



Item No. 5a Town of Atherton

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE – REGULAR AGENDA

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

FROM: STEVE TYLER – PARK SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: JUNE 3, 2015

SUBJECT: POCKET PARKS – A SEARCH FOR OPPORTUNITIES

BACKGROUND

In May 2014, the Park and Recreation Committee was asked to weigh in on possible locations to insert small “pocket parks” in Town right of way.

ANALYSIS

Pocket Park defined: A **pocket park** (also known as a **parkette**, **mini-park**, **vest-pocket park** or **vesty park**) is a small [park](#) accessible to the general public. Pocket parks are frequently created on a single vacant [building lot](#) or on small, irregular pieces of land. They also may be created as a component of the [public space requirement](#) of large building projects.

Pocket parks can be urban, suburban or rural, and can be on public or private land. Although they are too small for physical activities, pocket parks provide greenery, a place to sit outdoors, and sometimes a children's [playground](#). They may be created around a monument, historic marker or art project.

In highly urbanized areas, particularly [downtowns](#) where land is very expensive, pocket parks are the only option for creating new public spaces without large-scale redevelopment. In inner-city areas, pocket parks are often part of regeneration plans and provide areas where [wildlife](#) such as birds can establish a foothold. Unlike larger parks, pocket parks are sometimes designed to be fenced and locked when not in use.

The Park and Recreation Committee is challenged to identify a number of locations around Town where there may be a safe opportunity to install one or more of these parks in the Town right of way. Some location possibilities might be the corners of Atherton Ave at Alameda de las Pulgas and Selby Lane at Atherton Avenue.

The following are some pictures of pocket parks in other cities:

