



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 27, 2019
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Bohnett Park Renovation Project

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission receive an update on the Bohnett Park Renovation Project.

DISCUSSION:

Introduction

The Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) last reviewed the Bohnett Park Renovation Project (Project) during a special joint meeting with the Neighborhood Advisory Council on June 27, 2018. Since then, the Architectural Board of Review approved the park renovation design, the construction plans are nearing completion, and two grant applications were submitted to partially fund construction. The final park renovation design, community outreach, project funding, and the anticipated construction timeline are discussed below.

Project Description

The primary objectives of the Project are to expand recreation opportunities, promote and maintain park safety, upgrade park infrastructure, and enhance park aesthetics. The Project focuses on expanding and improving the picnic areas and basketball court, renewal of the turf and landscaping, making the park fully accessible, renovation of the restroom, and adding recreational amenities. The Project does not include modifications to the United Boys and Girls Club building.

Picnic Areas: The final park renovation design adds a new group picnic area next to the playground and improves the existing picnic areas under the large sycamore trees next to the field. The new picnic area is designed to meet building code requirements for accessibility and will feature four new concrete tables, a large BBQ, waste receptacles, and a retaining wall to address the site topography. The existing picnic areas will be improved with minor grading to create level areas for new tables, hot coal receptacles, waste receptacles, and wood chips to control dust. This improved picnic area will also be better defined by a concrete mow curb between the turf field and picnic area.

Multi-Sport Courts: The existing asphalt basketball court will be doubled in size to accommodate an additional full basketball court. The expanded asphalt area will also feature painted court lines to create a multisport court that can be used for futsal, a soccer-based game that features a quicker pace emphasizing ball control and rapid passing. The use of the asphalt surface for soccer is also anticipated to allow for an alternative playing area when the turf field is closed for annual renovation. Other improvements to the court area include the installation of a game called Bankshot, a basketball-based activity that features angled backboards and hoops that challenge participants' shooting abilities. Bankshot will be installed outside of the main court areas. Two pull-up bars will also be installed near the courts to provide another area for exercising.

Field and Landscaping Improvements: The turf field will be improved with soil amendments, a new irrigation system, a better drainage pattern to prevent puddles, and installation of new turf grass that can better withstand heavy use. The landscaping surrounding the park's sloped perimeter will be revitalized to provide color, erosion control, and habitat for pollinators and birds. The City's Creeks Division is also developing a storm water infiltration project that would treat wet and dry weather runoff from approximately eight acres of the surrounding Westside neighborhood. The treatment would be performed by capturing runoff from existing storm drains in underground infiltration basins. The basins would be located below the playing field. Coordination between the two projects is ongoing, with construction of each project envisioned to occur simultaneously. The storm water infiltration project would be funded by the Creek's Division's Capital Improvement Fund or through separate grants.

Site Accessibility & Restroom Renovation: The Project will update Bohnett Park's pedestrian entrances and pathways to comply with accessibility requirements. The main entrance, currently served by a set of stairs adjacent to the restrooms and two non-compliant pedestrian ramps and a maintenance vehicle ramp, will be replaced with a single accessible sloped walkway. This walkway will also accommodate maintenance vehicle access. The existing steps and stadium seating area at the center of the park will remain, but be retrofitted with additional handrails. The third set of steps that lead to the playground will be removed to allow for the creation of the new picnic area. The restroom will also be fully updated to meet accessibility, as well as add an additional toilet to the women's restroom. Safety lighting at Bohnett Park was recently improved by trimming trees and upgrading bulbs to LED.

Community Input

The Department engaged stakeholders and residents to help define objectives for the Project and desired amenities. An onsite community workshop was held on May 22, 2018 and park users were also interviewed during a subsequent weekend site visit. Overall, participants were in favor of the proposed improvements. Attendees suggested the design be flexible, as the park is used like the neighborhood's backyard, supporting large social gatherings as well as sports field activities. Requested improvements to the picnic area included a mix of additional small and large tables, more BBQ grills, and expansion of a

group BBQ area, which were all incorporated into the final Project design. Community members also requested better field conditions throughout the year and expansion of active recreation opportunities in the sport court area.

Grant Applications

The Department recently applied for two grants for construction funding. A \$300,000 request was submitted to the *Community Development Block Grant* program to fund the restroom renovation and picnic area improvements. An award announcement for this grant is expected in March. A \$1 million grant application was also submitted to the *Cultural, Community and Natural Resources Program*, funded through Proposition 68 and administered by the California Natural Resources Agency. This grant would potentially fund the expansion of the active recreation areas and landscape and accessibility improvements. This program requires an initial concept proposal, followed by a grant administrator site visit, and, if selected, an invitation to submit a full grant application after May 2019. If nominated for the full grant application process, final awards are expected to be announced in December 2019.

Next Steps

The Department anticipates a building permit will be ready to issue in July 2019. Bidding and the construction contract award process will be complete by December 2019, pending project funding. If funded, construction could begin in January 2020, allowing the Project to be completed before the peak use summer months.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total project, including design and construction, is anticipated to cost \$1,950,000. A \$226,286 contract with SWA Group for design of the Project is nearly complete. Construction is estimated to cost approximately \$1,700,000 and the Department is seeking grant funding to cover the majority of construction costs. Since the grant awards are highly competitive and will not be finalized until after the City's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget process is complete, the Department included an allocation of \$1,450,000 in the FY 2020 General Fund Capital Program to fund construction in the event the grant applications are not fully funded. The Bohnett Park capital account also has a current balance of \$157,000 that would be used for construction.

ATTACHMENT: Bohnett Park Plans

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