



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

Date: November 1, 2017

To: Recreation and Park Commission
Capital Committee

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Dawn Kamalanathan, Director of Capital and Planning Divisions

From: Alexis Ward, Assistant Project Manager

Subject: Let'sPlaySF! John McLaren Park Playground Renovation

Agenda Wording:

Let'sPlaySF! John McLaren Park Playground Renovation. Discussion and possible action to approve the conceptual design for the John McLaren Park Playground, a Let'sPlaySF! Initiative Project. Approval of this proposed action by the Commission is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

Strategic Plan

Strategy 1: Inspire Place

Objective: Strengthen the quality of existing parks and facilities

Strategy 2: Inspire Play

Objective: Strengthen and promote the safety, health, and well-being of San Francisco's youth and seniors

Background:

The John McLaren Park Playground Renovation Project will restore a children's play area at the Group Picnic site, which is located on John F. Shelley Drive within John McLaren Park. The site is adjacent to the Excelsior and Portola neighborhoods and in Supervisorial District 9.

The area of improvement is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre. The former playground originally built in the early 1980's was removed due to safety concerns about the lumber. Currently, what remains of the playground are two sand areas.



The McLaren Park Playground Renovation Project is part of the Let's Play SF! Initiative, a partnership between with the Recreation and Park Department and the San Francisco Parks Alliance. With funding from the Failing Playgrounds Program of the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond, this project is one of thirteen playgrounds that will be renovated across the City as part of the Let's Play SF! Initiative. The project also has funding from Citywide Program for John McLaren Park from the Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond.

The goal the project is to restore a children's play area to the site, and upgrade supporting amenities and infrastructure such as the picnic areas, pathways and irrigation system to meet the public's needs as well as applicable codes and regulations.

Community Process:

In fall of 2016, the Recreation and Park Department (RPD) began a year long process to gather public input and develop a strategic vision plan for improvements to the greater McLaren Park. As part of this process, we established principles and objectives to guide the McLaren Park Planning Process, which included the following:

- Enhancing community access into and through the park;
- Maintaining natural landscapes;
- Enhancing panoramic views; and
- Creating and building diverse play opportunities.

These principles and objectives also influenced the playground planning and concept design development process.

Communities meetings for the larger Planning Process were held on October 1, 2016, February 4, 2017, and October 17, 2017. Additionally, there were two community meetings specifically about the playground and picnic area project on May 6, 2017 and June 3, 2017. The final concept plan was presented to the public as part of the larger Planning Process for John McLaren Park on October 17.

Additional forms of outreach included two online surveys, and flyer postings throughout the park. The San Francisco Parks Alliance assisted by notified neighbors through door to door soliciting in the weeks prior to Community Meeting 3.

RPD also maintains a dedicated webpage on the Rec Park website, and has provided updates to the Portola Neighborhood Association.

During the remainder of the project, the public will be informed through our project webpage, e-mails to stakeholders, announcements in the RPD E-Newsblasts and via the RPD Facebook page.

Concept Design:

The concept design for the John McLaren Park Playground reflects the community's preference to have a natural feel to the playground that capitalizes on the park's hilly topography. The

playground will be located on the sloping hillside between to the two existing picnic areas. A large slide will descend from the top of the playground to the base. At the top of the playground, there will also be net climbing structure that will allow children to enjoy uninterrupted views of San Francisco. Natural elements such as boulders and timbers will be incorporated as play elements. The timbers will be stacked on the north side of the playground and allow children to scramble up to the slide and net structure. Boulders will wrap the base of the playground, and native trees including redwoods will enclose the south side of the playground.

Other upgrades to the site build on the theme of improving access into and through McLaren Park. There will be a universally accessible loading zone, new ADA accessible pathways to picnic sites A and B, and a pathway linking the two sites. There will be landscaping, irrigation and drainage upgrades to beautify the site, and create a more sustainable landscape that infiltrates stormwater on-site and complies with the SF PUC’s Stormwater Management Ordinance.

If funding allows, the site furnishings at both picnic areas, including tables, counters and barbeques will be replaced. The wall enclosing group picnic area A will be rebuilt to accommodate the ADA accessible pathways. A portion of the wall will be a low seat wall to allow better visibility across the lawn. New trash enclosures will be installed.

Funding Sources, Budget and Schedule:

Project Source of Funding:

RPD 2012 Bond Failing Playgrounds Initiative	\$2,750,000
RPD 2012 Bond Citywide Parks John McLaren Park	\$900,000
Total Sources	\$3,650,000

The total project budget is \$3,650,000. Hard and soft costs are budgeted as follows:

Soft Costs (29% of total budget)	\$1,067,513
Hard Costs (including 15% contingency) (68% of total budget)	\$2,472,500
Soft Cost Reserve (3% of total budget)	\$109,987
Total Budget	\$3,650,000

Phase	Start	End
Planning	May 2017	October 2017
Design	November 2017	September 2018
Bid/Award	October 2018	February 2019
Construction	March 2019	August 2019
Close-Out	September 2019	November 2019

Environmental Evaluation

On October 12, 2017, the project received a Categorical Exemption from environmental review pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines Sections 15304, Class 1 Existing Facilities (Case No. 2017.011733ENV).

Staff Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED, That this Commission approve the conceptual design for the John McLaren Park Playground, a Let'sPlaySF! Initiative Project. Approval of this proposed action by the Commission is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

Supported by:

Recreation and Park Department Operations staff

Parks Alliance

Supervisor Ronen

Community members as documented from community meetings & online surveys

Opposed by:

None known

Attachments:

A: Project Location Map

B: Proposed Conceptual Design

C: Playground Renderings