) Park Master Plan
- C) Name Narrative from the Second Name Voting Survey





# ATTACHMENT A PARK LOCATION MAP

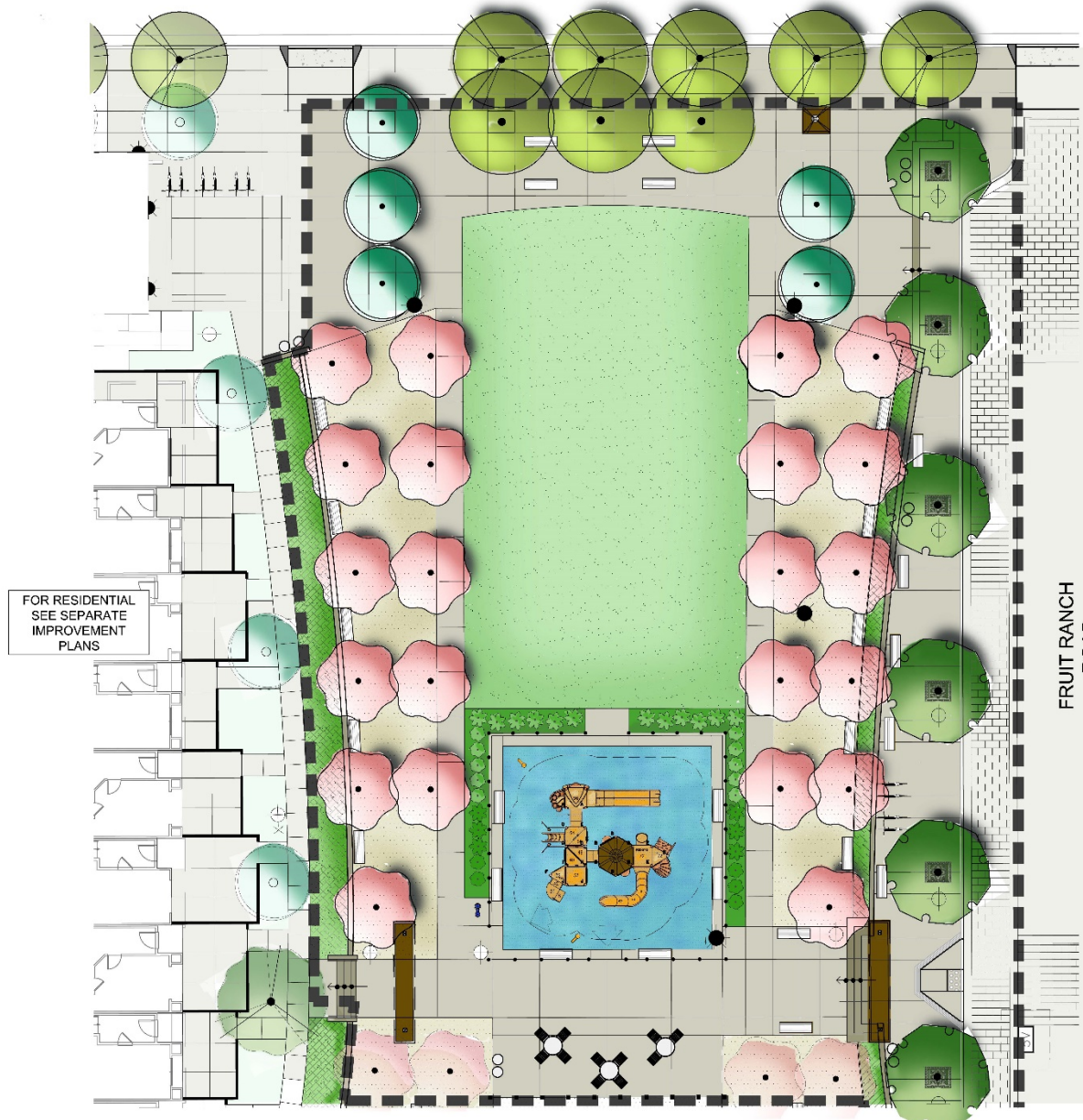
APN: 254-91-135



















PRC AGENDA: 02/03/2021  
ITEM: VII. B.

# ATTACHMENT B – APPROVED MASTER PLAN

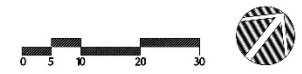
GIMELLI WAY



## LEGEND

-  LEVANTO POLE LIGHT, OR SIMILAR
-  ATLANTIS BOLLARD LIGHT OR SIMILAR
-  OBELISK W/ PARK SIGNAGE
-  TRIO BIKE RACK, OR SIMILAR
-  PLAY EQUIPMENT/LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES
-  RESILIENT SAFETY SURFACE
-  2-POST TRELLIS, S4S REDWOOD
-  APPROVED TABLE - PER CITY
-  APPROVED BENCH - PER CITY
-  APPROVED TRASH/RECYCLE BIN - PER CITY
-  NO MOW FESCUE
-  SPORTING LAWN
-  DECOMPOSED GRANITE PAVING
-  FLOWERING ORCHARD TREES
-  FENCE AT PLAY AREA
-  LIMIT OF PARK IMPROVEMENTS

PARK IMPROVEMENTS 24,857 SF±  
.57 ACRE ±





## **ATTACHMENT C – NAME NARRATIVE FROM THE SECOND NAME VOTING SURVEY**

### **Captain Jason Dahl Park**

Captain Jason Dahl was born and raised in San José and was one of the pilots who died in the September 11 attacks. Dahl was the Captain of United Airlines Flight 93 which was hijacked and subsequently crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. It is believed the plane's target was the US Capitol Building in Washington D.C and the hijackers were subdued by the heroic actions of the passengers and crew.<sup>5</sup> A picture of Dahl is shown in Figure 1.



*Figure 1: Picture of Captain Jason Dahl  
Source: [dahlfund.org/about-captain-dahl/](https://www.dahlfund.org/about-captain-dahl/)*

Dahl was born November 2, 1957 in San José. He attended Andrew Hill High School, just six miles away from the future park site. He later attended San José State University and graduated in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautic Operations.

In June 1985, Dahl joined United Airlines as a flight engineer on Boeing 727 aircraft in San Francisco. He was quickly promoted to a flight engineer instructor and then a co-pilot. Later, he became a captain on the Boeing 737 and finally a captain on the Boeing 767/757. Around this time, he moved to the Denver, Colorado area with his wife, Sandy, and their children.

On September 11, 2001, Dahl, his co-pilot, five flight attendants, and 37 passengers took off from Newark (New Jersey) Liberty International Airport bound for San Francisco on Flight 93.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.dahlfund.org/about-captain-dahl/>

Approximately 46 minutes into the flight, hijackers breached the cockpit, overpowered the pilots, took control of the aircraft, and diverted it toward Washington, D.C. At approximately 10:02am, Flight 93 was brought down in a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh and 150 miles northwest of Washington, D.C., killing all on board including the four hijackers.

Dahl has been honored in through a scholarship, the naming of an elementary school in San José, and a memorial in the field where the crash occurred in Pennsylvania.

In 2002, the Captain Jason Dahl Scholarship Fund was established to provide two aviation students a scholarship grant in Dahl's name. Originally the scholarship was only available to students at San José State University or Metro State University in Denver, but the program has since expanded to all students.<sup>6</sup>

In 2011, an elementary school in East San José was named after Dahl. Captain Jason M. Dahl Elementary School is located at 3200 Water Street in San José, approximately six miles from the future park site and less than a mile from where Dahl attended high school.<sup>7</sup>

There is also a National Memorial honoring those lost on Flight 93 at the field where the crash occurred in Pennsylvania.<sup>8</sup> The memorial has a visitor center complex, memorial plaza, and public art honoring those lost, shown in Figure 2.



*Figure 2: Pictures of the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania*

*Source: <https://www.nps.gov/flni/index.htm>*

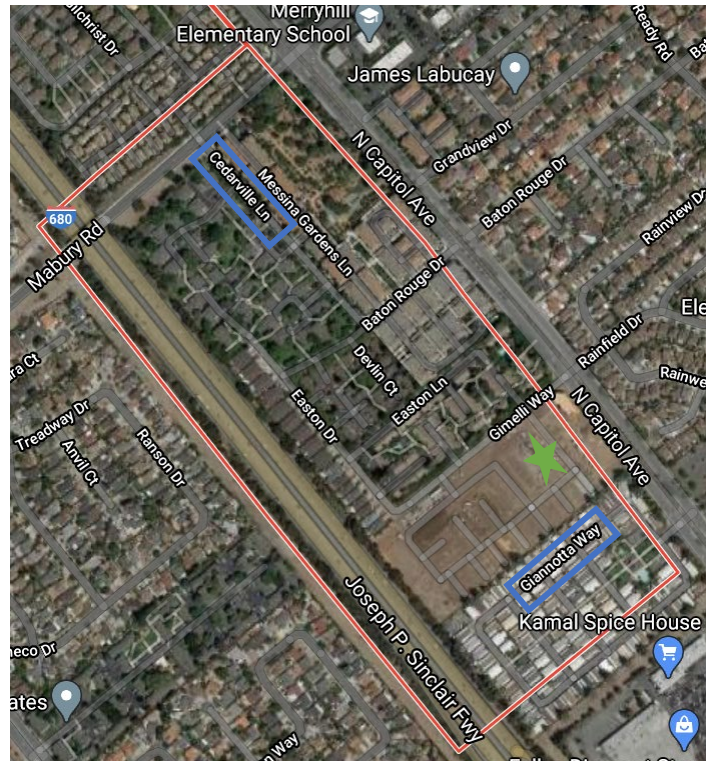
<sup>6</sup> <https://www.dahlfund.org/about-captain-dahl/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.mercurynews.com/2011/09/06/san-jose-school-honors-flight-93-pilot/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/flni/index.htm>

### Cedarville- Giannotta Park

The park site is located in the Cedarville- Giannotta neighborhood in San José. A map of the neighborhood is shown in Figure 3 below.



*Figure 3: The Cedarville- Giannotta neighborhood Boundary.  
The park location is highlighted by the green star (not drawn to scale)  
Source: Google Maps*

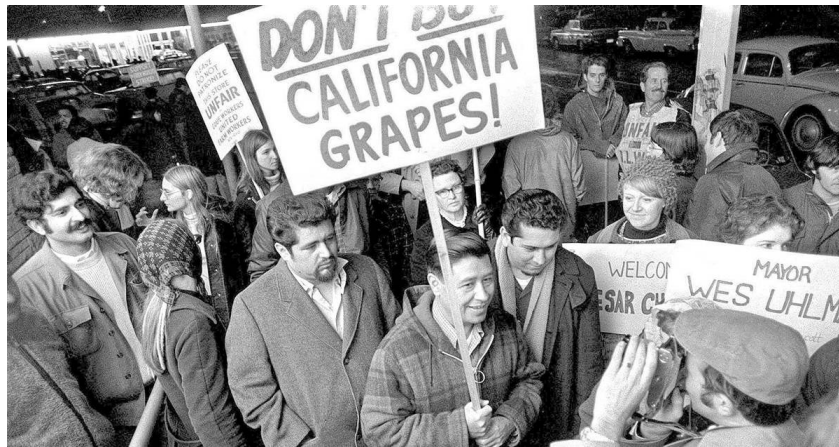
The Department was unable to find the history of the neighborhood name. Cedarville and Giannotta were not referenced in the project’s environmental documents, which explored the historical and cultural resources on the site and its surrounding area since the 1880s.

Naming the park after the neighborhood would provide a clear point of reference. However, Cedarville and Giannotta are streets near the future park site, highlighted in blue in Figure 3 above. Naming the park after two nearby streets that are not adjacent to the park site may lead to confusion.

## **Delano Manongs Park**

The name would pay reference to the Delano Grape Strike that protested the poor working condition of grape workers from 1965 to 1970. Filipino farm workers in the Delano area were paid below the federal minimum wage at just \$1.20 an hour. Despite negotiation attempts, the grape growers were not willing to raise their wages and saw these workers as easily replaceable. Some of the workers were leaders in the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) and began pushing for higher wages and better working conditions.<sup>9</sup>

On September 8, 1965, the AWOC organized over 1,000 Filipino farm workers to leave their work and begin a strike against the Delano table and wine grape growers. Cesar Chavez, the leader of the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), joined the AWOC's strike. The strike was characterized by its grassroots efforts including consumer boycotts, marches, and nonviolent resistance, one example is shown in Figure 4.<sup>10</sup>



*Figure 4: A picture from a grape strike picket line*

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/50-years-later-remembering-delano-grape-strike-n433886>

In March 1966, the AWOC and NFWA organized a three hundred mile walk from Delano to Sacramento to pressure growers and the state government into better wages and working conditions, shown in Figure 5. This walk brought widespread attention to the farm worker's cause. Shortly after the walk, the two groups merged and became known as the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFW).

<sup>9</sup> <https://ufw.org/1965-1970-delano-grape-strike-boycott/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://ufw.org/1965-1970-delano-grape-strike-boycott/>





*Figure 5: A picture of the 300 mile walk from Delano to Sacramento*  
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/50-years-after-the-Delano-grape-strike-6508846.php>

The strike drew unprecedented support from people outside the Central Valley. Union representatives traveled throughout the United States to spread their message and ask for support. They showed that if everyone made small changes in their life, by not buying grapes, they could directly help farm workers in California. City mayors, other unions, church activists, students, and civil rights groups throughout the United States pledged their support.<sup>11</sup>

The boycott soon extended to other corporations involved in the Delano grape industry. This led to pressure from the business sector to raise farm workers' wages and improve their working conditions. The grape strike and boycott ended in 1970 when grape growers signed a labor contract with the UFW. The contract included increased wages and improved working conditions. Some even included unemployment insurance and paid vacation days. The strike contributed to the passage of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975, which established collective-bargaining power for farmworkers statewide.<sup>12</sup>

“Manong” comes from a northern Philippines dialect called Ilocano. It is a term of affection and respect, best translated as “older brother.”<sup>13</sup> It is often used for the first major wave of Filipino immigrants who came to the United States in the 1920s and 1930s.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.npca.org/articles/1555-remembering-the-manongs-and-story-of-the-filipino-farm-worker-movement>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.history.com/news/delano-grape-strike-united-farm-workers-filipinos>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.npca.org/articles/1555-remembering-the-manongs-and-story-of-the-filipino-farm-worker-movement>



## Gimelli Park

The park site is located adjacent to Gimelli Way. The Department was unable to find the history of the name Gimelli. Gimelli is a common last name, but there are no references in the project's environmental documents, which explores the historical and cultural resources on and near the site since the 1880s.

Figure 6 shows Gimelli Way's proximity to the future park site.

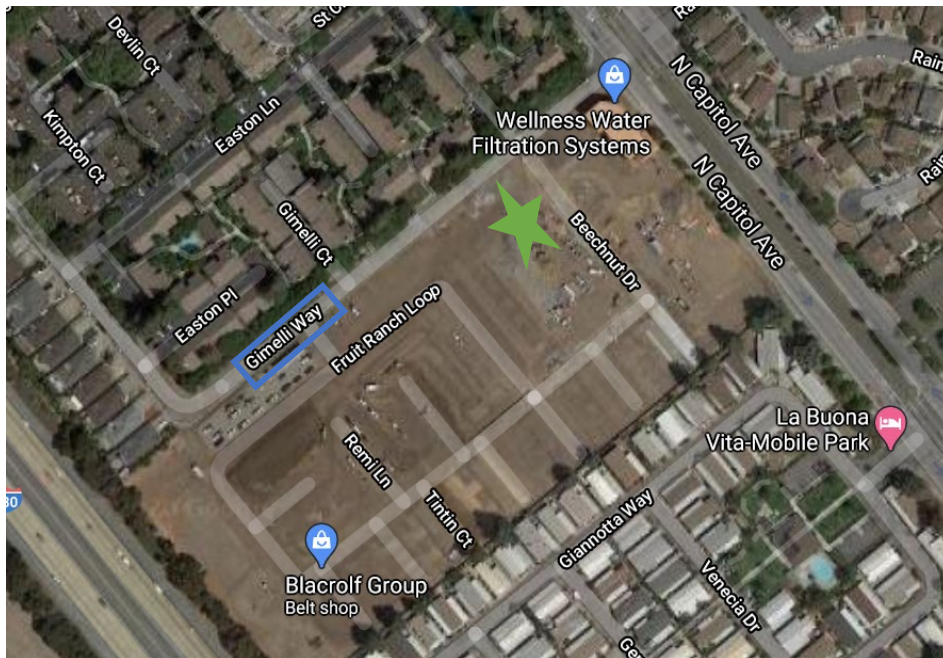


Figure 6: Gimelli Way's proximity to the future park site, shown in green (Not drawn to scale)  
Source: Google Maps

## Johnny Johnston Park

The future park site is less than a mile away from the historic Alum Rock Airport. In 1919, Reserve Lieutenant veteran Johnny Johnston turned a grain field just east of Calvary Cemetery into an airport.

The Airport had one runway measuring 1,800 feet, a hangar, and facilities to service aircrafts.<sup>14</sup> The general location of the airport is shown in Figure 7. Pala Avenue is located approximately at the original runway. Avenues A, B and C are believed to be the location of the lettered airport Taxiways A, B and C.

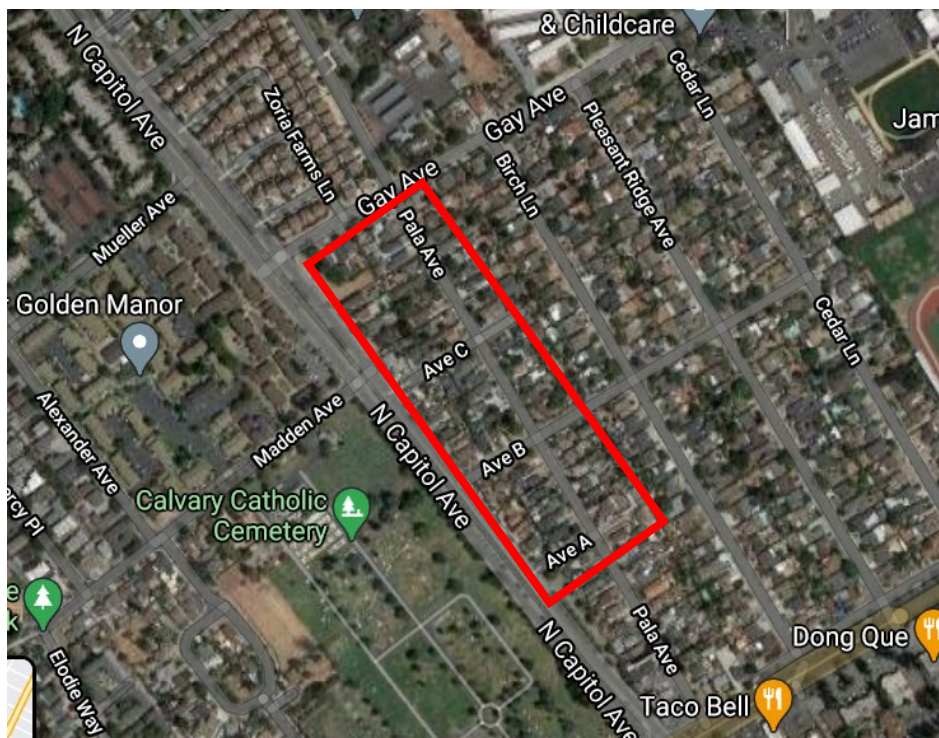


Figure 7: Site of former airport along Pala Avenue  
Source: Google Maps

Many of Santa Clara Valley's early aerial photography and movies were taken from flights operating from the Alum Rock Airport. A picture of Johnston is shown in Figure 8.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.nnvesj.org/Y06/Ed40/Edition40S2.htm#Ed40B5>



*Figure 8: A picture of Johnny Johnston (right)*  
<https://content.scu.edu/digital/collection/svhocdm/id/99>

By 1928, the neighbors started to complain about the airport's noise and dust. They sued to have the airport removed as a nuisance. The facilities were moved two years later to King Road, just south of Story. After the airport was moved, Johnston flew daily roundtrip airmail runs from San José to Oakland. He died in 1932 in the crash of a mail plane, he was 34.<sup>15</sup> The Alum Rock Airport is a historical predecessor of today's Reid-Hillview Airport (established in 1937) and San José International Airport (established in 1945).

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<sup>15</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alum\\_Rock\\_Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alum_Rock_Airport)  
<http://www.nvesj.org/Y06/Ed40/Edition40S2.htm#Ed40B5>



## Muwekma Ohlone Park

The name would reflect the Historic Native American tribe. The Muwekma Ohlone tribe is a subsection of the Ohlone tribe that inhabited the San Francisco Bay Area. The Muwekma Ohlone were skilled hunters and gatherers. They had a rich culture in the arts that included basket-weaving, ceremonial dancing, tattoos, and ear and nose piercings.<sup>16</sup>

In 1776, the Spanish arrived to colonize the area and greatly impacted the culture, sovereignty, religion, and language of the Muwekma Ohlone tribe. The Spanish forced Native Americans to convert to Catholicism and forced many of them into servitude, as shown in Figure 9.



*Figure 9: A painting of the Muwekma Ohlone tribe being forced build a Catholic Mission*

Source: <https://thebolditalic.com/yes-we-live-on-ohlone-land-but-what-does-that-mean-70a34c249e70>

The Ohlone tribes were nearly wiped out from disease, warfare, and European colonization. Between the years 1776 and 1834, the number of Indigenous Californians dropped from 300,000 to 250,000.<sup>17</sup> After California entered the Union in 1850, the mistreatment and displacement of Native Americans continued.

Today, the surviving group of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe has over 500 members and are active in the community.<sup>18</sup> Figure 10 shows members of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and the former San Francisco Mayor London Breed celebrating the City's first official Indigenous Peoples' Day in 2018. The tribe has worked to honor past cultural resources, customs, and traditions.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.muwekma.org/culture.html>

<sup>17</sup> <https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/california/articles/a-brief-history-of-the-muwekma-ohlone-people/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://indiancountrytoday.com/archive/ca-tribe-has-new-recognition-hopes-after-costly-two-decade-struggle-9xACg3cGeUGQHCTxFGXb6g#:~:text=The%20once%20federally%20recognized%20Muwekma,rights%20to%20sovereignty%20and%20resources.&text=In%201927%2C%20the%20tribe%20and,as%20sovereign%20Native%20American%20nations.>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.muwekma.org/culture.html>



Figure 10: Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and the San Francisco Mayor celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day in 2018  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Indigenous\\_Peoples%27\\_Day\\_SF\\_20181008-5101.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Indigenous_Peoples%27_Day_SF_20181008-5101.jpg)

Naming the park after the Muwekma Ohlone would honor the Native American history in the area. Many cities in the Bay Area have honored the Muwekma Ohlone tribe, including San José by naming a middle school after it. Muwekma Ohlone Middle School is located at 850 N 2nd Street, about five miles from the park site.

## Pala Park

Pala means “shovel or spade in” in Spanish and has many connections to the area. It was:

- The name of the Muwekma Ohlone subtribe in the area;
- The name of Rancho Pala near the future park site in the early 1800s;
- The name of the agricultural district established in the area in the 1860s; and
- The name of a school that was open from the 1860s to 2009 and located near the park site.

Pala was a subtribe of the Muwekma Ohlone tribe (described in more detail above). They primarily lived between the Santa Clara Valley and Mount Hamilton, shown in Figure 11.<sup>20</sup> Pala was also the name of their Chief, Captain Pala.<sup>21</sup>

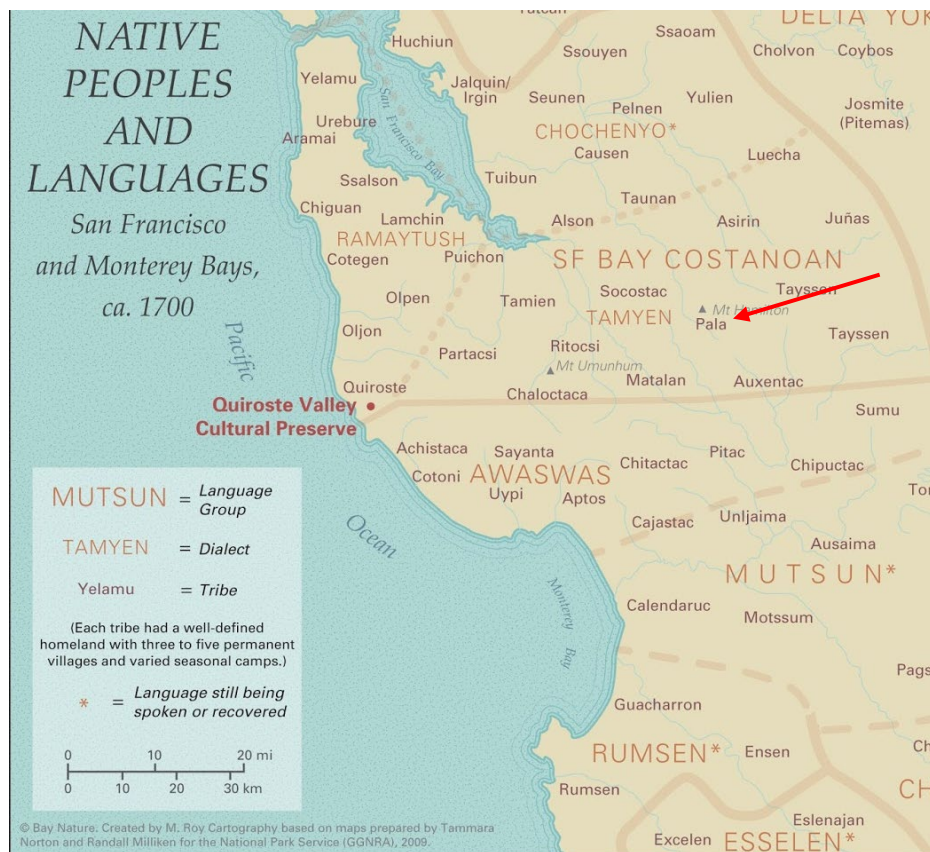


Figure 11: A map of Native People and their Languages in 1700.

[https://baynature.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/BN\\_NativePeoplesMap\\_PRINT\\_030716.jpg](https://baynature.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/BN_NativePeoplesMap_PRINT_030716.jpg)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.evergreenmuralwalk.com/2016/04/25/before-the-rancho/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.indianhealthcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/San-Jose-Muwekma-Land-Acknowledgement.pdf>



By the 1830s, present day California became a territory of the newly independent Mexico. The Mexican government began gifting ranchos, or large land grants, to people who were loyal to the Mexican government.<sup>22</sup>

The Rancho Pala was granted to José Joaquin Higuera in 1835.<sup>23</sup> The 4,454-acre grant ran along the foothills from Penitencia Creek in the north to present-day Norwood Avenue in the south, shown in Figure 12.<sup>24</sup> The future park site is just outside its boundary. The land was later claimed by Charles White and his wife after the Mexican American War in 1846.

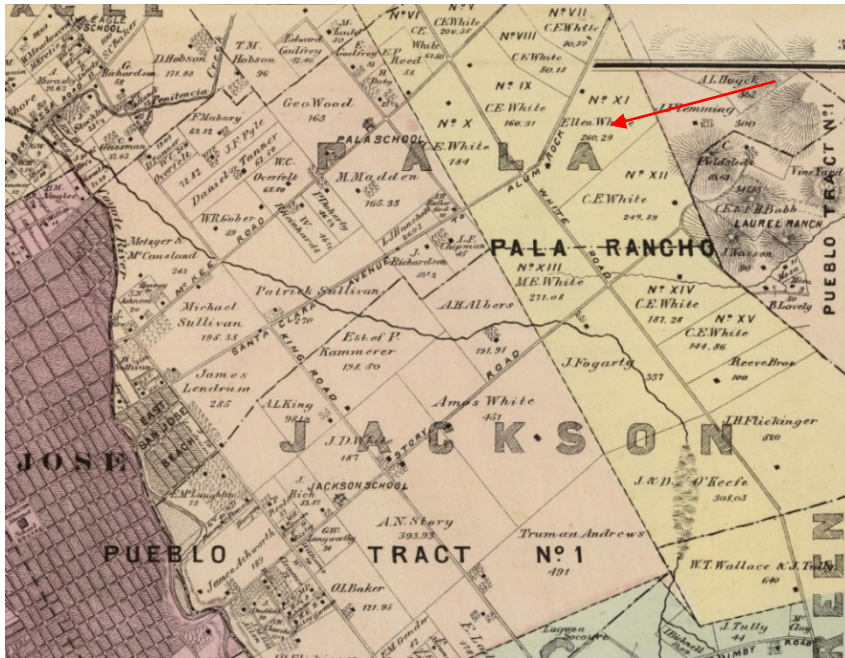


Figure 12: A map of Santa Clara County's Ranchos  
<http://onlineexhibits.historysanjose.org/labellegacy/images/photos/popups/RRRanchosMap.html>

<sup>22</sup> <https://californiamissionsfoundation.org/ranchos/>

<sup>23</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho\\_Pala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_Pala)

<sup>24</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho\\_Pala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_Pala)



When California became part of the United States, around 1847. The Americans surveyed the state and established districts and townships. The Rancho Pala and its surrounding area became part of the Pala District, shown in Figure 13 to the left.

Figure 13: An 1876 map of San José districts and townships

Source <http://www.davidrumsey.com/maps113.html>



With more people moving into the area, there was a need for more community resources and a school. Pala school was developed in the district. A picture of the school is shown in Figure 14. It was located at today's corner of McKee Road and North Capitol Avenue. The exact year of the school's opening is unknown, but it is included in the 1876 county map shown in Figure 13 above.

Figure 14: A picture of Pala school taken in the 1890s

Source: <https://historysanjose.pastperfectonline.com/photo/84C03255-F603-4512-AA13-340700177680>

In 1938, Pala school merged with another local school and moved near the corner of Alum Rock Avenue and North White Road. The newly located Pala school taught first to eighth graders. In



1956, it was converted to solely a middle school. But by 2009, the school district enrollment had dropped, and the middle school was closed in 2010.<sup>25</sup>

The name Pala has many connections to the area. There is currently no city owned facility named after Pala. However, there is a street named Pala Avenue about a mile from the park site. Having the park share a name with a nearby street that is not adjacent may lead to confusion.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://abc7news.com/archive/7166114/>

### Names Relating to Orchards

Orchard Park

Heart's Delight Park

Apricot Tree Park

Chavacano Park (Apricot in Spanish)

Santa Clara Valley was coined the Valley of Heart's Delight for its mild climate and ideal growing conditions. The Valley was the ideal location for orchard cultivation and canning. By the 1930s, the Valley was home to 18 canneries, 13 dried-fruit packing houses, and 12 fresh-fruit and vegetable shipping companies.<sup>26</sup> The orchards and their operations attracted thousands of workers across the country. San José was one of the first California cities to make mechanical equipment specializing in farming and processing, which greatly improved efficiency.<sup>27</sup>

The park site was previously owned by the Merlino family from the 1920s to the 1980s. They primarily used the site for orchard cultivation. They first produced prunes and then later apricots. The Merlino family continued to utilize the property as an active orchard until the market changed, causing them to begin selling pieces of their land. By 1983, the original orchard trees disappeared and were replaced by new residential development.



The decline of orchards and food processing plants was seen throughout the Valley. After World War II, industrial manufacturing began to grow. The manufacturing resulted in more jobs and people in the area, which caused residential neighborhoods to take over orchard land.<sup>28</sup> Figure 15 to the left shows an aerial photograph of North Capitol Avenue near the park site, taken in 1967. The left side shows the orchards and the right shows the new residential development.

Figure 15: A picture of orchards and residential development along North Capitol in 1967.

Source: <https://historysanjose.pastperfectonline.com/photo/581F43E8-10E6-49EA-B468-554109625110>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.sjpl.org/blog/looking-back-canning-valley-hearts-delight>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.sjpl.org/blog/looking-back-canning-valley-hearts-delight>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.sjpl.org/blog/looking-back-canning-valley-hearts-delight>

# Naming of a New Public Park at Gimelli Way, Near North Capital Avenue

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

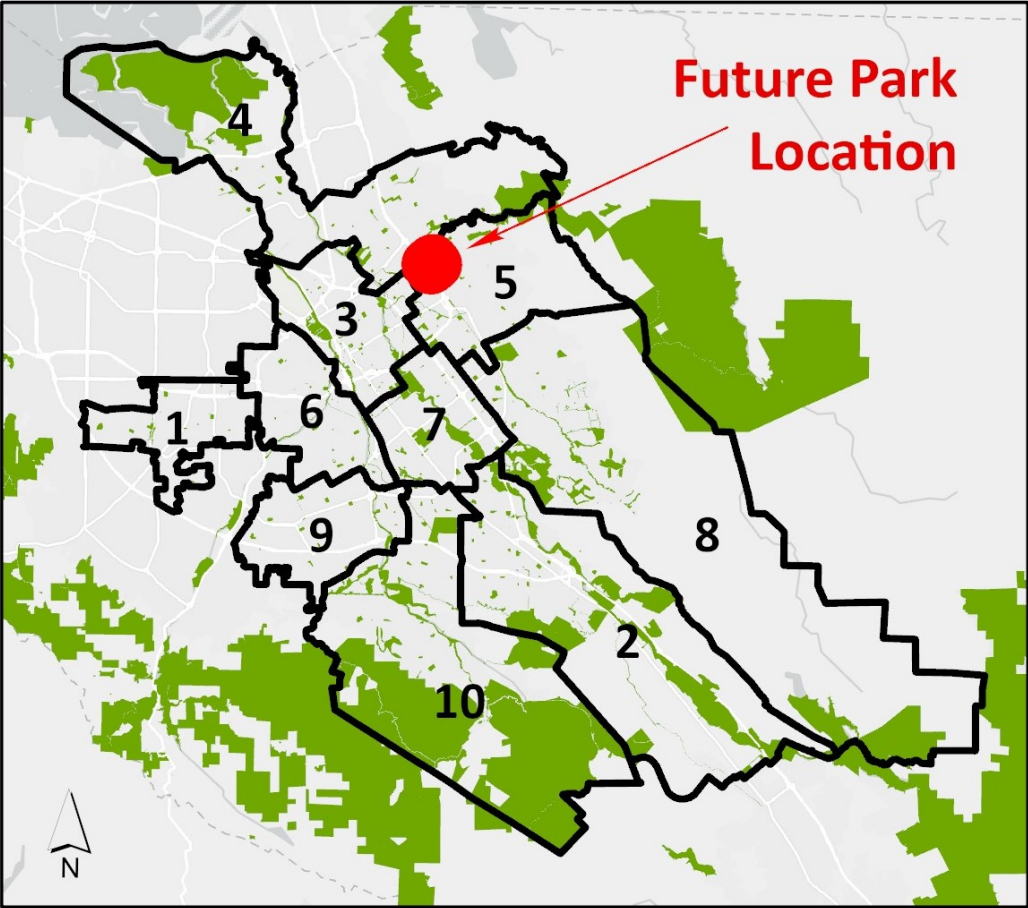
**February 3, 2020**

**Presented by:**

**Rebekah Ross, Planner IV, [rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov)**

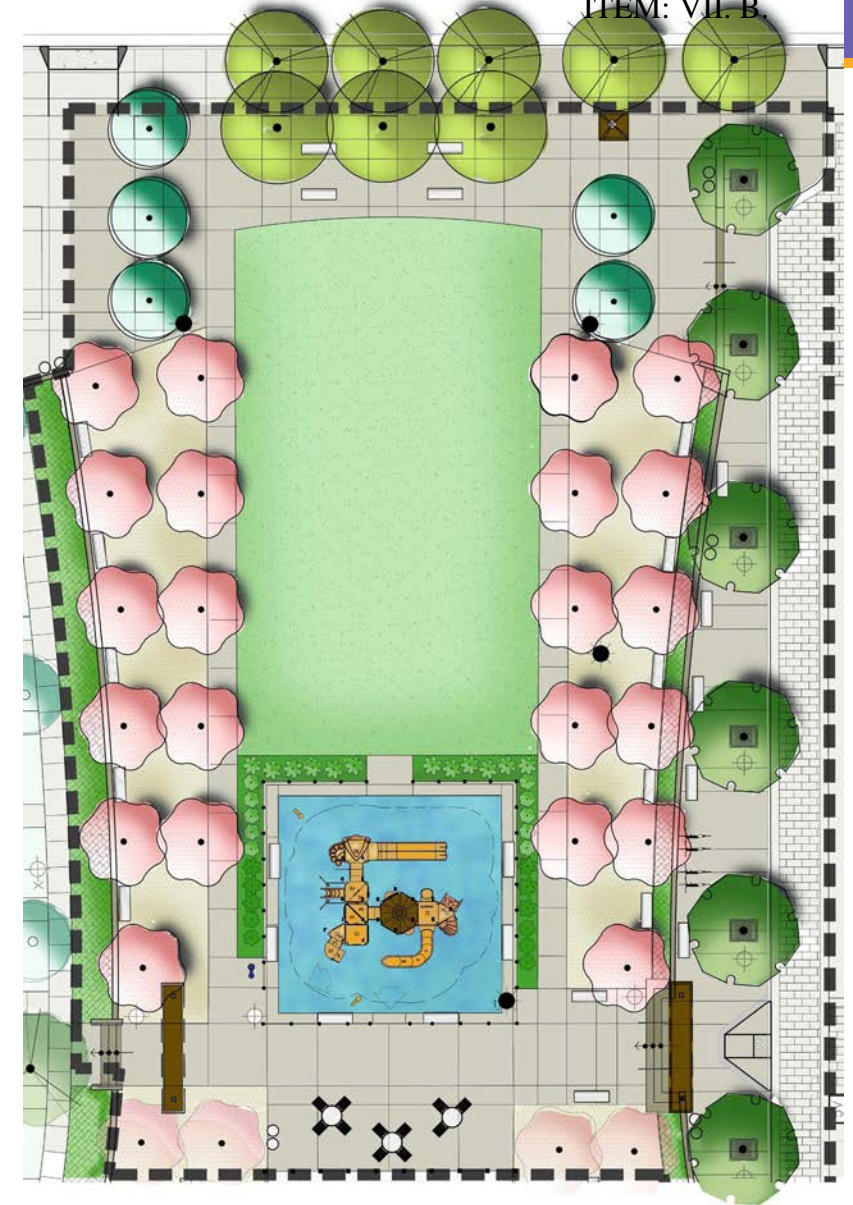


# Park Location



# Background

- 0.56 acre park
- Includes children's playground, a gathering plaza, open sporting lawn, benches and seating, and landmark signage
- Construction started September 2020





# Public Outreach

#	Survey Topic	Date	Number of Participants	Results
1	Solicit names	September 4, 2020 to September 14, 2020	35	Received 26 name suggestions with 11 qualifying names
2	Vote on qualifying names	November 30, 2020 to December 7, 2020	111	The names with the most votes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delano Manongs Park</li> <li>• Muwekma Ohlone Park</li> <li>• Pala Park</li> </ul>
3	Vote on three most voted names in second survey	December 11, 2020 to December 18, 2020	326	Delano Manongs Park received 234 (72%) votes

# Recommended Name “Delano Manongs Park”

- Conforms with the City’s naming policy:
  - References a historic event
    - The Delano Grape Strike
    - Increased wages and improved working conditions for Filipino farm workers in the 1960s
  - Individuals who have been deceased for at least five years
    - “Manong” comes from a northern Philippines dialect
    - Term of respect, best translated to “older brother”



# Filipino American Population

Location	Number of Filipino American	Percent of Population
California	1,288,414	3.3%
San Jose	56,398	5.5%
Zip code 95133	3,871	13.6%



# Park Naming Recommendation

- Recommend an official park name to the City Council:
  - (1) “Delano Manongs Park” per staff recommendation based on naming process; or
  - (2) Select an alternative park name from the list of eligible names generated through the public outreach process; or,
  - (3) Recommend a park name that is received and deemed eligible during the commission’s public meeting.

# Naming of a New Public Park at Gimelli Way, Near North Capital Avenue

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**February 3, 2020**

**Presented by:**

**Rebekah Ross, Planner IV, [rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov)**