

Department of Public Works
Finance & Management Services Division

SUGGESTIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Project Location: LINA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD PARK; 1259 LINDA VISTA AVENUE.

Project Description: (Briefly describe the proposed improvement or the problem/deficiency that should be corrected. Use the back of the sheet if you need more room.)

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.

SEE ATTACHMENT FOR FURTHER DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION.

Justification: (Briefly discuss why this project is needed.)

SEE ATTACHMENT.

Submitted By: LINDA VISTA-ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION,
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FOR STAFF USE ONLY

Priority: High _____ Medium _____ Low _____

Comments:

Reviewed By: _____
Extension: _____

**LINDA VISTA PARK
1259 Linda Vista Avenue**

**CIP SUGGESTED PROJECT:
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

ATTACHMENT TO SUGGESTIONS FORM

1. Project Description. The proposed Project is new Playground Equipment for the Linda Vista Park. The new Playground Equipment is intended to be consistent with the previously designed and approved Playground Equipment recently installed, or planned for, installation, in Neighborhood Parks city-wide. The only Playground Equipment in the Park now is a swing set in a sand area which is used by the children who come to the Park, and which would be retained.

The Linda Vista Park is 1.91 acres in size, and includes a large central lawn area, a current playground/swing set area, and picnic areas. A map for your information illustrating the location and size of the Park site is attached. There is adequate space in the Park adjacent to the swing-set area to add new Playground Equipment. Also attached is a photographic depiction of the proposed Playground Equipment indicating the proposed location of the new Equipment and how it would easily fit into the Park area.

2. Project Justification. The Linda Vista Park is located in the Linda Vista-Annandale single-family residential area. As indicated in Pasadena's Parks Master Plan adopted by the Council in 2007, the City of Pasadena, as a whole, is underserved when it comes to active-use and neighborhood parks. A study in the Parks Master Plan notes playgrounds are the most used recreational facilities in the City, two times more than soccer fields or swimming pools.

The community of Linda Vista is one of the 7 “gap areas” in Pasadena called out in the Parks Master Plan. The Parks Master Plan analysis specifically states that the Linda Vista residential area lacks a neighborhood recreation facility.

Neighborhood Parks are intended to serve City residents who live in close proximity to them. Ideally, as indicated in the City Parks Master Plan, everyone in the City would live within walking distance (one-half mile) of a Neighborhood Park, which distance is defined as the “service radius” or “service area” of a neighborhood park. The Linda Vista Park is within ½ mile walking distance of a large number of Linda Vista neighborhood residents who do walk to and enjoy the Park.

Since becoming a Park in 2008, the Linda Vista Park has been the only active-use park in the Linda Vista neighborhood, and has filled the identified park “gap” very successfully. The Linda Vista Park is continuously and regularly used by families with children who seek an active play area, and by individuals enjoying the beautiful surroundings. The Park is used every day by children who play in the large, open central area, including “pick-up” team and informal group activities such as soccer. The Park is also the home of the neighborhood’s highly successful annual neighborhood “Picnic in the Park.” The Linda Vista Park creates a sense of community and enhances the quality of life for all our neighbors. Recently, the City’s Public Works Department installed a drinking fountain in the Park to enhance Park use. Attached are illustrative photographs of Park use and events.

New up-to-date Playground Equipment has been installed or is being installed in the City’s parks, including Neighborhood Parks. The Linda Vista Neighborhood Park is deficient in adequate up-to-date Playground Equipment. Installing new Playground Equipment in the Linda Vista Park will bring this Neighborhood Park into parity with other Neighborhood Parks in the City.

3. History and Background. The Park area originally was the playground for the public Linda Vista Elementary School. The beautiful Park area includes a large open central

area originally designed to encourage and facilitate active play by young children, and was regarded as a model for public elementary school playgrounds.

In FY 2006, while the Linda Vista Park area was still a part of the public Linda Vista Elementary School, and the Linda Vista Elementary School was still open and operating, a Capital Improvement Program for new playground equipment (and possibly other playground amenities) was “created and initially funded”. The Park area was included in the FY 2009 – 20014 Capital Improvement Program for School Site Improvements, including playground equipment and other playground amenities for a number of public school sites, including “Linda Vista Elementary.” A copy of the relevant page (Page 8.8) from the FY 2009 – 20014 Capital Improvement Program is attached.

During the 2004-2005 school year, the PUSD unexpectedly and abruptly closed the Linda Vista Elementary School, including the Park area. The school site, including the Park area, stayed unused and began to decline until 2006 when a group of Linda Vista neighbors began a campaign, ultimately successful, to open the Park area for public use as a Neighborhood Park.

In early 2008, the Pasadena City Council and the PUSD developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), under the general authority of the City of Pasadena and the PUSD city-wide Joint Use of Facilities Agreement, directed at re-opening the Park area at Linda Vista School “in one of the City’s park-deficient neighborhoods during daylight hours year-round, including holidays.” The MOU additionally states that:

The intent of this MOU is to delineate the specific details of the Linda Vista Park use, **which is meant to function as a neighborhood park** on weekdays and weekends, available for daytime walking, casual use, and other walk-on uses, not including organized sports, team practices, or activities requiring reservations (emphasis added.)

Subsequently, a gala “grand opening” of the Park was held with 600 jubilant neighbors in attendance.

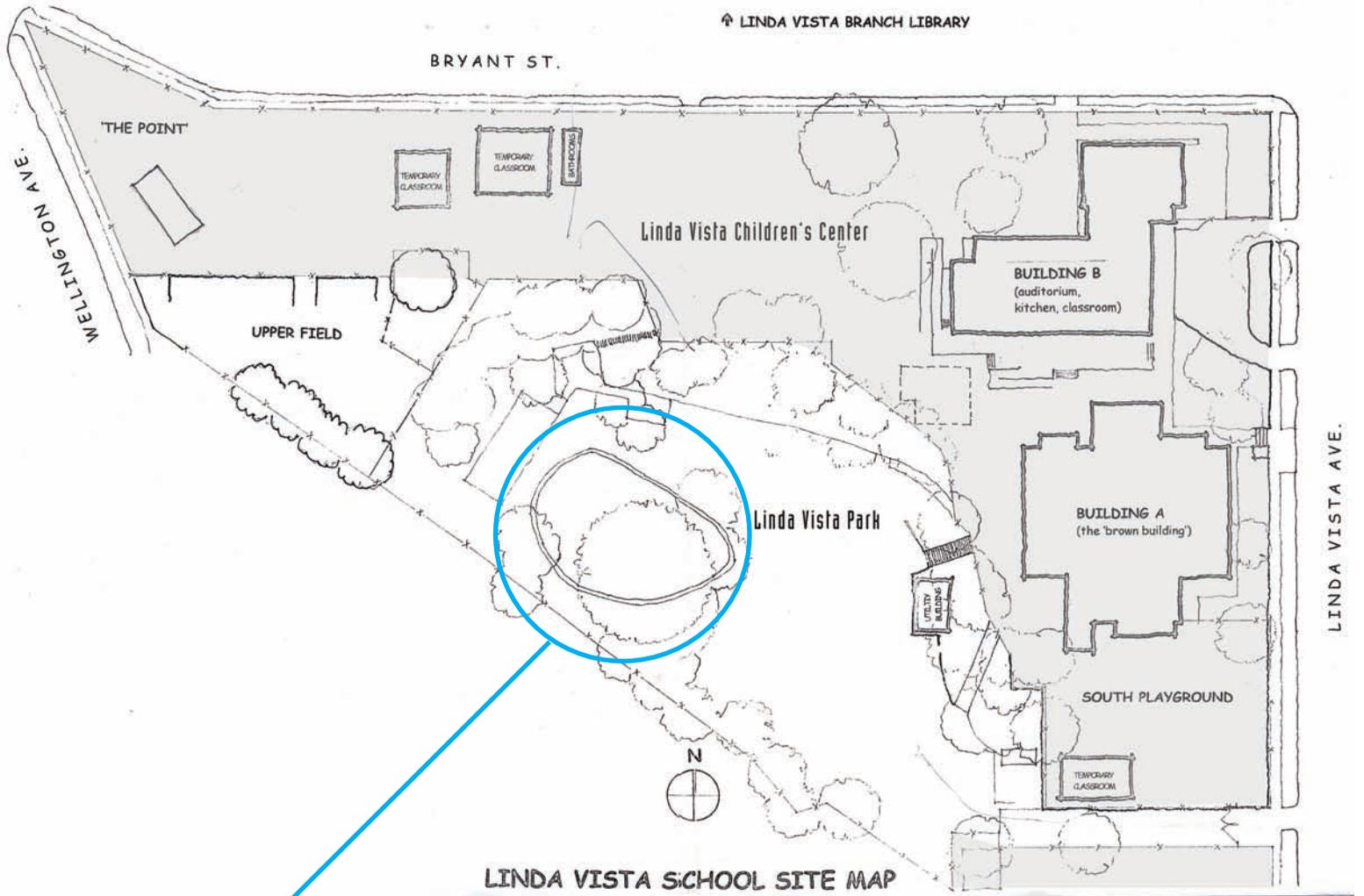
In 2009, the City approved a Conditional Use Permit under the City’s Zoning Code to allow the establishment of “a neighborhood park use” on the Park portion of the former Linda Vista Elementary School site.

In September, 2011, another unexpected event occurred: the PUSD determined to declare several former school sites legally “Surplus” with the intention of disposing of them to raise much-needed funds, including the entire former Linda Vista School site and the Park area. The Linda Vista-Annandale neighborhood community was alarmed, and mobilized, in cooperation with the City, to “save the Park.”

Again, an unexpected event intervened. This time, the seismic situation at the San Rafael Elementary School, leading in the future to its possible closure, including its possible relocation to the Linda Vista School site, led to rescission/suspension of the PUSD “Surplus” declaration for the Linda Vista School site. While the PUSD carefully and fully considers all of its options for the future of both the San Rafael and the Linda Vista School sites, the PUSD and the City reconsidered the MOU, and agreed that the City, going forward, would pay rent of \$5,000 per month for the use of the Linda Vista Park as a Neighborhood Park, thus providing some financial assistance to the District.

While the ultimate status of the Linda Vista School site, including the Linda Vista Park, is not finally resolved, the foreseeable future of the Park is secure. Also, please know that the Linda Vista neighborhood understands and appreciates “joint use” concepts, and is open and willing to fully consider all reasonable and feasible joint-use or shared-use proposals for the Park by a future user of the balance of the school site, such as a new public school or a private school. Any such joint or shared user, of course, would appreciate new up-to-date Playground Equipment.

4. Relationship to the General Plan. This project is consistent with the Land Use Element Policy 2.1 on Neighborhood Parks by enhancing parks in residential areas. It is also consistent with the Public Facilities Element of the General Plan by encouraging a high level of maintenance and upgrading of existing facilities to ensure public safety. Furthermore, the project is consistent with Objective 17 of the General Plan by providing adequate recreation opportunities to all residents of the City.



Linda Vista Park is the white area shown above. The area defined with a line within the circle is the proposed area for the new Playground Equipment.



There is adequate space in the Linda Vista Park adjacent to the swing-set area to add much needed new Playground Equipment.



This is the proposed location for the new Playground Equipment (examples taken from Singer Park).
Both Playground Sets can easily fit into the Linda Vista Park area.

New Playground Equipment in the Linda Vista Park will bring this Neighborhood Park
into parity with other Neighborhood Parks in the City.

