



## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**

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August 12, 2021  
Item 5

### **TITLE: REVIEW THE ALL-ABILITIES PLAYGROUND CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS PRESENTATION AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK**

#### **SUMMARY**

In late 2017, residents with special needs family members approached the City to request an all-abilities playground in Pleasanton. Community engagement and design work for the project was approved by City Council in September 2020.

Together with the design firm, RRM Design Group, staff held six stakeholder meetings, one community outreach meeting, and conducted a survey to gather public feedback. Two conceptual designs were created based on the input received. Upon review by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the designs will be shared with various commissions and updated for several community outreach meetings. Ultimately, one conceptual design will be created and presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission as part of the All-Abilities Playground Master Plan for their consideration and recommendation to the City Council for final approval.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Review the all-abilities playground concept designs presentation and provide feedback.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

There is no financial impact resulting from this presentation. Currently there is \$400,000 budgeted for design work for this project in the Capital Improvement Program budget.

## **BACKGROUND**

In late 2017, residents with special needs family members came to City staff to request an all-abilities playground in Pleasanton. In February 2019, these same residents attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to recommend an all-abilities playground as a priority for the 2019-2021 budget cycle. Based upon this input, the all-abilities playground was unanimously recommended as the Parks and Recreation Commission's number one priority for the 2019-2021 budget cycle. In April 2019, the City Council adopted the all-abilities playground as a priority.

At the January 9, 2020 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the commissioners voted unanimously to recommend that City Council explore an all-abilities playground at Ken Mercer Sports Park. At the September 1, 2020 City Council meeting, the City Council voted to approve the design process for an all-abilities playground at Ken Mercer Sports Park.

Funds were budgeted for the project under CIP Project No. 20773. Through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) selection process, the City selection committee chose RRM Design Group as the most qualified firm to prepare the All-Abilities Playground Master Plan.

The design firm, RRM, and the City have held six stakeholder meetings (Sunflower Hill, Pleasanton Rotary North, PUSD- PTA Special Needs Committee, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, the Pleasanton Friends of the Senior Center and the Parks and Recreation Commission), one community outreach meeting, and conducted one community outreach survey.

RRM and staff have compiled all the feedback received at the various meetings and via the survey and created two conceptual designs based on the input received.

## **DISCUSSION**

The two designs are meant to be interchangeable so that items in option one can be placed in option two and vice versa.

### **Option 1 Playground Description (Pleasanton's Rise Playground):**

This inspirational playground encourages bravery, confidence, and the joy of lifting up others. Through a variety of play and sensory experiences that encourage inclusion, it inspires all who visit to "rise" up like the birds in the wind, the sun, the moon and the stars.

#### **Design Features:**

- Entry area with Pleasanton arch replica
- Large main play area that could include a bird, nest or other large soaring feature that could be interacted with in a variety of ways, i.e.: climbing, swinging, ziplining, and/or sliding
- Quiet areas
- Additional picnic areas
- Music area

- Fitness Zone
- Bankshot basketball area
- Large climbing structure for older youth
- Sensory Play area

#### Option 2 Playground Description (Pride of Pleasanton Playground):

This playground concept celebrates the park's green, lush setting, and undulations. It encourages users to discover nature through organic shapes, natural materials and textures, and a variety of adventures and challenges along the way. This concept will also include interpretive play features that highlight the unique character of Pleasanton.

#### Design Features:

- Entry area with Pleasanton Arch replica
- Large main play area that could include replica Kottinger Barn, or other key historic building in Pleasanton that could be interacted with in a variety of ways i.e.: climbing, swinging, ziplining, and/or sliding
- Fitness area
- Nature themed play areas that could include mounds, sand, and sensory play
- Additional picnic areas with shelter
- Challenge course for older youth
- Quiet areas
- Artistic shade structures
- Music area

Both options will include additional accessible parking stalls, a drop-off and loading/unloading zone, and new parking stalls. As proposed, the loss in parking due to the additional accessible stalls and loading zone are expected to balance with the new parking stalls for a net-zero gain in parking in the parking lot immediately adjacent to the all-abilities playground. However, with the projected addition of parking for the skatepark project, there will be an approximate gain of 20+ parking stalls.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is considered the key stakeholder for this project. Staff is looking for the commission to:

1. Review the two conceptual designs and provide input regarding the design prior to the upcoming community engagement and commission meetings.
2. Provide recommendations on locations/events that the conceptual designs could be displayed, and feedback could be garnered.

Once the concept plans are updated, staff and the design firm will hold at least one community outreach meeting in Ken Mercer Sports Park, engage with the community at a minimum of one Farmers Market, present the designs and receive feedback at the September Youth Commission and Human Services Commission meetings, and conduct another community wide survey with the updated concepts.

At completion of the community wide engagements a final conceptual design will be created, incorporated into the draft All-Abilities Playground Master Plan, and presented

to the Parks and Recreation Commission for feedback and recommendation to the City Council for final approval by the end of 2021.

Submitted by:



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Attachments:

1. All-Abilities Playground Conceptual Design Option 1 (Pleasanton's Rise Playground)
2. All-Abilities Playground Conceptual Design Option 2 (Pride of Pleasanton Playground)
3. All-Abilities Playground Parking Exhibit