



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	11/12/2025
AGENDA SECTION:	New Business
SUBJECT:	<p>Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Resolution No. 11497 - A Resolution Approving the Name of Castle Park, Formerly Known as Folsom Kids Play Park ii. Resolution No. 11498 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sole Source Procurement from Leathers & Associates for Materials for the Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501) Community-Build for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$110,870 from the Parks & Recreation Equipment/Capital Fund (Fund 609) iii. Resolution No. 11499 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sole Source Procurement from Playground Plastics for Materials for the Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501) Community-Build for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$322,594 from the Parks & Recreation Equipment/Capital Fund (Fund 609)
FROM:	Parks and Recreation Department

RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL ACTION

The Parks & Recreation Department recommends that the City Council pass and adopt the following resolutions:

Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501)

- i. Resolution No. 11497 - A Resolution Approving the Name of Castle Park, Formerly Known as Folsom Kids Play Park
- ii. Resolution No. 11498 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sole Source Procurement from Leathers & Associates for Materials for the Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501) Community-Build for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$110,870 from the Parks & Recreation Equipment/Capital Fund (Fund 609)
- iii. Resolution No. 11499 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sole Source Procurement from Playground Plastics for Materials for the Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501) Community-Build for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$322,594 from the Parks & Recreation Equipment/Capital Fund (Fund 609)

BACKGROUND

Folsom Kids Play Park is located at 201 Prewett Drive, south of Oak Chan Elementary School in the Willow Creek Estates South neighborhood. The park is 2.1 acres and is home to a beloved castle-themed wooden playground designed by Robert Leathers and built by the community in 1996. The park was named after the community-led group that organized and led its initial construction, known as “Folsom Kids Play”.

The wooden play structures are almost 30 years old and have reached the end of their useful life. With replacement parts no longer available, the City has decided to completely replace the wooden play structures while staying within the original 13,000 square foot footprint.

The Folsom Kids Play Park - Play Structure Replacement Project includes community engagement, the creation of a new custom playground design, preparation of construction documents and specifications for the site improvements, and the construction phase. The construction phase includes site work such as pavement replacement, a new subsurface drainage system under the play structures, and a donor brick wall. The project includes a community-build of the new play structure.

POLICY / RULE

The Park Naming Policy, as adopted by Resolution No. 10696 – A Resolution to Rescind and Replace Resolution No. 5177 and Resolution No. 3951 to Create a New Park and Facility Naming Policy.

In accordance with Chapter 2.36.120 of the Folsom Municipal Code, contracts for supplies, equipment, services, and construction with an estimated value of \$75,049 or greater shall be awarded by the City Council.

ANALYSIS

Renaming the Park

Although the park’s official name is Folsom Kids Play Park, for years, the community has affectionately called it “Castle Park,” a nod to its iconic wooden castle-themed playground.

As part of the design process, two community workshops were held in June and July of this year, providing residents with the opportunity to share their ideas, priorities, and feedback on the future of the playground. During these workshops, participants were also invited to weigh in on the park’s name and consider whether it should be formally renamed “Folsom Castle Park.” Feedback was overwhelmingly supportive of the change, with a strong community consensus to officially adopt the name “Folsom Castle Park.”

Staff brought the recommendation to rename the park “Folsom Castle Park” to the Parks & Recreation Commission on October 7, 2025. At that meeting, a community member requested that the name be changed to simply “Castle Park.” A motion was made to change the recommendation from “Folsom Castle Park” to “Castle Park” and to forward the recommendation on to City Council for approval. The motion was passed unanimously.

Changing the name to “Castle Park” will align with the community’s long-standing nickname, honor its history, and celebrate its future. This moment offers an opportunity to reinvigorate community pride and strengthen the sense of ownership residents feel for this beloved destination, ensuring the park continues to be a source of connection and identity for generations to come.

Purchase of Play Structure Materials

The final play structure design was approved by city staff on October 7, 2025. Upon notification of the final design approval, the play structure designer, Leathers & Associates (L&A), sent the final materials list for the city to begin the material procurement process. Of that final materials list, there are specifically identified materials that will be sole-sourced with L&A and Playground Plastics.

A. Sole Source with Leathers & Associates

The playground equipment items that must be purchased directly through L&A as a sole source procurement are due to the proprietary nature of the design and fabrication process. These playground equipment items—such as custom slides, inclusive swing components, activity panels, and climbing structures—are manufactured exclusively for L&A by their designated production partners. The equipment is designed to integrate seamlessly with the custom play structures and layout developed by L&A. Substituting alternate components from other manufacturers would compromise the structural compatibility, safety compliance, and aesthetic consistency of the final playground build.

Purchasing directly through L&A ensures that all equipment meets the precise specifications established in the approved design drawings, maintains warranty eligibility, and complies with national playground safety and accessibility standards, including those established by the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Leathers & Associates’ quote for these materials is \$100,790.87 (**Attachment 4**). Staff recommend including a 10% contingency to account for any increases in freight from

when the quote was received to when the materials are ordered for a total not-to-exceed cost of \$110,870.

B. Sole Source with Playground Plastics

The purchase of materials and hardware from Playground Plastics is required as a sole source procurement to maintain compatibility with the final playground design prepared by L&A. The design specifies proprietary structural plastic lumber (PolyForce and TanDeck), ADA rail components, color-core pickets, and specialized fasteners that are custom-manufactured and supplied exclusively by Playground Plastics.

While there are many different types of plastics out there, few are considered to have structural integrity. For the use on playgrounds and in the manner in which Leathers & Associates playgrounds are designed and built, Playground Plastics is currently the only vendor with a product that meets the structural specifications required. Playground Plastics’ product has an external layer that encases the core and is comprised of the highest quality resins, pigments and UV-resistant additives, creating a durable, superior external finish with no compromises to beauty. It requires no waterproofing, staining or painting.

Because Playground Plastics’ components are designed to meet Leather & Associates’ exact structural, color, and safety standards integral to the final playground design, alternate products would be incompatible, potentially compromising both the aesthetic intent and ASTM/CPSC safety compliance. Substitutions would compromise fit, appearance, and performance, and may void the designer’s warranty.

For these reasons, sole sourcing through Playground Plastics is necessary to maintain design integrity, ensure safety compliance, and meet the construction schedule for the Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project. Playground Plastics’ quote for these materials is \$293,266.49 (**Attachment 5**). Staff recommend including a 10% contingency to account for any increase in freight from when the quote was received to when the materials are ordered for a total not-to-exceed cost of \$322,594.

C. Budget

The total cost of the park is estimated at \$1,067,230. The cost of the project is funded by three sources: Parks & Recreation Equipment/Capital Fund (Fund 609), Measure A Fund (Fund 276), and In-kind services and donations.

Castle Park Estimated Costs	
Parks & Recreation Equipment/Capital Fund (Fund 609)	\$ 778,688
Measure A Fund (Fund 276)	\$ 135,000
In-Kind Services and Donations	\$ 153,542
	\$ 1,067,230

The portion of the project being charged to Measure A includes ADA, and bike and pedestrian trailway system improvements. A future resolution will accompany the site work contract and request appropriation of Measure A Funds (Fund 276) for that portion of work.

The current project budget detail is summarized as follows:

Materials & Services by Funding Source			
Funding Source	Item	Cost	Notes
Parks & Recreation Equipment/Capital Fund (Fund 609)	Site Design & Engineering	\$164,835	Playground design, sitework design, topo survey
	Play Structure Materials Sole Sourced from Leathers	\$110,870	Components: slides, swings
	Play Structure Materials Sole Sourced from Playground Plastics	\$322,594	Composite lumber, hardware
	Site/Landscape Materials	\$7,576	Sand, Concrete for Footings, Geotextile fabric
	Additional Site Work	\$23,000	Subsurface drainage, donor brick wall, misc. electrical
	Safety surfacing	\$66,750	Engineered wood fiber
	Subtotal	\$695,625	
	Contingency	\$83,063	
	Total (Fund 609)	\$778,688	
Measure A Fund (Fund 276)	Concrete Pavement	\$135,000	ADA Requirement
	Total (Fund 276)	\$135,000	
Materials & Services Provided by Others			
Parks & Recreation	In-House Resources & Surplus Site Furnishing	\$43,000	Benches, drinking fountain, trash receptacles
Folsom Rotary/CSD	Demolition	\$20,000	
Public Works/Solid Waste	Waste & Recycling Services During Demo	\$20,527	
Folsom Kids Play - For Generations, Inc.	Agreed Upon Items	\$70,015	Poured in place resilient surfacing, concrete containment curb
	Total In-Kind	\$153,542	
	Project Total	\$ 1,067,230	

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501) is included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Improvement Plan with a project budget of \$800,000 in the Parks & Recreation Equipment/Capital Fund (Fund 609).

Sufficient funds are budgeted and available for these costs in the Parks & Recreation Equipment/Capital Fund (Fund 609).

A future resolution will accompany the site work contract and request appropriation of Measure A Funds (Fund 276) for that portion of work.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, replacing an existing playground is exempt from environmental review since the project involves minor alterations to an existing public facility with negligible or no expansion of use.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 11497 - A Resolution Approving the Name of Castle Park, Formerly Known as Folsom Kids Play Park
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3. Resolution No. 11499 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sole Source Procurement from Playground Plastics for Materials for the Folsom Kids Play Park – Play Structure Replacement Project (PK2501) Community-Build for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$322,594 from the Parks & Recreation Equipment/Capital Fund (Fund 609)
4. Leathers & Associates Cost Estimate
5. Playground Plastics Cost Estimate

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director