



City of Colton - Community Workshop

45 Acre Habitat Park with Eco Friendly Soccer Fields

(previously known as the Soccer Park)

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

6:00 P.M.



  @ColtonCSD

PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S PRESENTATION

We're excited to share an update on the progress of Colton's new **45-acre Habitat and Community Sports Park** the City's first new park project in more than 25 years.

In this update, we'll:

- Show the **final site plan** that's ready to be submitted to the agencies that oversee the area
- Talk through some of the **site challenges and design changes** we've had to work through
- Outline the **next steps and timeline** to move the project forward.

FUNDING

On June, 2021, Assembly Member Eloise Gómez Reyes secured \$18,000,000 in funding for develop the Colton Sports Complex within the California State Budget through Local Assistance Grant Funds, for fiscal year 2022-2023.

The City of Colton received unofficial notification of the award in the Fall of 2022 and formal notification in March 2023.

Entered into contract with State of California in June 2023

Contracted with PBLA for Project Management.

PROJECT TEAM



CITY STAFF

Responsible for project oversight/coordination, contract administration, state funding compliance, and public information.



LEAD CONSULTANT

Responsible for project management, engineering services, park design/planning, architecture, and regulatory agency coordination.



ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Ninyo & Moore

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Responsible for environmental studies, surveys, trappings, habitat mitigation/conservation, geo-technical, and post-closure landfill mitigation plan.

PROJECT DESIGN CHALLENGES



2/3 of the project site sets in the Army Corps of Engineers 100-year flood plain and the 10–20-year Santa Ana River seasonal flood area.

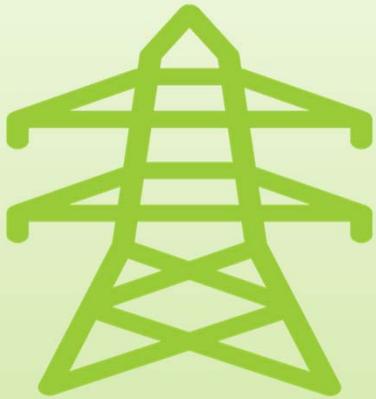


The entire site is considered a watershed habitat area for various listed plant and mammal species.



There is a former landfill on a portion of the site containing hazardous waste and heavy metals that must be mitigated.

PROJECT DESIGN CHALLENGES



Pipeline easements, utility pole easements, and a jurisdictional streambed that must be designed around



There are adjacent homes that should not be impacted with traffic, parking or light spillover



There are numerous County, State, and Federal regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the approval and permitting process

WHAT AGENCIES CONTROL THE FINAL DESIGN AND APPROVAL PROCESS?

- There are 9 regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction over the site that the city needs approval and permits from which include:
- California Fish & Wildlife
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service
- FEMA
- Army Corps of Engineers
- San Bernardino County Flood Control
- San Bernardino County Water Quality Control Board
- Cal Recycle
- San Bernardino County Health Department (LEA)
- AQMD



MEETING THE PROJECT DESIGN CHALLENGES

To meet environmental requirements and get project approval, the City had to revise its original plan:

- The **initial plan** focused on a 21-acre community soccer park.
- **Regulatory agencies** did not approve the plan due to:
 - Significant impacts on protected habitat
 - Concerns about flooding and impacts to the floodplain
- In response, the City revised the approach to address the full 45-acre site:
 - Includes a **dedicated habitat conservation park** to protect sensitive species
 - Adds an **eco-friendly community soccer park** that supports the habitat and is elevated out of the floodplain

Santa Ana River Woolly Star



Burrowing Owl

This new design helps balance recreation and environmental protection to meet all regulatory requirements.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Last summer, the City Council approved a **new direction** for the project and gave the green light for PBLA and ECORP to begin design, engineering, and environmental studies. The goal was to create a **final plan that meets all regulatory requirements** so the project can move forward.

Working closely with City staff, both consultant teams have completed their first phase of work. Together, they developed:

- A grading and site plan
- Environmental restoration and flood control plans
- A landfill closure and post-use plan
- Landscape and sports field layouts
- Traffic and parking designs
- All supporting documentation needed for regulatory review.

This effort brought together a wide range of experts—including engineers, biologists, architects, and park designers—to ensure the final design meets environmental standards while also creating a great space for the community.

WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

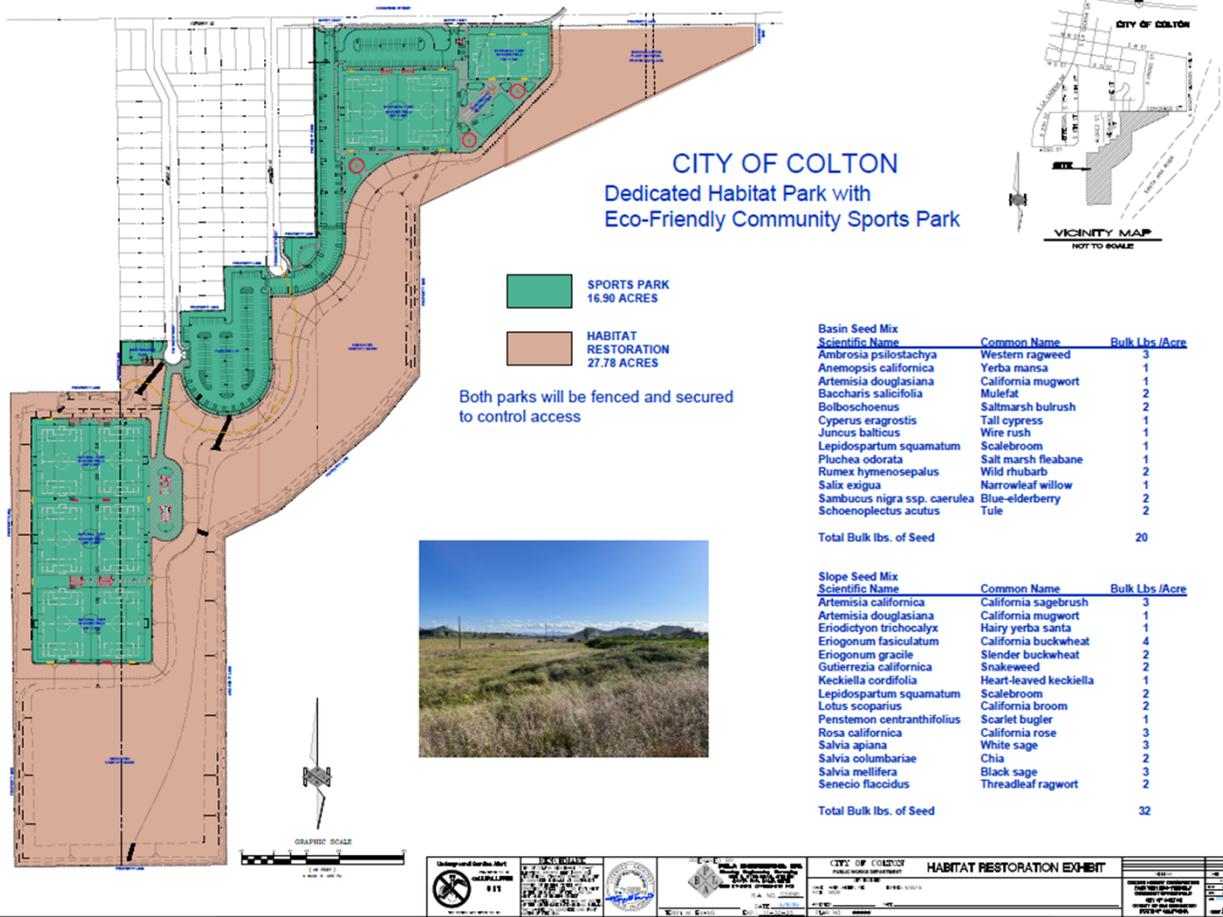
Designing this site came with some big goals and even bigger challenges.

Here's what we had to accomplish:

- **Lift the soccer park out of the floodplain** to protect it from flooding
- **Protect sensitive plants and animals** by restoring habitat right on-site
 - Regulations required us to restore 3 acres for every 1 acre we impacted
 - That meant **27 acres of habitat** had to be set aside out of our total 45-acre site
- **Fit a full-size 21-acre soccer park** into the remaining 17 acres—yes, you heard that right!
- **Re-use the old landfill site** safely by capping it and using it for parking
- **Meet strict soil and water standards** to restore the natural watershed
- **Design 14 lighted fields with park features and amenities** in a tight footprint

It wasn't easy—but with creative planning, teamwork, and a lot of expert help... **we made it happen!**

WHAT'S PROPOSED?



The revised master plan calls for a dedicated habitat park to provide on-site habitat restoration to meet the mitigation requirements to offset the grading impacts, former landfill impacts, and plant and mammal impacts identified in the first MND.

While providing an eco-friendly community soccer park designed to help sustain the habitat park.

DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW APPROACH

- **Raises the entire sports park above the ACOE flood plain**
- **Provides for on-site habitat mitigation, eliminating the need to buy expensive habitat mitigation credits**
- **Creates a visually stunning sports park and nature park**
- **Provides field configurations for all soccer age groups**
- **Creates a neighborhood and community park for city residents**
- **Provides security and access control and a police sub-station**
- **Provides restrooms, picnic shelters, play equipment, and walking trails**
- **Protects listed plant and mammal species in perpetuity**
- **Controls flood water while sustaining aquatic plant species, and
this is what it will look like.....**



WHAT'S NEXT?

SUMMER 2025	FALL 2025	WINTER 2025/2026
Begin Phase 2 contracts to finish environmental studies and finalize design plans	Review agency feedback and make any needed design changes	Complete the CEQA process and bring the final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to City Council for adoption
SPRING/SUMMER 2026	FALL 2026	SPRING 2027
Conduct final habitat surveys and submit final plans for approval	Receive all required County, State, and Federal permits	If funding is secured, construction can begin!

We're making steady progress—and getting closer to bringing this long-awaited park to life.

ESTIMATED COSTS & FUNDING

- **\$18 Million Secured**

The City worked with its state representative to secure **\$18 million** in state funding for the 17-acre **Community Sports Park**.

- **Habitat Area Requires Additional Funding**

Adding the 27-acre **Habitat Conservation Park** increases overall project costs.

➤ Estimated additional funding needed: **\$2–\$4 million**

- **Next Steps**

As the project continues, the City and its consultants will:

- Pursue **additional grant opportunities**
- Explore **funding strategies** to support full project completion

The City remains committed to delivering a project that balances recreation, conservation, and community impact.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS