



City Manager's Bi-Weekly

February 10, 2022

COMMUNITY UPDATE



CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

One of my goals as the newly appointed City Manager for the City of Walnut is to keep residents informed as to what is happening in our community. With that being said, I am pleased to present the first of my City Manager's Bi-Weekly Community Update series, which will be available on our website Thursday afternoons, following our regularly scheduled City Council Meetings.

These community updates will include information ranging from development projects to recreation activities, and other important information I'd like to share with our residents.

I look forward to serving the community and keeping our residents informed!

Tom Weiner
Walnut City Manager



49 ACRES (TERRACES) CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Grading of the 49-Acres (Terraces) site has begun and is visible from many vantage points within Walnut, including when approaching the City via Grand Avenue. In the upcoming weeks, construction of the first set of "Verdura" retaining walls (located along Valley Boulevard) will commence. These walls will vary in height (up to 25-feet) and will incorporate landscaping elements to soften its appearance.

Additionally, the project's on-site Paleontologist Monitor, which is required per State law (CEQA), has discovered the following fossils through the grading activities on the project site:

- Small plants, fish, and other oceanic elements.
- The head and spine of a Viper Fish, which is a deep-sea fish that swims at depths of more than 1,000 feet.



Viper Fish Fossil

City staff is working with the Developer to have these items of Walnut's past donated to the City. The fossils and any other artifacts noted will be displayed in public areas of City Hall for the Community to enjoy. We will continue to provide updates on the Terraces Project as milestones are reached.

CREEKSIDE DIVERSITY PLAZA PROJECT

Topographical maps have been completed for the Creekside Diversity Project, allowing for the spray play area design to move from past concept to working drawings.

In addition, the City submitted a formal application with Suburban Water for the water services required for the Park and are awaiting their approval.

With anticipated construction delays related to the pandemic, the City is opting for the speedier, cost-effective, but nonetheless attractive turnkey modular building (installation included in the price) that will match the look of other buildings in Creekside Park.



Building Rendering

This will add four strategically located restrooms and the utility room needed for the spray park equipment (pumps, filters, etc). Since order timelines are significant and prices are already formally bid (SourceWell National bid list) staff will bring the building to the Walnut City Council for approval prior to bringing final specifications for the plaza area, which will be formally bid.

LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Join us for a FREE, family-friendly outdoor event featuring a wide variety of cultural and family activities, vendors, Lunar New Year merchandise, delicious food, and exciting performances to welcome in the Year of the Tiger!

An annual tradition in Walnut, the festival celebrates both the Lunar New Year and the beauty of Walnut's cultural diversity. The event will be held outdoors at Walnut City Hall (21201 La Puente Rd.) on Saturday, February 19, 2022 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., with a special firecracker display at 2:30 p.m.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH DISPLAY

Black History Month has been honored in California - and nationwide - every February for nearly 100 years. Our great Teen Center staff and young members of our community have developed a wonderful display at the Walnut Teen Center that celebrates and recognizes Black History Month. The exterior of the building has been decorated with wonderful art and powerful sayings that provide reflection and learning. The display will be up all month and I encourage everyone to visit it.



Black History Month Display

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS

At the March 9 (study session) and March 23 (staff report) City Council meetings, City staff will present information regarding the status of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds. Staff will present information related to current fiscal year ARPA expenditures/earmarks, as well as request feedback from the City Council for the second round of funding that is expected later this year. Our City staff looks forward to presenting this information to the City Council, in order to work towards using ARPA funding in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Brookside Property Tree Maintenance

Last Thursday, February 3, the property owner began tree maintenance throughout the Brookside property. All work is occurring outside of the creek and primarily towards the southwesterly end of the property. The scope of maintenance to be performed is as follows:

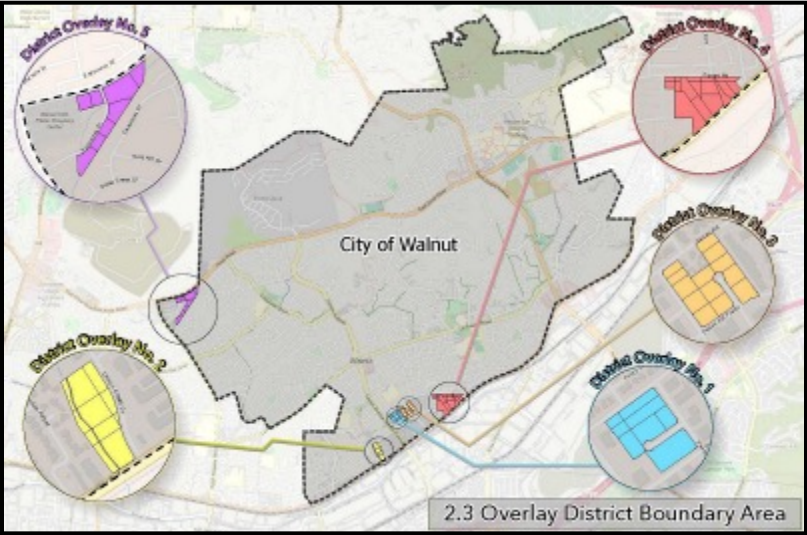
- Removal of any broken branches (on the ground) or debris.
- Crown lifting of pepper trees (removal of the lowest branches) at the southwesterly end of the property (away from the creek).

Generally, property owners can maintain trees and landscaping on private property, as long as no protected trees (e.g. Oak and Walnut) are being impacted. The information provided to, and observed by staff, show no protected trees are being impacted. It is anticipated that the remaining maintenance will be completed by early next week. Should you have any questions please contact Community Development Department staff at 909-595-7543 x 405 or visit the Brookside Project web page: cityofwalnut.org/brookside.

2021-2029 Housing Element Update

Subsequent to the recommendation of approval from the Planning Commission this past December, the Housing Element Update will go before the Walnut City Council for review and approval on February 23, 2022. The following is a general overview of the Housing Element update:

- Incorporates new "Medium-High" and "High" residential Zoning on five (5) areas located on the City's periphery, preserving Walnut's natural open space(s), scenic corridors, and rural character.
- Walnut is required to accommodate the State's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation of 1,293 units, over the course of the next eight (8) years (2021 – 2029).
- Four (4) areas are currently zoned Light-Industrial and one (1) area is zoned Heavy-Commercial, abutting existing residential neighborhoods.



Proposed District Overlay areas

The public is welcome (and encouraged) to provide their input on the document prior to, and during the meeting; all questions and comments can be directed to the Community Development Staff (jguerra@cityofwalnut.org).

Farewell to Walnut's Planning Intern

The Community Development Department's Volunteer Planning Intern, Brendan Dalde, has been with the City since June 2021. Brendan, who recently completed his Bachelor's of Science degree in Urban Planning at Arizona State University, has been a valuable member of the Community Development Team over the past several months. Earlier this week, Brendan accepted a full-time position with the City of Menifee's Community Development Department – he will start his new position in a few weeks. We wish him the best of luck in his new role with Menifee and look forward to following his career journey. He will be missed!

Tuesday & Thursday Pickleball at Walnut Ranch Park



Pickleball Courts at Walnut Ranch Park

The City of Walnut is in its fifth week of the six-month Pickleball pilot program and participation has been growing each week. In addition to drop-in play, City staff conducts clinics and meet ups ranging in attendance from 8 to 28 players. Maintenance staff reports steady daytime play and also reports Pickleball has been a compatible activity with the adjacent tennis play. Having the three Walnut High School tennis courts seven days a week, more than balances the court time lost to Pickleball; though staff checks so far report they are minimally used.

In short, the pilot program is demonstrating strong support for Pickleball play among Walnut residents. If the upward trend continues, City Council may wish to explore more permanent alternatives for Pickleball play following the six-month trial. Kudos to the Community Services team and the community's Pickleball enthusiasts for making this pilot program so successful!

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Youth Advisory Commission Meeting

Monday, February 14

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Tuesday, February 15

Lunar New Year Celebration

Saturday, February 19

Presidents Day - City Facilities Closed

Monday, February 21

City Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 23

Agendas are posted 72 hours before the meeting on the web at cityofwalnut.org

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City of Walnut

21201 La Puente Road
Walnut, CA 91789

Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed Every Friday