



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

October 18, 2018

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## **Coffey Neighborhood Park Recovery Update**

*Update on FEMA funding, park design, perimeter fencing & debris removal*

Santa Rosa, CA – The City of Santa Rosa’s plans to rebuild Coffey Neighborhood Park are moving forward with several key items of progress occurring this month. Earlier in October, staff with the Recreation & Parks Department learned that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has obligated funding for all park projects within the City’s fire damaged parks, including Coffey Neighborhood Park. Additionally, the design firm Carlile Macy was selected by the City’s proposal review committee to draft the new park design based on neighborhood input. The City Council will consider recommended approval for the contract soon. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, crews with the Transportation & Public Works Department began the process towards infrastructure recovery by installing a temporary protective fence around the park perimeter. This was done to secure physical hazards, prevent illegal dumping, and in preparation for debris removal to begin December 2018.

#### **FEMA Funding**

Coffey Neighborhood Park sustained an estimated \$5-million in damage during the October 2017 Tubbs Fire, including all turf, irrigation, electrical systems, two playgrounds, picnic and BBQ areas, two monument signs, wooden bollards, landscaping and 54 trees. This month, following nearly a year of damage review, FEMA agreed to provide funding to remove and replace all burned and/or hazardous elements of the park, including restoration of the turf. These funds are provided as a reimbursement at 75% of approved value. Additionally, the California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) will fund 18.75%. This leaves a significant 6.25% overall funding gap to be filled by the City and through fundraising efforts. The exact amount of additional funding needed to rebuild the park is yet to be determined and is dependent upon the approved park design and rebuild costs. The Santa Rosa Parks

Foundation, a private non-profit organization, is fundraising to help fill the gap. For information on this effort, please visit: [SRParksFoundation.org](http://SRParksFoundation.org).

### **Park Design**

Pending City Council approval, the design firm Carlile Macy will begin contracted work next month to re-design Coffey Neighborhood Park. The design will be based on input from residents and property owners within the fire-impacted neighborhood. At the first neighborhood meeting held in August, residents and property owners were asked to complete a survey to provide their input on the design and rebuilding of the park. Those who have not yet completed the [survey](#) may do so online by November 16, 2018. A second neighborhood meeting will be held in December to view the draft master plan and to collect further input. The plan and a link to submit input will also be made available online following the meeting. For project updates and to provide input online, visit [SRCity.org/Coffey-Project](http://SRCity.org/Coffey-Project).

### **Debris Removal**

Debris removal is set to begin in December at Coffey Neighborhood Park. This follows the August 2018 testing for hazardous materials, which were determined to be either below their respective health screening criteria and cleanup goals or not detected. The initial debris removal process will involve clearing away above ground fire damaged debris and equipment, illegally dumped debris, and hazardous trees. The park clean-up will be conducted under the same permit process and rules as private property debris removal projects. Once the debris is removed, the park will receive erosion control preparations for storm water management. The five acres of turf is scheduled for remediation in the summer of 2019 when dry weather allows for efficient removal of the top 2 to 3 inches of turf and soil. An overview of the project scope can be found on informational banners attached to the park's perimeter fence, along with a link to the City's web page at [SRCity.org/Coffey-Project](http://SRCity.org/Coffey-Project).

The City of Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks and Transportation & Public Works Departments are coordinating the recovery and reconstruction of Coffey Neighborhood Park. Transportation & Public Works maintains oversight on the debris removal process while Recreation & Parks coordinates public input on the design and reconstruction of the park. For information and updates, visit [SRCity.org/Coffey-Project](http://SRCity.org/Coffey-Project).

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