



Agenda Report

City Council

Date: May 24, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Parnell Park Ad Hoc Committee

Subject: Parnell Park Renovation and Improvement Project – Design Concept

RECOMMENDATION

Provide recommendations on the conceptual design for the Parnell Park Renovation and Improvement Project.

BACKGROUND

Parnell Park, located originally at 10711 Scott Avenue, is a 12.8-acre park in a residential neighborhood between Lambert Road and Mulberry Drive. The Park was developed in 1967 after the City purchased the 6.4 acres from the Parnell Preparatory School for Girls and acquired an additional 6.4 acres from the County. The current Parnell Park Community and Senior Center now resides at 15390 Lambert Road and includes traditional amenities such as picnic tables, barbecues, a play area with play equipment, one basketball court, restrooms, and three parking lots. There is minimal security lighting in and around the park. In addition, there is a softball diamond, a spray pool, farm animal zoo and a recreation facility offering classes, trainings, events, and sports classes.

The playground equipment was last upgraded in 2009, including installation of rubberized surfacing. Due to wear and tear, the existing rubberized surfacing does not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements or current “fall zone” safety standards. Playground equipment has begun to crack and chip and no longer meets the current play styles of children and youth. Under regular conditions the playground usage is estimated at 8,000-10,000 children annually.

On March 9, 2021, City Council approved the filing for a statewide park development and community revitalization program grant, to begin seeking funds to renovate Parnell Park. The application process was multifaceted and required community outreach and input of the project. The community had several opportunities to submit surveys to include their desired amenities or changes to the Parnell Park site. Sports fields, an ‘all-abilities’ playground, splash pad, new restrooms, fitness equipment, walking path, lighting, and updated landscape and irrigation were the most requested items. We were notified on December 8, 2021, that our project application was not selected for funding.

On October 15, 2021, Senator Bob Archuleta presented City Council with the official notification, that through the state budget process, budget trailer bills AB 170 and SB 170 included \$5,019,000.00 as designated grant funds to be awarded to the City of Whittier

through the State of California, Specific Grant process for the Parnell Park Renovation and Improvement Project.

On November 9, 2021, City Council approved Resolution No. 2021-87 to begin the process to accept the grant and authorize the City Manager to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents necessary for the completion of the grant. The State of California agreement has been executed for the project.

Guided by the prior public outreach process and previous consideration by City Council, the following items are proposed for the Specific Grant for the Parnell Park renovation:

- Youth Sports Fields, lighting, and ancillary improvements
- Playground and Rubberized Surfacing
- Fitness Par Course
- New Restroom Facility
- Splash Pad

On February 8, 2022 City Council awarded the Concept design services contract to SWA-Laguna Beach for the following scope items:

- Project vision and programming.
- Meeting with Client to discuss project goals.
- Conceptual hardscape design.
- Conceptual planting design.
- Conceptual location and character of site furnishings, amenities, play features, sports facilities, and signage, as applicable per project vision and programming.
- Geotechnical evaluations and reports, including infiltration testing.
- Topographic site survey and base mapping.
- Conceptual site grading, drainage, and wet utilities.
- Preliminary WQMP plan and hydrology study.
- Conceptual Opinion of Probable Cost.

On February 22, 2022, an Ad Hoc Committee was formed by Council that included Mayor Vinatieri and Council Member Warner.

DISCUSSION

The Ad Hoc committee has met with SWA and has discussed project goals and have provided direction and vision for the concept design phase of the project. The committee reviewed two concepts. The first rendering was highly sports focused with the ability to accommodate multiple sports fields, basketball and Pickleball courts, an expansion of the Zoo, a playground and new restroom facility. A second design rendering shifted to a multi-use site including expansion of the Zoo, as well as opening up access to the park adjacent to the existing facility, with a playground, water feature, amphitheater, soccer fields, basketball courts, picnic areas and a new restroom facility.

After discussion, the Ad Hoc committee requested refinements on the multi-use concept proposal and a staff analysis on the number of teams that could be accommodated on the proposed field space.

The updated multi-use park proposal incorporates a landscaped parkway around the perimeter, which will enhance pedestrian safety around the park, and a new prominent pedestrian entryway facing the Lambert/new Greenway Trail east extension, including the relocated “Rocket Robin” art piece. The Parnell Park Storybook Zoo is expanded slightly east. Because there are restroom facilities inside the community center on the north side of the park, the secondary restroom facilities are moved slightly south with a recreation staff office for supervision and rentals. A number of smaller-scale picnic areas are placed throughout the park to better serve the groups and families frequenting the park, and playground equipment is relocated to the north, along with a splash plaza, a picnic plaza and food truck staging area.

In the multi-use proposal, the primary field space doubles as a small-scale concert amphitheater for summer concerts in the park and similar public events, potentially accommodating up to 3,400 comfortably seated on blankets and chairs. The northern side of the amphitheater area features a two-sided band shell, with one side facing a picnic plaza.

The various field configurations can accommodate up to 2,000 youth in sports assuming 12 players per practice hour and field with one practice session per week. Two U6, three U8, one U10 and one U12 field can be made available through various field striping conformations (the three U8 and one U12 would share the proposed amphitheater area, practicing at different times). As proposed, the field configurations more than accommodate the Whittier Area Youth Soccer (WAYS) and Whittier AYSO player enrollments with room for growth. None of the field configurations are an appropriate size for U-14 or above age group.

The Ad Hoc recommends City Council discuss the proposed Parnell Park multi-use concept and determine whether an updated park should include accommodations for high school soccer.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 3: Maintain and Enhance Quality of Life

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Youth Soccer – Capacity Estimate
- B. Parnell Park Concept Plan

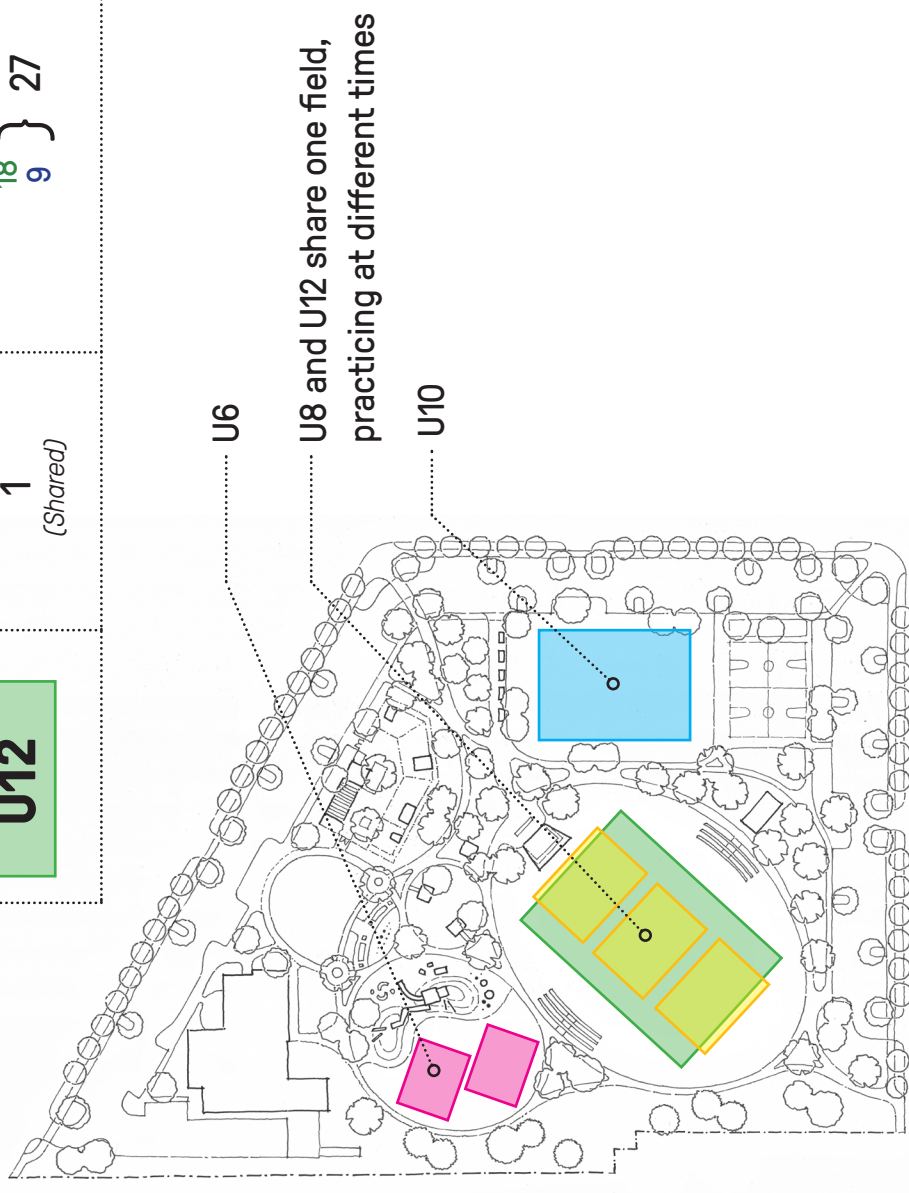
Estimated Youth Soccer Capacity

Reference - Current Participation

WHITTIER AYSO - 75			
SPRING 2022 (15 week season)		FALL 2021 (15 week season)	
DIVISION	PLAYERS	DIVISION	PLAYERS
U-6	86	U-5	34
U-8	113	U-6	100
U-10	128	U-7	109
U-12	76	U-8	94
U-14	46	U-10	144
		U-12	76
		U-14	55
		U-16	28
		U-19	30
TOTAL	449	TOTAL	670

WHITTIER AREA YOUTH SOCCER (WAYS)			
SPRING 2022 (14 week season)		FALL 2021 (15 week season)	
DIVISION	PLAYERS	DIVISION	PLAYERS
U-6	32	U-6	44
U-8	70	U-8	109
U-10	70	U-10	127
U-12	84	U-12	89
U-14	65	U-14	52
U-16	43	U-16	18
TOTAL	364	TOTAL	439

Division	Number of Fields	Play Hours per Week per Field Mon - Fri (4-9 pm) Saturday (8am-9pm)	Total Play Hours per Week for Division	Player Capacity <i>(Assuming 12 kids per practice hour and field, with one practice session a week)</i>
U6	2	25 } 38 13 }	76	912
U8	3 <i>(Shared)</i>	7 } 11 4 }	33	396
U10	1	25 } 38 13 }	38	456
U12	1 <i>(Shared)</i>	18 } 27 9 }	27	324
Total: 2,088				





Landscaped parkway

Expanded Petting Zoo

Area for playground (to be designed)

Splash plaza

Picnic grove

Food truck staging

Two-sided bandshell

Relocated Robin sculpture

Game grove

Restroom with rec office

Recessed soccer field

In-ground umbrellas

Basketball courts

Expanded parking lots

Lambert Rd

Scott Ave

Mulberry Dr

Picnic pavilion

Flexible lawn

Terraced seating

Recessed soccer & event lawn

Seating slope