



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Commission

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519
Tel 907-343-4355



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 14, 2020

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

Cc: Josh Durand, Director; Stephen Rafuse, Parks Superintendent

From: Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Senior Park Planner

Project: **PRC 20-05 Hamilton Park 2020 Upgrades**

OVERVIEW

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is proposing trail and playground maintenance and safety improvements at Hamilton Park for summer 2020. In 2018, the Old Seward/Oceanview Community identified Hamilton Park as a high priority on their capital improvement list, the park was then approved for funding via the 2019 APR Bond for \$200k. Design began in fall 2019 with input from the neighborhood advisory group.

BACKGROUND

Hamilton Park is a 1.69-acre neighborhood park in the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council boundary (13253 Elmhurst Drive). The park was named for the subdivision nearby. The property was purchased in August of 1974 and was developed with LWCF funding as a small neighborhood park. In 1986 the park was redesigned to eliminate drainage problems. The park currently features a toddler 2-5-year-old play area, a basketball court, picnic tables and a badly cracked asphalt trail that connects the neighborhood to the park.

PLANNING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public engagement is important to all planning projects. To ensure that the site plan aligns with the desires of the community, Parks and Recreation has gathered public input in a variety of ways including working with community stakeholders and a volunteer advisory group. During the February 26, 2020 Community Council, two concepts were presented and at a vote of 7 to 4, the Concept B: Ninja Course was selected, with a request to add the following items as budget allows: toddler swings into the existing toddler play area, add a picnic table and/or benches and upgrade the existing “spring rider” to a double-seated version.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department has worked with volunteer community advisors and the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council to identify and prioritize maintenance improvements at Hamilton Park. The proposed improvements include maintenance rehabilitation of the existing cracked asphalt trail, safety surfacing upgrades to existing toddler play area (ages 0-5), new “beginner” sledding hill (3-4 feet in height), an upgraded playground with custom designed “Ninja Course” play equipment geared for children ages 5-12 and a new ADA access connection from existing asphalt trail, as well as landscaping and beautification.

Preferred Option B Description: Ninja Course Theme with swings and sledding hill:

- ❖ Custom “ninja course” style play equipment designed for ages 5-12 yr. old, but also great for adults! This equipment has several routes of circulation, allowing user to incorporate a wide variety of physical skills. The layout and configuration is custom designed based on feedback from neighbors and the budget constraints. More info: [click here](#).
- ❖ Surplus soil excavated during construction will be used to shape a small sledding hill, designed with younger children in mind.
- ❖ 2-bay swingset with standard [2-belt swings](#) and the “[Friendship Swing](#)”
- ❖ **If funding allows the existing toddler play area will also include:
 - The [toddler-age specific single post swing w/ two toddler bucket seats](#);
 - “[Bobble](#)” [Spring Rider](#) for two (see option A for photo)
 - New picnic table and benches, as funding allows.

TIMELINE

Feb. 2020: Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council Meeting

May 2020: Park Commission Meeting

June 2020: Construction Begins

July or August 2020: Volunteer Fix-It Event and Ribbon Cutting Event (Exact date TBD)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends the approval of the proposed improvements for Hamilton Park. These improvements will address safety and maintenance issues as identified by the community and will provide much need upgrades to support future intergenerational use of this important park.



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URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



PRC RES NO. 2020-05
HAMILTON PARK UPGRADES

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton Park is a 1.69-acre Neighborhood Use Park located in the Old Seward/Oceanview area of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department has worked with volunteer community advisors and the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council to identify and prioritize maintenance improvements at Hamilton Park; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department has worked with volunteer community advisors to select the preferred unique playground equipment that would rehabilitate and improve inclusivity of an existing playground; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the proposed improvements include maintenance rehabilitation of the existing cracked asphalt trail, safety surfacing upgrades to existing toddler play area (ages 0-5), new "beginner" sledding hill (3-4 feet in height), an upgraded playground with custom designed "Ninja Course" play equipment geared for children ages 5-12 and a new ADA access connection from existing asphalt trail, as well as landscaping and beautification, and

WHEREAS, these proposed improvements are supported by the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council, as presented at their February 26, 2020 meeting, and supported by the Parks and Recreation Department, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed improvements submitted by the Department for Hamilton Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of May 2020

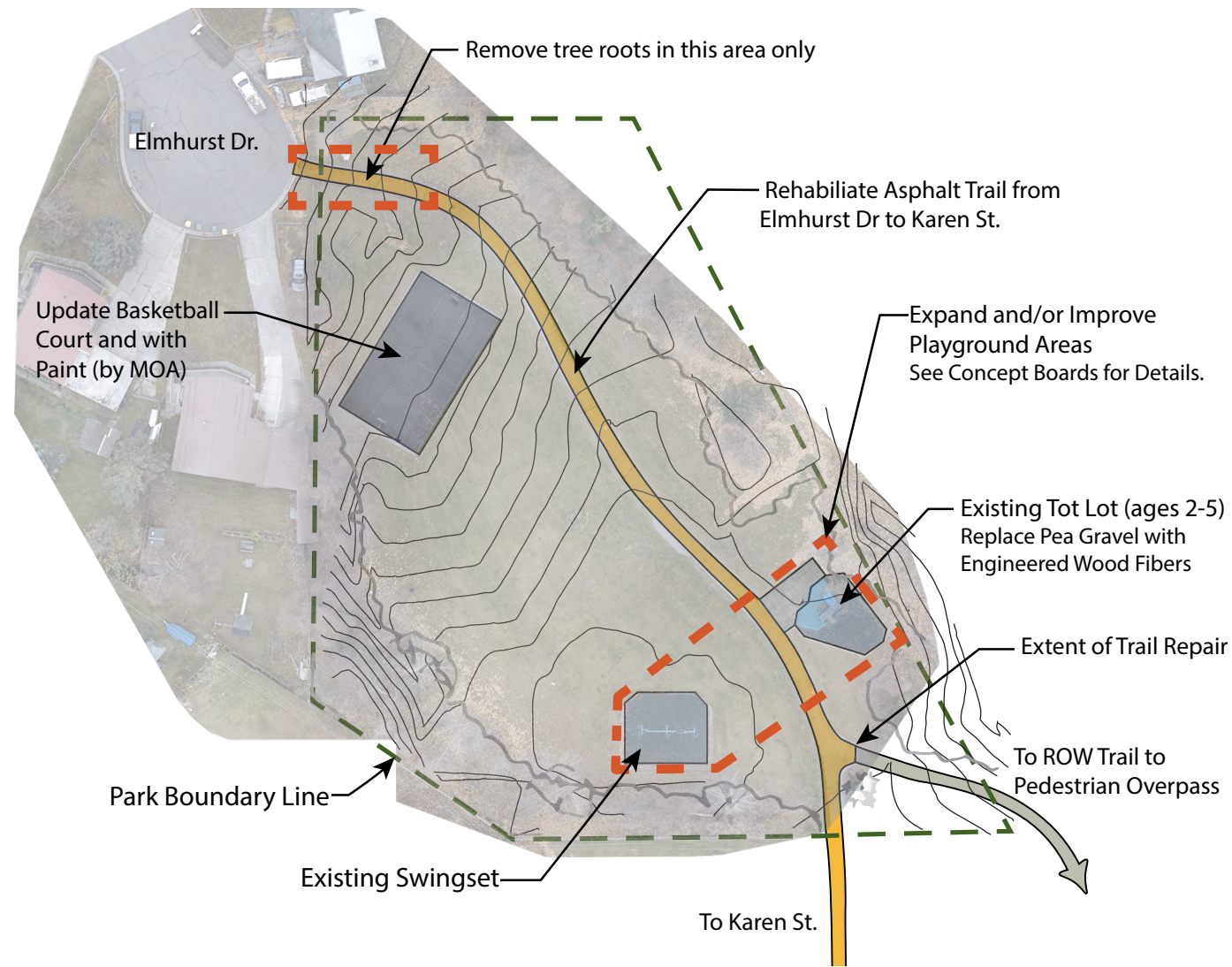
Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

Joshua Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska

2020 PRIORITIES



2020 PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

Based on meetings with the Hamilton Park Advisory Group, we have identified the following priorities.

PROJECT BUDGET : 200k Anchorage Parks and Recreation Municipal Bond.

- Refurbish the existing 2-5 yr. old tot-lot, upgrade surfacing with wood fiber, add safety bar, per audit.
- Replace the existing swings, replace one tot-belt swing with a "friendship" swing, if feasible.
- Rehabilitate asphalt path strategically.
- Remove cottonwoods that damaged hardscape.
- Expand playground with new 5-12 equipment. Advisors prefer slides, climbing structure.
- Replace existing bench with round picnic tables (similar to Stephenson Park) and benches if budget allows.
- Refurbish basketball court with fresh paint and fresh painted backboards.



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The Boutet Company, Inc.



Existing Play Equipment



Existing Tot-Lot



Existing Swing Set



Bell's Nursery

Trail to Rabbit
Creek Elementary



Existing Basketball Court



Root Damage to Trail (at Elmhurst)

ABOUT HAMILTON PARK

Hamilton Park is a 1.69 acre neighborhood park in the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council boundary. The park was named for the subdivision nearby. The property was purchased in August of 1974 and was developed with LWCF funding as a small neighborhood park. In 1986 the park was redesigned to eliminate drainage problems. The park currently features a toddler 2-5 year old play area, a basketball court, picnic tables and asphalt trail that connects the neighborhood to the park.

COMMENTS:

Please send comments to:

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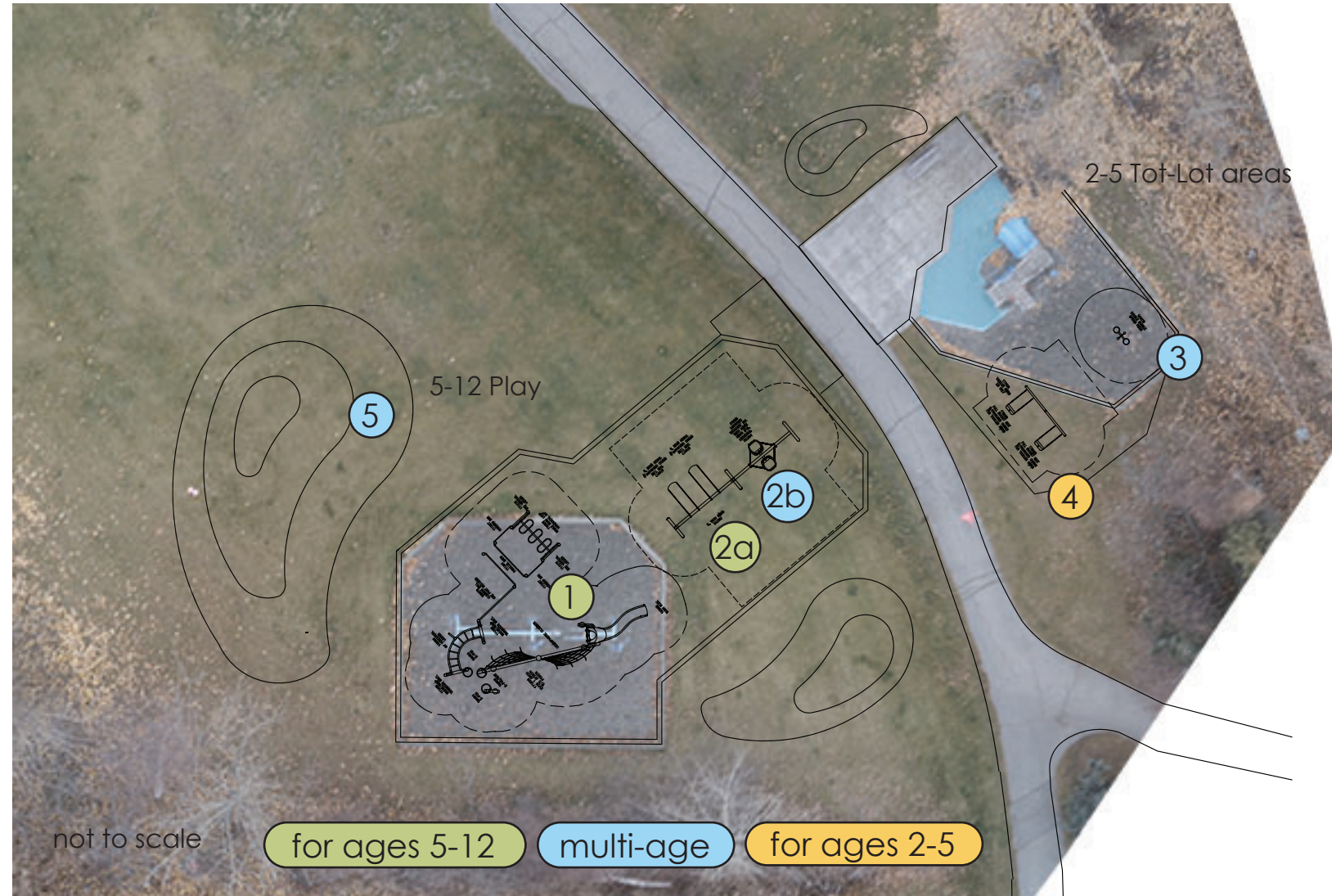


ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

HAMILTON PARK

2020 Trail & Playground Improvements

NINJA COURSE, SWINGS WITH LANDFORMS



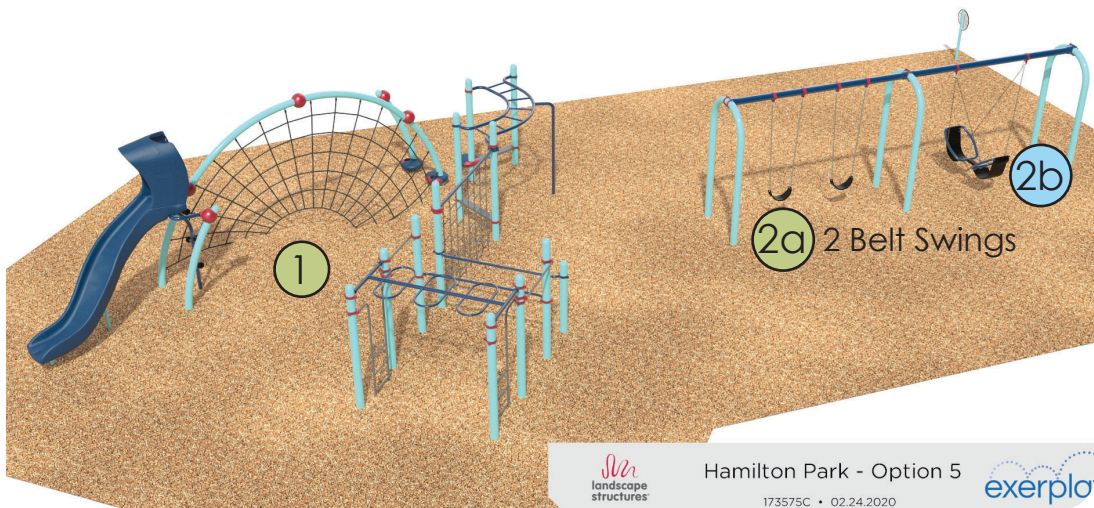
5 Small Sledding Hill
Sledding hill would be relatively small, 3'-4' tall.



2b Friendship Swing



4 Single Post Tot-Swing Frame



1 Ninja Course with Slide and Climbing



3 Spring Rider upgrade or similar



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Hamilton Park - Option 5

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HAMILTON PARK
2020 Trail & Playground Improvements
ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION