



London N. Breed, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

Esprit Park Renovation Project- FAQs

December 11, 2020

1. What is the timeline for the project?

The project is currently in the Planning Phase, which is anticipated to be complete by early 2021. The other phases are as follows.

Construction Documents- Spring 2021-Winter 2022

Bid/Award- Spring 2022-Summer 2022

Construction- Fall 2022-Summer 2023

2. Will the park be out of service for one year during the construction phase?

During Construction the entire park will be closed.

3. Are there any improvements planned for the park during the ongoing phases of the project?

There will be regular maintenance and upkeep to the park prior to the start of construction. Additionally, the gardening staff will be testing various understory plants to help inform the development of the final plant palette.

4. What are the maintenance closures for the park?

The maintenance closures depend on usage and design.

- Perimeter of the park including the picnic areas and fitness areas are not anticipated to have any regular planned closures after the renovation.
- If the park design includes a dog-free/family meadow, it is not anticipated to need regular closure based on staff's experience with passive lawns. It is possible this could change depending on intensity of usage. If closures are needed, they would most likely be in the winter months when the soil may be saturated and to allow rest and/or re-seeding of the meadow.
- If the park design includes an on-leash meadow, it is likely that partial rotating closures will be needed between Fall-Spring months for turf regeneration.
- If the park design includes a natural grass dog play area, it is anticipated to be closed during the winter months. During the Fall and Spring months there will be rotating partial closures based on weather and usage.
- If the park design includes a synthetic turf dog play area, that area would not require closure for routine maintenance and would remain open year-round.

5. How does Rec Park clean synthetic turf?

Synthetic turf is rinsed daily by an automatic irrigation system. Additionally, staff does either spot cleaning or deep cleaning as appropriate. We encourage all users to pick up after their dogs in all areas no matter what the surface material is.



6. Why is the project taking so long? Can we expedite it?

We have been working to incorporate the community's input and feedback to ensure we develop a design that meets the needs of the community. We are moving closer to completing this phase and beginning construction documentation. We are currently working expeditiously to move forward and get to construction.

7. What other park projects are happening in the neighborhood?

Jackson Park (0.8 miles) is the nearest Rec Park facility planned for renovation. Potrero Hill Recreation Center (0.8 miles) was renovated in 2019. The Port of San Francisco recently opened Crane Cove Park (0.3 miles).

There are additional parks within walking distance of Esprit Park. The creation of Mariposa Park (0.3 miles) was subsidized by UCSF. SFMTA and the Green Benefit District partner to maintain the Woods Yard children's play area (0.2 miles). The Green Benefit District manages Progress Park (0.5 miles) and Minnesota Grove (0.6 miles).

8. How many other off-leash dog play areas are in the City?

There are 31 other designated dog play areas in the City that are maintained by Rec Park. Please visit our [website](#) for more information on our off-leash dog play areas. There are additional areas operated by different entities. We are also posting a map of other dog play areas in the neighborhood.

9. Are dog walkers allowed to use non-fenced dog play areas?

Yes. Dog play area information and rules can be found our [website](#).

10. Are funds available for ongoing/future maintenance of natural grass?

No, Rec Park does not have any specialized funds for this.

There have been discussions in the community about the possibility of neighborhood groups, especially those who have advocated for off-leash dogs and natural grass, assisting in raising funds to augment maintenance. The Green Benefit District has also indicated it might help.

11. Have you considered using natural native grass plugs like Alamo Square uses on the hillsides?

Rec Park will work with Fletcher Studio to select the grass species for the meadow. It will likely be a blend of Bermuda and Perennial Rye that tolerates foot-traffic. No-mow grass species such as those on the hillside at Alamo Square are not as tolerant to heavy use.

12. How will you enforce an off-leash dog play area?

A designated dog play area will provide an opportunity for dogs to be off leash in a defined space. We will work to educate patrons on the park rules and usage, use signage and Ranger assistance if necessary.

13. Are families with dogs allowed in the "family meadow"?

There are varying options that have been proposed for consideration. The different use options include dog-free, on-leash and off leash dog play area. Families with dogs are welcome in an on-leash meadow, an off-leash dog play area, and on-leash in the picnic areas and paths. The family meadow proposed is a dog-free/family meadow designated for humans only.

14. Is there an option to put a fence around the off-leash dog area to enforce the different areas of use?

There has been considerable discussion on fencing in the park and the general response from the community has been unsupportive of fencing for aesthetic reasons and because there is a concern that fencing may attract folks bringing numerous dogs at a time. For this reason, we have included other landscaping tools such as berms and seat walls to help delineate different areas of use. We understand that some people may still prefer to have fences to help delineate uses. We also recognize that some fencing or physical barrier may be necessary in certain areas to protect plantings and minimize potential conflicts.

We encourage people to leave their preferences in the online survey that is currently open.

15. Would you consider raised, mounded surfaces and some boulders to delineate spaces?

Yes! That is what we are proposing in all the plan options.

16. How does Esprit compare in size to other parks with off-leash dog play areas?

Park	Alamo Square	Dolores Park	Duboce Park	Esprit Park
Park Size (Acres)	12.7	15.5	4.8	2.2
Dog Play Area Size (Sq. Ft.)	170,000*	102,676	50,000	18,500 North Meadow 16,100 South Meadow

*This includes all areas of the DPA, not just the mowed areas, which are 123,660SF.

**4 of the plan options show the DPA in the north. 1 plan option shows it in the south.

17. Do you have a summary of how the current exercise stations are used? Will you do more outreach to those who use the exercise stations?

We don't have a usage summary, but we understand how the equipment is used based on its design and observations. We are happy to hear from folks who are using the exercise stations and we will do more targeted outreach when we are finalizing the designs of the new equipment.

18. Is a "no-dog" area allowed? Is there a precedent for it?

Yes, we have a no-dog meadow at Duboce Park. Our parks include lots of spaces where dog use is restricted such as sport courts, athletic fields, children's playgrounds, and inside buildings. Service animals are welcome in otherwise dog restricted areas.

19. Is there a plan option that does not include off-leash dogs?

Yes, it is option U.

20. Will the survey determine the outcome of the final design and meadow usage?

The survey is designed to collect feedback from the community. The community's feedback will inform and influence the final design of the park and the uses incorporated in the meadow. Beyond the survey,

we have also received feedback from community meetings, neighborhood organization meetings, other surveys and conversations & e-mails with community members.

Based on all the input, as well as input from the design team and from our Operations & Maintenance Divisions, staff will make a recommendation on the final design of the plan. The recommendation will be presented to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department Commission for approval.

The community will be informed of the recommendation prior to the Commission hearing.

21. How do we contact Rec Park staff?

Please email any questions to Project Manager, Alexis Ward at alexis.ward@sfgov.org.