

**From:** [Tim Denterlein](#)  
**To:** [Le, Thai-Chau](#)  
**Subject:** San James Park Idea  
**Date:** Monday, July 13, 2020 12:37:39 PM

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[External Email]

Hi Thai-Chau,

Awesome rendering of the park, but it looks like it's going for the oversized-dog park look, which is very common.

I think it's great that there is open spaces, but it appears it could be vastly under-utilized and will never draw foot traffic.

I have no doubt there will be plenty of commercial opportunities surrounding the park, but I believe the design is missing the opportunity to host team sports, namely basketball.

You have the opportunity to design the best basketball courts in the Bay Area.. our favorite sport!

Arched posts, chained nets, the best court floor materials.. It's a low-cost, low maintenance way to draw a crowd to watch San Jose's finest athletes!

Thanks for your consideration,

Tim Denterlein

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July 30, 2020

**Thai-Chau Le, Planner IV**  
**City of San José Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement**  
**200 East Santa Clara Street, Tower 3**  
**San José, CA 95112**

**RE:** File Nos. PP16-037

Dear Thai-Chau Le:

In response to the St. James Park Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and associated documents, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, located in the heart of downtown San Jose, shares the following:

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is the longest continuously utilized religious space located in the City of San Jose having been built in 1863. St. James Park, located immediately across the street from Trinity was originally envisioned as a public square as early as 1848 and construction of a perimeter fence was completed in 1866. Trinity Cathedral and St. James Park have seen much history and change unfold together for generations.

In general, the Vestry of Trinity Cathedral supports the future plans for St. James Park. We believe a more enjoyable park setting will benefit Trinity Cathedral, the residents of the St. James Park neighborhood and the City as a whole. The EIR references the following (abbreviated) objectives for the improvements and we agree:

- Increase everyday use and enjoyment of St. James Park
- Make the park a safe, fun, and family friendly destination
- Incorporate the historic monuments in the park
- Develop a cultural asset conducive to creating a thriving destination
- Improve maintenance, operations, security services, and other public services
- Transform an underutilized neighborhood park into a prime destination w
- Integrate arts and culture into the community to spark economic growth, drive community engagement, and enhance overall quality of life
- Provide infrastructure to support and facilitate music concerts, community f  
Provide vibrant play spaces that are engaging, all-inclusive, and accessible festivals, and other park programs

- Encourage, engage, and enable the community to participate in the visioning and implementation process

## **Items for Specific Review/Concern by Trinity:**

### **Mitigated items:**

1. **Removal of VTA bus stop(s)** in St. James Park (the “Park”) along Second Street and realign bus traffic primarily to E San Fernando St. and Almaden Blvd and utilize existing bus stops in those areas. Access to Trinity Cathedral via VTA Light Rail will remain in the Park with improved access and buffering.

**Conclusion:** Trinity congregants do use VTA bus and light rail to attend services and other events at Trinity. We believe the proposed changes will not deter public transit riders from accessing and utilizing our services.

2. **Loss of Parking Spaces on St. John:** The EIR anticipates parking spaces along St. John Street will be converted to parallel parking reducing the overall number of parking spots near Trinity Cathedral (the “Cathedral”) by 12.

**Conclusion:** Trinity has an agreement with The James Apartments and other parking locations to utilize their parking spaces for Trinity events and services. We believe alternative and nearby parking will be sufficient to serve the needs of Trinity congregants as long as current agreements are maintained.

### **Items of Continued Concern:**

1. **Noise, dust and street closures during construction.** Trinity recently endured a large construction project around the Cathedral campus for a period in excess of 24 months. The noise, dust and temporary street closures adversely affected our ability to provide services despite mitigation efforts
2. **Crowd control temporary street closures:** Trinity opposes the closure or metering of traffic on streets immediately adjacent to the Cathedral especially on Sunday mornings and early afternoons due to services conducted at the Cathedral. Efforts should be made to avoid large gatherings at the Park during Sunday mornings and early Sunday afternoons to prevent this.
3. **Noise during concerts and other events at the Park:** Every effort should be made to avoid noisy activities on Sunday mornings and early Sunday afternoons in consideration of Church services.

Not addressed specifically in the EIR but of concern over these past many years is the issue of the unhoused and those who suffer from under nutrition who frequent St. James Park. Our continuing Christian concern is to make sure that the needs of these two groups be addressed in a fair, humane and compassionate fashion.

The Vestry and Staff of Trinity Cathedral look forward to continuing our good and neighborly relationship with the City of San Jose and St. James Park. We believe our concerns (both mitigated and ongoing) can be addressed successfully. Please feel free to contact us directly and please include Trinity Cathedral in future discussions. We are a willing participant.

Best Regards,

Diana Miller

**Diana Miller**  
**Sr. Warden**  
**Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**

Julia McCray-Goldsmith

**Rev. Julia McCray Goldsmith**  
**Priest in Charge**  
**Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**

CC: The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor of the City of San Jose

CC: The Honorable Raul Peralez, City Council Member District 3