



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** November 28, 2022

**TO:** Neighborhood Advisory Council

**FROM:** Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Status Report On Current Parks And Recreation Department Community Development Block Grant Supported Projects And Proposed Projects For The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Community Development Block Grant Application Cycle

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Neighborhood Advisory Council receive a presentation on current Parks and Recreation Department Community Development Block Grant-supported projects and support staff recommendations for proposed projects for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Community Development Block Grant Application Cycle.

**DISCUSSION:**

Background

The Parks and Recreation Department (Department) seeks your recommendation of support for its three proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. The City of Santa Barbara's (City) CDBG program is a Federally-funded grant program that supports a wide range of services and infrastructure improvements in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Both City departments and non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply annually for project funding. The process is typically competitive given that not all projects or services will be awarded funding in a given year. Project support by the Neighborhood Advisory Council helps to reaffirm the merits of a project.

The Department's proposed projects for the upcoming CDBG funding cycle represent improvements to park facilities that can be designed, permitted, and implemented within the strict timelines mandated by the CDBG program, while still delivering important infrastructure upgrades for low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Listed below are the Department's proposed projects, as well as updates on last year's projects.

Projects suitable for CDBG funding are outlined in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which is developed with a five-year timeframe and approved by City Council. The current CIP spans from Fiscal Years 2021-2025.

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### Proposed Projects for 2023-2024 CDBG Grant Application

These projects will build upon improvements already underway and enhance use and access to three high priority parks in need of reinvestment.

#### *Bohnett Park Basketball Court Expansion*

This project will expand the court area at lower Bohnett Park to create two basketball courts. Phase one of the lower Bohnett Park renovation was completed in early 2022 and this will complete the renovation. Expansion of the court area will also increase opportunity for youth to skate, scooter, and learn how to ride a bike in a safe setting. Permitting and stormwater requirements have already been completed under phase one.

#### *Westside Park Sports Court Renovation*

This project will resurface the park's existing basketball court and handball court, along with installing new trees and drought tolerant plants. This park is highly used given its location next to a Highway 101 pedestrian overpass that provides a direct link to the greater Westside neighborhood. The court's surface is in need of repair to remain a recreational community asset. The tree and vegetation planting will help buffer the park from the adjacent freeway noise and enhance the park's aesthetics.

#### *Alameda Park Safety Lighting Project*

This project will replace the lamp fixtures on the park's 18 existing walkway-light-poles with new LED fixtures to increase user safety and reduce light pollution. The existing lights from the 1970's are inefficient and outdated. The new fixtures will provide more illumination along the park's paths and save energy. Alameda Park sees significant foot traffic given that it is centrally located in the downtown area and comprises two city blocks.

### Current CDBG Supported Projects

The Department has a long history of successfully completing park improvements with CDBG funds. Currently the Department has five projects supported by CDBG funds that are either complete, under construction, or in design:

#### *Bohnett Park Renovation*

Construction was completed in February of 2022 and included upgrading the existing multi-purpose field with new grass (sod) and a state-of-the-art irrigation system; remodeling the restroom; installing a new concrete mow strip to border and level the field; installing accessible walkways; replacing picnic tables; and adding additional picnic areas. Of the \$652,579 total project construction cost, \$403,579 is funded through Measure B (Creeks Capital Fund), \$154,000 from CDBG, and \$107,000 from the General Fund. The restroom's interior renovation was completed in June 2020 with \$168,000 of CDBG funds. The playground was replaced in 2016 with \$151,000 of CDBG funds.

#### *Westside Community Center Playground*

This project was completed in Spring of 2022 and included the complete replacement of the playground and rubber surfacing at the Westside Community Center Playground. The project was funded with a \$150,000 CDBG grant.

#### *Eastside Neighborhood Park Renovation*

This project is fully permitted and construction will start in December 2022. Phase 1 will include replacement of the existing playground; installing new picnic tables; and replacing the community garden fence. Phase 2 will begin in winter of 2023 and will install a new play structure for children ages 5-12, as well as outdoor adult fitness equipment on a new paved exercise loop. This project is funded by a \$322,000 CDBG Grant and \$400,000 of the City's General Fund. The restroom renovation was completed in mid-2021 with a \$150,000 CDBG grant.

#### *Alameda Plaza Bandstand Repairs*

Construction drawings to bid the repair of this 1888 Bandstand will be completed before the end of 2022 and construction will start in early 2023. The Alameda Bandstand is a City Landmark, as it is the only Folk Victorian style bandstand in Santa Barbara and represents a key feature in one of Santa Barbara's oldest parks. Last renovated in 1981, a recent structural assessment outlined repairs needed to extend the life of the Bandstand including seismic upgrades, roof replacement, repairs to the flooring, guard rails, decorative trim, and posts. The project is funded by a \$219,971 CDBG grant.

#### *Parque de Los Niños Improvements*

Construction drawings for the renovation and fitness equipment installation will be completed before the end of 2022 and construction will start in early 2023. Improvements for this well used neighborhood park and playground include installation of stationary fitness equipment in a section of the park that is underutilized; installation of energy efficient light fixtures; replacement of the drinking fountain; additional pathway to increase circulation; and fencing repairs and repainting. The project is funded by a \$79,171 CDBG grant. The playground was installed in 2015 with CDBG funds and is in good condition.

#### *Plaza Vera Cruz Safety Improvements*

Construction drawings and permitting for this park safety and fencing project will be completed in early 2023 and construction will start in late February 2023. For decades, drug use and other illegal activities made the park unsafe for use by children and families and this project will help promote a safe park environment, as proven by the temporary fence installed in 2020. In order to provide youth programs and organized recreation the park will need permanent fencing, formal entries, and pathway enhancements. The project is funded by a \$274,696 CDBG grant.

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**PREPARED BY:** Sean W. Stewart, Project Planner

**APPROVED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director