



DATE: May 1, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council through City Manager

FROM: Rachel Beer, Recreation Supervisor
Drew Halter, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving the Purchase of Playground Replacement Equipment and a New Shade Canopy Structure for Anna's Meadow Park

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution Approving the Purchase of Playground Equipment and a Shade Canopy Structure to replace the current structure at Anna's Meadow Park.

BACKGROUND

The City of Petaluma has made significant efforts to assure that playgrounds are safe and accessible for every member of the community. Playgrounds that are deemed inadequate are identified and replaced as funding becomes available. Over a dozen playground structures have been replaced since the annual playground replacement capital improvement project (CIP) was established, with the most recent play structure in Grant Park being completed in April of 2023. The playground at Anna's Meadow had been identified as a priority for replacement by staff as the equipment have reached the end of their serviceable life with replacement parts no longer available.

Anna's Meadow Park consists of approximately .4 acres, located at 1153 Daniel Street, in Petaluma's southeast neighborhoods, near the Casa Grande High School. It is designated as a pocket park in the current General Plan, surrounded by residential homes with available street parking, an existing playground, approximately .3 acres of natural lawn, and a few trees.

Staff facilitated a citywide outreach campaign to gather community input on Anna's Meadow's new playground design, which included online options as well as mailing over 300 letters to residents within walking distance from the park. Staff sought information on family demographics, desirable park features, play elements, and the prioritization of specific equipment. Flyers were posted within the park that included QR codes linking to the survey in both English and Spanish. The survey was available from August 15, 2022, through September

5, 2022, after which staff received 280 responses. Parks and Recreation staff also have been working closely with a neighborhood group to gather input, feedback, and work collaboratively to engage with residents. The public input included feedback ultimately used to help prioritize which play elements are incorporated into a final design.

DISCUSSION

Incorporating survey data, community engagement, and considering the location of the playground in proximity to other play features in the vicinity, staff is recommending a playground designed for the 5 to 12 year old range which integrates nature-inspired themes while featuring elements including but not limited to swings, slides, climbing features, and a combination of ladders, bridges, and platforms. Inclusive play areas that provide equal opportunities to engage in play and a universal design is a critical component of the play space. Participants from the survey indicated shade and additional seating as the top features that would improve their experience within the greater park and are components that are included in the final design.

The playground design features a specialized “TreeTops” deck and platform structure and incorporates an inclusive group ‘Oodle’ swing which inspires cooperative play. The TreeTops structure consists of an Alpine slide, vertical ladders, leaf climber, net climber, horizontal climber, a double slide, and a “lolliladder.” The TreeTops play structure is designed to give children a nature inspired adventure as they navigate the abstract playground. Children will experience the feeling of a forest canopy and will also be challenged with wiggly bridges and climbers. Additionally, the interconnected activities of this structure are protected by integrated shade. To include as many critical play elements as possible, staff is recommending the existing playground footprint be extended by approximately 11 feet to incorporate both the TreeTops structure and swing component while allowing for required buffer zones. The TreeTops structure is a part of Landscape Structures’ Smart Play series, which are designed to include several different play elements with smaller footprints. The Oodle swing provides an interactive experience for four to six children at once, while fostering motor skills such as balance, coordination and motor planning. This swing also promotes social and emotional skills such as cooperation, imaginative play, and social skill development.

Removing one section of the existing low concrete masonry retaining wall, allows for an opportunity to transition the hardscape to a proposed shaded seating area. The shade canopy will be approximately 15’ by 20’ feet and adjacent to the playground area. This space will allow for a connection between seating and the playground for families and our aging population. The respondents on the community survey, Commissioners at the Recreation, Music, and Parks Commission, and the neighborhood outreach group all expressed shade and seating as a top priority for Anna’s Meadow playground.

Staff are recommending the City Council support the playground replacement project as designed, as it incorporates the top priorities for preferred features from the survey results and community engagement including swings, shade, climbers, slides and seating. The addition of the new playground complete with the TreeTops structure, Oodle Swing and shade canopy, provides the community with the preferred playground features in a unique, imaginative, and

nature-inspired design. Staff are also recommending a shade structure with a concrete pad adjacent to the playground be added to this design, based on both community feedback and commissioner response during the Recreation, Music and Parks Commission meeting in November of 2022. The recommended surfacing to be used is playground rated wood fiber (i.e. wood chips) which satisfy both fall zone and the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Once installed, the engineered wood fiber provides a safe, biodegradable and hygienic play surface which will require an annual top dressing to ensure proper compaction and infill heights are maintained. Alternate play surfaces are available including a poured in place rubberized surface.

Staff was asked to evaluate the costs of installing a poured in place, rubberized surface as part of the input received from the Recreation, Music, and Parks Commission. When installed, rubberized surfaces can provide more opportunities for path of travel, decreased compaction, and include more all-weather features. Installing rubberized surfacing as an alternative to the playground rated wood fiber at Anna's Meadow would require an additional \$80,000 in funds which includes the costs of installation and materials. Rubberized playground manufactures typically provide a 10-year warranty on materials. The maintenance required for the rubberized materials include monthly blowing to remove debris on the surface. For comparison, the wood fiber surfacing requires annual top dressing (re-applying mulch chips) to account for settling and decomposition of wood fiber over time. Estimates for the annual top-dressing costs at Anna's Meadow are \$800 per year or approximately \$8,000 over the same ten-year life cycle of a rubberized surface installation. The initial cost of materials and installation of the playground rated wood fiber is estimated at \$11,000, which combined with annual maintenance costs totals an estimated \$19,000 over a ten-year period. Installing playground rated wood fiber at Anna's Meadow playground provides a 10-year cost savings of approximately \$61,000 when compared to a poured in place, rubberized surface.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

A community survey was created to solicit input from the neighborhood and surrounding residents on the design elements to be featured in a new playground. The survey was published online and accessible from August 15, 2022, through September 5, 2022, and promoted through department and citywide media channels. Parks and Recreation staff also worked closely with an organized neighborhood group to gather feedback, input, and assist with public outreach. Additionally, staff mailed 300 letters to community members with addresses within a short walk from Anna's Meadow Park, directing them to participate in the survey. Signage was posted in English and Spanish at Anna's Meadow Playground for the duration of the survey. Staff received 280 responses to the online survey. At the November 16, 2022 meeting of the Recreation, Music, and Parks Commission (RMPC), the Commission received a presentation on the results of the community survey as well as the proposed playground structure and design. The design features and individual components were well received, and input included a desire to incorporate a shade structure and seating adjacent to the playground as part of the final design.

COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT

A Safe Community That Thrives

- A. Create and promote multi-cultural and multi-generational recreation and wellness programs that support community connection, physical well-being, and opportunities for play.
- B. Create more diverse recreational, social, and cultural opportunities for youth.

Spaces and Places That Inspire

- A. Repurpose existing amenities to promote recreational opportunities, including initial phases of tennis court rehabilitation citywide and pickleball courts.

CLIMATE ACTION/SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Landscape Structures Inc. (LSI) has partnered with the American Forests organization to provide a carbon generated offset for each manufactured piece of equipment. The carbon footprint of the proposed structure, the recycled content and post-consumer recycled content is included as Attachment D to the staff report. LSI is believed to be the only playground manufacture in the United States to provide a carbon offset as standard service included with the purchase of each playground equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The project is categorically exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Guidelines, sections 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15303 (New Construction). The project consists of replacement and minor alteration to the already existing playground. There is negligible or no expansion of use beyond what currently exists and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances or other factors that would make the exemption inapplicable pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The equipment totals including labor and materials for the installation of the new playground equipment and shade canopy structure totals \$132,265.14. Recommended funding sources available to complete this project will involve multiple sources. The Fiscal Year 2022 -23 CIP Budget for this Playground Replacement (000400205) included \$90,000 from a combination of bonds refinancing saving (\$34,000K) and the Sonoma County - Measure M - Parks for All, tax initiative (\$56,0000). Additional sources of funding include a grant award of \$10,000 given from the Rossi Family Foundation who has partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department to support the Anna’s Meadow Playground replacement project with the mission of providing safe and accessible local play spaces for youth and families to enjoy. The additional \$32,265.14 needed to complete the shade structure and seating area will be funded by a combination of Parks Operations budget (\$2,265.14) and (\$30,000) in Measure M funds available for construction related projects. The playground equipment for Anna’s Meadow Park is sourced through cooperative purchasing agreement. The National Purchasing Partners Program provides an advantage by creating an opportunity to access competitively awarded nationally leveraged cooperative purchasing contracts in accordance with Petaluma Municipal Code Section 4.04.100 and 2 Code of Federal Regulations Part 200 (Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards). In addition to the purchase and installation of the playground structure, canopy shade and walkway

installation, an additional concrete pad measuring approximately 15' x 20' feet will be installed by a third-party contractor and funded through the general parks operations account in the amount of approximately \$25,680. These costs may vary slightly depending on site conditions following the removal of existing structures. The installation will be completed separately but in close coordination with the construction of the shade canopy structure.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution
2. Anna's Meadow Playground Replacement Design
3. Survey Results and Summary
4. Anna's Meadow Playground Environmental Statement