



## February 2024 Utica Park Newsletter

### Geotechnical Update

We wanted to provide you with an update regarding the exploratory trenching work that was initially scheduled for February 5 and 6 by Geocon and Boyer Construction. As many of you may have noticed, these activities did not take place as planned. The reason? Mother Nature decided it was not the right time for us to proceed. With the weather not in our favor, we've had to postpone the work for the safety of our team and the community.

#### **Rescheduled Dates for Trenching**

We're pleased to inform you that we have rescheduled the exploratory trenching for February 13-14. During these dates, you will observe activity in the area as we take crucial steps to ensure the safety and integrity of future structures in and around Utica Park.

#### **Why Now?**

Many of you have reached out with the question, "Why wasn't this done before?" To clarify, a geotechnical report was indeed conducted in 2007 concerning the expansion property. However, upon review, we discovered that no such report has been completed for the current Utica Park. This oversight, coupled with several high-profile incidents in recent months, underscores the vital need for thorough surveying before any construction begins.

#### **The Purpose of Exploratory Trenching**

The exploratory trenching is not merely a procedural step; it's a critical measure to ensure public safety and the optimal use of our park space. This process will enable us to:

- Properly close any open mine shafts.
- Identify areas unsuitable for construction.
- Document potential sites for future development, avoiding the need for repeated explorations.

#### **Looking Forward**

We understand the frustration that comes with delays and the eagerness to see Utica Park flourish once again. It's important to us that we proceed with caution and precision, ensuring that the park is not only beautiful but safe for everyone to enjoy. This meticulous process will pave the way for a revitalized Utica Park that will serve as a jewel in our

community for generations to come.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to enhance the safety and beauty of our beloved park. Stay tuned for more updates, and thank you for your continued support.

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## Next Meeting - February 21

The next Design Committee Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 21 at noon (Firehouse). This meeting will be used to review the par-course design and begin reviewing interpretive signage  
The NEXT meeting date is March 20.



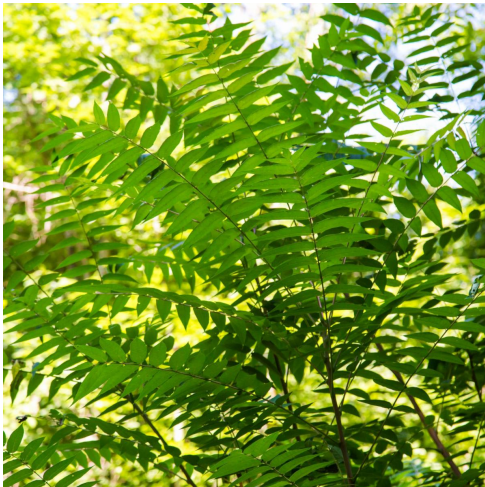
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## Interpretive Signs

The expansion property (Lightner Mine) will primarily be used for trails. Specifically, interpretive trails. Staff are working with local historians to capture the 100+ years of mining, workers in mining, mining equipment, etc. This information will be gathered and attached to signs and web information that walkers can access via a QR code. This will be a main focal point in the next subcommittee meeting.

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## What Happened with the Trees!?



Did you know that the bulk of the greenery removed was Ailanthus? Known as the "Tree of Heaven" or Chinese Sumac, it is an invasive specimen that secretes a chemical into the soil that is toxic to other plants. Oddly enough, we recently came across a very old City policy requiring the removal of this plant because it is so invasive. It will be a task to stay on top of this problem as if you have any in your yard, you know they are very hard to get rid of!

The trees that were removed were dead or dying and had little to no foliage left. The Black Walnut is being repurposed for benches and other elements in the park.

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## Share the Newsletter

We currently have over 120 subscribers to this newsletter and we still hear frustration about the community not knowing what is going

on with the park. The City will be sending out a physical newsletter in the January Utility Bill. This will not just be for Utica Park, but all City of Angels happenings. In the meantime, please share this newsletter and recommend subscribing using the QR link shown.



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## Have you missed past newsletters, information, etc. on Utica Park?

The city has a comprehensive webpage dedicated to all of our projects, including Utica Park. There is probably more on this page than you want to know, but it is all available should you want it and is regularly updated.

### [Utica Park Page](#)

Are you interested in planting a memorial tree, supporting memorial benches, or having your family brand used to commemorate our rich history in Angels Camp? Take the survey below so we can gather this information.

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Please share this information with your neighbors, friends, and family. We send this newsletter out on a monthly basis.