



Staff Report

June 13, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council
FROM: Merrill Buck, Town Engineer
RE: Presentation on the Final Design for the Sunrise Loomis Playground Replacement Project

Recommendation

Receive a power-point presentation from staff on the status of the design for the Sunrise Loomis Playground Replacement Project. Following the presentation, Council may ask questions and provide input to staff.

Issue Statement and Discussion

The Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) allocated \$185,000,000 to California cities and counties to fund either the acquisition of land for new parks or the rehabilitation or replacement of existing park infrastructure. \$177,952 was allocated to the Town of Loomis on a per capita (non-competitive) basis. The grant requires a 25% local match, which amounted to \$44,488, for a total minimum project expenditure amount of \$222,440.

In January 2021, the Town Council approved a Proposition 68 grant application for Sunrise Loomis Park that included the following items:

Playground Fiber - Add playground fiber to raise height to safety standards

Play Structures - Remove and replace play structures. Based on the orientation of the support posts, new platforms could be retrofitted to existing supports. Current play structures have missing parts and/or need replacement parts.

Picnic Tables and Benches - Remove and replace picnic tables and benches that have been damaged due to sun exposure and vandalism.

Sidewalks - Remove and replace several sections of sidewalks with tripping hazards.

The preliminary cost for this work was estimated at roughly \$260,000 but was made without the benefit of a design or a hard quote.

In scoping the project, staff felt that the existing play areas had the potential to offer much more in the way of play elements. And that rather than simply replacing the play equipment, in-kind, the design should look to incorporate a greater variety of play. This was confirmed at a community workshop held on May 16, 2023, where the following input was received:

Identified problems and opportunities:

- Lack of play options – mostly what is there now is just for climbing.
- Not enough group play activities.
- Concerns about picking equipment that might be unsafe, such as tall, open slides.
- Don't ignore the smaller playground - many young families in the area.
- Limited amount of shade.
- Bark under the equipment is not maintained, more is needed.
- Look at other park use areas beyond the playground – larger picnic area, gathering spaces, permanent bathrooms.

Goals:

- Provide play equipment that is simple and safe.
- Incorporate shade into the play structure. Build in shaded bench supervision areas.
- Include a variety of play (multi sensory, group play, ground level activities).
- Include swings!
- Add curb ramps, into the play area, for accessibility.

Replacing the old and outdated play equipment at both playgrounds will allow for the greatest amount of flexibility when considering new designs and was deemed to be far superior to trying to retrofit in a repair or replacement of existing equipment.

Project Timeline

Staff will incorporate comments received following the presentation into a final set of project plans and specifications which will be brought before the Council in July, to authorize the advertisement for bids. Given the longer lead time for play equipment, the recommendation to advertise the project will also include authorization to proceed with purchasing the play equipment directly and providing it to the contractor as Town furnished material. This is to help get a jump on what is anticipated to be a 3-4 month lead-time on equipment. Construction should begin in October and finish by December 2024.

CEQA Requirements

The proposed project scope, which consists of the removal and replacement of existing play structures, tables and benches, is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 - Replacement or Reconstruction.

Financial and/or Policy Implications

The Town's adopted FY 2022-2023 Capital Improvements budget included \$275,000 in funding for the Sunrise Loomis Park Playground Replacement Project. Of this, \$177,952 was funded from the grant, and \$97,048 was funded from the Town's Park Development Fund. The recommended project construction budget is now estimated at \$450,000 which will require an additional appropriation of \$175,000. While the appropriation is not being requested at this time, there are sufficient funds in the Park Development Fund for this appropriation.

Attachments

None