



London Breed, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

Date: February 5th, 2020

To: Recreation and Parks Commission

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Toks Ajike, Director of Capital & Planning Division

From: Alex Schuknecht, Project Manager

Subject: Conceptual Design for the Golden Gate Park 9th and Lincoln Gateway

Agenda Item Wording

Discussion and possible action to approve a conceptual design for the Golden Gate Park 9th and Lincoln Gateway Improvements, located at the intersection of 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way at the southern edge of Golden Gate Park. 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 Public Space: Keep today’s parks safe, clean, and fun; promote our parks’ historic and cultural heritage; and build the great parks of tomorrow

Objective: 1.2: Strengthen the quality of existing Parks & Facilities

Objective: 1.3: Steward and promote good park behavior

Objective: 1.4: Preserve and celebrate historic and cultural resources

Strategy 4—Inspire Stewardship: Protect and enhance San Francisco’s precious natural resources through conservation, education, and sustainable land/facility management practices

Objective 4.3: Increase eco-literacy of park users and park maintenance staff



Background Information

The Golden Gate Park Masterplan, published in 1998, recommended a “new entry treatment at 9th and Lincoln.” The gateway lacked presence and needed a “treatment to reflect its status as a major park entry,” it stated. Wayfinding was difficult. A renovated gateway at this location would improve pedestrian circulation, improve views and visibility of the San Francisco Botanical Garden, announce entry into the park, and provide a plaza which would allow people to linger at the gateway. In the early 2000s, concepts for the project were developed by San Francisco Public Works Department (SFPW) but were shelved due to lack of funding.

Over a decade later, a renewed sense of urgency developed around improving the 9th Avenue Gateway when by 2017, SFPW had completed final design for a streetscape improvement project on Irving Street, one block south of Lincoln Way. The project was a reminder that the block of 9th Avenue connecting the park and the neighborhood was still a clear missing link between major amenities in the Inner Sunset.

From 2016 to 2018, RPD worked with SFPW to develop a community backed project that included both the 9th Avenue streetscape and the 9th and Lincoln Gateway, and again funding for the joint project was elusive. Leadership determined that the project be split at the property line between RPD and Public Works, and it became a priority for the Recreation and Park Department to carry the 9th and Lincoln Gateway forward into design.

In the 22 years since the Golden Gate Master Plan was published, the number of pedestrians and all other modes of traffic passing through this gateway have only increased. Transit riders linger at a well-used Muni stop on the west side of the gateway, and SFMTA has plans to dedicate more curb space on Lincoln Way to tour bus pick up and drop off, which will add even more pedestrian traffic. The 9th and Lincoln Gateway will meet the park’s Master Plan recommendations, prioritize pedestrian safety and help orient park visitors, strengthen the park’s connection to the Inner Sunset neighborhood, and provide a welcoming and iconic entrance into the park. The project also employs durable and sustainable design that will last years into the future.

Community Process

The Golden Gate Park 9th and Lincoln Gateway was taken through a robust community process under SFPW in partnership with Rec and Park. The project was developed jointly between the two agencies and first presented to the community on June 6, 2018. A preferred concept was agreed on in November 2018 at a final community meeting, and the project maintains community support, including the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors and the Inner Sunset Merchants Association.

Proposed Design

The 9th and Lincoln Gateway will reinforce the connection of Golden Gate Park to the neighborhood, provide safer access to the park, aid in wayfinding for tourists and residents, and will strengthen the identity of the Inner Sunset Neighborhood. The design includes an open plaza

area, large raised masonry planters with distinctive trees and planting, improved lighting, and new signage, which includes a Golden Gate Park boulder sign. The improvements summarized below will provide distinction to this well-worn and highly used entry into the park:

- Approximately 5,500SF of new concrete paving (sidewalks)
- Distinctive trees and landscaping in approximately 6,000SF of new planting area with upgraded irrigation
- New signage including a Golden Gate Park engraved boulder
- Large stone planters
- Stone or concrete steps with handrails
- New pedestrian lighting
- Relocation of MUNI bus shelter westerly
- New curb ramps at non-ADA compliant corners of the intersection
- Utility upgrades as needed to achieve project completion

Funding

Sources:	\$370,000 secured to date	Open Space Fund
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Project Schedule

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>
Planning	2016	Fall 2019
Design	Spring 2020	Summer 2020
Bid & Award	Summer 2020	Fall 2020
Construction	Fall 2020	Summer 2021

Environmental Review

The project has been reviewed by the Planning Department and a Categorical Exemption (Case Number 2019-007356ENV) under Class 1 – Existing Facilities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the conceptual design for the Golden Gate Park 9th and Lincoln Gateway Improvements, located at the intersection of 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way at the southern edge of Golden Gate Park. Approval of this proposed action by the Commission is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

Supported By

RPD Staff
 Inner Sunset Park Neighbors
 Inner Sunset Merchants Association

Opposed By

None known

Attachments

Attachment A: Golden Gate Park 9th and Lincoln Gateway Improvements;
Conceptual Design Package, February 2020