

Daniel Lurie, Mayor



Kat Anderson, Commission President
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

Date: October 16, 2025
To: Recreation and Park
Capital Committee

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Lisa Bransten, Director of Partnerships
Stacy Bradley, Director of Capital and Planning

From: Warwin C. Davis, Assistant Project Manager

Subject: Koshland Park – Community Garden Concept Plan Approval

Agenda Wording

Discussion and possible action to approve a conceptual design for the Koshland Park Community Garden Improvements Project. Approval of this proposed action by the Commission is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

Strategic Plan References

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

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

Strategy 3 – Inspire Investment: Through community engagement, advocacy, and partnerships, cultivate more resources to keep parks accessible for all.

Objective 3.3: Cultivate increased philanthropic support.

Project Background

Koshland Park, located in the Western Addition, includes natural areas, a lawn, half basketball court, children’s play area, paths, and an active community garden. The Geballe Family, a branch of the Koshland family, is funding improvements with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) serving as fiscal sponsor for design.

The project will be delivered in two phases – one phase to address deferred maintenance needs and the second to improve access to the community garden. The community garden improvements proposed in the concept plan meet community priorities by adding more gardening space and new planter boxes,



improving terracing along the north side of the garden, improving garden infrastructure and creating ADA accessible pathways throughout the garden.

Community Outreach

- Public Meeting & Survey (07/23/2024): RPD and partners hosted a community meeting (approx. 7–10 attendees) and an online/hard-copy survey with 83 responses. Top priorities received from public responses included creating more usable space, adding garden beds, and improving visibility. Two conceptual design options were presented, and the option that was advanced better addressed safety and visibility concerns on the north side of the park.
- Follow-up Engagement (09/09/2025): A final community meeting was held to present the finalized concept and project next steps, with emphasis on access, safety, and clear communication about sequencing and funding.

Proposed Concept Design

The community garden improvements address site access, visibility to and from the park, and increase functionality within the community garden while respecting existing site constraints.

The design includes:

- A compliant accessible path of travel through the garden, with targeted site grading and surface improvements for safe, inclusive access.
- Small landscape walls, railings and path edging (garden seating, wooden deck, landscape planting and soil improvements).
- Drainage design coordinated to reuse existing on-site systems to the extent feasible to ensure proper site drainage.
- The refined layout reduces areas with low visibility, opens sightlines on the north side, and provides a more legible, secure circulation pattern.
- New low retaining walls ($\leq 3'-6''$), decking with seating supported by new footings, raised planter structures, and soil/lightweight fill management (geofoam) to protect the existing eastern wall.

Along with the community garden improvements identified above, RPD staff will also be managing additional modifications to the park. These improvements are shared in the Grant Agreement Staff Report and summarized here: fencing replacement for failing and unsightly existing fencing; additional fencing to support park maintenance; refurbishment or replacement of park furniture in disrepair, replacement of the picket fence separating the community garden from the park with a security fence to improve conditions in the community garden; resurfacing the basketball court; replacement of resilient surfacing and replenishment of sand in the children's play area, and accessibility improvements along pathways.

Financial Impact

Project design and construction are privately funded. Staff and the donor anticipated a total private investment of approximately \$1.625 million for community-garden improvements and other park improvements, including design, project management, and contingencies.

Environmental Review

Categorical Exemption # 2025-007322ENV under CEQA was received on 09/08/2025.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend approval of the concept plan for the Koshland Park Community Garden.

Supported By

- Department Staff & Koshland Park Community Gardeners
- Trust for Public Land
- CommunityGrows
- The Koshland/Geballe Family

Opposition

No known opposition for the concept design.

Attachments

- A. Concept Plan
- B. Categorical Exemption 2025-007322ENV (CatEx)
- C. Letters of Support