



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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June 21, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

**PREPARER:** Brigitte Price, Administrative Specialist

**DATE:** June 14, 2023

**TITLE:** **Award a Contract for Carlson Park Playground Equipment Purchase and Installation to Miracle Recreation—PlayPower, Inc., in the Amount of \$259,972.84, including Tax; Authorize the City Manager to Increase the Contract Amount by up to \$12,998 (5 Percent, for a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$272,970.84) to Allow for Any Unforeseen Contingencies; Award a Contract for Carlson Park Playground Surfacing Purchase and Installation to Sof Surfaces, Inc., in the Amount of \$89,991.07; Authorize the City Manager to Increase the Contract Amount by up to \$4,499 (5 Percent, for a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$94,490.07) to Allow for Any Unforeseen Contingencies; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Applicable Documents.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Award a contract for Carlson Park playground equipment purchase and installation to Miracle Recreation—PlayPower, Inc., in the amount of \$259,972.84, including tax;
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to Increase the Contract Amount by up to \$12,998 (5 Percent, for a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$272,970.84) to Allow for Any Unforeseen Contingencies;
- 3) Award a contract for Carlson Park surfacing purchase and installation to Sof Surfaces, Inc., in the amount of \$89,991.07;
- 4) Authorize the City Manager to Increase the Contract Amount by up to \$4,499 (5 Percent , for a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$94,490.07) to Allow for Any Unforeseen Contingencies; and
- 5) Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Carlson Park Improvement Project has been a Council and community priority for the Valley West neighborhood for over five years and is included in the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Planned Carlson Park improvements are funded through three funding sources from the state and include a new playground and picnic amenities, special event area, pickle ball courts, public restroom, parking lot and river access improvements for hiking and non-motorized boat access. These proposed contracts would install playground equipment and surfacing with a river theme to compliment the Mad River access component of the Carlson Park Improvement Project.

## **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Since the City acquired the Carlson Park property along the Mad River from Caltrans in 2017, it has been a community priority to develop active and passive recreation opportunities to connect the Valley West neighborhood to the Mad River and provide further options for active living for all ages. Environmental Services staff engaged the Valley West community in developing priorities for Carlson Park starting in 2018. These engagements informed draft design concepts which helped to secure two grant funding sources last year. In April, Senator McGuire announced additional funding through a state budget allocation which will ensure the project can meet community goals and have exciting features that draw in both residents and visitors.

Carlson Park is the only property within the City of Arcata to border the Mad River. Already it has served as a gathering area for many recent community events, including a tianguis flea market, health fair and bicycle rodeo in partnership with CUNA and other community organizations. Further investment in Carlson Park will create an even more welcoming community space.

A playground with picnic amenities, a restroom, and walking areas were top priorities for Valley West residents. City staff sought conceptual playground designs from two playground manufacturers with current Sourcewell cooperative purchasing contracts. Miracle provided responsive and creative conceptual renderings that met the identified river-based theme and provided exciting play features. Proposed playground features for Carlson Park include a river habitat theme with rainbow trout, rapids and kayak climbing features, cattail structures, swings, a spinner and playground structure with slides and multi-sensory play elements. Miracle's playgrounds are designed with accessibility in mind for all features. Redwood Park is currently being renovated with forest-themed playground structures from Miracle.

City staff considered several options for playground surfacing for this project, including pour-in-place surfacing (as implemented at Shay Park and Greenview Park), wood chips, and a new application of rubber tile surfacing with interlocking DuraSAFE tiles. Each surfacing type provides a safe play environment for the proposed playground equipment though differ in maintenance needs. Parks staff are supportive of the application of DuraSAFE low-maintenance rubber tiles at a new intermediate-sized playground within the City. The tiles, if significantly damaged over time, can be replaced by City crews in contrast to pour-in-place, which requires more specialized repairs. The tiles are made from nearly 100% recycled rubber. The quote for surfacing tiles from Sof Surfaces was \$15,000 to \$20,000 less than the cost of pour-in-place surfacing options.

Concurrent to playground equipment and surfacing selection, the City has been advancing the final designs for the other components of the Carlson Park Improvement Project. City staff anticipate releasing a bid for the grading, paving, concrete and pickle ball courts installation at the end of June or early July. Construction is anticipated to commence in late summer.

For the playground components of the project, it is recommended that the Council approve the purchase and installation of playground equipment at Carlson Park by Miracle - Play Power, Inc. using Sourcewell cooperative purchasing contract #010521-LTS-3; and approve the purchase and installation of playground surfacing by Sof Surfaces, Inc. using Sourcewell cooperative purchasing contract #010521-SFS. If the contracts are presently awarded, equipment and surfacing delivery and installation is anticipated to occur in fall of 2023.

## **COMMITTEE REVIEW**

The Parks & Recreation Committee has been involved with this project since at least 2018 when the City conducted numerous community engagement activities in Valley West geared towards

developing Carlson Park. Environmental Services staff have also consulted with a Cal Poly Humboldt professor specializing in universal design for recreational and play features.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):**

An Initial Study Negative Declaration was completed for the Carlson Park Improvement Project in September 2019.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Carlson Park Improvement Project is supported through a State Parks Rural Recreation & Tourism Grant, a Wildlife Conservation Board River Access Grant and a state budget allocation made possible by Senator Mike McGuire.

The quotes for playground equipment and surfacing are within budget under these grant sources and also within budget in the proposed 2023/24 Fiscal Year budget the Council will consider for adoption on June 21, 2023. This project component is budgeted under the following line item in the proposed 2023/24 budget:

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Account Name</b>
101-50-81-57613	\$1,964,936	Capital—Special Use Parks

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Carlson Park Equipment Quote & Design Render(PDF)
- B. Sof Surfaces Resurfacing Quote Q110250-5 (PDF)