



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Commission

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
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MEMORANDUM

Date: May 14, 2020

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

Cc: Josh Durand, Director

From: Steve Rafuse, Parks Superintendent

Project: **PRC 20-06 Tikishla Park 2020 Upgrades**

OVERVIEW

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is proposing new improvements at Tikishla Park for summer 2020. Improvements will include a new plaza and playground, landscaping, amenities, parking lot upgrades, and LED lighting. The proposed upgrades were outlined in the 2018 Tikishla Park Master Plan and are consistent with community identified priorities.

BACKGROUND

Tikishla Park is a 105-acre park located along the Chester Creek Greenbelt in the Airport Heights neighborhood of Anchorage. The park is classified as a Natural Resource Use Area in the 2006 Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource and Recreation Facility Plan. In addition to natural resources, the park has several well-defined use areas and functions as a neighborhood park, little league complex, and major multi-use trail corridor.

In 2017-18, the Parks and Recreation Department worked with the community to develop the Tikishla Park Master Plan. The master plan provides a 20-year vision for the management, maintenance, and development of Tikishla Park. The Tikishla Park Master Plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in June 2018 and by the Planning and Zoning Commission in October 2018.

Improvements proposed for 2020 will focus on the neighborhood park area of Tikishla Park located at East 20th Ave.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The Parks and Recreation Department is proposing improvements at Tikishla Park intended to implement key priorities identified through the master planning process. The first phase of implementation will focus on addressing public safety concerns as well as the community's desire for investment at Tikishla Park at East 20th Ave.

Overview of Proposed Improvements

- **Parking Lot Upgrades:** The parking lot will be reconfigured to eliminate hiding spaces and improve visibility.
- **Plaza, Inclusive Playground, and Landscaping:** A new 8,500 square foot plaza and play area will serve as a neighborhood hub with new play equipment for ages 2-5 and 5-12, a black bear climber, custom seating, LED lighting, and landscaping.
- **Small Sledding Hill:** A small sledding hill will be built to provide opportunities for winter recreation.
- **LED Lighting Upgrades:** All lighting will be upgraded to LED light fixtures and new lighting will be added to improve safety, visual aesthetics, and energy efficiency.

Project Funding

- 2018 Park Bond \$100,000
- 2019 Park Bond \$400,000
- 2020 Park Bond \$250,000

Description of Proposed Improvements

Parking Lot Upgrades: The parking lot will be reconfigured to address safety concerns resulting from limited visibility and poor layout. The reconfiguration of the parking lot utilizes Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to eliminate hiding spaces and allow for passive surveillance. Parking lot upgrades will include new LED lighting, replacing dense evergreen trees with deciduous trees, the removal of interior landscape mounds, and ADA parking and bike path striping.

Plaza, Inclusive Playground, and Landscaping: An 8,500-square foot plaza and inclusive playground will be located south of the existing bike trail and east of the hockey rink. The plaza will feature picnic tables, custom seating, and landscaping. The play area will be ADA accessible with unitary turf safety surfacing, a custom black bear climber, and play equipment for ages 2-5 and 5-12.

Small Sledding Hill: A small sledding hill will be constructed to provide for additional opportunities for winter recreation at Tikishla Park. The sledding hill will be constructed with usable excavation found during construction of the new plaza and play area.

LED Lighting Upgrades: All lighting will be upgraded to LED light fixtures and new lighting will be added to improve safety, visual aesthetics, and energy efficiency. This includes upgrading to LED light fixtures at the ice hockey rink and parking lot; and adding new LED lighting at the plaza/play area and trail intersections. If funding allows, additional lighting will be added along unlit sections of the multi-use trail.

PLANNING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Proposed improvements are based on priorities identified during the master planning process and reaffirmed through ongoing planning with the community. The following information outlines the planning and public involvement process to date.

2016-2018: Planning and public involvement for the development of the Tikishla Park Master Plan

April 2018: Airport Heights Community Council Resolution of Support for Tikishla Park Master Plan

June 2018: Parks and Recreation Commission Resolution of Support for Tikishla Park Master Plan

October 2018: Planning and Zoning Commission Resolution of Approval for Tikishla Park Master Plan

April 2018: Parks Bond passes with funding \$100,000 for Tikishla Park

April 2019: Parks Bond passes with funding \$400,000 for Tikishla Park

December 2019: Open House Event for Tikishla Park 2020 Improvements project; and, Presentation to Airport Heights Community Council

February 2020: Presentation to Airport Heights Community Council, unanimous vote of support

April 2020: Parks Bond passes with \$250,000 identified for Tikishla Park

May 2020: Presentation to Urban Design Commission for final approval

May 2020: Presentation to Parks and Recreation Commission for approval

Summer 2020: Construction of proposed improvements

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends the approval of the proposed improvements for Tikishla Park. These improvements will address issues identified in the master plan and will provide much need upgrades to support future use of this important park.



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URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



PRC RES NO. 2020-06

TIKISHLA PARK 2020 IMPROVEMENTS

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, the Tikishla Park Master Plan was completed in 2018 providing a 20-year vision for the management, maintenance, and development of the park; and

WHEREAS, the first phase of implementation will focus on addressing public safety concerns as well as the community's desire for investment at Tikishla Park at East 20th Ave; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements are consistent with community priorities outlined in the master plan and reaffirmed through the planning process and include a new plaza and playground, landscaping, amenities, parking lot upgrades, and LED lighting; and

WHEREAS, is proposed improvements are supported by the Airport Heights Community Council; and

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

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

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

TIKISHLA PARK

- 1** BLACK BEAR CLIMBER FOR AGES 2 AND UP
 - 2** ROUND PICNIC TABLES
 - 3** SUPERNOVA SPINNER
 - 4** DISC SWING
 - 5** PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR AGES 2-5
 - 6** PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR AGES 5-12
 - 7** RECONFIGURED PARKING LOT
 - 8** CENTER PLAZA WITH CUSTOM BENCHES
 - 9** SMALL SLEDDING HILL
 - 10** BIKE RACK AND TRASH CAN
-  **LED LIGHTING UPGRADES**
FOR THE HOCKEY RINK, PARKING LOT, AND PLAZA/PLAY AREA

