



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

DATE: March 6, 2013
TO: Recreation and Park Commission
FROM: Daliah Khoury, Assistant Director of Development
RE: McLaren Bike Park – Grant Application

Agenda Item Wording:

Discussion and possible action to approve a resolution to apply for a grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Land and Water Conservation Fund, in the amount of \$249,835, to support the McLaren Bike Park project.

Background:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Program was established in 1964 and is a funding source for state and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) requires that property developed with program funds comply with Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act which states that no property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to anything other than public outdoor recreation uses.

McLaren Park has been awarded several LWCF grants in the past, therefore the property is already required to comply with Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act and no new restrictions will be placed on the property.

The future site of the McLaren Bike Park is located at the southern entrance into McLaren Park. Currently a decaying asphalt wasteland, the site is used as an illegal dumping site for trash and unwanted furniture. The area is adjacent to Sunnydale Housing Project, the largest public housing facility in San Francisco, and is depressed with high incidents of crime.

Access to safe places to play is a vital component of vibrant communities and healthy, active lifestyles. The 2003 Trust for Public Land (TPL) study, *The Benefits of Parks*, found that residents of many US cities lack adequate access to parks and open space near their homes and that low-income neighborhoods are especially short of parks and open space. This deficit can have many negative implications for communities including increased incidence of obesity, higher crime rates, and a lack of community cohesion.



The very presence of rundown parks in urban neighborhoods can invite vandalism and crime, putting children and families at increased risk of harm. By replacing the trash and asphalt with the McLaren Bike Park, RPD and the San Francisco Urban Riders, its partner in this project, will create a vibrant community recreation facility that is welcoming to youth and families.

On February 21, 2013, as part of round three of the Community Opportunity Fund (COF), the Recreation and Park Commission authorized staff to proceed with design development and submission of environmental review applications for the McLaren Bike Park. Upon completion of the environmental review, staff will recommend that Commission approve \$249,835 to construct Phase 1 of the McLaren Bike Park, including a youth-focused bicycle skills area for young children to learn and improve their basic bike handling skills.

The improvements proposed in the LWCF grant include constructing new multi-use bike trails for beginning and intermediate riders and installing amenities such as picnic areas and signage. The COF grant award will act as the matching funds requirement for the LWCF grant.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Recreation and Park Commission approve a resolution to apply for a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, in the amount of \$249,835, to support the McLaren Bike Park project.

Financial Impact:

\$249,835

Supported by:

Supervisor John Avalos
San Francisco Urban Riders
Department management and staff

Opposed by:

None known at this time

People to Contact:

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Attachments: Grant Resolution
Site Plan