



Project Fact Sheet

Flood County Park is a 21-acre retreat located in Menlo Park along the borders of unincorporated Redwood City and Atherton. Since its opening in the early 1930s, the park has been popular for family and community celebrations, daily visits by park neighbors and sports activities. The adobe administrative office along with two restrooms, a ranger residence and maintenance building are all that remains of the Work Progress Act construction projects built in the mid-1930s. The park has gone through several renovations in its 86-year-history. In 2015, an assessment of the property revealed that many park features and core infrastructure components are in need of major repair or replacement. The Department initiated a series of community meetings to learn from park users, neighbors and future park users what their priorities are for the park and how new park use and concepts may be incorporated into an overall design.

Following are answers to often asked questions about the Reimagine Flood Park project:

Q: How was the preferred plan developed?

A: The preferred plan was developed through a series of community meetings which began in May 2015 and concluded in December that same year. Design consultants and park staff guided participants through several idea-gathering and sharing exercises working to refine ideas and priorities into the preferred plan which can be viewed at:

<http://parks.smcgov.org/reimagine-flood-park> Data gathered through an online survey also informed the alternative park themes, mix of amenities and ultimately, the plan.

Q: How have people been involved in the process?

A: The Department invited the community to participate in the process through mailings to park neighbors, email and website announcements, flyers and social media. In addition, those who could not attend meetings in person, had an opportunity to share their ideas through an on-line survey tool.

Q: Will the donated turf be incorporated into the preferred plan?

A: The plan to install used turf in order to make the field a safe play surface was a temporary solution. However, because the field lies above Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System, which is managed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, we need to adhere to strict criteria aimed at protecting the pipeline. The additional work and costs associated with adding soil and grading the location greatly increased the price of what was to be a short term

solution. At this time, we don't plan to install the used turf and it will eventually be removed. For this reason, the preferred plan shows a newly constructed ball field.

Q: What new features will be added to the park?

A: Based on input from the community meetings, the preferred plan shows the addition of a second playing field, as well as a bicycle pump track, two bocce courts, a basketball court and a demonstration garden. The plan also shows improved play areas, which are enhancements to existing play areas.

Q: Will the picnic areas remain in the same location?

A: Yes, picnic areas will remain, although they may be reconfigured to align with some of the new or improved features.

Q: What type of events will be allowed at the amphitheater?

A: The area labeled as an amphitheater is designed to be a flexible gathering place. The area could serve as a recital area for youth music and dance groups, plays, or small school or community group events. The current county ordinance that prohibits amplified sound would remain in place. As is the case now, only select special events, such as movie night in the park, would be allowed. The park would limit the number of these types of events during a year.

Q: Will the vehicle entrance fee remain in place?

A: The Department is in the process of developing a fee strategy which will guide our overall approach to how we provide and charge for our services. For the meantime, vehicle entrance fees will remain in effect to help offset the costs of operations and maintenance.

Q: How will sports groups be allowed to use the facilities?

A: We have been researching demand and management of similar public sports fields in the area to forecast demand at Flood Park. As is the case for services at other county parks, we plan to actively manage park opening and closing times, require permits for large events, and manage scheduled play times on the ball fields.

Q: Will the changes to the park affect traffic and parking?

A: This is such an important subject that we need more time to study impacts, especially in areas surrounding the park. Having this information will help develop mitigation efforts early on should they be needed. For this reason, we are recommending to the Commission that we study factors such as noise, traffic and parking.

Q: Will the adobe building be renovated?

A: The adobe structure is not scheduled to be renovated or restored. The building is not in compliance with current earthquake safety regulations and the cost to make the improvements is significant. Because we don't have plans to provide indoor programming, we are exploring how a portion of the building could be incorporated into a new feature as well and serve as a historical feature with teaching opportunities.

Q: How much will the project cost and how will it be funded?

A: We have preliminary cost estimates for the preferred plan that are close to \$14 million. This amount reflects an estimate without detailed plans, although we do believe this is an accurate estimate from which to plan our budget, fund raising and work plans. There are several funding sources we are considering in addition to partnering with our non-profit partners, including the San Mateo County Parks Foundation.

Q: When will the work begin?

A: Once we receive approval of the plan, develop construction plans and secure funding for major features, we will have an idea of the implementation timeline. The preferred plan will go before the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission on April 7.

Q: Will the park be closed during construction?

A: We anticipate that construction will occur in phases and allow parts of the park to remain open during construction.