



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

Date: June 7, 2017

To: Recreation and Park Commission
Capital Committee

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

From: Reem Assaf, Project Manager

Subject: George Christopher Playground – Approval of Concept Design

Agenda Wording

Discussion and possible action to approve the conceptual design to renovate the Children's Play Area and interior of the clubhouse restroom for accessibility at George Christopher Playground. 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 and facilities.

Strategy 2: Inspire Play: Promote active living, well-being and community for San Francisco's diverse and growing population.
Objective 2.2 Strengthen and promote the safety, health and well-being of San Francisco's youth and seniors.

Background Information

George Christopher Playground is located on the Eastern edge of Glen Canyon Park in the Diamond Heights Neighborhood and is bounded by Diamond Heights Boulevard to the Northeast and Gold Mine Drive and Opalo Lane to the Southeast. Shopping bounds the East edge of the playground and the San Francisco Police Academy is located to the North. The 6.80 acre site currently includes the following amenities: clubhouse with restrooms; softball field; a tennis court; children's playground; a pathways with bench seating. The community clubhouse is often reserved for private events. Trails from George Christopher Park/Playground connect to nearby



Glen Canyon and are often used by walkers and joggers who enjoy park and canyon views. The park was named for the 34th mayor of San Francisco who served from 1956 until 1964.

George Christopher Playground Renovation is a named park project in the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond. The project's purpose is to update the current playground for safety and accessibility, and to provide accessibility to and within the on-site clubhouse restroom. As such, the proposed project includes safety and accessibility upgrades to: the children's play area, landscaping, clubhouse restroom, site pathways, and site amenities.

Community Process

The outreach process was conducted in 2015-2016 with the goal of understanding the community's desires and to ensure that they are reflected in the concept plan. The project team conducted its outreach through 3 large community meetings, multiple meetings with the local resident and programming liaisons, and web outreach. The process began by polling the community for the most desired program elements. This poll resulted in prioritizing a nature-inspired playground, with similar risk, upper mobility and collaborative play to the existing playground, a desire to link the amphitheater to the playground, swing sets for tots and school age children, and sensory play. The project team then presented three alternative designs at Community Meeting #2 that included these elements, a zipline concept, a treehouse concept, and a village concept. Community members liked the treehouse concept and the village concept so those two were developed and voted on in Community Meeting #3, and via electronic voting afterwards. The community members provided comments and the project team produced a final preferred concept for review and approval by the community stakeholders. The concept plan obtained wide approval and consensus from the community stakeholders.

Proposed Playground Renovation Program

The scope of work for the project includes the renovation of the children's play area and associated amenities serving it. Please refer to the attached concept design report for plans and views of the proposed project. The concept plan is fully accessible and meets all ADA guidelines for accessible design. The proposed improvements include:

- New safety surfacing throughout play area.
- New play equipment featuring: two village play structures, tot swings, belt swings, an imagination garden with bridge, playhouse, and stepping stones, a climb crawl structure, and a whirl wheel.
- Lowering the amphitheater wall to activate and increase visibility, while providing a connection to the playground.
- An accessible ramp pathway from the playground to the restroom.
- Interior renovations to one clubhouse restroom for accessibility.
- Improved planting and irrigation
- Improved paving and drainage systems

Sources & Uses of Funding

Sources:	\$2,800,000	2012 Neighborhood Parks Bond
Uses:	\$1,965,000	Hard Costs
	\$835,000	Soft Costs
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	\$2,800,000	Total

Project Schedule

Planning Phase:	September 2015 – May 2017
Design Phase:	June 2017 – January 2018
Bid Phase:	February 2018 – July 2018
Construction Phase:	August 2018 – May 2019

Environmental Review

The project has been reviewed by the Planning Department and was issued a Categorical Exemption under Class 1 – Existing Facilities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the conceptual design to renovate the Children's Play Area and interior of the clubhouse restroom for accessibility at George Christopher Playground. Approval of this proposed action by the Commission is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

Supported By

Community Meeting Attendees
Friends of Christopher Park
Diamond Heights Community Association

Opposed By

None known

Attachments

Attachment A. Concept Design Package
Attachment B. Letter of Support from Diamond Heights Community Association