



Mayor Mark Farrell  
Phil Ginsburg, General Manager

**Date:** February 7, 2018

**To:** Recreation and Park Commission  
Capital Committee

**Through:** Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

**From:** Lisa Bransten, Director of Partnerships

**Subject:** Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory School - Grant Acceptance

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**Agenda Wording:**

Discussion and possible action to: 1) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to accept and expend a grant of \$1,300,000 from Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory School to help fund the installation of synthetic turf at James P. Lang Field at Margaret Hayward Playground, and 2) approve a Grant Acceptance Agreement between the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory School.

**Strategic Plan References:**

**Strategy 1: Inspire Public Space** - Keep today's parks safe, clean, and fun; promote our parks' historic and cultural heritage; and build the great parks of tomorrow.

**Objective 1.2:** Strengthen the quality of existing parks and facilities

**Strategy 2: Inspire Play** – Promote active living, well-being and community for San Francisco's diverse and growing population.

**Objective 2.2:** Strengthen and promote the safety, health and well-being of San Francisco's youth and seniors.

**Strategy 3: Inspire Investment** - Through community engagement, advocacy, and partnerships, cultivate more financial resources to keep San Francisco's parks and programs accessible for all.

**Objective 3.3:** Cultivate increased philanthropic support.

**Background:**

Margaret S. Hayward Playground is an approximately 6-acre park bordered by Golden Gate Avenue to the North, Gough Street to the east, Turk Street to the south and Laguna Street to the West and includes a number of recreational facilities including the James P. Lang Athletic Field on the park's eastern side. The park is slated to undergo a redesign and renovation later this year after months of community engagement about the design.



As part of the full park renovation, there was a desire by park stakeholders to replace the existing sports field lawn with synthetic turf. Such a transformation would allow the field to be open year-round and for much longer periods of time each day, thus dramatically increasing the hours of possible play each year. For example, currently the field is closed until 3pm each day and closed entirely from November 15<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>. With synthetic turf, the field could be open all year and also open from 7am to 10pm, thus allowing as much as 3,000 more hours of play per year.

Unfortunately, given the enormous amount of construction work necessary on other parts of this renovation, there was not sufficient funding in the project to fund the installation of synthetic turf. To fill this funding gap, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory School (SHCP), which is located close to the field on Gough Street, has offered to contribute \$1.3 million to the project for the purpose of installing synthetic turf at Lang Field.

The Department cannot grant restrictive use of the fields to any party, but the installation of synthetic turf will benefit SHCP and several other neighborhood schools by affording them the possibility of additional usage of the nearby fields when they otherwise would have been closed. Also, since the Department works to permit fields to nearby schools and SHCP is a heavy existing user of Lang field, this grant will likely afford the school some benefit because it will be accessible for more days per year and not subject to many weather closures.

Overall the grant will allow the installation of synthetic turf at Lang field, which will go some way to furthering the Department's ongoing efforts to meet San Franciscan's heavy demand for athletic fields.

**Financial Impact**

\$1.3 million

**Supported by:**

Supervisor London Breed  
Recreation and Park Department management and staff  
America Scores Bay Area

**Opposed by:**

No known at this time

**Attachment:**

Grant Acceptance Agreement