



AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: November 15, 2022

Subject Request to use Park-In-Lieu Funds for purchase of playground shade structures at the Los Altos Community Center and McKenzie Park and approve purchase from Ross Recreation Equipment

Prepared by: Manny A. Hernandez, Parks & Recreation Director

Approved by: Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

Attachment(s):

1. Los Altos Community Center Shade Plan
2. McKenzie Park Shade Plan

Initiated by:

Staff

Previous Council Consideration:

None

Fiscal Impact:

The following project will cost \$92,198.09 and for the purchase and installation of shade structures over the small playground at the Community Center and the 5-12 playground at McKenzie Park.

- Breakdown of funds to be used :
 - o \$92,198.09 Park In Lieu
- Amount already included in approved budget: No
- Amount above budget requested: 0

Environmental Review:

Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA section 15301 – Existing Facilities consisting of the operation, or minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

City Manager

GE

Reviewed By:

City Attorney

JH

Finance Director

JE



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- Does Council wish to appropriate funding from the Park-In-Lieu fund to purchase and install shade structures over the playgrounds at the Community Center and McKenzie Park 5-12 playground to reduce the direct sun and heat on the play surfaces?
 - Does Council feel there is an adequate amount of funding available in the Park-In-Lieu fund to use for this project?

Summary:

- The playground structure surfaces at the Community Center and McKenzie Park are in direct sunlight for a majority of the day and can get very hot during the summer months.
- Parks & Recreation staff received several complaints during the summer regarding the temperature of the playground surfaces at these two locations.
- Periods of high temperature seem to start earlier and continue later in recent years.
- There is funding available in Park-In-Lieu for this purchase while still having an adequate amount for upcoming parks projects.

Staff Recommendation:

- 1) Approve use of Park-In-Lieu funds for the purchase and installation of shade structures over the playgrounds at the Los Altos Community Center and McKenzie Park.
- 2) Approve the purchase and installation of shade structures in the amount of \$92,198.09 that was submitted as the lowest responsible proposal from Ross Recreation Equipment.

Purpose

To purchase and install shade structures at the Los Altos Community Center and McKenzie Park 5-12 playgrounds through the use of Park-In-Lieu funds in the total amount of \$92,198.09.

Background

The Los Altos Community Center playground was built along with the new Community Center at 97 Hillview Avenue and opened in October 2021. This public playground is age appropriate for children 2-5 years old and is also frequented by the Parks & Recreation's Tiny Tots program, immediately adjacent to the playground.

With no mature trees nearby for shade, the Community Center playground is in direct sunlight the entire day. This causes the plastic surfaces of the play structure to sometimes become too hot for kids to comfortably play on. In the planning of the new Community Center, a shade structure was considered, but later removed for value engineering purposes. After evaluation through the first summer of the facility being open, staff feels a shade structure is needed for comfortable use.



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The 5-12 playground (Appropriate for ages 5-12 years) was installed in 2007. There are mature trees in the park, but the playground is situated in a way that it is exposed to the sun for a good portion of the day, causing the slide surfaces to become extremely hot. The slide surfaces seemed extremely hot this year. Staff is recommending a shade structure at this location based upon observation and public complaints. The shade structure for this playground is slightly different in that it will be attached to the high poles of the playground platform. This playground is scheduled for replacement in fiscal year 23/24, but the shade structure will be able to be used in the same manner with new playground replacement components.

Discussion/Analysis

The Park-In-Lieu fund currently has funds available to cover the cost of the purchase and installation of shade structures at the Community Center and McKenzie Park. In 2022, staff received calls and emails from the public confirming the observations of excessively hot playground surfaces at these two locations. It is being recommended that the use of Park-In-Lieu funds is appropriate for this project.

The Community Center playground is a popular destination for children ages 2-5 years. It is a new playground that has an adjacent sand pit and is enclosed by a low-level fence. The playground enclosure was designed to provide parents with security that children would not run off suddenly to the parking lot. This playground is also frequently used by the Tiny Tots program that takes place Monday-Friday in the Acorn room, just steps away.

McKenzie Park has two playgrounds in the large park area, behind the City's Maintenance Service Center, that includes restrooms, open space and is lined with mature trees. The larger playground that is for children ages 5-12 years old, has the slides exposed to the sun through an opening in the tree line of the park. This heats up the slides and makes them very hot to the touch. The proposed shade structure would reduce the time it is in direct sun and make it more comfortable for children to play on.

Park in Lieu fees may be used for the purpose of developing new or rehabilitating existing park or recreational facilities such as the addition of sun shades at the Community Center and McKenzie Park within the City because: (1) the neighborhoods in which the fees are to be expended has fewer than three acres of park area per 1,000 members of the City; (2) is reasonably foreseeable that City residents will use the proposed park and recreational facilities where the fees are being used; (3) the use of the fees is consistent with the City's adopted general plan and park master plan; and (4) the fees are used in compliance Los Altos Municipal Code Section 13.24.010. The amount requested for the purchase and installation of the two shade structures is \$92,198.09 through the



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lowest responsible proposal from Ross Recreation Equipment. The use of this amount from the Park-In-Lieu fund will not impact upcoming planned parks projects at this time.

Recommendation

The staff recommends:

- 1) Council approve use of Park-In-Lieu funds in the amount of \$92,198.09 for the purchase and installation of shade structures over the playgrounds at the Los Altos Community Center and McKenzie Park.
- 2) Approve the purchase and installation of shade structures from Ross Recreation Equipment in the amount of \$92,198.09 that was submitted as the lowest responsible proposal.