



Arts, Culture & Heritage Commission Staff Report

Date: October 18, 2023

From: Erika Valentine, Arts & Culture Program Coordinator

Subject: Boones Ferry Park Project Overview

Recommended Action:

Receive the information about the Boones Ferry Park Project and discuss.

Background:

In August 2017, the City Council approved an amendment of the contract for the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan with GreenPlay, LLC. Parks and Recreation staff recommended expanding the scope of the contract to include developing a master plan for [Boones Ferry Park](#) that incorporates the adjacent 5-acre, Willamette River frontage property formerly owned by the Duckworth family and acquired by the City in 2015.

The purpose of the [Boones Ferry Park Master Plan](#) (adopted in 2018) project was to advise the City Council, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and City Staff on how the park is currently functioning and to set the course for future use. Currently, the park is utilized for drop-in uses of the playground, open lawn area and basketball court. The park is home to the [Tauchman House](#), a popular location for City-sponsored programs and private rentals.

To help develop the plan, the City hired GreenPlay, LLC, a national firm based in Colorado with extensive experience across the U.S. facilitating, researching and developing similar parks and recreation master plans. Design Concepts, a landscape architecture and planning firm based in Colorado, is the sub-contractor for the project.

A key point of the masterplan is that “the theme of the playground will evoke the history of travelling on the river.” While the current playground design does feature elements relating to the river, options were both limited and expensive when working within the confines and goals of playground equipment design.

The current playground design will be a universal design, which will give community members, of all abilities, from across Wilsonville and the region a place to play, explore, and grow.

The current Boones Ferry Playground is 26 years old lacks the inclusive play amenities and universal design that is desired within Wilsonville’s regional parks. The new playgrounds focus on universal design, brings play for all to the community.

Universal design can be thought of as the intersection of inclusivity, accessibility and usability for community members regardless of age, disability or other factors. The new Boones Ferry playground brings this vision of universal design to Boones Ferry Park.

Inclusive items include a wheel chair accessible spinner (inclusive orbit) that can directly utilized for those in mobility devices. A companion swing (Konnection Swing) where caregivers and park enthusiast can enjoy the movement of swinging together. The playground also includes a sensory play element

(Movement Inclusive) where kids can learn cognitive skills through cooperative play. The Boones Ferry playground will also be the first in the city to feature site fencing. The fencing makes it possible for community members to have a fun and safe play space without the worry of kids wandering off.

The Boones Ferry playground features unitary turf surfacing, which allows accessibility to the entirety of the playground. The turf surfacing ensures that all members of the community regardless of physical ability can interact and play within the entirety of the playground area. A unique style of slide called a roller slide does not generate static electricity; this allows users with cochlear implants to experience the thrill of sliding.

The final element of universal design, usability, is achieved through bringing forward elements of play and community building for all. A climbing spinner (Rev8) allows twenty-five users to play together as they spin and climb on this incredible play item. A thoughtful layout of playground components and seating ensures that when the playground is a hub of community building there is space to enjoy for all users.

In addition to the completely redone and relocated playground, there will be new parking, new walking path, new restrooms, new landscaping, etc.

While Parks Maintenance staff are very excited and proud of the plan for universal design in regards to the playground, they do not want to lose sight of the goal to include a nod to the history of travelling on the river. Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Dustin Schull, approached Arts & Culture Program Coordinator, Erika Valentine, about Boones Ferry Park being a future site of Public Art to implement the theme of travelling on the river, as interpreted by an artist(s).

The City is already making a great investment in this park to completely redo it, so this would be a great location for public art. There will be multiple locations that are feasible for public art, giving an artist flexibility to conceptualize the space and create a site specific piece(s), as well as creatively interpret art that evokes the history of traveling on the river.

Additional reasons that staff feel this site and project will be a positive first permanent public art project to be undertaken by the ACHC include:

- The ACHC is housed within the Parks & Recreation Department, making collaboration and communication effective as the site location is a Park and managed by the Parks & Recreation Department.
- The site is of historic significance, so the project and theme touches on the heritage component of the ACHC
- The site does not currently have any public art.
- The Park will be brand new, so installation of a new piece of public art would align
- The proximity to the river will provide visual interest and inspiration to the artist(s)
- Park visitors include those for the river, trails, Tauchman house, playground, etc. so it will be highly used and the piece will be very visible.

Timeline:

Construction of the park is expected to begin in the spring of 2024. The Public Art component would begin with an RFQ process, starting around the fall of 2024, pending budget allocations for the 24/25 fiscal year.

Attachments:

1. Overhead Image
2. Playground Image

