

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: March 21, 2011
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Additional Rubber Surface at Jewel's Terrace Park and Dartmouth Tot Lot
REPORTED BY: Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

STAFF AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve:

- (1) The installation of additional rubber surfacing under the tot lot swing set at Jewel's Terrace Park;
- (2) The installation of rubber surfacing under the play structure and swing set at Dartmouth Tot Lot;
- (3) Use of Measure WW in an amount not to exceed \$36,000 to fund both rubber surfacing projects

BACKGROUND

Dartmouth Tot Lot

For the past several months staff has been in contact with neighbors surrounding the Dartmouth Tot Lot regarding a number of issues pertaining to the tot lot. Staff and the neighbors have expressed concerns regarding the excessive amount of sand inside the tot lot that fully surrounds the swing set and play structure. The three major concerns are: (1) the sand creates a slippery surface when it spills onto the surrounding concrete walkway; (2) the amount of sand that is getting into the nearby storm drains creates sediment and potential clogging; and (3) given that the play structure and swing set area are fully surrounded by sand, there is no ADA access to the play elements. Staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission are recommending the installation of rubber surfacing for a large portion of the tot lot for better ADA access as well as to deplete the amount of sand spilling onto the walkway and into the storm drains. Please see the sketch in attachment 1 that shows the proposed rubber surface installation at Dartmouth.

Jewel's Terrace Park

Recently the tot lot at Jewel's Terrace Park was renovated. A new play structure was installed and additional rubber surfacing was installed under a portion of the play structure. While presenting the proposal for the Jewel's Terrace Park tot lot renovations to Council in October 2011, requests for more rubber surfacing under the swing set were made from the public as well as Council pending a funding source. The last of the Measure F funds were used for the tot lot renovations, leaving no Measure F funds to cover the cost of adding a rubber surface under the

swing set. Please see the sketches in attachments 2 and 3 that show the proposed installation of the rubber surfacing under the swing set Jewel's Terrace Park. Option 1 proposes a larger area be covered with rubber surface compared to Option 2. Staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission are recommending the option 1 which covers a larger portion of the play area.

DISCUSSION

Measure WW funds are being recommended as the source of funding for both of the rubber surface installations. At this time no other source of funding exists. Measure WW which passed in November 2008 is an extension of Proposition AA. Proposition AA was passed by East Bay voters 20 years ago and helped preserve 34,000 acres of open space, developed over 100 miles of new trails, and funded hundreds of local parks and recreation projects. While much has been accomplished, the growing East Bay population further increases the need for acquiring new parklands, protecting and restoring natural habitat, and helping communities with their local park and recreation facilities. Measure WW will be used to continue to restore urban creeks; protect wildlife; purchase and save open space, wetlands, and bay shoreline; and acquire, develop, and improve local and regional parks, trails, and recreational facilities close to home for East Bay residents.

The Measure allocated funds to cities based on population. The City of Albany has been allocated \$771,363, and has up to 20 years to use the funds. Cities are able to submit projects in February and March only of each year. This allows East Bay Regional Park District the ability to sell enough bonds to pay for the submitted eligible projects.

Thus far, Albany has funded the After School Recreation Expansion Project for approximately \$120,000, the Waterfront Cove project for approximately \$50,000, and the addition of rubber surfacing at Ocean View Park for approximately \$20,000. Therefore, Measure WW projects to date total \$190,000 leaving a balance of \$581,363.

ANALYSIS

Better ADA access to Albany's recreational facilities has been the driving force in many of the decisions and recommendations the Parks and Recreation Commission has made to Council. The addition of a concrete pathway at the Ocean View Community Garden, the installation of a ramp leading to the walkway as well as the addition of ADA parking spaces at the Waterfront, the installation of rubber surfacing at Ocean View Park under the play structure and swing set, and the addition of an ADA swing seat at Ocean View Park are all projects the Commission and Council have approved and completed over the past two years.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

By adding the rubber surface at Dartmouth, sediment that could clog the storm drains is greatly diminished. By adding the rubber surface to Dartmouth and Jewel's Terrace Park, the City is providing a play area that can be more easily used by those with limited mobility.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Dartmouth plus Opt 1 for Terrace:

Current Measure WW Balance:	581,363
Dartmouth	- 22,661
Terrace Opt 1	<u>-\$12,917</u>
Remining Measure WW funds	545,785

Dartmouth plus Opt 2 for Terrace:

Current Measure WW Balance:	581,363
Dartmouth	- 22,661
Terrace Opt 2	<u>-\$7,718</u>
Remining Measure WW funds	550,984