



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Jon Cicirelli

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: March 29, 2021

Approved

Date

3/30/2021

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 5

SUBJECT: PUBLIC PARK NAMING AT GIMELLI WAY, NEAR NORTH CAPITOL AVENUE

RECOMMENDATION

Approve “Delano Manongs Park” as the name of a new park located on Gimelli Way per the Parks and Recreation Commission’s and the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department’s (the Department) recommendation consistent with public response.

OUTCOME

Approval of the recommendation will provide an official name for a new park. The name will be recognized in parks inventory and posted at the site. The meaning of the name will be documented with interpretive signage at the park.

BACKGROUND

The project site is located along Gimelli Way, near North Capitol Avenue (641 North Capitol Avenue) in the North Capitol Avenue/McKee Road Urban Village. Surrounding land uses include residential developments to the north, south, east, and west. Interstate 680 (I-680) is approximately 800 feet west of the project’s property line. The La Buona Vita Mobile Park is located approximately 0.25 miles south of the project site.

In 2017, The Orchard (also referred to as “Merlino Village”) project received City Council approval¹ that allows the development of residential and commercial spaces, and other uses,

¹ Approved File Nos. PDC16-002, PD16-025 [as amended]), and PT16-035 [as amended].

including 0.57-acre public park that is the subject of this naming. The location is shown in Attachment A.

The public park includes a children's playground, a gathering plaza, an open sporting lawn, seating and tables, as shown on the approved Master Plan (Attachment B). It is currently under construction and is anticipated to be open to the public by summer 2021.

On February 3, 2021, staff recommended the name "Delano Manongs Park" during the Parks and Recreation Commission (the Commission) Public Meeting. Staff received the name suggestion through an online public survey. The name received overwhelming support from the public through subsequent voting surveys. The Commission unanimously voted to recommend that City Council adopt this as the official park name.

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 a historical event, the Delano Grape Strike and the farmworkers that participated in the event. The proposed name was selected after extensive outreach and engagement with the community as described in the Public Outreach section of this memorandum.

On September 8, 1965, over 1,000 Filipino American Farmworkers 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 grassroots efforts that included consumer boycotts, marches, and nonviolent resistance.² The strike received widespread support throughout the United States. The grape strike and 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

² Information is available online at: <https://ufw.org/1965-1970-delano-grape-strike-boycott/>

Relations Act in 1975, which established collective-bargaining power for farmworkers statewide.³

“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.⁴ Including the term in the park name would recognize the Filipino American 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 honor Filipino Americans. A large Filipino American population resides within the park’s zip code as shown in Table 1 below.⁵

Table 1 – Estimates of Filipino American Portion of Population

| Location | Estimate of Filipino American Residents | Estimated Proportion of Population |
|-----------------|--|---|
| California | 1,279,680 | 3.3% |
| San José | 56,988 | 5.6% |
| Zip Code 95133 | 3,774 | 13.1% |

Source: 2010 Census: <https://data.census.gov/>

CONCLUSION

The proposed action would result in the official naming of a public park.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Once a name is adopted, staff will coordinate with the City Clerk’s Office to ensure the name is recorded. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services will include the park in their park inventory and have a park name sign placed.

CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSÉ

This recommendation has no effect on Climate Smart San José energy, water, or mobility goals.

³ Information is available online at: <https://www.history.com/news/delano-grape-strike-united-farm-workers-filipinos>
⁴ Information is available online at: <https://www.npca.org/articles/1555-remembering-the-manongs-and-story-of-the-filipino-farm-worker-movement>
⁵ Information is available online at: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0400000US06_1600000US0668000_8600000US95133&tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP05&hidePreview=true

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Potential Alternative Recommended Action: Select and approve a qualifying alternative name from the public forum.

Pros: The City Council could adopt a name received during the Department's public surveys or another qualifying name presented at the public meeting. "Muwekma Ohlone Park" or "Pala Park" were the second and third most supported names in the Department's public surveys. "Muwekma Ohlone Park" would honor the Native American tribe that lived in the San Francisco Bay Area before the Spanish colonization. "Pala Park" would reflect the Pala subtribe of the Muwekma Ohlone Native American tribe, the Pala school established near the park site in the 1860s, and other historic local reference points.

Cons: The City Council would be selecting a name other than the one recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission and Department staff and that was supported in a public forum.

Reason for not recommending: A majority (72%) of community members who participated in the last public survey voted for the name "Delano Manongs Park."

PUBLIC OUTREACH

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

- The first survey was circulated between September 4, 2020 and September 14, 2020 and solicited name nominations. The survey was taken by 35 participants.
- The second survey was circulated between November 30, 2020 and December 7, 2020 and allowed the public to vote on qualifying names received during the solicitation process. The survey was taken by 111 participants.
- A third survey was circulated between December 11, 2020 and December 18, 2020 and allowed the public to vote for one of three names. The three names were those top voted on via second survey. The survey was taken by 326 participants.

Outreach

The surveys were distributed through the Department's electronic communication and social media networks. The Department also shared the surveys with 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 survey in Vietnamese. 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

| Nomination 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 |
| 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 |

Table 2 – Summary of Name Solicitation Survey

| Nomination Number | Name | Name Reasoning | Does it Fit the Policy? | Explanation |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 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. | Yes | 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. | Yes | 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 |
| 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 |

Table 2 – Summary of Name Solicitation Survey

| Nomination Number | Name | Name Reasoning | Does it Fit the Policy? | Explanation |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 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 reflect San José’s diversity. | No | Does not align with the policy |

Second Survey – Name Voting

The second survey encouraged 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 no single name received a 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 (second 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 Voting 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 or if the second survey was already released staff helped to complete a name nomination form.

Staff received two names via email:

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

Pala Park conforms to the Policy. Since it was received during the first survey, it was included in the second survey.

United We Stand Park/Unidas Estamos Park does not conform to the Policy. Thus, staff did not complete a name nomination form for the name.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the Department of Public Works, the City Manager's Budget Office and the City Attorney's Office.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT

This item was presented at the Parks and Recreation Commission on February 3, 2021. Approximately 45 members of the public attended via zoom and 23 members of the public spoke in support of the name "Delano Manongs Park." Public comments highlighted the historical and cultural significance of the Filipino American Farmworkers movement and how this group has historically been overlooked. A letter in favor of "Delano Manongs Park" naming by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco was read at the meeting. The Commission acknowledged the passionate public comments and voted unanimously to recommend the name "Delano Manongs Park" to the City Council with the vote (8-0-0).

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

March 29, 2021

Subject: Naming of a New Park at Gimelli Way, Near North Capitol Avenue

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CEQA

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

/s/

JON CICIRELLI

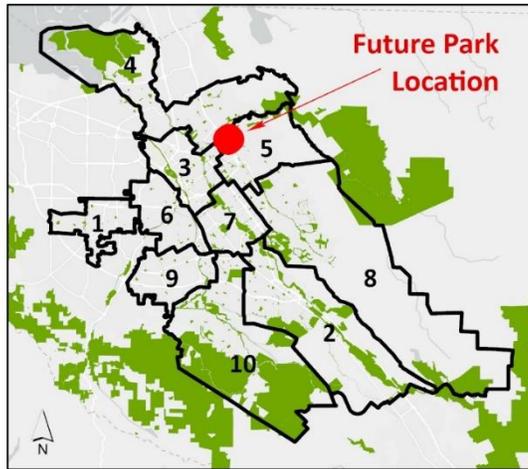
Director of Parks,

Recreation and Neighborhood Services

For questions, please contact Deputy Director Nicolle Burnham by email at:
nicolle.burnham@sanjoseca.gov.

Attachments:

- A) Location Map
- B) Park Master Plan
- C) Name Narrative



ATTACHMENT A PARK LOCATION MAP

APN: 254-91-135



ATTACHMENT B APPROVED MASTER PLAN



- 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 intended target was the US Capitol Building in Washington D.C and the hijackers were subdued by the heroic actions of the passengers and crew.⁶ 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. Dahl started working in the aviation industry while in college. He worked for Piper Aerostar where he delivered newly constructed aircraft around the West Coast of the United States.⁷

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.

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

⁷ <https://www.dahlfund.org/about-captain-dahl/>

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. 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.⁸

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.⁹

There is also a National Memorial honoring those lost on Flight 93 at the field where the crash occurred in Pennsylvania.¹⁰ 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>

⁸ <https://www.dahlfund.org/about-captain-dahl/>

⁹ <https://www.mercurynews.com/2011/09/06/san-jose-school-honors-flight-93-pilot/>

¹⁰ <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.

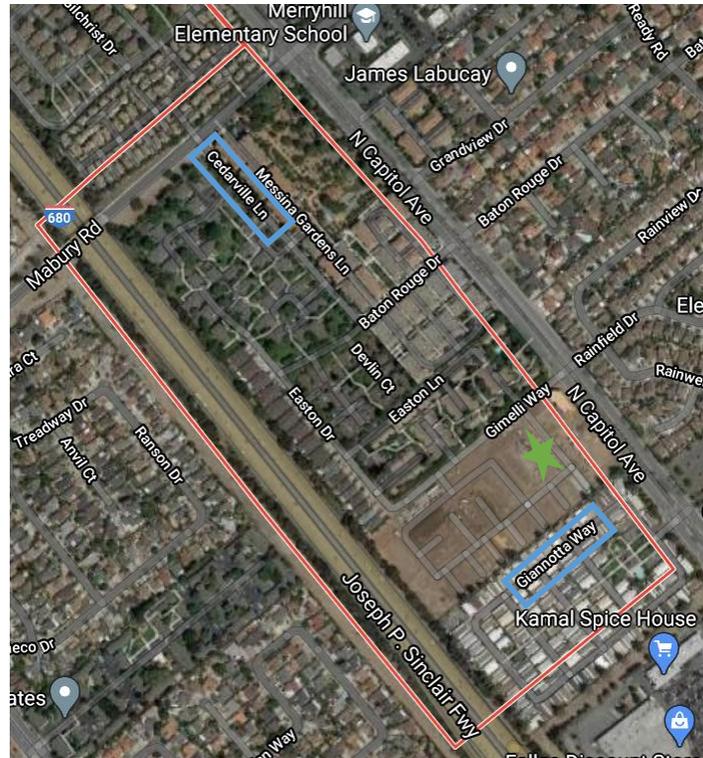


Figure 3: The Cedarville- Giannotta neighborhood Boundary. The park location is highlighted by the green star (not drawn to scale)

Source: Google Maps

PRNS 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.¹¹

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 4.¹²

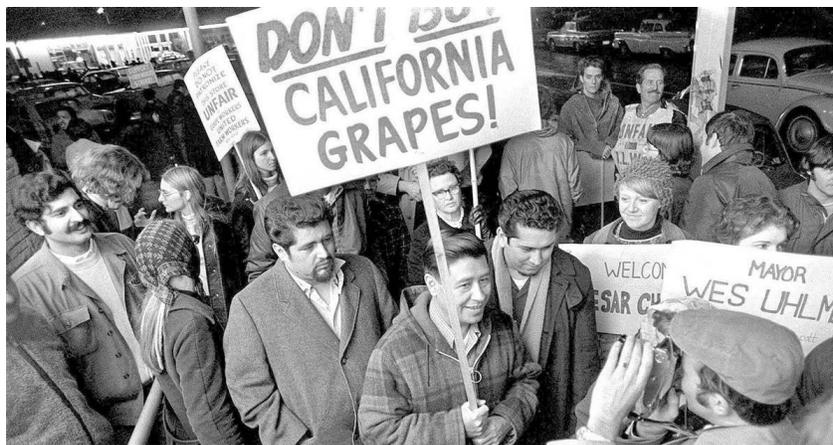


Figure 4: A picture from a grape strike picket line

<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).

¹¹ <https://ufw.org/1965-1970-delano-grape-strike-boycott/>

¹² <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.¹³

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.¹⁴

“Manong” comes from a northern Philippines dialect called Ilocano. It is a term of affection and respect, best translated as “older brother.”¹⁵ It is often used for the first major wave of Filipino immigrants who came to the United States in the 1920s and 1930s.

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

¹⁴ <https://www.history.com/news/delano-grape-strike-united-farm-workers-filipinos>

¹⁵ <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. PRNS 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.

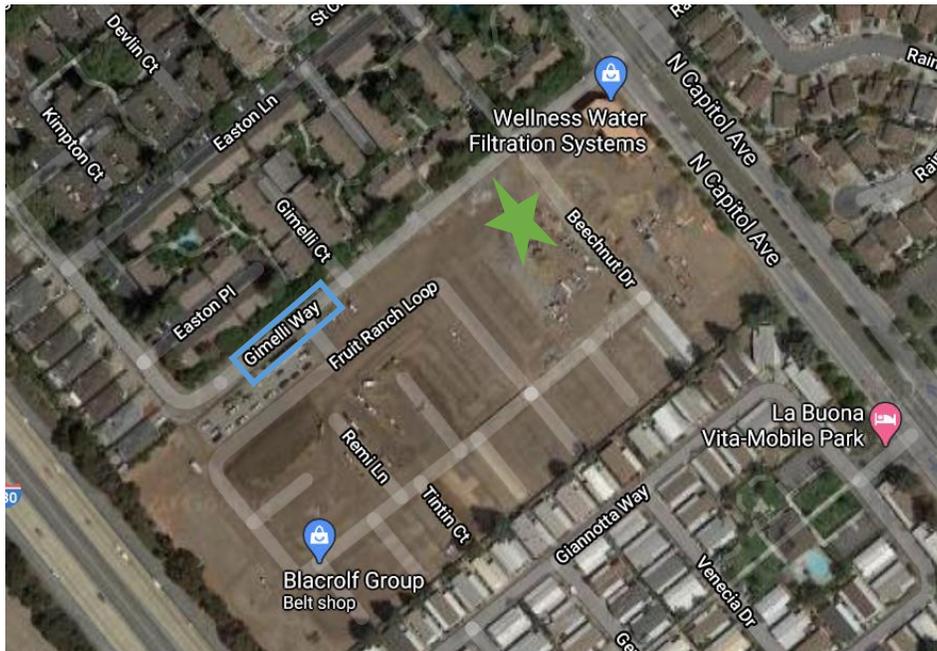


Figure 6: Gimelli Way's proximity to the future park site, shown in green (Not drawn to scale)

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.¹⁶ 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.

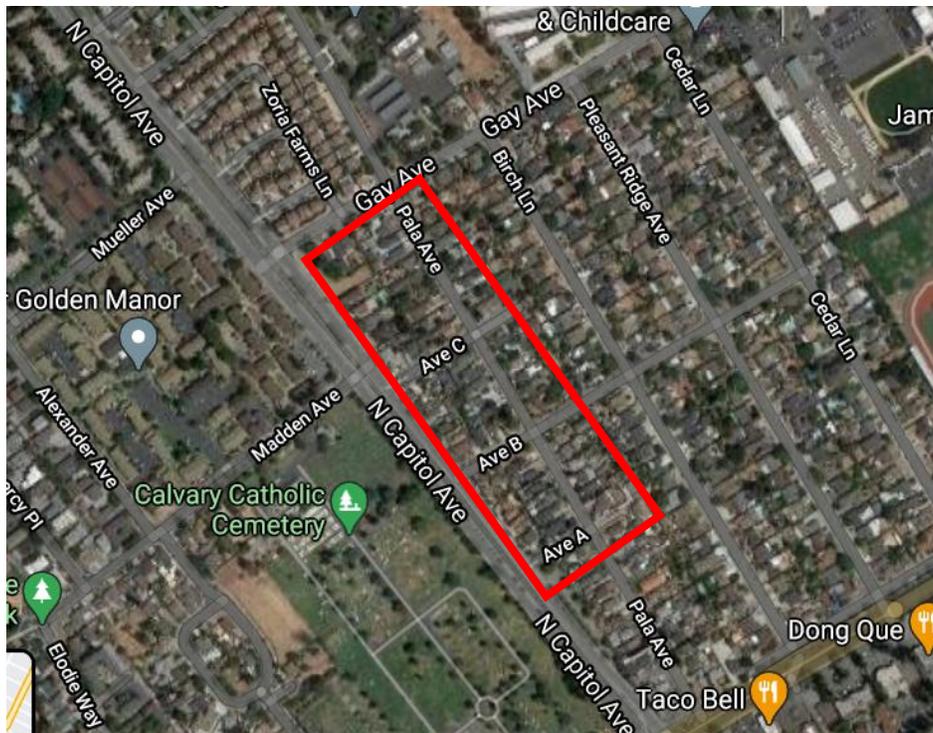


Figure 7: Site of former airport along Pala Avenue

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.

¹⁶ <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.¹⁷ He was 34.

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).

¹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alum_Rock_Airport
<http://www.nnvesj.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.¹⁸

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 paning 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 250,000.¹⁹ 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.²⁰ 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.²¹

¹⁸ <http://www.muwekma.org/culture.html>

¹⁹ <https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/california/articles/a-brief-history-of-the-muwekma-ohlone-people/>

²⁰ <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.>

²¹ <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

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 11.²² Pala was also the name of their Chief, Captain Pala.²³

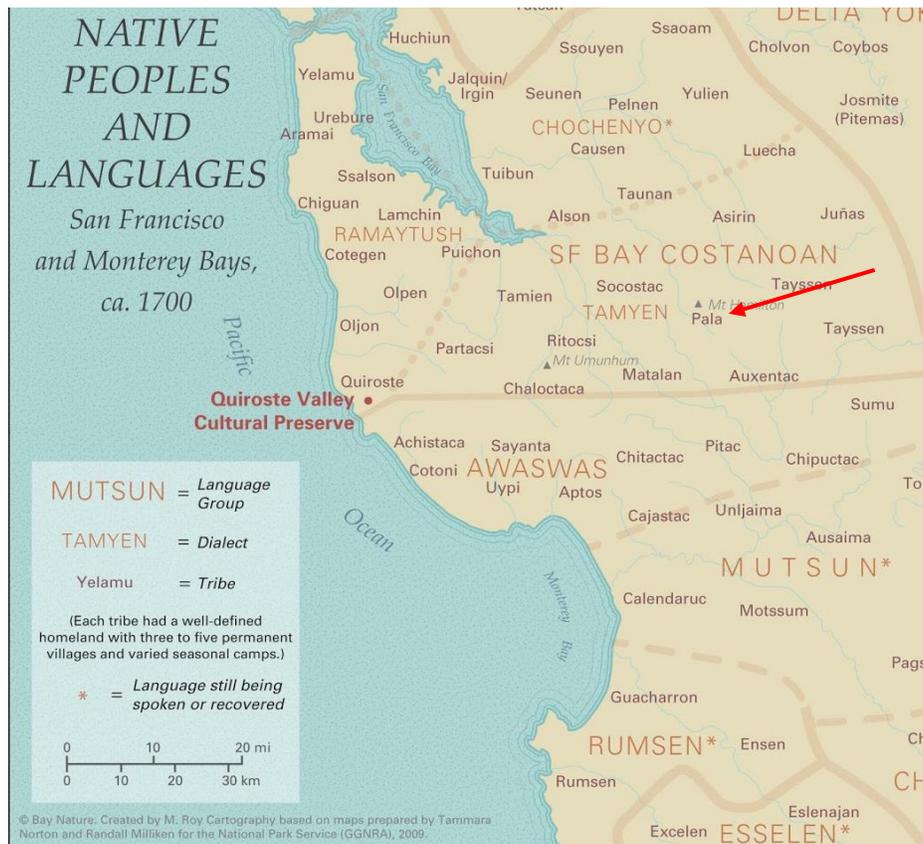


Figure 11: A map of Native People and their Languages in 1700.

https://baynature.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/BN_NativePeoplesMap_PRINT_030716.jpg

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.²⁴

²² <https://www.evergreenmuralwalk.com/2016/04/25/before-the-rancho/>

²³ <https://www.indianhealthcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/San-Jose-Muwekma-Land-Acknowledgement.pdf>

²⁴ <https://californiamissionsfoundation.org/ranchos/>

The Rancho Pala was granted to José Joaquin Higuera in 1835.²⁵ 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 12.²⁶ 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>

²⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_Pala

²⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_Pala

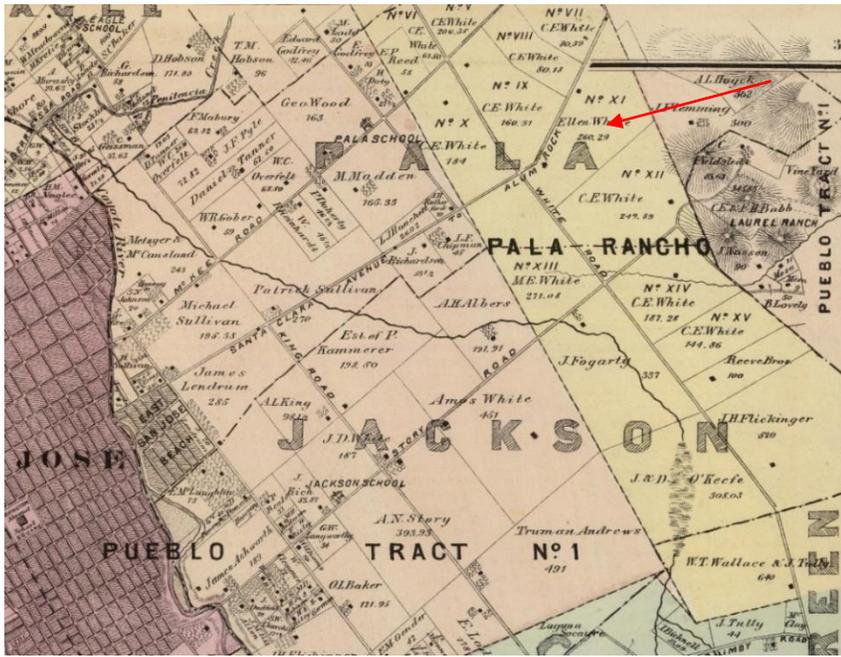


Figure 13: An 1876 map of San José districts and townships

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

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.

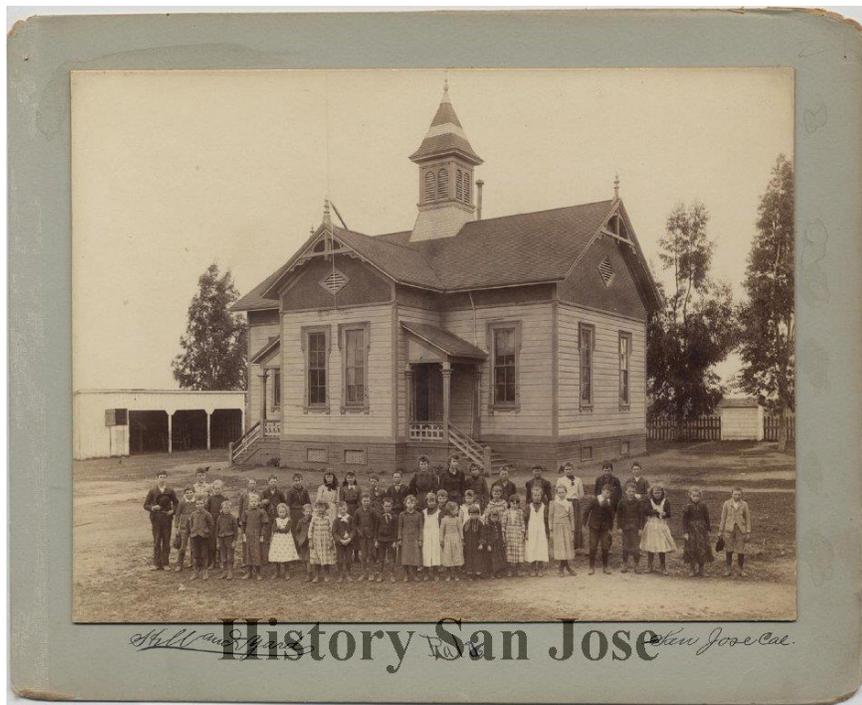


Figure 14: A picture of Pala school taken in the 1890s

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

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.

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 2010.²⁷

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.

²⁷ <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.²⁸ 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.²⁹

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.³⁰

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 side 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>

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

²⁹ <https://www.sjpl.org/blog/looking-back-canning-valley-hearts-delight>

³⁰ <https://www.sjpl.org/blog/looking-back-canning-valley-hearts-delight>