

CITY OF
ANTIOCH
CALIFORNIA

STAFF REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: Regular Meeting of April 8, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBMITTED BY: Scott Buenting, Public Works Director/City Engineer
Brad Helfenberger, Parks and Recreation Director

SUBJECT: Review and Approve the Conceptual Design of the Bicycle Garden Project; P.W. 394-17

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council review and approve the conceptual design of the Bicycle Garden Project.

FISCAL IMPACT

This recommended action has no direct fiscal impact at this time.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2022, the City partnered with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (“CCTA”) to prepare and submit a grant application through the United States Department of Transportation’s (“USDOT”) Safe Streets for All (“SS4A”) Program for the Antioch Bicycle Garden (“Project”). In 2023, the Project was awarded the full requested amount of \$4,000,000. The required local match amount of \$1,000,000 is funded through Development Impact Fees for a total Project amount of \$5,000,000.

To assist the City with Project delivery and administration of the Federal funds, CCTA is serving as the lead agency to implement the Project. A Cooperative Agreement between the City and CCTA has been executed that delineates roles, responsibilities, and funding commitments relative to the project development, environmental, design and construction phases of the Project.

DISCUSSION

The Project will build a one-of-a-kind facility for teaching bicycle and pedestrian safety education to encourage the use of pollution-free transportation. Using small-scaled modern streetscape design elements, this unique facility will be located at Prewett Park and will provide healthy, fun, outdoor recreation in a safe, vehicle-free environment. Learning stations throughout the course will aid group instruction and allow for self-guided education. This unique facility will provide a safe, simulated environment for people of all ages and abilities to learn and practice the multi-modal rules of the road. In partnership

with the City, Street Smarts Diablo Program, and CCTA, the Project concept was developed with four core guiding principles consisting of Safety, Community Health, Climate Change and Equity.

As previously described, the Project will be constructed at Prewett Park. In 2021, the location was selected through an engaged process led by an Ad Hoc Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission, a series of public meetings and public survey, and was ultimately approved by the City Council.

Preliminary environmental and engineering work began in June 2024. To assist with the development and assessment of design concepts and elements, two (2) community outreach workshops were noticed and held that provided opportunities for the public and stakeholders to learn about the project and provide input on preliminary design layouts and elements. The first workshop was held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the Antioch Community Center and the second workshop was held on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Antioch Senior Center.

The workshops consisted of a presentation by staff that provided an overview of the project background, development, preliminary design elements and layouts, and project schedule. The workshops then transitioned to charette exercises where attendees were invited to view and provide feedback on storyboards and maps highlighting various proposed elements such as bicycle streetscape, safety and educational treatments; landscaping elements and park amenities; and access and connectivity points to/from the site. Comments received at the workshops are summarized as follows:

Bicycle Streetscape, Safety and Educational Treatments

Support for:

- Various intersection treatments including operating traffic signals, stop and yield controls, and roundabout
- Standard bicycle and roadway/traffic signs
- Street name signs (opportunity for youths/students to participate in selection of street names)
- Bicycle roadway markings (including “green” high-visibility markings, crosswalks, lane directional arrows, bike boxes, bike lanes, etc.)
- Educational/Interpretive signage specific to cycling and streetscape features that emphasize the rules of the road
- Consider educational components specific to e-bikes
- Bicycle agility areas in the form of raised speed bumps, fixed traffic cones, etc.
- Railroad Xing with actual rails embedded in roadway
- Bus shelter/bench. Consider engaging high-school students to design or incorporate technology features as an opportunity for future STEM project
- Designated “slow zones” with use of solar-powered signs and/or markings
- Some support for a bicycle pump track, if funding permits
- Bike air and/or repair station

Landscape and Park Amenities

- Desire for mature, fast-growing trees (minimum 15 gallon)
- Trees should be located in close proximity of the path network to maximize shade from tree canopies
- Strong emphasis on need for shade
- Consider a mix of low-maintenance and drought-tolerant ground cover, decomposed granite and turf
- Restroom – proposed to be located at the entrance
- Provide drinking fountains near the restroom and multiple locations throughout
- Provide ample benches/seating
- Picnic and playground areas to provide multi-uses
- Shade structures or canopies, particularly at picnic area
- Provide bike parking/racks at multiple locations including entrance, restroom and picnic/playground areas
- Pedestrian-scale lighting along entirety of pathway network
- Consider water misters
- Some support for an art structure - should be Antioch-themed

Access, Connectivity and Other

- Support for connectivity to the Mokelumne Trail and existing sidewalk pathway around periphery of Community Center
- Explore opportunities to better-integrate with adjacent Community Center/Library
- Wayfinding signage to entry/exit points of facility
- Message board or kiosk at entry to post events
- Security cameras
- Establish sponsorship opportunities to support or contribute to bike garden amenities and/or maintenance

Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations

Subsequently, at its regular meeting of January 23, 2025, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) received a presentation on the project where they reviewed and provided comments on the updated conceptual design that included revisions incorporated based on public input received. Comments and recommendations provided by the PRC are summarized as follows:

Bicycle Streetscape, Safety and Educational Treatments

- Consider the inclusion of a bicycle pump track (if cost feasible) or designate a space for future addition
- Agility areas should be located/grouped in same general area of the facility
- Support for marked, in-roadway agility elements such as affixed traffic cones, “pothole” simulation, and railroad track crossing

- In addition to paved areas, consider incorporating multi-surface path areas such as gravel, decomposed granite and/or dirt
- Provide opportunities for community partnering, sponsorship and stewardship of park elements as part of design process or via future City programs

Landscape and Park Amenities

- Stressed the need for abundant shade
- Consider additional restroom (if cost is feasible)
- Park Entrance: Provide a kiosk/informational station and identifying bicycle-themed art piece or sculpture
- Incorporate a water misting station
- Trees Species size and selection: Consider using only California natives such as coast live, valley and blue oaks, redbud, ironwood, and cottonwoods. Consider a mix of small and medium size trees at planting to control costs and ensure healthy tree establishment
- Support for native and low-maintenance/drought tolerant grasses and plants, naturalistic planting areas
- Consult with Maintenance staff through design process at key decision points to vet impacts/feasibility of operations and costs

Ultimately, the PRC took action to approve the conceptual design, with the comments noted, and to forward to the City Council for its consideration.

In summary, the Bicycle Garden conceptual design, (provided in Attachment A), was developed to ensure that the project meets the goals, intent and requirements of the SS4A grant program in combination with the community input received. Pending the City Council's review and approval of the conceptual design, the project will proceed to the next stage of the design phase that will consist of preparation of 35%/65% plans and completion of Environmental clearances (CEQA/NEPA). Final design is proposed to be completed in summer 2025 and start of construction in fall/winter 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. PowerPoint Presentation – Project Overview and Conceptual Design