

September 29, 2016

Dear Sacramento Field Community,

I am happy to report the completion of the design phase for the Sacramento Field renovations. Considerable changes have been made to the concept plan as a result of public input that led to thoughtful revisions. The current concept addresses the majority of community interests and needs that were identified over the course of a yearlong public process.

In recent weeks, we have met in small groups and neighborhood settings to see if we might through a few remaining issues in order for the project to go out to bid at the beginning of October. I hope you agree that this has been a fair and responsive process, and that we have arrived at a concept that will produce an outstanding neighborhood park. Towards that end, I wish to share a summary of the decisions, concerning the accessible loop path and lighting, followed by a summary of the plan.

Accessible Loop Path - Incorporating Universal Design

On the issue of providing an accessible loop path, we consulted the City's Commission for Persons with Disabilities to understand what the appropriate accessibility measures would be for a renovation of this type (See Commission for Persons with Disabilities Memo). It is evident that the loop path provides an important opportunity to achieve Universal Design by way of: 1) formalizing an existing desire line; 2) creating a recreational element in its own right that provides an enjoyable circulation pattern around the park; and 3) representing a "path of travel" providing essential connections to other park features. In keeping with the City's longstanding practice, our consistent intention has been that the loop path should be constructed as an accessible path to ensure that the City extends recreational opportunities to all, regardless of varied physical ability.

Following residents' interest, DPW and CDD staff looked into alternative materials such as flexi-pave or porous asphalt as a potential for improved permeability (see CDD memo). Staff determined there would be no benefit to using alternative permeable materials given the conditions of the soil and drainage challenges. Other materials suggested, such as stone dust, are not considered to meet accessibility standards over time in this setting. Staff continued to examine alternative materials that might provide improved service for all users, and I have adopted their recommendation of providing a surface treatment of a 1 inch layer of rubber for the full path around the field, with a color mix to blend in with the natural setting. This will provide an accessible surface suitable for all users.

Lighting Installation

The design goal for lighting the path is to balance safety considerations while minimizing late night activity. It should be noted that the designated park hours for Sacramento Field will continue to be from dawn to dusk. We will install the

lighting along all pathways, at a level necessary for basic safety and visibility, without encouraging off-hours activity. With the flexibility afforded by the newer computer controlled, shielded LED lighting system that we are now using in our parks, I feel confident we can work with Agassiz neighbors to agree to a lighting concept that provides a minimal amount of illumination while balancing public safety. We have committed to a process for the lighting that will have the lights begin at very low levels to start, followed by a meeting with our electrical department and residents on site right after installation. This discussion will include customizing a range of possible options, including seasonal and time of day variations - and to verify that there aren't any major problems with trespass onto adjacent properties.

A Summary of the Plan - Commitments Moving Forward

The City is committed to making the following improvements and enhancements to Sacramento Field as part of the renovation process. (See Current Concept Plan attached)


- **Two Park Entrances:** To create two entrances to the park that are visible, accessible, safe and well-identified by park signage providing a convenient way for the neighborhood to access the park.
- **Open Space:** To preserve the openness of the field to support a variety of active and passive activities. Staff met with Cambridge Youth Soccer (CYS) leadership on multiple occasions to understand space needs for both games and informal soccer practice. The design concept will be able to meet youth soccer field space needs as confirmed by CYS leadership.
- **Enclosed tot lot and entrance gates:** Commitment to include a 20 x 40 ft. enclosed flat toddler play area to accommodate younger children that includes seating, a sand play area and an additional infant and toddler play structure that includes a slide, cleated toddler incline, toddler stairs, steering wheel, mirrored panel, and deck with covering. Additional commitment to add gates upon entry to the field at both park entrances.
- **Nature-based Play Area:** To include a reimagined natural-based play area that achieves a less artificial look. The design will be able to accommodate winter sledding.
- **Sitting areas and other park amenities:** To provides amenities that currently do not exist including seating and tables, bike parking, message board, historical marker, benches, and a water fountain.
- **Commitments to Sacramento Community Garden:** The square footage loss from the community garden for the new path will be replaced with an equivalent amount of area at the back of the garden. Selective tree

pruning management over a period of several years will be undertaken by the City Arborist, including removal of the mulberry tree. In addition, there will be new garden fencing and gates, water spigot, message board, and raised planter beds. Sequencing of improvements will be carefully worked out in advance with gardeners.

- **Landscaping Improvements:** To incorporate landscaping improvements with native tree plantings as well as buffer planting of shrubs and vines to visually soften the edges, create shade, attract birds, and give more privacy to abutters
- **Multi-use Hard Surface Ball Court:** To resurface and re-line the court, replace the timber retaining wall with masonry wall, and fencing.
- **Off-Leash Shared Use Hours:** To pilot off-leash hours that will allow for dogs to be off leash during designated morning hours (dogs and owners must be in compliance with the City's off-leash regulations).
- **Drainage and Storm Water Management Improvements:** The City will ensure that when the field is redone, it will have grades that better cooperate with the catch basins, e.g. a crown in the center of the field to take water to basins better. In addition, DPW has renewed a commitment to maintain the nine catch basins on a regular schedule.

Many thanks to all those who participated in the design discussions – and we look forward to a new neighborhood park following construction this coming year.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard C. Rossi".

Richard C. Rossi
City Manager