



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

14

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
www.CityofSacramento.org

Consent
November 29, 2005

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Approve the Name "Charlie Jensen Park" and Approve the Charlie Jensen Park Master Plan, CIP LW76.

Location/Council District: 6432 Park Village Street
Council District 4

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution: 1) approving the name "Charlie Jensen Park" and 2) approving the Charlie Jensen Park Master Plan, CIP LW76.

Contact: Janet Baker, Park Development Manager, 808-8234

Presenters: None

Department: Parks & Recreation

Division: Park Planning, Design & Development

Organization No: 4727

Summary:

Charlie Jensen Park (located in the East Land Park Village development) is a 2-acre park located at 6432 Park Village Street. Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the park name "Charlie Jensen Park" and the park's Master Plan.

Committee/Commission Action:

The Charlie Jensen Park name and master plan were reviewed and approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on October 13, 2005. Members requested that more trees be added and a narrow strip of turf be removed replacing it with native plants on the south end of the park site. The department will add these changes to the construction document plans.

Background Information:

The master plan (Attachment 1) for the 2-acre park was created through the public participation process. The park is located in the East Land Park Village development (Attachment 2). Charlie "Red" Jensen was a resident of Sacramento whose life was dedicated to aviation. Mr. Jensen was the first licensed airplane mechanic in California; he operated a flying school, operated his own agricultural aviation firm, and owned Jensen Airport. Jensen Airport was located approximately a half-mile north of the current park site. To honor Charlie "Red" Jensen's legacy, the community would like to name the park after him. (For additional information on Mr. Jensen, please refer to Attachment 3.)

The Charlie Jensen Park Master Plan includes the following: basic landscaping, a bike trail, open turf, an adventure play area, a picnic shelter with picnic tables, trash receptacles, and a natural area.

The park was master planned to include the *Maintainable Park Standards* saving techniques. At least 25% of this site is designed with native trees, non-irrigated native grasses and mulch.

Financial Considerations:

Funding of \$290,000 was approved by the City Council during the 2005 CIP process (CIP LW76) for the master planning and development of the park. The park funds were generated from Park Impact Fees collected in the new neighborhood surrounding the park (Planning Area 3). Park construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2006.

The Neighborhood Park Maintenance Community Facilities District (CFD) was established to reduce reliance on the general fund for neighborhood park maintenance and to preserve the level of maintenance in the parks system. It was projected that revenues from the CFD would provide approximately 65-70% of the cost associated with maintaining new neighborhood parks for those areas that annex to the District.

Since some areas have not annexed to the District, the percentage of costs covered will fall below the 65-70% level. The balance of costs must be borne by the Citywide Landscape and Lighting District and other city funds. It is anticipated that significant revenues from the CFD did not begin until 2005. In the meantime, maintenance funds must be derived from other sources. Existing parks and all community parks, regional parks, open space, trails and buffer areas are not covered by the CFD.

There will be approximately \$16,000 per year in ongoing operational and maintenance costs for Charlie Jensen Park: \$12,000 in park maintenance and \$4,000 in water and utility costs.

Environmental Considerations:

The Development Services Department, Environmental Planning Services Division has reviewed this project and determined that the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 1, Section 15301(a), Class 3 and Class 4, Section numbers 15304(b) and 15304(f) of the CEQA Guidelines. Projects exempt under Class 1, Section number 15301(c) consists of minor alteration to existing highways and streets including bicycle and pedestrian trails. Projects exempt under Class 3 consist of new construction of small structures or facilities. Projects exempt under Class 4, Section number 15304(b) consists of new gardening or landscaping and projects exempt under Class 4, Section number 15304(f) consists of minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.

Policy Considerations:

Providing Parks and Recreation facilities is consistent with the City's strategic plan to achieve sustainability and liveability and to expand economic development throughout the City.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

The selection of Landscape Architect consultants and contractors for this project follow City established guidelines for inclusion of ESBD firm.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
ROBERT G. OVERSTREET II
Director of Parks & Recreation

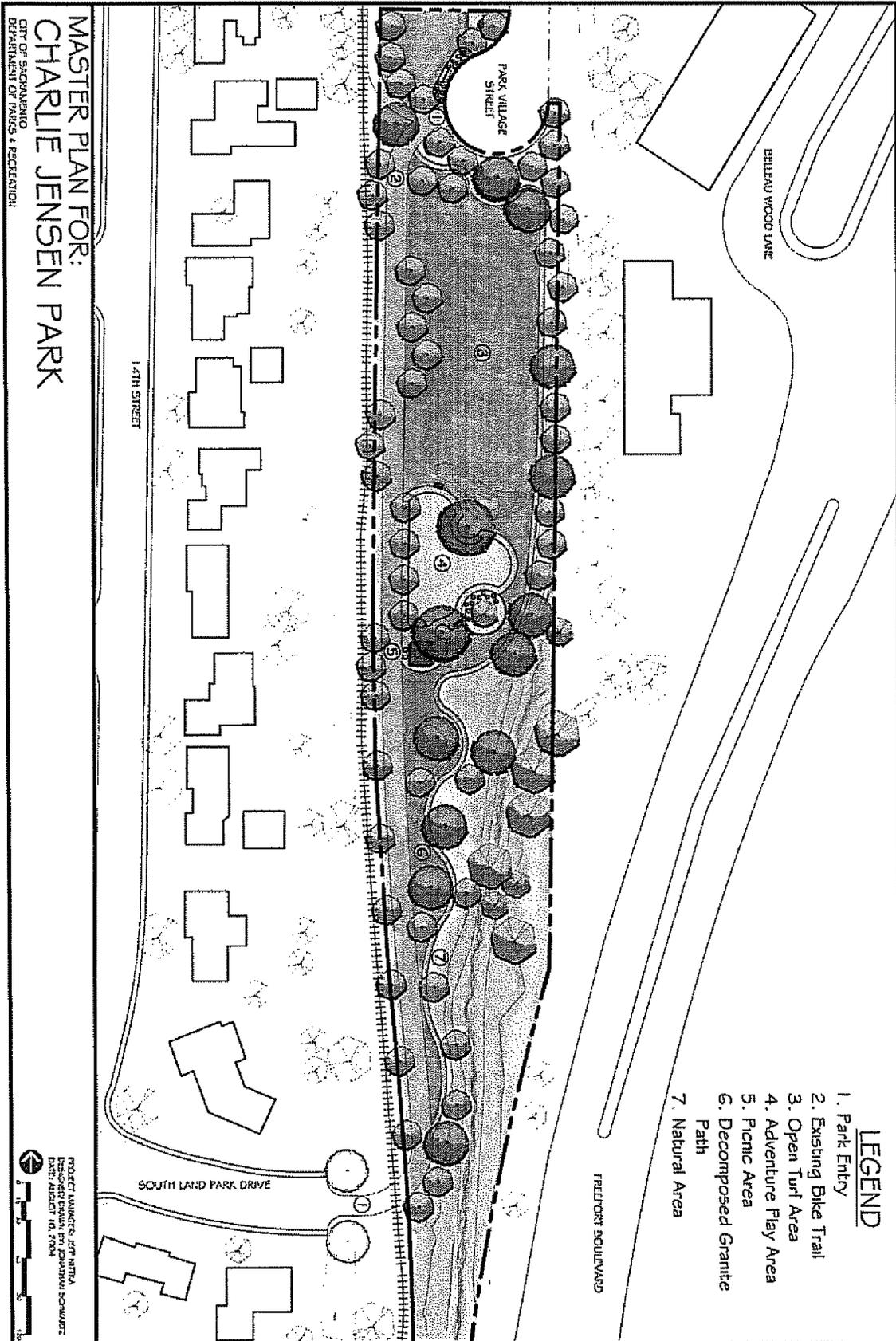
Recommendation Approved:


ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

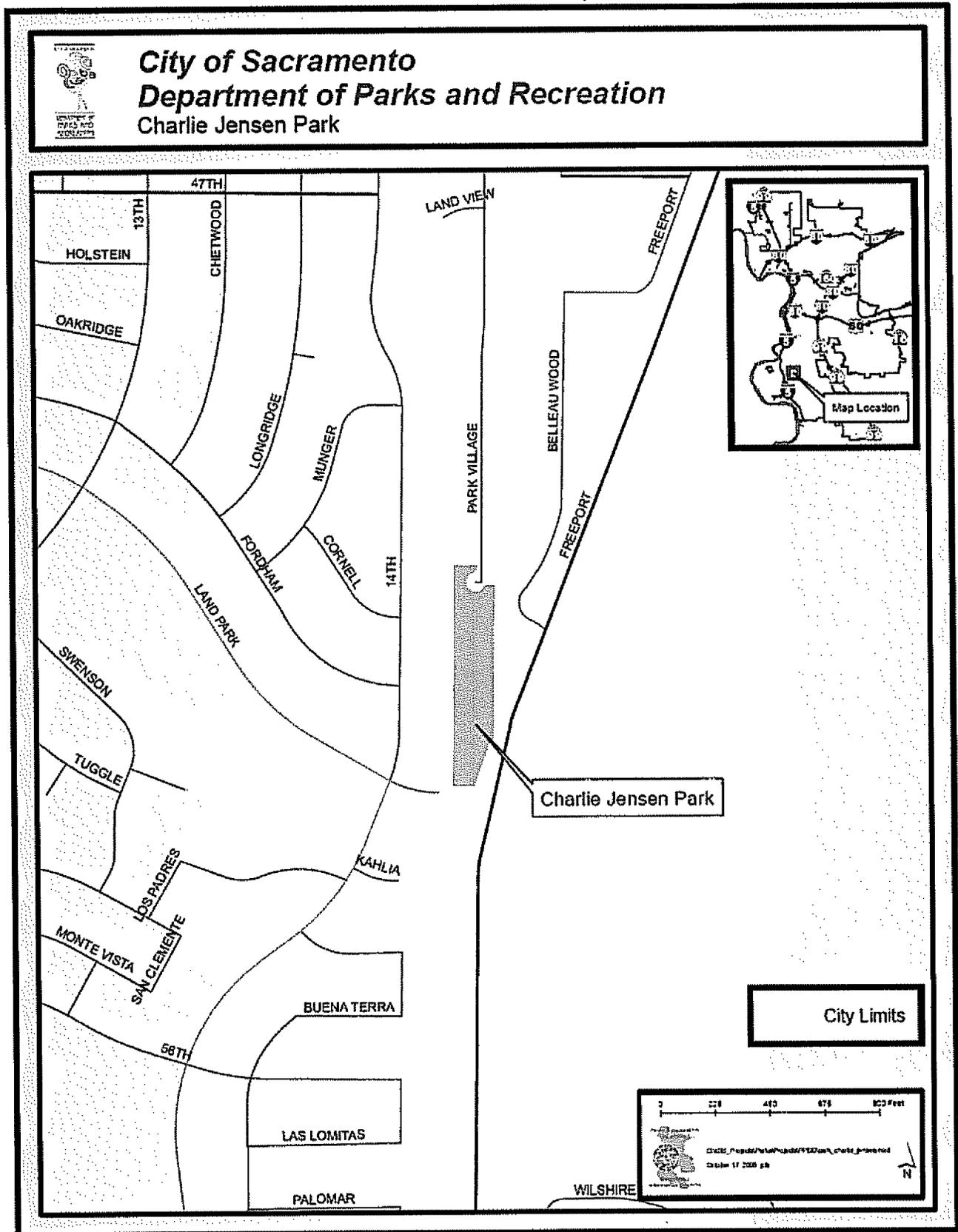
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Attachment 1 – Charlie Jensen Park Master Plan



Attachment 2 – Area Map



Attachment 3 – Information on Charlie “Red” Jensen & the Jensen Airport

Charlie “Red” Jensen in 1974

Photo is used by permission of the Jensen family, courtesy of Dann Shively.



Charlie “Red” Jensen’s life was dedicated to agricultural aviation and was considered an agricultural aviation pioneer. Red began taking flying lessons at age 16; at 18, he became the first licensed airplane mechanic in California. He held the California Department of Agriculture Aerial Applicator’s License Number 1. “Mr. Ag Aviation” was the title given him by the California Agricultural Aircraft Association, which he founded.

Red also worked as an aerial advertiser, ran a charter service, operated a flying school, and flew as a fire fighter. Red also flew his own Travelaire and provided planes in Howard Hughes’ World War I movie “Hell’s Angels.” At one point, he had 53 planes in his fleet – and he could fly them all. In 1955, Red Jensen was one of the first commercial helicopter operators to receive the Lawrence D. Bell Helicopter Pioneer Award. Red saw helicopters as the future of agricultural aviation.

Though he declined to be recognized as heroic, there were several times he used his flying skills to rescue injured fire fighters & miners and carry flood victims to safety.

Jensen Airport, Sacramento, CA (circa 1950)



Photo is used by permission of the Jensen family, courtesy of Dann Shively

Three TBM Avengers, with their wings folded, are shown below the main hangar.

This small airport was built by agricultural aviation pioneer Charlie "Red" Jensen. In 1930, he founded his own agricultural aviation firm, Jensen Dusting & Planting Company at what is now Sacramento Executive Airport. When a growing number of legal restrictions began to hinder his business, he bought land across the street from the airport & opened Jensen Field. City officials tried but couldn't stop the move.

The precise date of the establishment of Jensen Airport has not been determined. It was evidently built after 1949, as it was not depicted on the 1949 Sacramento Sectional Chart (courtesy of Chris Kennedy). According to Dann Shively, "I think it was built in the 1950s. It was mainly a crop duster field, but others kept their small planes there as well." Jensen Airport was still depicted on the 1967 Sacramento Sectional Chart (courtesy of John Voss) as having a 1,700 foot unpaved runway.

Jensen Airport, Sacramento, CA (1980)



This photo shows the North end of Jensen Airport. It was taken on the day of the auction of the aircraft & supplies of the late Charlie "Red" Jensen. Jensen Airport was located southwest of the intersection of Blair Avenue & Belleau Wood Lane, adjacent to the west side of Sacramento Executive Airport. (photo courtesy of Dann Shively)

About the picture shown above, Dann Shively stated, "You can see the runway, shops and main hangar. You can see many of the aircraft & parts that were up for sale. "

According to Dann Shively, Jensen Airport "closed after the owner's death in 1980. At the time of his death, the field was home to about a dozen small planes & our own news helicopter. He was an amazing guy." Dann Shively visited the site of the Jensen Airport in 2003. "On the property now lies commercial buildings. There is no evidence an airport ever existed."

Information by: Paul Freeman
http://www.airfields-freeman.com/CA/Airfields_CA_SacramentoSW.htm

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-XXXX

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council
November 29, 2005

**APPROVING THE NAME "CHARLIE JENSEN" PARK
AND APPROVING THE CHARLIE JENSEN PARK MASTER PLAN, CIP LW76.**

BACKGROUND:

- A. The City Council approved funding for development and construction of this project in the 2003 annual CIP report.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. Approves the name "Charlie Jensen" Park, CIP LW76.

- Section 2. Approves the Master Plan for Charlie Jensen Park.