



Fort Marcy Park Community FAQ

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) compile the questions, comments, and feedback received during the Fort Marcy Park Community Engagement Meeting held on July 16, 2026, as well as written comments submitted during the public review period. Similar questions have been consolidated to reduce duplication while preserving the topics and concerns raised by community members. The responses reflect the current status of the project and may be updated as planning and design progress.

1. What is the City's long-term vision for Fort Marcy Park?

Fort Marcy Park will continue to serve as a neighborhood park with recreational amenities. The current project focuses on improving existing infrastructure, accessibility, safety, and park amenities. The City is not currently considering expanding Fort Marcy into a regional event venue.

2. Is there a master plan for Fort Marcy Park?

The project is in the planning and conceptual design phase. As design progresses, conceptual plans, priorities, budgets, and anticipated schedules will be shared at the 30%, 60%, and 90% design milestones. Design is anticipated to be complete by spring 2027, and construction summer 2028.

3. How will future park improvement decisions be made?

Residents, neighborhood organizations, and park users will have opportunities to review project information and provide comments before major design milestones are finalized.

4. Can project priorities change based on public feedback?

Public feedback will be considered throughout the planning process and will inform project decisions. Safety requirements, ADA compliance, funding restrictions, and legislative requirements may limit modifications to some project elements.

5. How will Fort Marcy Park improvement funding be spent? What has currently been spent?

Currently \$5.5 million has been appropriated for planning, design, construction of ADA improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and park amenities.



Table 1. Fort Marcy Park Project Expenditures to Date

Description of Work	Amount Spent
Baseball Fencing	\$58,551.10
Tree Planting	\$29,724.39
Irrigation Improvements	\$64,073.75
Design & Engineering	\$148,232.81
Roof Repairs	\$3,882.37
Geotechnical Testing	\$18,651.53
Total Expenditures to Date	\$323,115.95

*These expenditures reflect work completed and project to date of 8/15/2026.
Expenditures will continue to be updated as the project progresses.*

Table 2. Preliminary Project Budget (Planning-Level Estimates)

Project Area	Estimated Budget*
Design & Engineering	\$400,000
Culvert/Bridge Crossing, Shade & Site Improvements	\$2,500,000
Arts & Culture Allocation	\$50,000
Baseball Field Improvements	\$150,000
Amphitheater Improvements	\$150,000
Tree Canopy & Irrigation Improvements	\$250,000
ADA Improvements (Walkways, Stairs, & Parking Areas, Concession Stand improvements, Grandstand improvements, Wayfinding and Electrical)	\$2,000,000
Total Estimated Project Budget	\$5,500,000

*These are planning-level estimates only. The project is still in the design phase, and final construction costs have not been established. Budget allocations may change as design progresses, bids are received, and project priorities are refined. Funds must be fully expended by 6/30/2028 (5M) and 6/30/2029 (500K).



6. Can the City make funding agreements publicly available?

Yes. Grant agreements and other public funding documents are available through the City's public records and legislative records systems, including CivicClerk. Click link below.

[NM Legislative Grant- Fort Marcy Park \(\\$500M\)](#)

[NM Legislative Grant-Fort Marcy \(\\$500K\)](#)

7. How are improvement projects prioritized?

Projects are prioritized based on public safety, ADA accessibility, preservation of existing infrastructure, community recreation needs, and support for park operations and permitted events.

8. Are park improvement funds dependent on expanding infrastructure for large events?

No. Funding is intended to improve park infrastructure, accessibility, and public amenities. Some improvements may also enhance public safety during permitted events.

9. Why is the bridge being expanded?

The bridge improvements are intended to improve pedestrian circulation and emergency ingress and egress during both everyday park use and permitted events.

10. If the existing bridge already meets ADA requirements, why is expansion necessary?

The bridge expansion is intended to improve pedestrian circulation, emergency access, and overall visitor safety while incorporating shade, seating, and landscape enhancements. The existing bridge has a gravel surface and does not provide an ADA-compliant accessible route.

11. What will the bridge project cost?

The current planning-level estimate is approximately \$2.5 million. Final costs will be determined as design advances and construction bids are received.

12. Are park improvements intended primarily to support Zozobra or other large events?

No. Most improvements address long-term park needs including ADA accessibility, infrastructure rehabilitation, landscaping, irrigation, electrical systems, and facility upgrades.



13. Does the City intend to expand Zozobra or other major events?

The City is not currently considering expanding existing major events as part of this project.

14. Are additional large events being considered for Fort Marcy Park?

No additional large events are currently being considered as part of this project. Existing park facilities will continue to be programmed and managed through the City's regular event planning and permitting processes.

15. Is Fort Marcy Park an appropriate venue for events attracting tens of thousands of attendees?

Fort Marcy Park has hosted larger community events for many years. Event safety and occupancy are evaluated individually through the City's special event permitting process.

16. Should some large events be relocated to larger venues elsewhere in the city?

Decisions regarding event locations are made by event organizers, city staff in charge of compliance, the City Manager, and when appropriate the Governing Body through established City processes.

17. What is the maximum safe capacity for Fort Marcy Park?

Maximum occupancy is determined by the Fire Marshal on an event-by-event basis using the International Fire Code, NFPA standards, the event layout, emergency access requirements, and other site-specific safety considerations. For outdoor standing events, the City generally uses a planning factor of 7 square feet per person to calculate the maximum occupancy of areas available to the public. The final approved occupancy may be lower depending on the event configuration and safety requirements.

18. Will the City establish and publish official occupancy limits for Fort Marcy Park?

Occupancy limits are established through the special event permitting process by the Fire Marshal based on the specific event layout and conditions.

19. Will maximum attendance limits be incorporated into future event permits?

Yes. Attendance limits are established by the Fire Marshal as a condition of the event permit when appropriate.



20. How are emergency evacuation, fire protection, medical access, crowd management, and public safety evaluated for major events?

Emergency operations plans are reviewed through the City's special event permitting process by the Fire Marshal, Police Department, Emergency Management, and other reviewing agencies.

21. How is the City addressing neighborhood impacts from major events?

Emergency access/egress, traffic, parking, road closures, public safety, and sanitation are evaluated during the permitting process, and permit conditions may be imposed to reduce impacts.

22. Can traffic management and emergency access plans be improved?

The current park improvement project does not include changes to traffic management or change to the surrounding street network. Emergency access / egress is always a priority when considering an event location.

23. Why do event-related closures often extend several days before and after events?

Large events require time for setup, inspections, and removal and installation of equipment. Closure durations are established through the event permitting process based on event needs and public safety.

24. Why is the Fort Marcy Community Center closed during major events?

Temporary closures are determined by the operational needs and safety requirements of individual permitted events.

25. How will everyday park users be protected from event-related disruptions?

Operational measures are evaluated for each event to maintain public safety and minimize disruptions where practical.

26. What improvements are planned for recreation facilities?

No improvements to the Community Center are included in this project because it is managed separately and the funding is limited to eligible park improvements.

27. What improvements are planned for athletic facilities?

Baseball field improvements, grandstand upgrades, concession improvements, lighting requirements, and restroom upgrades are currently under evaluation as part of the design process.



28 What is the future of the amphitheater?

The amphitheater is being evaluated for ADA accessibility improvements. Additional tree planting may also be incorporated to increase shade and enhance the natural sound buffer. Wayfinding improvements are also planned.

29. What improvements are planned for pickleball facilities?

No additional courts are planned. New drinking fountains and tree planting have already been installed.

30. How will mature trees and green space be protected during future improvements?

Protecting mature trees and existing green space is a priority throughout the design and construction process. The project team is working to preserve mature trees wherever feasible by establishing tree protection zones, limiting construction access, designating haul routes, conducting regular inspections, and coordinating new landscaping with planned improvements to minimize impacts to the park's natural features.

31. What is the City's tree planting, replacement, irrigation, and landscape restoration plan?

Tree planting and landscape restoration will occur in all phases. New trees will be selected from the City's approved Municipal Tree List, with species chosen based on site conditions, long-term health, water efficiency, and shade benefits. All new trees and landscaped areas will be connected to the park's irrigation system, and irrigation schedules will be adjusted as needed to support plant establishment while promoting efficient water use. Disturbed landscape areas will be restored following construction using appropriate vegetation.

32. How will fire hazards associated with dead or unhealthy vegetation be addressed?

Parks and Open Space Division does coordinate with the City's Wildland Fire Program to identify and address vegetation that poses a wildfire or public safety risk. Dead or hazardous vegetation will be removed or treated as appropriate, while preserving healthy trees whenever feasible. Utility providers will continue routine vegetation management around utility infrastructure

33. What ADA improvements remain throughout the park?

An ADA assessment is underway and improvements will be identified, logged, and incorporated into project designs.



34. How are accessibility improvements being prioritized alongside other park needs?

ADA accessibility is being integrated into each planned capital improvement so new work will meet current accessibility standards whenever improvements are undertaken.

35. How will the City improve transparency throughout this project?

Project information, meeting materials, schedules, drawings, and budget updates will be made available as information becomes available through the project website at:

<https://www.molzencorbin.com/city-of-santa-fe-fort-marcy-park-planning-design/>

36. How are organizations that use Fort Marcy Park held accountable?

Organizations are required to obtain permits and comply with permit conditions, including applicable costs, damage deposits, insurance, restoration, operational requirements and city ordinances.

37. How will the City balance neighborhood recreation with major special events while preserving Fort Marcy Park's community character?

Like all City parks, Fort Marcy Park is managed to support both everyday public recreation and permitted special events. The City limits overlapping large events, enforces hours of operation to reduce noise and neighborhood impacts, and uses permit conditions to manage event operations. Permit violations may result in penalties, suspension, or revocation of future event privileges.

38. What are the economic benefits of large events, and how are those benefits weighed against neighborhood impacts and park access?

City parks serve many public purposes, including everyday recreation, community events, and activities that support the local economy. When reviewing permitted events, the City considers public safety, neighborhood impacts, park access, environmental stewardship, infrastructure capacity, and economic and community benefits. Permit conditions and operational requirements are used to minimize impacts while balancing these competing public interests.