



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

**Date:** December 6, 2017

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

**Through:** Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager  
Toke Ajike, Acting Director Capital & Planning Division

**From:** Jackie Ho, Project Manager, Capital & Planning Division

**Subject:** West Portal Playground – Conceptual Design

### **Agenda Item Wording**

West Portal Playground – Conceptual Design: Discussion and possible action to approve the conceptual design for West Portal Playground, a Let’s PlaySF! Initiative project. Approval of this proposed action by the Commission is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

### **Strategic Plan**

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.

### **Project Background and Description**

West Portal Playground is in the West Portal neighborhood, (Supervisory District 7) located at Ulloa Street and Lenox Way in the City. The overall park and project area is approximately 1.91 acres in size. The park is surrounded on the north side by West Portal Elementary School, on the south side by the West Portal Station on Ulloa Street, on the east side by Lenox Way, and on the west side by residential buildings.

West Portal Playground Renovation Project is part of two Clean and Safe



Neighborhood Parks Bond programs – Community Opportunity Fund and the Let’s Play SF! (the initiative born out of the Failing Playgrounds program). The project is part of a partnership between the Recreation and Park Department, Supervisor Norman Yee and the District 7 Office, the San Francisco Parks Alliance, and the Friends of West Portal Playground (FWPP).

FWPP embarked on a mission to “reimagine, redesign, and renovate” the “well-used but run-down playground.” In their Community Opportunity Fund application, FWPP state that the playground’s facilities and grounds receive a great deal of use, but are in disrepair; and that the proposed improvement plan considers ways in which to increase safety for the playground and increase its usability for users of all ages.

The failing playgrounds task force found that there is presence of pressure treated wood and other factors led the task force to consider this playground a priority for renovation. The task force considers this playground a Tier 2 of the Let’s Play SF! Initiative.

### **Community Process**

The outreach process was mainly conducted during the Community Opportunity Fund program application process. Between January – March 2014, FWPP sponsored a series of public workshops to develop a community-supported conceptual plan.

On November 20, 2014, the Recreation and Park Commission adopted Resolution No. 1411-005 authorizing RPD to proceed with design development and any required environmental review for improvements to 5 projects, including West Portal Playground Renovation, in accordance with recommendations from the selection committee for the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Community Opportunity Fund Project.

On September 14, 2017, Department and DPW staff held an open house in the playground’s clubhouse to share the concept designs with the public. Attendees includes FWPP, staff of the District 7 Office, Parks Alliance staff, and members of the public.

### **Proposed Playground Renovation Plan**

The intent of the proposed renovation is to: 1) redesign to the play structure space; 2) remove planters to repair water proofing below, to address ongoing leaks, and to provide improved seating; 3) add a nature nook to the field space featuring native plants; and 4) improve general aesthetic and safety for the playground.

### **Project Schedule**

On June 8, 2017, General Manager Ginsburg, Department executive staff, Drew Becher, FWPP, and a representative from District 7 Office met to discuss the playground budget and how best to move forward with the project. During this meeting, all parties agreed to form a steering committee and agreed to move forward with completing design with the public funds secured with Rec Park. Anticipated schedule to complete design and construction document packet by fall 2018. After playground design is complete, the steering committee will review cost estimates for construction against available funds and fund-raising efforts, and determine next steps.

### **Sources & Uses of Funding**

Sources in Hand for Design Phase

\$500,000 COF Award Round 4, 2014  
\$350,000 General Fund Add-Backs FY 2014-17 (Supervisor Yee)  
\$300,000 Set aside for COF soft costs, 2014  
\$1,150,000 TOTAL

Potential Sources for Construction

\$147,000 FWPP fundraising pledge for construction  
\$1,475,000 Potential support from City Fund Sources and the LPSF initiative

**Environmental Review**

The project has been reviewed by the Planning Department and was issued a Categorical Exemption.

**Staff Recommendation**

Department Staff recommends approval of the conceptual design to renovate the playground at West Portal Playground.

**Supported By**

Supervisor Norman Yee  
Department staff  
San Francisco Parks Alliance  
Friends of West Portal Playground  
Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association  
West Portal Merchants Association  
West Portal Elementary School, 21 letters of support from students  
approximately 160 community members

**Opposed By:**

None known at this time

**Attachments:**

Exhibit A: Conceptual Plan for West Portal Playground  
Exhibit B: Support Letters  
Exhibit C: CEQA Determination