

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report

Meeting: November 22, 2022

From: Public Works

Subject: Authorize a Request for Proposals for the Jade Street Park
Universally Accessible Playground Project



Recommended Action: Authorize the Public Works Department to issue a Request for Proposals for the design of a universally accessible playground at Jade Street Park.

Background: The FY 2022-23 Capital Improvement Program budget allocates \$275,000 toward the completion of a universally accessible (UA) playground at Jade Street Park. The proposed playground will replace an older existing playground that was installed in 1999 and updated in 2007. Parks maintenance staff have conducted routine inspections of the playground equipment over the course of its life. The inspections have documented increasing deterioration in the condition of the equipment over the past several years. This is consistent with the common expectation that playground equipment lasts 15-20 years on average. Ultraviolet light and environmental impacts cause the materials to degrade in this time span.

A renovated UA playground would provide recreation features and design elements that appeal to individuals of all abilities, including those with mobility, cognitive, developmental, sight and hearing impairments. The vision is for a community space that encourages individuals of all abilities to interact and play in an inclusive, fun, non-segregated setting.

Discussion: Based on preliminary research, staff has determined a comprehensive UA playground project at Jade Street park could cost approximately \$1,000,000. In an effort to help close the current significant funding gap staff met with the Friends of County Parks (Friends) about a potential fundraising campaign.

The Friends are a 501C3 non-profit whose mission is to “preserve, protect, improve and promote the use of Santa Cruz County parks and open spaces for recreational activities, arts and cultural activities to benefit all generations in our diverse community”. In collaboration with the County of Santa Cruz, the Friends has successfully fundraised for and constructed several park spaces throughout the County, including LEO’s Haven at Chanticleer Park, the County’s first UA playground. The Friends’ Board of Directors has conceptually approved partnering with the City on a fundraising effort for a UA playground at Jade Street Park, subject to approving a formal agreement with the City.

Before initiating a fundraising campaign, the Friends recommend preparation of a conceptual project design and solid project cost estimates. Staff is proposing the City now solicit proposals from park design firms, with the goal to begin fundraising in Fall 2023. The attached RFP proposes two phases of the design project, conceptual and final design.

The conceptual design phase will develop three preliminary concepts at different price points for Council review based on feedback from community outreach. The selected design will then be refined with additional detail, and cost estimate and renderings will be produced for use for fundraising purposes. At that time staff will propose a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Friends to move forward with the advertising and fundraising for the project. The MOU is anticipated for Council consideration in Summer 2023.

The final design phase, preparation of project plans, specifications and final cost estimate, will run concurrent with fundraising efforts. Dependent on fundraising efforts, construction may commence as early as Spring 2025.

Fiscal Impact: The conceptual design phase is estimated at \$50,000 and the final design phase estimated to \$25,000, for a total of \$75,000. \$275,000 has been allocated to this project in the FY 2022-23 Capital Improvement Program.

Attachments:

1. Draft Request for Proposals

Report Prepared By: Jessica Kahn, Public Works Director

Reviewed By: Julia Moss, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager