



# CITY OF SAN MATEO

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## Agenda Report

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Agenda Number: 3

Section Name: {{section.name}}

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**TO:** Park and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Sheila Canzian

**PREPARED BY:** Parks and Recreation Department

**MEETING DATE:** March 02, 2022

**SUBJECT:**  
East Hillsdale Playground Upgrade – Preferred Alternative

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and comment on the preferred design alternative, (Hags Equipment from Miracle Play Group), for the East Hillsdale Playground Upgrade.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2020, a survey was conducted to identify what the community would expect to see from a potential playground update at East Hillsdale Park. The survey received 94 responses and the preferences from the surrounding residents was a preference for a consolidated location for a new play area, preferably on the Northern side of the park, with separate play areas for tots and older kids, whilst retaining some of the existing play elements. The survey did not mention a restroom as it was focused on the play area however a small number of free form responses suggested that no restrooms or BBQ areas be installed.

In 2021, with the neighborhood input in mind, the Parks and Recreation department solicited several designs for consideration and preference prior to plans being prepared for a formal bid for architectural drawings. A virtual community meeting was held on Thursday, October 28, 2021 where residents reviewed the design alternatives and related documents. There was consensus amongst attendees strongly suggesting that the designs be reconsidered with a "less is better" approach.

In January 2022, Parks and Recreation hosted a follow up neighborhood meeting on location at the park to present the revised play area design along with 3 alternative play equipment designs and answered general questions about the park tree plan and park infrastructure. With over 60 people in attendance, play equipment representatives presented their designs, answered questions and the public was invited to vote on their preferences. Color coded votes were distributed to children and adults alike and once counted, Specified Play Equipment came in with 30 votes (24 adults and 6 children), Miracle Play Group came in with 27 votes (14 adults and 13 children) and Ross Recreation Equipment came in with 8 votes (6 adults and 2 kids). It should also be noted there was consensus for no restroom or BBQ areas as was previously stated.

Staff recommends that the design alternative presented by Miracle Play Group (Attachment 3) be chosen, based on the lower total cost (\$174,000 Miracle vs \$264,622 Spec Play) for just the purchase of the equipment and the greater preference of children votes as they are the ultimate beneficiaries of the upgrade.

It is important to note that in addition to the need for the playground renovation, residents noted concerns with the existing irrigation system, poor drainage resulting from inadequate grading and a desire to re-pave the perimeter pathway around the park. These issues will be further evaluated as part of the next phase of design development work and will be addressed in the final set of construction documents.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

As staff recommend that the HAGS design by Miracle Play Group be constructed, the budget impact will be \$1,716,498. This amount includes site work to create a new play area, replace the existing park pathways, improve drainage of the pathways by installing additional catch basins and curbing to direct pathway water to the 3 cul-de-sac streets on the east side of the park. This amount has been built in to our Capital Improvement budget and will be partly funded by a grant totaling \$241,821 from Proposition 68 / Per Capita Grant.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

This play area upgrade is categorically exempt from CEQA as an “existing facility,” because it consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.)

**NOTICE PROVIDED**

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Att 1 - East Hillsdale Park Site Plan  
Att 2 - Specified Play Equipment Design  
Att 3 – Miracle Play Group Design  
Att 4 - Voting

**STAFF CONTACT**

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