Options for Erlewine Gate

The purpose of this document is to outline options for the pedestrian (utility) gate that connects Erlewine Circle to the levee. The City has asked the neighborhood to make a decision on whether the gate should be locked or unlocked.

History of Gate

- Until June 1987, the property where the gate is located was owned by Jones, Brand and Hullin (Real Estate Group), who allowed it to be used for public access.

- A Quit Claim deed in 1987 transferred ownership to the City of Sacramento for access to the levee for utility purposes and flood protection, post the flood of 1986.

- Between 1987 and today, the City has tried to balance desires of residents to have American River Parkway access through this gate while maintaining neighborhood quality. The gate has remained mostly unlocked for during this period. However, during a few periods during this time, the gate was locked with physical keys distributed to residents of River Park upon submitting proof of residency to the City. Although some believe this model worked well at first, this process was difficult to administer, and the expansion of homes and ownership changes resulted in locks cut off and/or stolen. The gate thus has remained mostly unlocked for the last few years.

- Since 2017, several residents near the gate have asked for the gate to be locked, reporting an increase in transient/confused/intoxicated individuals coming through the gate and causing issues in the west end of Moddison Avenue..

Options

Option	How It Would Work
Keep the gate locked	City would install a lock that only City staff could open for City needs.
Keep gate unlocked	Locks would be removed and gate would be accessible to anyone.
Lock gate at night	Gate would be locked from a sunset to sunrise (following the model for public parks). The lock could potentially automatically engage/unengage at specific times
Lock the gate with a code lock that would be available to residents	1. City would install a dual-sided code lock. 2. RPNA would work with the City to establish a process for ensuring all RP Residents can obtain the code to use the gate. 3. The code would be changed at specified intervals (e.g., every 6 months)

Arguments for Keeping the Gate Unlocked

The following arguments have been presented by residents who want the gate to remain unlocked:

- This access point is far from Glenn Hall Park and is needed for basic commuting and recreation needs. Some people bought homes in this area with the expectation they could use that gate for access.

- RP is not a gated community. It should be accessible.

- With the gate unlocked, more individuals will use the gate for commuting/recreation, which may deter transients

- Keeping the gate unlocked will avoid situations where determined individuals climb the fence of adjacent homes to get to the other side.

- The access point could be needed for residents to evacuate the neighborhood in an emergency, such as flood, fire, train derailment, etc. (i.e., having only exit points at the south side of the neighborhood increases risk).

Arguments for Locking the Gate

The following arguments have been presented by residents who want the gate to be locked:

- Locking the gate will reduce the flow of transient/confused/intoxicated individuals and related issues and crime. This unwanted traffic/crime is likely to increase when the Two Rivers Trail is paved, and when the CalTrans pedestrian path over the river is completed, connecting a highly impacted area to the Two Rivers Trail very near the gate.

- The gate is not intended or designated by the City as a public access point. It was purchased by the City to be a gate for utility access. It was specifically rejected as a public access point for the Two Rivers Trail. If the gate is designated as public access, that would require a project amendment to the Two Rivers Trail Phase II project, ADA issues would need to be addressed, etc.

- There are options to lock the gate while still allowing for limited access for the purposes described above, such as locking with a code.