

NOVEMBER 7, 2019 - COMMUNITY MEETING

SUMMARY

A Community Meeting was held by the City's Parks, Recreation and Waterfront (PRW) Department on November 7, 2019 at MLK Jr. Youth Services Center/YAP to present the final design for the Grove Park Field Renovation Project. The meeting also served as an opportunity to allow attendees to provide feedback on the proposed field renovation project, ask questions, and discuss any concerns with their experiences using the park.

At this meeting, PRW staff discussed the details of the field renovation project, which has as its main priorities: addressing safety concerns, improving security and accessibility, renovating existing infrastructure and replacing outdated or failing systems. A design consultant retained by the City was also present to provide details and present on specific design elements.

Based on the feedback received, the attendees requested the following items, which will be considered to be incorporated in the project design:

- Addition of swing gates at all openings of the field perimeter fence to increase security.
- Lower, pedestrian-level lighting or adjustments to existing field lighting schedule (allowing lights to be on longer in the winter months) to increase and supplement low light from the existing street lights for increased pedestrian safety.
- Request for additional seating within the outfield, possibly use of flip-up benches in the corners (to be evaluated for safety)

Attendees also asked about the possibility of creating a community area at the northwest portion of the field (at Grant Street), which currently includes an existing playground and picnic area. Unfortunately, any improvements in this area is currently unfunded and outside of the scope for this project. However, the PRW Department is planning to request additional funds through Measure T1 Phase 2 for additional future improvements. City Staff will be conducting Citywide outreach efforts through various community meetings beginning in early 2020 in order to obtain input from Berkeley residents for a list of potential T1 Phase 2 projects. Anyone interested can obtain more information at the [City's Measure T1 Homepage](#).

Other inquiries that were brought up by meeting attendees, which were beyond the scope for this project, are listed below along with available resources for directing the questions and concerns:

- Request for a cross walk at Russell and Grant Streets — Please refer to the [City of Berkeley Traffic Calming Process](#)
- Proposal for naming of Grove Park ball field — Please refer to the [Parks and Waterfront Commission](#)
- Information for residents interested in planting — Please refer to the [Berkeley Partners for Parks](#) who work with the City of Berkeley to do plantings all around the City.

In closing, PRW staff also provided information on the next steps for this project, which will include the final design phase, project advertisement for competitive bidding, and anticipated construction beginning the Summer of 2020.