MCLAREN PARK
VISION PLAN REPORT

“...UNSPOILED ALPINE JOY IN THE CITY.”
JOHN MCLAREN, 1927
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 FOREWORD</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 GOALS + PRINCIPLES</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOALS</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRINCIPLES</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 FRAMEWORK</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 OUTREACH PROCESS</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTREACH PROCESS</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LOCATIONS</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 FINDINGS FROM OUTREACH</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREASURE HUNT + FUN DAY</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECOND COMMUNITY MEETING</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIRD COMMUNITY MEETING</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEY CONCEPTS</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 TIER ONE PRIORITY PROJECTS</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIER ONE PRIORITY PROJECTS</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 TIER TWO PROJECTS</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIER TWO PROJECTS</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GATEWAYS</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONNECTIVITY</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POINTS OF INTEREST</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 FUNDING + CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNDING</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The McLaren Park Vision Plan celebrates large scale investments in John McLaren Park (commonly referred to as McLaren Park).

McLaren Park occupies a very specific space within San Francisco’s park system. While Golden Gate Park has been called the City’s front yard, McLaren Park could be considered its backyard. San Francisco’s other parks could be arranged within the spectrum created by these two bookend parks, from carefully crafted and arranged formal spaces such as those found in Golden Gate Park, to wild spaces that celebrate hidden discoveries, as found in McLaren Park.

The McLaren Park Vision Plan process was not aimed at changing the park’s core character of natural landscapes with winding trails and panoramic City views, rather it was intended to understand how to emphasize and enhance the wild and unique character of the park. McLaren Park, like many other San Francisco parks, has a strong set of assets that encourage active and passive recreation, such as the tennis courts along Mansell Street and the extensive network of hiking trails and paths. The park is also distinguished by the amount of natural landscape native to San Francisco. While Golden Gate Park is largely reclaimed and transformed, McLaren Park in part, reflects San Francisco’s natural habitats.

One of the main challenges of McLaren Park is circulation; intersected by three roads, the park has steep topography, and a patchwork of amenities, all of which deter the safe and predictable movement of people, children, dogs, cars, bikes into and through the park. McLaren Park lacks a clear set of circulation routes to accommodate all the fundamental user movements through the park. Facilitating the movement of different users and programmatic uses across the park, parallels a strong effort to protect the habitat and the natural features that make McLaren Park such an attractive place to visit. This Visioning Process aims to balance the conservation of natural resources while increasing activation within McLaren Park.

The McLaren Park Vision Plan team is grateful to the hundreds of community stakeholders who invested their time in this process and whose thoughtful comments and good ideas shaped every page of the plan.
02
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
At 313 acres, McLaren Park offers a wide range of both active and passive recreational opportunities. These elements range from trails and paths, to six playgrounds, five picnic areas, three restrooms, tennis and basketball courts, an amphitheater, natural areas, a clubhouse, an off-leash dog play area, golf course, reservoir, lake, marsh, baseball diamonds, and other amenities. The park has significant topographic changes, with over 425 feet of elevation change, and sweeping vistas of downtown San Francisco, the East Bay and San Bruno Mountain.

While the park is well-loved by its neighbors and has strong advocacy groups and volunteers, it is underperforming as a citywide asset. A combination of deferred maintenance, decades of incomplete design ideas, and an inconsistent boundary with its adjacent neighborhoods, have created a park without a cohesive identity, sense of place or even a clear set of park entrances.

Planning and recreational development for McLaren Park has been actively pursued since 1978. The most recent Master Plan, approved in 1997, builds on the Master Plan prepared for the park in 1983. In 2010, the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) in partnership with the San Francisco Parks Trust, and Neighborhood Parks Council, carried out a Needs Assessment for McLaren Park using public workshops, online surveys, and small group exercises to identify the highest priority improvements. Since the Report was published in 2011, many of the improvements identified have been executed. Some of these include the renovation of the children’s play area near the intersection of Peru and Burrows Streets, the Mansell Streetscape Improvements Project and the re-surfacing of the Mansell Avenue tennis courts.

In November of 2012, the citizens of the City and County of San Francisco passed Proposition A, a $195 million General Obligation Bond identified as the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond. $12 million of the Bond funding, $10 million from the McLaren Park Citywide Program and $2 million from the Trails Program, are dedicated to improvements at McLaren Park. For further information on the Bond and funding allocation and opportunities, see Chapter 10: Funding + Continuous Improvements.

The goals for the McLaren Park Vision Plan are to develop an identity for the park and envision a set of park improvements that reinforce this identity. Over the past two years, RPD and the design team worked with McLaren Park advocates and neighbors to develop an approach for improving the park. The success of McLaren Park calls for sustained support and continued investment in the park by the City and the broader public.

Current efforts include “Quick Start” Projects, which were identified prior to the Vision Plan process, and “Tier One Priority Projects,” which are the result of the Vision Plan process. The Tier One Priority Projects are the focus of the 2012 Bond funding and are described in more detail in Chapter 8.

The “Tier Two Projects,” also identified through the Vision Plan process, are described in Chapter 9 and represent the priorities for future improvements to McLaren Park. They expand on the current set of improvements and are not yet funded.
TIER TWO PROJECTS:

- Gateways
  - Mansell East
  - Oxford Street
  - Crocker-Amazon Playground*
  - Louis Sutter Playground*
  - Herz Playground*

- Connectivity
  - Roadway improvements
  - Path improvements
  - Trail improvements

- Points of Interest
  - Upper Reservoir
  - Jerry Garcia Amphitheater Phase II
  - Bike Park Phase II

* “Playground” does not just refer to the children’s play area. Parks are commonly referred to as playgrounds.
My wish for McLaren Park is: REPAVE THE TRAILS!

My wish for McLaren Park is: Frisbee Golf!

My wish for McLaren Park is: A new tennis courts.

My wish for McLaren Park is: Be really family bike friendly.

My wish for McLaren Park is: MODEL RECIPE sponsored Zero Waste Picnic Areas in 5 Languages with Color-Coded Bins.

My wish for McLaren Park is: COST EFFECTIVE MODEL that could be used anywhere in U.S. (also, some type of No Dumping Support)

My wish for McLaren Park is: More Tea Stairs/Scatter poison open while Tower seasonally.

My wish for McLaren Park is: Toastmasters use of any party.
INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

The 2012 San Francisco Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Program allocated a total of $12 million for improving McLaren Park. Voters adopted fund allocations based on requirements of the General Obligation (G.O.) Bond Ordinance, and the Bond Report was adopted as policy by the Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Both the Bond Ordinance and the Bond Report committed $10 million to McLaren Park and its contiguous properties, which include Crocker Amazon Playground, Herz Playground and Louis Sutter Playground. On page 24 of the Bond Report, it states:

“These funds can be used for capital improvements at these parks, and may include, but are not limited to, the following types of projects:

• Restoration of natural features, including lakes, meadows, and landscapes
• Recreational Assets, such as playgrounds, playfields, courts, and picnic areas
• Connectivity and Access, such as roads, pedestrian safety, paths, and trails

$6.5 million of funds allocated to Golden Gate Park, and $1.5 million of funds allocated to McLaren Park, shall be allocated to projects that create or restore:

• Natural features, such as lakes, meadows, and landscapes
• Habitat for the park’s many species of plants and animals”

The Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and voters by approval of the ballot measure have all endorsed this funding expenditure. The Bond Report accompanied the ballot proposal, and Bond Ordinance, when presented to every policymaking body responsible for the oversight of G.O. Bonds in the city. Adopted by the RPD Commission and the Board of Supervisors, staff treat the Bond Report as the most complete description of commitments made to the public on how the G.O. Bond will be delivered, particularly with respect to public process.

The Bond Ordinance and the Bond Report also state a commitment of $4 million in funding for trail improvements within Golden Gate Park and McLaren Park. The purpose of these funds is “to repair and reconstruct park nature trails, paths, and connectivity in Golden Gate Park and McLaren Park” (page 23 of the Bond Report). Furthermore, a process commitment established that “RPD staff, in consultation with PROSAC, trail building experts, and park stakeholders, will make recommendations on proposed trail projects to the RPD Commission for approval prior to the expenditure of these funds. After identification and development of specific projects, environmental review required under CEQA will be completed.” RPD’s approach has been to divide the funds equally between Golden Gate Park and McLaren Park equally.

In November 2015, Capital Division staff presented to the RPD Commission a proposal to expend $2.5 million of this funding on a series of immediate improvements referred to as the “Quick Start Projects” Staff noted that the McLaren community is in:

“Agreement that a broader capital improvement planning process needs to occur. While a number of prior planning exercises have focused on McLaren Park, these processes are either now outdated (McLaren Master Plan) or have been largely executed (McLaren Needs Assessment). RPD will initiate a focused capital improvement process in Spring 2016 that will evaluate and develop goals for McLaren Park.”

Since this time, RPD has worked with CMG Landscape Architecture and their team of sub-consultants to develop a park improvement strategy plan referred to as the McLaren Vision Plan. The plan is a framework that proposes expending existing funding on a set of community-supported improvements while also memorializing support for a set of long-term improvements throughout the park.

With $2.5 million allocated for the Quick Start Projects and $600,000 for project administration, staff worked through the community process to develop a proposed list of improvements to expend the remaining $8.9 million in funding. The list of near-term, funded Tier One Priority Projects balance the park’s needs by improving trails, paths, and roadway crossings, focusing on two points of interest – the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater and Group Picnic Area, while also improving two of the gateways areas, including Mansell east and the Community Garden at the Visitacion Valley end of the park. While many of the individual project schedules are still in development, all of the projects are anticipated to begin planning in 2018.
One of the Many Views of Philosopher's Way
04 GOALS + PRINCIPLES
As RPD’s second largest park in San Francisco, McLaren Park has the potential to better serve all San Franciscans. With a growing population there is greater need for access to open spaces, and McLaren Park is uniquely situated to serve San Francisco’s burgeoning southeastern neighborhoods. Unfortunately, to some San Franciscans, McLaren Park is either unfamiliar or perceived as unkempt and dangerous. Accentuating the unique characteristics of the park can help distinguish it among city parks, make it a better resource for the neighbors who love it, and invite new users to explore it. Reinforcing the park’s identity will help San Franciscans become more conscious of the beauty and unique recreational opportunities the park affords.
The McLaren Park Vision Plan established the following goals to guide the process:

01 **ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP AN IDENTITY FOR MCLAREN PARK.**
- Conduct extensive outreach via a diversity of channels to connect with community stakeholders, both those who have already been engaged advocates and those that have not, to understand McLaren Park's existing character and discover how to reinforce and enhance the Park's beauty and functionality.

02 **BUILD A COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED VISION**
- Collect feedback, design iteratively and incorporate feedback from stakeholders.

03 **BALANCE NEIGHBORHOOD AND CITY USE WHILE PROTECTING NATURAL FEATURES**
- At over 300 acres, McLaren Park draws San Franciscans from across the City to enjoy amenities such as Philosopher's Way, the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, and the Gleneagles Golf Course. The park's playgrounds, courts, fields, and amenities, particularly along the fringes of the park, also serve the surrounding communities. While many of McLaren's trails, paths and recreational elements need refurbishing, there is a desire to minimize new construction and focus improvements on restoring existing infrastructure and built features.

04 **INVEST THE 2012 BOND IN PRIORITY PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT A SHARED VISION**
- Balance interests and needs heard from the community for the park's points of interests, connections and gateways to make meaningful short-term improvements.

05 **POSITION MCLAREN PARK FOR FUTURE INVESTMENT**
- Developing a plan that includes a vision for and list of future projects better positions RPD and the community to advocate for continued investment in the park.
PRINCIPLES

If Golden Gate Park is considered our city’s “front yard,” home to our cultural institutions, civic events, and formal gardens, perhaps the perception of McLaren Park as the city’s “backyard” can be a guide: a quieter, contemplative place, a place that celebrates the Bay Area’s unique geology and habitats, and is home to unique features such as the Wilde Overlook Tower and Jerry Garcia Amphitheater. There is overwhelming support among community members and RPD staff that the park be a wild, natural place, with distinct topography, geological features, and ecological communities, but that work needs to be done to increase the perception of safety. A major need is to clarify park circulation through path and trail improvements and subtle wayfinding that identifies major circulation routes, but keeps areas of the park more hidden and able to be discovered. According to stakeholder feedback at the first community meeting, the second most popular park feature is the expansive views that the park’s topography allows. Maximizing this unique feature with more welcoming and comfortable places at vantage points would reinforce the unique qualities of the park and allow visitors to situate themselves in the city and region.

While there was an emphasis on maintaining the wild identity of the park, community stakeholders also reinforced the importance of renewing the active recreational elements, which provide opportunities for diverse play in the park. Some of these diverse play activities include Tai-Chi, mountain biking and community gardening. Many of these activities are situated on the park’s perimeter at the neighborhood edge, and there is a desire to rehabilitate and expand parkland to house these activities.
As a result of the Vision Plan process, the following principles were identified to guide and evaluate the projects proposed:

01 ENHANCE COMMUNITY ACCESS INTO AND THROUGH MCLAREN PARK
  • Design a clear trail and path network
  • Develop a signage and way-finding strategy to increase navigability and provide ecological education
  • Design guidelines for hiking, biking, and running paths

02 MAINTAIN THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE OF MCLAREN PARK
  • Identify areas to be maintained and improved as important natural areas
  • Develop design guidelines to support the immersive experience of wild, natural landscapes
  • Develop signage and design strategies to educate the community on the value of the natural areas

03 ENHANCE MCLAREN PARK’S PANORAMIC VIEWS
  • New amenities should be positioned to protect and frame key views
  • As improvements are made in the Park, identify key panoramic views to protect and enhance

04 CREATE AND BUILD ON THE DIVERSE PLAY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN MCLAREN PARK
  • Reinforce the opportunity for diverse play in McLaren Park
  • Identify locations to integrate diverse play into McLaren Park
05 FRAMEWORK
As RPD and CMG began their analysis of McLaren Park, it became clear that a framework was needed to understand the sprawling 300+ acres of parkland. With input from community members, the team broke down the park into three primary elements: Gateways, Connectivity, and Points of Interest. Below is a summary of each of these elements:

**GATEWAYS**
McLaren Park has an abundance of entrances. Some, such as Persia Avenue are suited to vehicles, while others such as the staircase at the west end of Campbell Avenue, are for pedestrians. Due to the park’s irregular shape, and topography, the variation between entrances is dramatic. Many park entrances are unwelcoming, and ill-suited to all but a few neighbors.

For the purpose of the Vision Plan, five corners of McLaren Park have been considered as gateways into the park. These areas – the east end of Mansell Street, referred to as Mansell East, Louis Sutter Playground, the intersection of Oxford and Bacon Streets, referred to as Oxford Street, Herz Playground, and Crocker Amazon Playground – are all places on the perimeter of the park that serve several important purposes. In contrast to the largely wild interior of McLaren Park, these sites around the perimeter of McLaren Park offer amenities such as active recreation sport courts, fields, and playgrounds, and are used by their respective communities as their local parks. Notably, they also serve as major entrances into McLaren Park. The Vision Plan memorializes potential upgrades to selected gateways.

**CONNECTIVITY**
If a park user figures out how to enter the park, they then face the more complex challenge of deciding how to move around the park in a safe, convenient, and enjoyable fashion. Safe navigation of the roads, trails, and paths of McLaren Park are of paramount importance. The Vision Plan seeks to build on the improvements made to Mansell Street and the Philosopher’s Way to create a connectivity network that will allow McLaren Park visitors of all abilities to experience the park’s unique landscapes, vistas, and flora. This theme garnered the most interest from stakeholders.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**
Points of interest are defined as areas within the park that allow for specific activities. These areas include the Community Garden Group Picnic Area, Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, and McLaren Bike Park. The Vision Plan highlights certain Points of Interest in the Park, such as the Group Picnic Area, that are in need of improvement and provides clear program goals and scope to guide the design of the improvements.
06 OUTREACH PROCESS
OUTREACH PROCESS

To kick off a robust engagement process with the McLaren Park community, RPD organized a “fun day” in the park, oriented around a Treasure Hunt and Fun Day and other recreational activities including BMX cycling and Zumba hosted by RPD’s Mobile Rec Team. RPD wanted to draw in park regulars and those who were unfamiliar with the park. Additionally, the Treasure Hunt encouraged folks to explore various areas of the park that may have been previously unknown.

RPD held three large community meetings to engage residents and park visitors. Each meeting hosted between 60-180 participants, primarily residents from the neighborhoods surrounding McLaren Park. The first meeting explored overarching goals for the park and potential priority projects. The second meeting presented a draft list of priority projects and topics and preliminary information about each to confirm the focus for ongoing discussion and development through the Vision Plan. The final meeting presented the priority projects and confirmed funding allocations with the stakeholders.

In addition to in-person events, RPD also conducted digital and phone surveys. Following the second community meeting, the team identified the subset of focus areas that required more input and discussion.

The selected focus areas were the following:

- Courts
- Trails
- Group Picnic Area
- Jerry Garcia Amphitheater
- Roadways

Other projects prioritized by the community, including McLaren Bike Park Phase 2 and the Community Garden, were already well defined through previous outreach and design efforts.

Focus Area meetings had attendees of between 15-65 participants, also drawing primarily from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Over the course of spring through fall 2017, RPD held community workshops, site walks, and discussions on these focus areas, to better understand the community’s desired improvements for each of these areas. RPD synthesized the input and developed a list of Tier One and Tier Two Projects with corresponding funding recommendations. RPD presented the draft of projects and funding allocations to the public on October 17, 2017, receiving feedback from attendees to guide revisions for the final recommendations documented in this report.

Over the last two years RPD also attended local neighborhood group meetings to share the work and process more broadly. These included the McLaren Collaborative, Portola Neighborhood Association, Excelsior Collaborative, Vis Valley Service Providers, Vis Valley Planning Alliance, Mercy Housing Sunnydale Residents, and other events related to those groups. A few of those events included: Vis Valley Festival, Excelsior Celebration and Sunday Streets, Vis Valley Family Celebration, Summer Concerts, Portola Garden Tour, and Big Truck Day among others.

RPD began working with the McLaren Park neighbors more than five years ago, in advance of the Vision Plan process. RPD initially engaged the McLaren Park Collaborative - this group grew out of Help McLaren Park, Save McLaren Park, the Friends of Crocker Amazon, Friends of Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, and other folks advocating for McLaren Park. To provide regular updates and opportunities for feedback, RPD attended and presented updates at the Collaborative's monthly meetings and events such as the Summer Concerts.
McLaren Park received $12 million from the 2012 San Francisco Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond to spend on improvements across the park.

* A comprehensive list of community events can be found in Appendix A.
COMMUNITY MEETINGS:
• July 23, 2016 : Treasure Hunt
• October 1, 2016 : Community Workshop
• February 4, 2017 : Community Workshop
• February 15, 2017 : SPUR Vistas Walk
• February 25, 2017 : Trails + Paths Workshop (Site walk)
• April 1, 2017 : Courts Workshop
• April 8, 2017: Trails + Paths Workshop
• March 2, 2017 : Sunnydale Residents Meeting
• May 6, 2017 : Group Picnic Workshop
• May 23, 2017 : Roadways Workshop
• June 3, 2017 : Group Picnic Workshop
• June 8, 2017 : Sunnydale Residents Meeting
• June 8, 2017: Trails + Paths Workshop
• June 24, 2017 : Jerry Garcia Amphitheater Workshop
• July 12, 2017 : SPUR Lunch bag Presentation
• September 9, 2017 – Visitacion Valley Planning Alliance Meeting
• October 17, 2017 : Community Workshop

TRAIL AND PATHS FOCUS AREA ADDITIONAL OUTREACH:
• April 2017: Met with SF Urban Riders to discuss concerns and requests.
• May 2017: Met with Visitacion Valley Middle School Assistant Principal to review proposed improvements along Visitacion Avenue.
• June 2017: Met with cross country coaches and organizers to review how potential cross country routes can fit with proposed improvements.
• September 2017: Compiled factsheet with additional trails and path improvements info and distributed via email and project page of RPD website.
• October 2017: Led a site walk with a dozen neighbors and stakeholders who had expressed questions or concerns, to review proposed improvements and process to date and moving forward.
• Met with Philosopher’s Way artists and SF Arts Commission various times, including on site, to review proposed adjustments.
• Connected regularly with Healthy Parks, Healthy People walk leaders from RPD to solicit input from their walk participants and publicize our community meetings.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LOCATIONS

Community Engagement Locations
FINDINGS FROM OUTREACH
TREASURE HUNT + FUN DAY

To engage the McLaren Park community, RPD organized a fun day in the park, featuring a Treasure Hunt and supported by RPD’s Mobile Rec Team. The goal of the Treasure Hunt was to encourage park users to explore corners of the park they may not have visited on their own. Over 250 people attended the Treasure Hunt, many of whom were occasional users of the park, and RPD and the design team gained key insight on how people arrived at the park, used the park, traveled within the park, and their own vision and aspirations for McLaren Park. This opportunity to solicit feedback on the user’s experience and insight was incredibly valuable and impactful throughout the McLaren Park Vision Plan process.

Groups of all sizes started at the Group Picnic Area where they could pick up their detailed map of the park and clues to begin the Treasure Hunt. Groups earned stamps in their McLaren Park booklet by solving puzzles, playing games, and completing fun activities throughout various destinations in the park.

This event revealed three clear goals:

• Improve access, comfort and safety
• Define the right balance between immersive wild and recreation areas
• Communicate and reinforce a clear park identity

The park was described as a wild, hidden asset, as it was originally imagined by John McLaren. The community emphasized that what makes McLaren Park special is its combination of recreational opportunities and its natural landscape, including wildlife. Another key finding was that residents want to keep its wild, natural feel while also improving safety and opportunities for play.

McLAREN PARK TODAY... 今日的麥克拉倫...
EL PARQUE McLaren HOY DÍA...

McLAREN PARK NGAYON... 明日的麥克拉倫...
EL PARQUE McLaren DE MAÑANA...

McLaren Today + Tomorrow Cards
FINDINGS FROM OUTREACH

“I LOVE THE SECRET PATHS OF THE PARK!”

“UNEXPLORED”

“BEAUTIFUL”

“A PLACE TO SIT WITH FAMILY”

“INVITING AND USED BY ALL!”

Treasure Hunt + Fun Day
FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING

Following the McLaren Park Treasure Hunt and Fun Day, RPD staff held the first community meeting, themed “Imagine my McLaren” to discuss park identity, programming, points of interest, gateways and edges, connectivity, activation, and safety. The meeting was structured by a gameboard that participants traveled with through a series of stations where RPD and the design team was able to provide detail and further discuss the topics listed above. From these discussions, participants completed a series of questions and drawings that outlined their understanding of the park today and aspirations for its future.

Over 150 people attended from different neighborhoods throughout the Bay Area. Among the questions, the team focused on three topics: the balance of “wild” to recreation; the role of the park as a city vs neighborhood amenity; and the identity of the park. 83 percent of participants said they preferred McLaren Park to be either as wild as it is today, or more wild. This became an important thread throughout the process as an identifying element of McLaren Park versus other parks in the city. Over half of participants preferred the park to be equally a neighborhood and a city amenity. When rating their top three identities for McLaren park, participants’ top votes were: Immersive wild; Panoramic views; and Diverse play.

83% OF PARTICIPANTS PREFERRED McLAREN PARK TO BE THE SAME OR MORE WILD.

56% OF PARTICIPANTS PREFERRED THE PARK TO BE SPLIT BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOOD AND CITY USES.

PARTICIPANTS VOTED ON THEIR TOP THREE IDENTITIES FOR McLAREN PARK...

24% IMMERSIVE WILD

19% PANORAMIC VIEWS

19% DIVERSE PLAY
McLaren Park First Community Meeting

"KEEP IT WILD, BUT SAFE"

"WILD!"

"A VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCE FOR THE CITY"

"ART OF SPECIAL NOOKS MAKE IT MAGICAL"
SECOND COMMUNITY MEETING

After the first community meeting, the team collected and analyzed the community’s feedback around priority projects and park identity. Through this feedback, the McLaren Park goals, principles and objectives were drafted, listed in Chapter 4, and presented at the second community meeting for confirmation. The community response validated these goals, principles and objectives. Community members were also asked to both further prioritize the projects and to confirm the prioritization list.

At this meeting, the team introduced a series of proposed improvement areas, some of which would become focus areas, listed in Chapter 6, where RPD wanted to engage further with the community to gain more insight into the community’s desire for the scope of improvements. At the second community meeting, participants could sign-up for focus areas they were interested in attending. The trails and paths focus area was the most well attended, and included multiple meetings and site walks, which resulted in an overall approach to improving the system of trails and paths in the park, and specific priority projects. Some of the proposed improvement areas did not have focus areas because they had existing community supported concept plans, such as the McLaren Bike Park Phase 2 and the Community Garden.

RPD conducted online surveys concurrent to the second community meeting. Survey respondents voiced significant support for keeping McLaren Park a wild and natural space, with suggestions for more walking paths and bike trails. Reducing traffic speeds was a strong concern, with parking being a more limited topic. The inclusion of a pickleball court had a significant amount of interest, especially on the middle tennis court at Mansell and University Street. Finally, playground improvements elicited a large amount of support, including the potential addition of new playgrounds, renovation of existing playgrounds, opening the water tower to park users, and even the construction of a visitor center at the lookout area on Mansell.

Second Community Meeting

"UNIQUE WILD ESCAPE FROM THE CITY"

"IMPROVE EXISTING ASSETS, DON'T BUILD NEW"
THIRD COMMUNITY MEETING

In the third community meeting all priority projects identified in focus areas were organized in a comprehensive plan that was presented to the community. Additionally, RPD introduced the Tier One Priority Projects proposal for how 2012 Bond funds would be allocated to each priority project. Tier Two Projects were also identified for future funding or bonds. During the meeting, the community identified specific shifts to funding allocations and priority projects, which they felt would provide more equity to the surrounding neighborhoods. For example, a portion of funds allocated for renovating the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, located in the north side of the park, was reallocated to improving the Community Garden at the southern end. As a result, this project became funded despite not being previously identified as a Tier One Priority Project. Additionally, the community advocated for increasing funding for repairing the asphalt paths in the park. While this was already identified as a Quick Start Project, additional funds were shifted to increase the amount of asphalt path work that could be completed. The community’s input was supported by RPD and was integrated into the final allocation plan. This plan was then approved by the RPD Commission in November of 2017.
KEY CONCEPTS

MAINTAIN THE WILD CORE

The McLaren Park community has strongly supported preserving the wild character found in the center of the park. There was consensus that the park should preserve its native landscape habitats while also balancing the need to maintain access to existing programs areas, such as off-leash dog spaces and the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater. The community was also keen on preserving the hidden nooks created by the park’s unique topography and vegetation. The McLaren Park Vision Plan identifies opportunities within this area for habitat and creek restoration that would increase biodiversity and offer interpretive opportunities for visitors.

ENHANCE THE NEIGHBORHOOD-SERVING EDGES

Four neighborhoods wrap McLaren Park: Portola, Visitacion Valley, Crocker Amazon/Outer Mission, and the Excelsior. From the highpoint, the park slopes downwards to meet these four diverse neighborhoods. This topographic relationship reinforces a park diagram where the recreational and neighborhood-serving amenities tend to be located along the park-neighborhood interface, transitioning up to the wild core. The McLaren Park Vision Plan proposes to maintain and accentuate these relationships where a neighborhood-serving fringe invites visitors into the more wild center. The McLaren Park Vision Plan recommends maintaining the existing configuration with most recreational amenities at the park’s edge, and preservation of the wild core for passive recreation, engaging nature, and enjoying the views.

IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY

Park users often face the challenge of deciding how to move around the park in a safe, convenient, and enjoyable fashion. The McLaren Vision Plan builds on the improvements made to Mansell Street and the Philosophers Way to enhance the existing network of paths and trails to allow visitors of all abilities to experience the park’s unique landscapes, vistas, and flora. In addition to the paths along the edges of the park, the framework includes multi-use loops in both the north and south half of the park and a thoughtful system of trails interior to the park that invite more adventurous visitors, on both foot and bicycle, into the wild core.

Wild Heart

Neighborhood Edges

Connectivity
08
TIER ONE PRIORITY PROJECTS
**TIER ONE PRIORITY PROJECTS**

The following pages outline the Tier One Priority Projects that were developed through the Vision Plan Process. These projects support the goals and principles developed by RPD with community input and focus on improving existing infrastructure and better accommodating current park users. While some Tier One Priority Projects build on improvements that were already planned, such as the Community Garden renovation, others focus on creating dedicated spaces for previously overlooked park users, such as the Tai-Chi practitioners.

RPD views many of the Tier One Priority Projects as initial investments in the park, with the understanding that additional future funds will be necessary to fully complete the improvements. These phased projects include trail, path, and court improvements. All the Tier One Priority Projects will undergo additional public outreach in form of small stakeholder gatherings, large public community meetings, or site walks. Most of the projects will return to the RPD Commission for concept design approval after their planning phases are complete. These projects include the following: trail improvements, Restoration of Natural Features, Group Picnic Area Restroom and the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater Improvements.
TAI CHI/MULTI-USE COURTS

There are several opportunities for active recreation courts and field sports around the perimeter of the park. The biggest finding from the community planning process was that, despite being a very popular park activity, there is no adequate place to practice Tai Chi. On Saturday mornings, there are routinely 50-100 Tai Chi practitioners at the Mansell tennis courts. Crocker Amazon, Louis Sutter, and Herz Playground are other popular areas for Tai Chi. While there is already a paved multi-use court at Crocker Amazon that was recently repaved, the McLaren Park Vision Plan calls for the inclusion of multi-use areas at the Mansell Gateway and at Louis Sutter Playground, and condition and amenity improvements at the multi-use area at Crocker Amazon. Other highlights include reshaping the basketball court at the Oxford Gateway to accommodate full court youth basketball. Tai Chi/Multi-Use courts are to be funded with current bond funds for the Mansell East Gateway, Louis Sutter and/or Crocker Amazon Playground as funding allows.

BRIEF SCOPE:
• Add a dedicated area for Tai Chi practice
• Add a multi-use court for roller soccer and bike polo
• Improve site amenities at current multi-use courts
• Improve ADA access to upgraded courts

FUNDING ALLOCATION: $1,000,000

NEXT STEPS: The project will begin its planning phase in 2018. Additional community meetings will be held to confirm the exact scope of improvements with community stakeholders.
GROUP PICNIC AREA RESTROOM:
During outreach meetings for the McLaren Playground at the Group Picnic Area, community members expressed a strong desire for a permanent restroom in this area of the park. This was a long-standing theme of feedback from McLaren Park users. The picnic areas themselves will also be renovated with Quick Start funding as part of the Playground renovation.

BRIEF SCOPE:
• Replace portable washroom with a permanent restroom facility
• Install a drinking fountain adjacent to the restroom

FUNDING ALLOCATION: $1,700,000

NEXT STEPS: The project will begin its planning phase in early 2018. One additional community meeting will be held in Spring of 2018 to review the restroom building design and location with community stakeholders.
QUICK START PROJECT + LET’SPLAYSF! INITIATIVE PROJECT: GROUP PICNIC AREA MCLAREN PLAYGROUND

This project began as part of the Let’sPlaySF! Initiative, a partnership between RPD and the San Francisco Parks Alliance. Through the initiative, 13 playgrounds across San Francisco will be re-imagined and redesigned for this and future generations. The Let’sPlaySF! Initiative has committed $2,750,000 in funding for the playground project.

Prior to the Vision Plan process, the community advocated for increasing funding for improvements to the Group Picnic Area and as part of the Quick Start Projects, an additional $900,000 in funding was approved by RPD Commission for improvements to this area.

The playground’s design reflects the community’s desire to have a natural playground that capitalizes on the park’s hilly topography. The playground will be located on the sloping hillside between to the two existing picnic areas. A large slide will descend from the top of the playground to the base. There will also be a net climbing structure that will allow children to enjoy uninterrupted views of San Francisco. Natural elements such as boulders and timbers will wrap the hillside and be incorporated as play elements.
JERRY GARCIA AMPHITHEATER IMPROVEMENTS

There was widespread support for the following four options for the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, each of which can be delivered independently, or bundled together:

• Improvement 1: Amenities area. Create more level areas adjacent to the ADA parking spaces and next to the restroom to allow for placement of food vendors, outreach tents, and other amenities.

• Improvement 2: Temporary Fencing. Establish a route, and possibly lightweight infrastructure to support temporary fencing when crowd control and/or revenue control is desired; create two distinct entrances by the restroom and the bridge and include new signage.

• Improvement 3: Seating Improvements. Make the existing bench seating more comfortable and add numbering; gently sculpt the hill area above the bench seating to allow for a more comfortable, and easier to access/walk, picnic seating area.

• Improvement 4: Facelift. A series of inexpensive cosmetic upgrades that improve user and host experience, from refurbishing the greenroom, to wiring the front of the stage for power, to more storage, to lighting and sound upgrades.

BRIEF SCOPE:

• Extend flat paved space adjacent to the accessible parking lot
• Provide a bridge over the creek
• Delineate route for temporary event fencing
• Improve lawn behind seats
• Upgrade the greenrooms and increase storage space

FUNDING ALLOCATION: $1,450,000

NEXT STEPS: The project will begin its planning phase in 2018. Additional community meetings will be held to confirm the exact scope of improvements with community stakeholders. The Vision Plan proposes funding the facelift and amenities area improvements with current funding while the seating improvements and temporary fencing will likely be done as part of a second phase of improvements that are not yet funded.
**Tier One Priority Projects**

Jerry Garcia Amphitheater Improvements Diagram

**Improvement 1**
- Extend retaining wall and regrade for drainage
- Reroute path

**Improvement 2**
- Path to reroute non-ticket holders around site
- Point of access: enter ticketed area

**Improvement 3**
- Introduce seat numbering at amphitheater seats
- Improve upper lawn area

**Improvement 4**
- Cosmetic upgrades for user and host experience
- Increase storage capacity

**Restroom**
- Existing
- M: 2 WC, 4 urinal, 3 sink
- W: 5 WC, 3 sink

**Additional Signage/Entry Identity**
- Portable toilets (adjust curb)
- Extend level area with space for food tents, food trucks, and/or performance equipment; add retaining
- Extend level area with space for two food trucks; painted asphalt
- Improve/pave access route to backstage area

**Temporary Fencing**
- Markers for temporary fencing at hillside
- Hillside access path

**Temporary Facelift**

**Amenities Area**

**Seating Improvements**

**Hillside Access Path**

**Additional Signage/Entry Identity**

**Point of Access: Enter Ticketed Area**

**Bridge Over Creek**
PATH IMPROVEMENTS

The Trails and Paths Focus Area of the McLaren Park Vision Plan process was identified as a key component because of the importance of circulation and connectivity to a cohesive overall plan. Many of the asphalt paths throughout McLaren Park are deteriorated and in need of replacement. Community members evaluated the paths in the park and provided RPD with a map that scores path conditions from “excellent” to “poor”. With this information RPD plans to prioritize repairs to paths in “poor” condition with the potential of addressing “fair” condition paths as funding allows. This project began as a Quick Start Project with an initial allocation of $200,000 in funding. During the Vision Plan Process, it was decided that the Quick Start Project should pause in case any of the paths were to be re-aligned. Due to advocacy from community stakeholders, an additional $500,000 has been allocated to path improvements for a total project budget of $500,000. Of the $500,000, $100,000 will be directed to new curb ramps for pedestrian crossings along John F. Shelley Drive.

BRIEF SCOPE:

• Repave paths marked as red priority areas on the Path Improvements Map
• If funding allows, repave paths marked as orange area on the Path Improvements Map
• Repave asphalt paths

FUNDING ALLOCATION: $500,000 (PLUS $200,000 PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED)

NEXT STEPS: This project will resume its Planning Phase in early 2018. A site visit will be held with community members to confirm the scope of improvements prior to initiating construction. Additionally, this map has been shared with the Operations Division of RPD with potential to direct annual paving funding to additional repairs.
Path Improvement Map
VISITACION AVENUE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

At the third and final community meeting for the McLaren Park Vision Plan process, there was strong community support for allocating funding in the Visitacion Valley area of the Park. RPD was able to fund pedestrian crossing of Visitacion Avenue which will help connect the Middle School to the park and improve pedestrian safety.

BRIEF SCOPE:

• New crosswalk to improve safety and access, including tools such as a pedestrian refuge island and/or bulbouts

FUNDING ALLOCATION: $300,000

NEXT STEPS: This project will be coupled with the Path Improvements Project, and planning will begin in early 2018. In addition, the Visitacion Avenue corridor will be included in future roadway connectivity studies and projects to improve pedestrian and bicycle access and safety in the park.
COMMUNITY GARDEN

For over 25 years the community garden at the western terminus of Leland Avenue, located adjacent to a main entrance into McLaren Park from Visitacion Valley, has served a group of neighborhood community gardeners. The Community Garden initially received funding as part of the Community Opportunity Fund Program in the 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond. The original project scope was to replace the deteriorating raised beds at the upper terrace of the garden and to improve the toolshed. Since then, the project scope has increased substantially to be a complete garden renovation. With funding as part of the Quick Start Projects, the renovation grew to include replacing all the raised beds, as well as providing a new concrete plaza area, new toolshed, compost bins, fencing, and irrigation. At the final McLaren Vision Plan process community meeting, there was broad support for further investment in the garden that included the addition of a gazebo, greenhouse and site furnishings. This funding will allow the garden to fulfill its potential as a vibrant community resource.

The design and construction of the community garden is being carefully coordinated with a project by the SFPUC to install a rain garden north of the community garden at the terminus of Leland Avenue. The rain garden collects stormwater runoff from Visitacion Avenue and diverts it into the garden instead of the City’s stormwater sewer system. The SFPUC’s project also includes a path that connects the Visitacion Valley neighborhood to McLaren Park via the end of Leland Avenue.

BRIEF SCOPE
• Gazebo
• Greenhouse
• Potting table
• Additional site furnishings

FUNDING ALLOCATION: $250,000

NEXT STEPS: This project is wrapping up its design phase and now includes the additional scope items outlined above. The garden project will be put out to bid in the Spring of 2018 and construction is estimated to start in the Summer of 2018.
RESTORATION OF NATURAL FEATURES

The creation or restoration of natural features, such as lakes, meadows and landscapes and the creation or restoration of habitat for the park’s many species of plants and animals are included in this project scope. This work will be planned, designed and constructed in conjunction with the trail improvements. Trail and restoration work is completed together because many trails pass through or are nearby significant natural resource areas. When visitors are walking, running or biking on trails they can enjoy being near the healthy natural landscapes and habitats. This also helps guide the understanding of where sensitive habitats are in the park and provides the opportunity for education and stewardship.

BRIEF SCOPE:
• Creation or restoration of natural features
• Creation or restoration of habitat for the park’s many species of plants and animals

FUNDING ALLOCATION: $1,500,000

NEXT STEPS: RPD anticipates that the restoration of natural features work will be done in conjunction with the Trails Improvement Project and that more detailed planning and design work will incorporate additional community input.
TRAILS

The Trails and Paths Focus Area of the McLaren Park Vision Plan process was identified as a key component because of the importance of circulation and connectivity to a cohesive overall plan.

A diverse group of stakeholders and user groups participated in this focus area of the Vision Plan outreach process, such as neighbors who use trails and paths to get from Point A to Point B, people who walk with kids or dogs, participants in Healthy Parks, Healthy People guided walks, cross country coaches, environmental educators, Visitacion Valley Middle School administration, and natural resource advocates. Community members particularly engaged with trail improvement planning were advocates for off road bicycle access and community members who want to preserve the Philosopher’s Way and the wild feel of many of the park’s trails. The proposed improvements will provide a balance of opportunities for a broad group of different user types.
Goals of the Trails and Paths Focus Area were:

- Ensure safe recreation and access
- Maintain and build on natural character
- Protect natural resources
- Clarify circulation routes

The proposed improvements build on the existing trail network, including the Philosopher’s Way. The framework includes multi-use loops in both the north and south half of the park and a thoughtful system of trails interior to the park that invite more adventurous visitors, on both foot and bicycle, into the wild core.

RPD has identified four priority project areas with improvements to be completed with 2012 Bond funding due to the combination of their potential impact and the need to have a licensed contractor complete the more technical aspects in these areas.
The four priority project areas and associated proposed scopes include the following:

**SHELLEY LOOP INTERIOR**
- Clarify trail alignments and wayfinding between points of interest, such as the amphitheater and group picnic and playground area
- Repair trail surface erosion damage
- Improve drainage to minimize future erosion
- Convert trail impacting the creek to a spur trail with overlook and consolidate trails to increase connectivity
- Habitat restoration planting
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage

**CONNECTION BETWEEN LOUIS SUTTER AND MANSELL COURTS**
- Reconfigure asphalt path with steps to more sustainable multi-use trail that meets ADA Outdoor Accessibility guidelines
- Consolidate and reroute trails to reduce erosion and maintain or improve the grasslands
- Wayfinding signage

**VISITACION AVENUE CORRIDOR**
- New multi-use trail from park entry at Visitacion and Hahn to Visitacion Valley Middle School, along eastern side of road, with stabilized trail surface (sandy area)
- Habitat restoration planting

**UPPER RESERVOIR**
- New sidewalk from the middle school to the fire road trail entry
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage

**NEW PROJECT AREAS AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSED SCOPES**
- New crosswalk at Shelley to connect to path and trails on west side
- Replace asphalt path and steps with a sustainable natural surface trail and less steps
- Mitigate drainage problems
- Habitat restoration planting
- Repair paving on ramp south of reservoir and accommodate bicycles
- Wayfinding signage
FUNDING ALLOCATION: $2,000,000

THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE FOLLOWING AS PART OF THE VISION PLAN:

- The expenditure of $2 million for trail and path improvements
- The expenditure of $1.5 million for the restoration of natural features as indicated in the 2012 Bond Report, and as part of the future McLaren Park Trails Improvement Project
- Prioritization of the use of 2012 Bond funding for improvements in four designated priority project areas
- Organizing principles and hierarchy of trails, including multi-use loops in both north and south halves of the park as well as the balance of pedestrian only and bike-legal multi-use trails

NEXT STEPS: Following additional community outreach and input and planning and design work, RPD will return for Commission approval of the McLaren Park Trails Improvement Project concept design, which will include more specificity of proposed improvements, including trail alignments, delineation of trail sections to be rerouted and/or decommissioned, trail surfacing, sign and fencing locations, proposed hazard tree abatement, habitat restoration planting and natural features restoration, and other trail features including drainage and erosion remediation.
TIER ONE PRIORITY PROJECTS

UPPER RESERVOIR

SHELLEY LOOP INTERIOR

CONNECTION BETWEEN LOUIS SUTTER AND MANSELL COURTS

VISITACION AVE CORRIDOR

Trail and Path Improvements Map

- Multi-use trails + paths (existing) (approximately 1.3 miles)
- Multi-use trail + paths (proposed) (approximately 6.8 miles in addition to existing 1.3 miles)
- Pedestrian only trails + paths (existing + proposed) (approximately 10.7 miles)
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Through the McLaren Vision Plan process, RPD developed a set of best management practices for trail development and maintenance.

These include:

- Trail width standards: trails built at 3’ minimum for pedestrian only and 5’ minimum for multi-use trails with bike access
- Trail realignment, decommissioning and habitat restoration for sustainability
- Drainage and erosion fixes
- Hazardous tree mitigation
- Habitat restoration planting
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
Slope, Drainage and Erosion Control
Trail and Path Realignment, Decommissioning and Surfacing
TIER ONE PRIORITY PROJECTS

Hazard Tree Mitigation and Habitat Restoration Planting
Signage: Wayfinding and Interpretive
Trails and Paths Site Walk
TIER TWO PROJECTS
The McLaren Park Vision Plan strived to position the park for future funding and improvements by envisioning aspirational projects that the community could advocate for in the future. These projects were identified by the community as important projects to improve the park user experience. However, throughout the outreach process, the community wanted to distribute the 2012 Bond funding equally across the park in smaller increments, which shaped the Tier One Project prioritization. Tier Two Projects build upon those improvements in Tier One, and also serve to provide a more comprehensive look at the park and a more holistic rethinking of the layout, programming, and amenities at each site. Tier Two Projects should function as a blueprint for the opportunity at McLaren Park and are intended to help shape conversations surrounding future improvement funding.
GATEWAYS

During the community process, it became apparent the entrances into McLaren Park were missing several common park elements and required rethinking. The current lack of park identification and wayfinding creates a confusing user entry experience and do not properly showcase the park’s many unique experiences and points of interest. Additionally, McLaren Park is surrounded largely by active recreation park areas, which function as standalone neighborhood parks. Enhancements to the entrance, wayfinding and programming of these neighborhood parks were conceptualized and shown to the community as part of the visioning process. The below details the suggested improvements that gained consensus. These proposals can further be developed into a scope of work for future projects.
**MANSELL EAST**

As the largest gateway, proposed improvements to the area of McLaren Park adjacent to Mansell Street and Shelley Drive East include adding two plaza spaces for the purposes of supporting Tai Chi, re-aligning and streamlining paths to improve ADA compliance and circulation, enhancing the central lawn and small picnic areas, and developing a stormwater retention area just north of Mansell to augment the work done as part of the Mansell Street improvements. One multi-use/Tai Chi court is prioritized to be funded with current bond funds as a Tier One Project while the remainder of these improvements do not have funding and thus are included in the Tier Two cost estimate.

1. (N) Tai chi plaza
2. (N) Central lawn
3. (N) Crosswalk
4. (N) Neighborhood garden buffer
5. (N) Entry plaza + welcome kiosk
6. (E) Bio-swale
7. (E) Park sign, with planting improvements
8. Narrowed roadway
9. (N) Planting buffer + realigned parking
10. (N) Multi-use court
11. (E) Bathroom
12. (N) Picnic area
13. (E) Resurfaced tennis court
14. Address erosion at back of all courts
15. (N) Stormwater treatment garden
16. (N) Bio-swale redirect storm water to treatment garden

Preliminary Diagram
**OXFORD STREET**

Improvements at the area near Oxford and Bacon Streets include re-aligning the basketball area to accommodate a full youth court, path, pavement, seating, amenity and bleacher improvements. This work would be integrated with the SFPUC plan to daylight Yosemite Creek. The PUC plan is managed and funded by the SFPUC. All other improvements are not currently funded but are included in the Tier Two cost estimate.

1. (N) Crosswalk
2. (E) Signage with new planting
3. (E) Paths
4. (N) Sidewalk
5. (N) Bridge
6. (N) Yosemite creek alignment per PUC design
7. (N) Native riparian edge per PUC design
8. (N) Paths
9. (E) Bathroom
10. (N) Stepped seating
11. (N) Resurfaced + expanded basketball court with fence
12. (N) Native scrub planted slope
13. (N) Lawn + picnic area
14. (E) Tree canopy, typical
15. (E) Bridge
16. (N) Stormwater catchment

Preliminary Diagram
CROCKER-AMAZON PLAYGROUND

The relatively minor changes to an otherwise popular Crocker-Amazon Park include adding a path along the Geneva Avenue planting edge and creating new accessible entry plazas into the park. The existing multi-use courts are slated for re-surfacing in Fall 2017. Additional improvements include new amenities and fencing at the courts. The resurfacing is funded via the RPD Operations budget and some multi-use upgrades will be funded using Tier One funds. The remainder of these improvements shall be included in Tier Two.

1. (E) Parking
2. (E) Playground
3. (E) Structure
4. (N) Entry plaza with signage + way finding
5. (N) Tree
6. (E) Courts
7. (E) Basketball courts with fence
8. (E) Resurfaced multi-use courts, with curbs + fences
9. (N) Entry plaza
10. (E) Tennis courts
11. (E) Playground
12. (N) Improved user experience along Geneva. Walkway realigned, additional planting + adult fitness equipment
13. (E) Fence
14. (E) Tree canopy, typical
15. (E) Soccer fields
16. (E) Baseball fields
17. (E) Stadium seating

Preliminary Diagram
LOUIS SUTTER PLAYGROUND

Proposed changes to Louis Sutter Playground include adding a multi-use court to facilitate Tai Chi, roller hockey, roller soccer, and bike polo, re-purposing an under-utilized and duplicative playground area with adult fitness equipment and integrating these changes with the proposed SFPUC bio-retention basin and Yosemite Creek daylighting project. These improvements are not currently funded and are included in the Tier Two cost estimate.

1 (N) Bio-retention basin 2, per PUC design
2 (N) Bio-retention basin 3, per PUC design
3 (E) Softball fields
4 (N) Bridge, per PUC design
5 (E) Picnic area
6 (E) Resurfaced basketball court with (N) fence
7 (E) Tennis court
8 (E) Playground
9 (E) Sign, with updated planting
10 (N) Multi-use court
11 (E) Improved planting in and around lake
12 (E) Parking
13 (E) Structure
14 (E) Playground
15 (N) Yosemite plaza, per PUC design
16 (N) Crosswalk, typical
17 (N) Native riparian edge planting, per PUC design
18 (N) Yosemite creek alignment, per PUC design
19 (N) Resurfaced plaza + path around McNabb lake
HERZ PLAYGROUND

With the upcoming planning for Sunnydale Housing and the potential partnership with Mercy Housing to create a neighborhood services hub adjacent to Herz Playground, staff refrained from going to deeply into planning for Herz Playground.

The children’s play area at Herz Playground will be renovated as part of the Let’sPlaySF! Initiative, which is also funding the renovation of the children’s play area at the Group Picnic Area. This project was identified as one of the Tier Two Projects in the Let’sPlaySF! Initiative. Its planning is estimated to begin by 2019, and it will be coordinated with the Sunnydale Housing project.
CONNECTIVITY

With community calls to improve John Shelley Drive in McLaren Park, the SFMTA and RPD developed a package of traffic calming measures that will slow vehicular speeds and make for improved crossings where trails meet the road. This $120,000 project is funded by the SFMTA and includes 12 speed humps along John Shelley Drive’s entire length, as well as three speed tables where trails meet. These speed tables can be converted to raised crosswalks in the future through adding curb ramps and crosswalk stripes. Additionally, the intersection of Cambridge and Shelley will be altered through the addition of safe-hit posts and painted roadway to make the intersection narrower, causing cars to pass through more slowly.

The traffic calming measures were presented at two McLaren Collaborative meetings and at two community meetings – one of which was dedicated solely to roadway improvements. The community was supportive of these measures. MTA and RPD are working together to install these improvements along Shelley in early 2018, and to have an agreed upon MOU to address maintaining the various elements.

The collaboration between SFMTA and RPD has also considered medium- and long-term ways of improving McLaren Park’s roadways for bikes, pedestrians and cars, while also making for clarified road crossings. Improvements could include raised crosswalks, shorter crosswalks with bulb outs, bikeways, narrowing vehicular roadways to add multi-use paths, and to look at the parking patterns of the park to inform improvements. These future improvements are not currently funded.

The funding plan proposes the use of $500,000 for pedestrian path and roadway crossing improvements, some of which will directly fund construction of curb ramps and crosswalks and $300,000 specifically for the roadway crossing improvements in areas of the park that serve the Visitacion Valley neighborhood, namely the Visitacion Avenue crosswalk at Visitacion Valley Middle School.
ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Address roadway access and safety along three park roads:
  - Visitacion Avenue
  - Sunnydale Avenue
  - John Shelley Drive
- Create designated pedestrian crossings where trails meet roads
- Create bicycle and pedestrian access ways along roadways, especially where no path or trail is in proximity of existing roadways
- Explore trial roadway treatments, such as closing a portion of Shelley Drive to calm the road and to open up the closed segment to non-vehicular uses.

ADDITIONAL PATH IMPROVEMENTS

- Build off the work done as part of the Tier One Priority Project to repave the most poorly rated paths
- Perform necessary tree work adjacent to paths
- Coordinate with possible crosswalk and curb ramp improvements as needed

ADDITIONAL TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

- Build off the work done as part of the Tier One Priority Project
- Revisit the trail network plan and best management practices developed as part of the McLaren Vision Plan and build out a Phase 2 scope that focuses on other areas of the park, with additional community input
POINTS OF INTEREST

UPPER RESERVOIR
Background: Water from the Upper Reservoir irrigates many of the park’s grassy lawns and planting beds. The reservoir is nestled in a low point of McLaren Park and is surrounded by picnic tables and hiking trails.
Brief scope: The project could include refurbishing the picnic areas, repairing the trail/path that loops the reservoir and beautifying the surrounding landscape with new plantings.

JERRY GARCIA AMPHITHEATER PHASE II
Background: The Jerry Garcia Amphitheater was built in the early 1970’s and was named after Jerry Garcia in 2005. The amphitheater hosts concerts, summer camps, theater performances, and school graduations.
Brief scope: Continue improvements that will be done as part of the Tier One Priority Projects.

BIKE PARK PHASE II
Background: The McLaren Bike Park, a project imagined by a group of local mountain bikers, is an area for riders of all experience levels to develop and hone their skills. The first phase of the McLaren Bike Park opened October 2017.
Brief scope: While the initial phase focused on development of a small, youth-sized, pump track, Phase II is imagined to enlarge the park with additional jumps and trails of increasing difficulty. These future improvements are not currently funded.
TRAILS AND PATHS WORKSHOP

Credit: SITELAB urban studio
10
FUNDING + CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS
USE OF 2012 BOND FUNDING

As described in the introduction, within the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond, there are two sources of funding for McLaren Park totaling $12 million. $2 million is allocated for the park from the Trails Program. This funding is intended to be used to repair and reconstruct park nature trails, paths, and improve connectivity throughout the park. $10 million is allocated for general improvements to McLaren Park with $1.5 million of the funding set aside for natural features, such as lakes, meadows, and landscapes as well as habitat for the park’s many species of plants and animals.

Of the $10 million for improvements to McLaren Park, $2.5 million was allocated toward the Quick Start Projects in late 2015, and $600,000 of the $10 million was used for staff administration and consultant fees for the McLaren Park Vision Plan. The complete list of Quick Start Projects, their funding allocations from the McLaren Citywide Park Program and their current status are shown on the following page.

With $5.6 million either allocated or restricted for specific uses, staff worked throughout the community planning process to develop a proposed list of near term improvements to prioritize with the remaining $6.4 million. The list of near-term, fully funded improvements balances the park’s needs by improving trails and roadway crossings, focusing on two points of interest – the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater and Group Picnic Area, while also activating two of the gateways areas with new multi-use courts, and improving paving and roadway crossings.

LEVERAGING OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

As a unique, beloved space in San Francisco, staff and the community have an opportunity to seek both funding and partnerships to improve McLaren Park. From activating unused features such as the Wilde Tower Overlook to accessing developer impact fees to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety along Visitacion Avenue, there are many ways to activate and improve the park with resources beyond the $12 million allocated to McLaren Park from the 2012 Bond. It is the goal of this report to help support these opportunities. Recent partnership projects in McLaren Park have included the Mansell Streetscape Improvements Project, which was realized with help from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, San Francisco Public Works and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency. The project was funded through a combination of state and local funding sources, grant funds and 2012 Park Bond money. The Community Opportunity Fund, which was a program in both the 2008 and 2012 Park Bonds, also contributed funding for projects in McLaren Park including the Community Garden renovation and the recently completed Bike Park. As mentioned in the Tier One Priority Projects, the playground at the Group Picnic Area will be replaced primarily with funds from the Let’sPlaySF! Initiative, a partnership between RPD and the San Francisco Parks Alliance. As mentioned earlier, the $120,000 Shelley Drive Traffic Calming Project was funded by SFMTA with SFMTA and RPD collaborating on design and outreach on the project. RPD will seek transportation grant funding to realize future roadway improvements in the park. RPD has received a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant in the past to fund trail improvements at the Campbell Street entrance, at the Visitacion Valley fire road entrance and at the Persia entrance. As of the writing of this report, RPD had also applied for a state Outdoor Environmental Education Grant to supplement the 2012 Bond funding for trail improvements, habitat planting and wayfinding and interpretive signage, particularly focused in the area between Group Picnic and the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater.

In addition to other funding sources, RPD’s Volunteer Services Program and Natural Resource Division will continue to partner with Volunteers for Outdoor California and other volunteer groups to tackle some of the proposed improvements. This represents thousands of hours and dollars of value and also builds ecoliteracy and stewardship.
### TIER 1 PROPOSED PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Picnic Area Restroom</td>
<td>$1,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoration of Natural Features</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Garcia Amphitheater Improvements</td>
<td>$1,450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tai Chi/Multi-Use Courts</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Path Improvements</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitacion Avenue Pedestrian Crossing</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Garden (additional scope)</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Reserve</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,900,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### QUICK START PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mansell Streetscape Improvements</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John McLaren Bike Park</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Garcia Amphitheater Improvements</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Garden</td>
<td>90% CDs</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Picnic Area</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Path Improvements</td>
<td>Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signage</td>
<td>Initiation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visioning Process / Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$3,100,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### PROPOSED TRAIL PRIORITY PROJECTS

- Upper Reservoir
- Shelley Loop Interior
- Connection between Louis Sutter + Mansell Courts
- Visitacion Avenue Corridor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citywide Parks John McLaren Park: Tier One Projects</td>
<td>$6,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citywide Program Trails: Four Priority Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,900,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS

As a large and dynamic park, McLaren Park is often the focus for smaller projects as funding becomes available to Operations staff. At the time of writing this report, there are improvements underway that include:

- The installation of 8 bear-proof trash cans in key locations
- Striping for pickleball at the Louis Sutter Tennis Courts
- Re-surfacing the center tennis court at Mansell
- Re-surfacing the multi-use court at Crocker-Amazon

McLaren Park Continuous Improvements
Lovers Rock in McLaren Park