



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 27, 2013
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Cabrillo Ball Field and Kids World Status Report

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a status report on the Cabrillo Ball Field Renovation Project and the Kids World Renovation Project.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Commission with an update the Department's renovation projects at Cabrillo Ball Field and Kids World.

Cabrillo Ball Field

Background

At its regular meeting of February 23, 2011, the Commission discussed a range of potential park improvements that would enhance park aesthetics, increase general public use and ball field programming, protect park assets, increase public safety, and provide safe maintenance conditions. These included replacement of the sports lighting, renovation of the restroom, installation of mow strips and home run fence, and renovation of the landscaping. The Commission also received public input on potential additional recreation uses for the southwestern area of the park. These included a children's playground, adult exercise equipment, basketball courts, hand-ball courts, off-leash dog area, and small pocket park.

Since that time, the Department developed a comprehensive capital improvement project (CIP) for the park and sought funding for implementation. In 2012 the Department was awarded a \$75,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to replace the park's storm drain system. The drainage replacement project is one of the first key steps toward implementing a comprehensive renovation plan for the park. The drainage improvements improve both the ball field area of the park and will facilitate other park improvements.

In addition, funding in the City's FY 2013 facilities renewal program was set aside to replace the sports lighting. Concurrent with these efforts, the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission raised \$80,000 for the renovation of the Chromatic Gate sculpture. All three of these projects will be complete in FY 2013. The Department has requested \$75,000 in FY 2014 CIP funds for installation of the mow strip and home run fence.

Drainage Replacement Project

In January 2013, the storm drain system for Cabrillo Ball Field was replaced and expanded. The ball field is located in a very low-lying area and suffers from poor drainage during the wet season and during high tides. An investigation by staff in 2010 determined that the existing storm drain system was in disrepair and no longer functioning.

The old storm drain system consisted of two separate drainage lines, one on the very east end of the ball field, and another servicing the majority of the Ball Field. The drainage line at the east end of the ball field consisted of one 12-inch corrugated metal pipe discharging to a catch basin on Milpas Street. The metal pipe did not drain to the catch basin because the inlet in the ball field was crushed. The drainage line servicing the remainder of the ball field consisted of a long run of six-inch PVC pipe, connected at six field drains. This line discharged through a metal flap gate to a large concrete pipe on the north side of Calle Puerto Vallarta. The flap gate was rusted open which allowed back-water to enter the drain lines and contribute to the ponding of water in the park.

Designed to increase drainage capacity and flow, the project included the following: 1) installation of 15 drain inlets within the ball field (instead of six), 2) reconnection of the drain to the Milpas catch basin, 3) replacement of the main storm drain with a pipe that is 12 inches in diameter (instead of six), 4) installation of 700 feet additional six inch drain lines, and 5) installation of a new inline check valve to replace the non-functioning tidal gate. Minor grading was also completed to facilitate flow.

Project implementation included coordination with Major League Softball and Recreation Sports staff. The project was designed by Public Works Engineering and installed by Tierra Construction. The Parks Division is now completing turf restoration.

Sports Lighting Replacement Project

The Public Works Facilities Division will oversee the installation of new sports lighting in June 2013. The project includes the installation of new footings, poles and lighting fixtures. The number of lights will be reduced from eight to six. The new lighting will be significantly more energy efficient.

Chromatic Gate Renovation

The County Arts Commission initiated the restoration of the Chromatic Gate on February 20, 2013. Work is scheduled to occur between February and April 2013. Once complete, the Department will be replacing the landscaping surrounding the sculpture and the Public Works Department will be upgrading the lighting.

Kids' World Renovation Project

The purpose of the project is to renovate the Kid's World Playground at Alameda Park. Constructed in 1993, the 20-year old structure has a number of design, safety and playground standard issues that need to be addressed. The Department's initial efforts to implement a renovation project in 2008 were shelved due to budget cutbacks. The FY 2013 CIP includes \$60,000 to complete a structural assessment and develop a comprehensive renovation plan.

In 2008 the Department invited the playground designers, Leathers and Associates, and former Kids World Steering Committee members, to review the playground's needs and discuss the options to renovate or rebuild Kids World, the feasibility of a second generation community design/build process, community interest in project leadership and fundraising, and funding considerations. As a result of this meeting, as well as consideration of the extensive community ownership and funding requirements to build a new structure, the Department determined that the best option is renovation. The Department is currently developing the scope of work and renovation cost estimates. Renovation of the structure may still require significant funding and community support.

The Department has identified three primary needs for the structure, including: 1) structural enhancements to ensure long-term stability, 2) playground safety code compliance, and 3) age group separation safety measures to separate the two to five year old age play area from the six to twelve year old age group play area. In addition, renovation would address access code requirements, replacement of some playground features, and other minor improvements.

The Department proposed a total of \$400,000 in the Fiscal Year 2014-19 CIP, including \$250,000 in grant funds. No potential grant sources have been identified and depending on the needs for structural improvements, as well as the feasibility of enhancing the playground for young children, project costs could be lower than originally anticipated.

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