

APPROVED
SEP 02 2021

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 21-154

DATE September 02, 2021

C.D. 5

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: WESTWOOD PARK – AIDAN'S PLACE PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT (PRJ21343) PROJECT – COMMITMENT OF PARK FEES – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(11d) [DEMOLITION OF ACCESSORY STRUCTURES], CLASS 4(3) [NEW LANDSCAPING], CLASS 4(12) [MINOR TRENCHING AND BACKFILLING] AND CLASS 11(6) [INSTALLATION OF ACCESSORY STRUCTURES TO INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AS WELL AS TO ARTICLE 19 SECTIONS 15301(I4), 15304(b) 15304(f) AND 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz _____ M. Rudnick _____
H. Fujita *Fur* _____ *C. Santo Domingo *DF* _____
J. Kim _____ N. Williams _____

M. Gluee

General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to commit from the following fund and work order numbers, a maximum of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) in Park Fees, for the Westwood Park – Aidan's Place Playground Replacement (PRJ21343) Project (Project):

FUNDING SOURCE	FUND/DEPT./ACCT. NO.	WORK ORDER NO.
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	QM170851
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	QT061958

2. Determine that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(11d) [Demolition of accessory structures], Class 4(3) [New landscaping], Class 4(12) [Minor trenching and backfilling] and Class 11(6) [Installation of accessory structures to institutional facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19 Sections 15301(I4), 15304(b) 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines, and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;

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3. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE; and
4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

Westwood Park is located at 1350 South Sepulveda Boulevard in the Westwood community of the City. This approximately 26.70-acre park features three baseball fields, two outdoor basketball courts, two children's play areas, outdoor fitness equipment, a dog park, eight tennis courts, a synthetic soccer field, an indoor gymnasium, and a swimming pool. Approximately 10,963 residents live within a one-half mile walking distance of Westwood Park. Due to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Westwood Park meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

AIDAN'S PLACE PLAYGROUND

Aidan's Place, which opened in 2001, was the second universally accessible playground developed in the City. Aidan's Place is named for Aidan Gaffney, a young boy who had a rare muscular disorder that left him wheelchair-bound for much of his life and passed away just before his sixth birthday. Aidan's parents, Nicole and Charlie Gaffney, raised funds for the development of this playground in honor of their son Aidan. The development of Aidan's Place helped to spark an inclusive play movement that has made Los Angeles one of the most playable cities in the world for children of all abilities and has inspired projects across the country, and as far away as Ecuador and South Africa.

The Aidan's Place playground is one of the heaviest utilized, and programmed, playgrounds in the City, providing play and community to hundreds of thousands of children and their families since it opened. Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration, a non-profit organization, holds ongoing community and education programming events at this site. For example, Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration's "Together, We Are Able" education program, has served approximately 55,000 Los Angeles students from over 250 schools; 70% of which have attended this program at Aidan's Place. The "Together, We Are Able" education program works to eliminate harmful misconceptions regarding disabilities by bringing children with disabilities together with their typically developing peers on the playground to build bridges of friendship and respect. Additionally, My Play Club, a family program of Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration, is also held at Aidan's Place throughout the year and offers community gatherings for families of children of all abilities. A My Play Club event day features a buddy program between a child with a disability and a typically developing friend, creating an opportunity to discover their similarities as they play unencumbered, side-by-side in this uniquely designed playground. There is also face painting, games, crafts, snacks, entertainment and good time sharing.

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PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of the Project, which was previously approved by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board), on March 05, 2020, includes the demolition and removal of the existing children's play areas and the construction of a new children play areas and equipment in the same location, as well as associated turf, hardscape, landscaping, and irrigation improvements. (Report No. 20-036, Attachment 1).

RAP staff has determined that additional funding will be necessary to complete the Project.

There are several reasons for the need for additional funding. Originally it was anticipated that only a portion of the play area would need to be renovated. However, after additional review and further development of the Project concept and various design options, RAP staff determined that a more comprehensive renovation and update of Aidan's Place would be most beneficial for the community. Additionally, RAP staff identified some additional modifications to the design concept, including integrated shade structures. Finally, increases in the costs and prices of materials, such as steel, impact the overall Project budget. The updated Project concept and design is depicted in Attachment 2.

The design for Aidan's Place will incorporate state of the art inclusive play equipment including a first of its kind in Los Angeles wheelchair swing, a We-Go-Round merry-go-round for all children, including those who will be able to wheel directly onto the equipment to spin. One advantage of this unique design is that it accommodates the unique play needs of a wide array of children with disabilities, while offering challenging and engaging play opportunities for a typically developing child such that every child is served within the playground. Additionally, the new playground will feature a sensory play area which is designed for children of all abilities, while meeting the specific play needs of children with sensory processing challenges, as well as children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in every 54 children is diagnosed with ASD. Their play needs include tactile elements, sound and music, quiet play spaces that minimize noise and visual stimulation, rocking and spinning elements, talk tubes, and engaging cause and effect play.

The total Project cost is currently estimated at One Million, Five Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,550,000.00).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

RAP presented the proposed Project to the Westwood Recreation Center Park Advisory Board (PAB) on April 27, 2021. The goal of the meeting was to share the Project concept with the community in order to get input and feedback on the proposed Project design.

At that PAB meeting, RAP presented on the history and background of the current Aidan's Place, the overall scope proposed Project, and the project concept and the proposed project elements. Both the PAB members and the community had an opportunity to ask questions on the Project design and to provide their input and suggestions.

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PROJECT FUNDING

The Board has previously approved the commitment of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) in Park Fees for the Project (Report No. 20-036).

Upon approval of this Report, an additional Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) in Park Fees can be committed to the Project.

These Park Fees were collected within five (5) miles of Westwood Park, which is the standard distance for the allocation of the Park Fees for community recreational facilities pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.33 E.3.

The total amount of Park Fee funding available for the Project, including previously committed funds, is One Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,350,000.00)

In addition to the proposed allocation of Park Fees, Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration has committed to raise and provide additional funding for the Project. Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration will raise the additional Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000.00) in funding necessary to meet the Project's total overall budget of One Million, Five Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,550,000.00).

FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

Source	Fund/Dept/Acct	Amount	Percentage
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	\$1,350,000.00	87%
Donation	N/A	\$200,000.00	13%
Total		\$1,550,000.00	100%

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

RAP staff has determined that sufficient funding has been identified for the construction of the proposed Project. Construction of the Project is anticipated to begin in January 2022.

TREES AND SHADE

The approval of this Project will have no impact on existing trees at Westwood Park, but the integrated shade structures will provide additional shade to the playground.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of demolition of an existing accessory structure as well as new landscaping and irrigation improvements and of installation of new accessory structures to institutional facilities. Therefore, as the project has a larger footprint than the project approved with BR 20-036, Staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) determine that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California

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Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(11d), Class 4(3), Class 4(12) and Class 11(6) of City CEQA Guidelines, as well as to Article 19 Sections 15301(l4), 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines RAP staff will file an NOE with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of this commitment of Park Fees will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund.

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Park Fees or funding sources other than the RAP's General Fund. The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with minimal impact to existing maintenance service at this facility.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 1: Provide Safe and Accessible Parks

Outcome No. 2: Safe and welcoming environments at all parks

Goal No. 2: Offer Affordable & Equitable Recreation Programming

Outcome No. 1: Improved health and social equity for young Angelenos

Result: The renovation of the existing playground will provide additional recreational opportunities for recreational activity for young Angelenos of all ages and abilities.

This Report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

LIST OF ATTACHMENT

Attachment No. 1 – Board Report No. 20-036

Attachment No. 2 – Project Concept

APPROVED
MAR 05 2020

BOARD REPORT**BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**NO. 20-036DATE March 05, 2020C.D. 5**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

SUBJECT: WESTWOOD PARK – AIDAN'S PLACE PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT (PRJ21343) PROJECT – COMMITMENT OF PARK FEES – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 2 [REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING STRUCTURES WHERE THE NEW STRUCTURE WILL BE LOCATED IN THE SAME SITE AND WILL HAVE THE SAME PURPOSE AND CAPACITY], CLASS 4(3) [NEW LANDSCAPING] AND CLASS 4(12) [MINOR TRENCHING AND BACKFILLING], OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19 SECTIONS 15302, 15304(b) AND 15304(f) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz _____ S. Piña-Cortez _____
 H. Fujita  C. Santo Domingo 
 V. Israel _____ N. Williams _____



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the scope of work for the Westwood Park – Aidan's Place Playground Replacement (PRJ21343) Project (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to commit from the following fund and work order numbers, a maximum of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) in Park Fees, for the Project:

FUNDING SOURCE	FUND/DEPT./ACCT. NO.	WORK ORDER NO.
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	QT061958

3. Find that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 2 [Replacement of existing structures where the new structure will be located in the same site and will have the same purpose and capacity], Class 4(3) [New landscaping] and Class 4(12) [Minor trenching and backfilling], of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19 Sections 15302, 15304(b) and 15304(f) of California CEQA Guidelines, and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;

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4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE; and,
5. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

Westwood Park is located at 1350 South Sepulveda Boulevard in the Westwood community of the City. This approximately 26.70-acre park features three baseball fields, two outdoor basketball courts, two children's play areas, outdoor fitness equipment, a dog park, eight tennis courts, a synthetic soccer field, an indoor gymnasium, and a swimming pool. Approximately 10,963 residents live within a one-half mile walking distance of Westwood Park. Due to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Westwood Park meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

PROJECT SCOPE

Aidan's Place, which opened on December 5, 2001, was the second universally accessible playground developed in the City. Aidan's Place is named for Aidan Gaffney, a young boy who had a rare muscular disorder that left him wheelchair-bound for much of his life, and who passed away just before his sixth birthday.

Aidan's Place was developed by RAP in partnership with the Gaffney Family and Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration. Aidan's parents, Nicole and Charlie Gaffney, helped raised funds for the development of this playground in honor of their son. The total cost to develop Aidan's place was approximately One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00). Aidan's Place was gifted to RAP by the Gaffney Family and Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration.

The scope of work for the proposed Project includes the demolition and removal of the existing children's play areas and the construction of a new children play area and equipment in the same location, as well as associated turf, hardscape, landscaping, and irrigation improvements.

PROJECT FUNDING

Upon approval of this Report, Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) in Park Fees can be committed to the Project.

These Park Fees were collected within five (5) miles of Westwood Park, which is the standard distance for the allocation of the Park Fees for community recreational facilities pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.33 E.3.

The total amount of funding available for the Project is Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00).

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FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

Source	Fund/Dept/Acct	Amount	Percentage
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	\$750,000.00	100%
Total		\$750,000.00	100%

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Staff has determined that sufficient funding has been identified and construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to begin in May 2020.

TREES AND SHADE

The approval of this proposed Project will have no impact on existing trees or shade at Westwood Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of replacement of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and have the same purpose and capacity as well as of new landscaping and irrigation improvements. Therefore, RAP staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) determines that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 2, Class 4(3) and Class 4(12) of City CEQA Guidelines, and Article 19 Sections 15302, 15304(b) and 15304(f) of California CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of this commitment of Park Fees will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund.

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Park Fees or funding sources other than the RAP's General Fund. The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with minimal impact to existing maintenance service at this facility.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 1: Provide Safe and Accessible Parks

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Outcome No. 1: Improved health and social equity for young Angelenos

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Result: The renovation of the existing playground will provide additional recreational opportunities for recreational activity for young Angelenos of all ages and abilities.

This Report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Acting Superintendent, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch, Department of Recreation and Parks.




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