



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	8/12/2025
AGENDA SECTION:	Consent Calendar
SUBJECT:	Resolution No. 11444 - A Resolution Approving the Donation of Specified Pieces of the Original Folsom Kids Play "Castle" Park Play Structure to Folsom Kids Play - For Generations, Inc.
FROM:	Parks and Recreation Department

RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL ACTION

Staff recommend the City Council approve Resolution No. 11444 - A Resolution Approving the Donation of Specified Pieces of the Original Folsom Kids Play "Castle" Park Play Structure to Folsom Kids Play - For Generations, Inc. The donated materials would be used for two purposes: to be repaired and reinstalled in the park, or to be repurposed into lawn art and sold as part of the fundraising initiative to help rebuild the play structure.

BACKGROUND

Folsom Kids Play Park, known as Castle Park, is located at 201 Prewett Drive, just south of Oak Chan Elementary School in the Willow Creek Estates South neighborhood. Covering 2.1 acres, the park is home to the beloved castle-themed wooden playground "Castle Park," designed by Robert Leathers and built by the community in 1996.

Along with the wooden play structures, the park features many ceramic tile artworks, many of which were created during the original community-build. A commemorative wall and several pillars display hand-painted ceramic tiles that were purchased as part of the park's first fundraising campaign (Attachment 2). There are free-form concrete seat walls decorated with nature-themed tiles donated by Oak Chan Elementary School students (Attachment 3). And a sundial, set atop a concrete pedestal, showcases a "Folsom History" timeline rendered in hand-painted ceramic tiles painted by local artists.

Over time, some of the hand-painted tiles have faded or been damaged, and the wooden play structures have reached the end of their useful life. With repairs no longer practical and wood no longer considered ideal material for playgrounds, the city has made the decision to completely rebuild the play structures. The new design will use modern, durable materials while staying within the original 13,000-square-foot footprint.

The total estimated cost of the Kids Play Park Renovation Project (Project PK2501) is \$1.1 million. As part of the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget, the City Council approved \$800,000 toward the project out of the General Fund. The City Council agreed the \$300,000 shortfall would be provided by the 501(c)(3) organization, Folsom Kids Play – For Generations, Inc (FKPFG).

As part of their fundraising efforts, FKPFG proposed the idea of turning specific parts of the original wooden play structure into yard totems to sell to donors (Attachment 4). Orders would be collected in advance, and based on the number of sales, wood would be salvaged from the structure prior to its dismantling in September 2025. This would be a one-time opportunity exclusively for donors, with only the amount of wood needed to fulfill orders being reclaimed.

In addition to raising funds, FKPFG also aims to refurbish select wooden pieces from the original structure and some of the ceramic tiles that have begun to fade or have been damaged. These restored pieces will be potentially incorporated into the new playground design. Approximately 12 wood pieces are being removed from the structure by KPFG. These items include things such as the “Tot Lot” sign, the dragon, the doll houses etc. (Attachment 5). All identified pieces, both wood and ceramic, would be removed by FKPFG prior to the playground’s dismantling in September 2025. Any potential reinstallation of these pieces would need to be coordinated with and approved by staff. The timing would align with the community-build phase of the project and be carried out by FKPFG.

Staff feel that restoring and reusing these cherished elements is a meaningful way to honor the playground’s history by breathing new life into pieces that might otherwise be discarded.

POLICY / RULE

Folsom Municipal Code, Section 2.36.220 Per this code, the City Council may, by resolution, authorize the donation of surplus personal property, if the City Council finds that such donation serves a public purpose and/or benefit. All donations pursuant to this section shall be “as is” without warranty, express or implied, and the transferee shall agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the city, its officers and employees from any claim, cause of action, damage, loss or liability arising out of the condition of the property or its use by the organization or subsequent transferee. (Ord. 1132 § 2 (part), 2010)

ANALYSIS

By breathing new life into these original pieces, the project maintains a tangible connection to the past, preserving memories and stories that have shaped the playground’s unique character. This approach enriches the new playground’s design, making it a living tribute to the many hands and hearts that contributed to the original build.

Thoughtful stewardship also encourages donors and volunteers alike to feel a deeper sense of ownership and pride in the project, inspiring greater participation in both fundraising and the upcoming community-build.

This focus on sustainability and respect for the community's legacy does more than preserve important artifacts, it helps strengthen the ties that make the park a treasured gathering place for future generations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no direct financial impact to the City if City Council approves the donation of specified pieces of the original Folsom Kids Play Park play structure to Folsom Kids Play – For Generations, Inc. The donated pieces are intended to be sold by the organization, with the proceeds directed toward the future rebuilding of the play structure.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, donation of existing playground pieces that would otherwise be hauled off to a landfill 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. 11444 - A Resolution Approving the Donation of Specified Pieces of the Original Folsom Kids Play "Castle" Park Play Structure to Folsom Kids Play - For Generations, Inc.
2. Representative Photo of Wood Identified to be Used for Fundraising
3. Representative Photos of Ceramic Tiles from Commemorative Wall and Pillars
4. Representative Photos of Nature-Themed Ceramic Tiles from Free-Form Concrete Seat Walls
5. Representative Photos of Wood Elements Identified to be Refurbished and Potentially Reused in the New Playground Design

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director