

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-69

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA RECEIVING A PRESENTATION AND APPROVING THE SCHEMATIC DESIGN FOR THE INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT THE CITY PARK AT THE DUNES.

WHEREAS, one of the key goals of the City of Marina Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is to, “prioritize the improvement of existing parks and development of new parks.”; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has prioritized the funding, design, and construction of new city parks public and renovating existing city parks; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2023, the City Council received a presentation on the various concept options for the City Park at the Dunes and approved option 2.

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2024, the City Council received a presentation and approved the specific program elements, in the park, which includes a great lawn, fitness court, multi-sport court, sand volleyball court, tennis/pickleball courts, a restroom, and an expansive inclusive playground.

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2025, the Recreation & Cultural Services Department, with the assistance of the Inclusive Playground Steering Committee, the Recreation & Cultural Services Commission, and Leather's & Associates hosted Design Day. Design Day consisted of school sites, focus group meetings, and a large community engagement event to solicit input and inspire the playground design. Design Day was a huge success with almost 1500 children participating by sharing their ideas and sketching their dream playground. Additionally, over 25 educators, about half of which work directly with children with specific needs, parents of special needs, and parents of special needs children participated in 3 different focus groups. Finally, over 500 community members attended the kickoff event.

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2025, the Recreation & Cultural Services Commission and the All-Inclusive Playground Steering Committee received a presentation on the schematic design for the Inclusive Playground at the City Park at the Dunes. The design, prepared by Leathers & Associates, is included as Exhibit A. A summary of the schematic design’s key features is provided in Exhibit B, while detailed feedback and suggestions from the Commission and Steering Committee are outlined in Exhibit C.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Marina does hereby incorporate the recitals set forth above as if fully set forth herein, and does hereby:

1. Approve the recommendations from the Recreation & Cultural Services Commission.
2. Approve the Schematic Design with recommendations for the Inclusive Playground at the City Park at the Dunes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Marina at a regular meeting duly held on the 24th day of June 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: McAdams, McCarthy, Biala, Visscher, Delgado

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ATTEST:

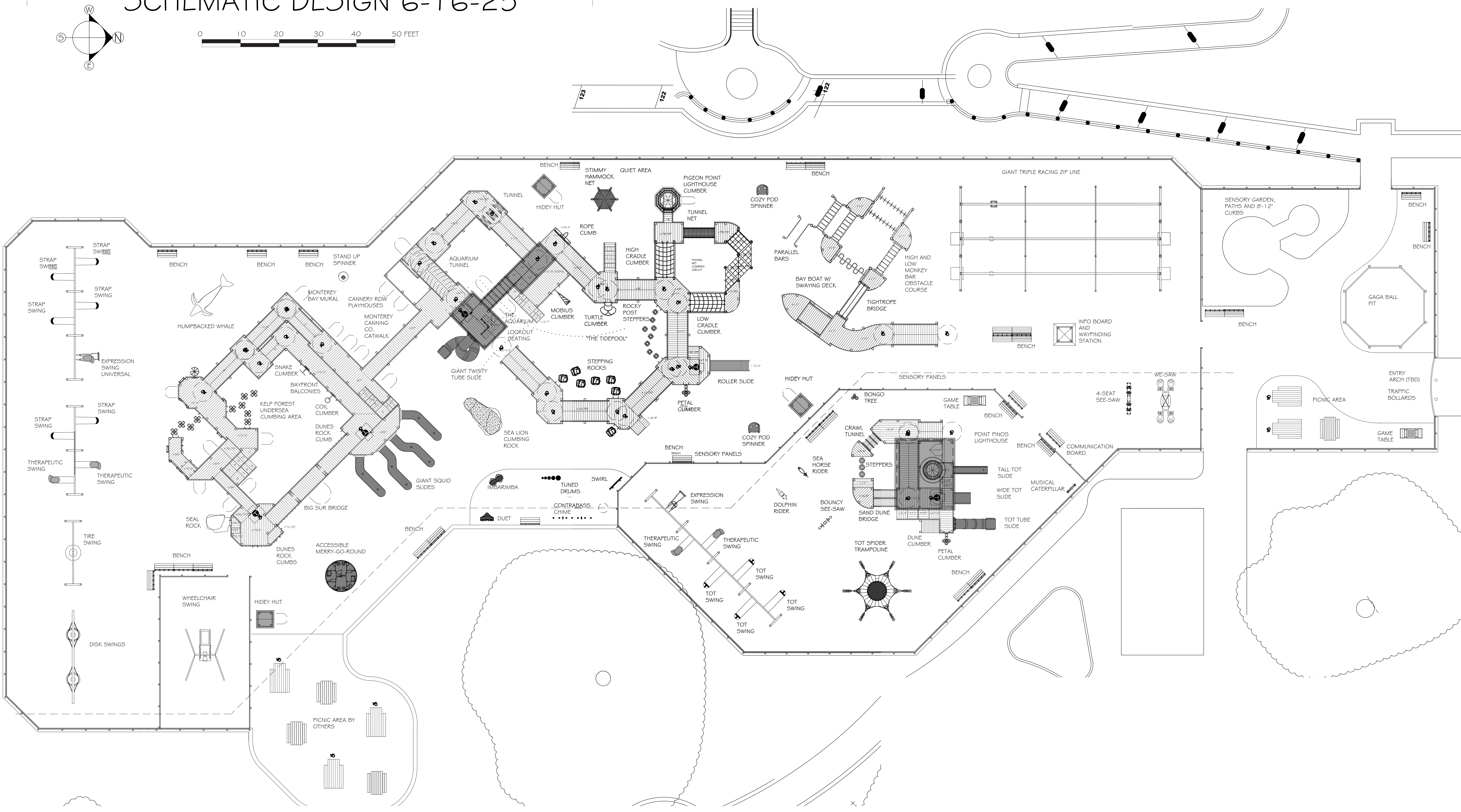
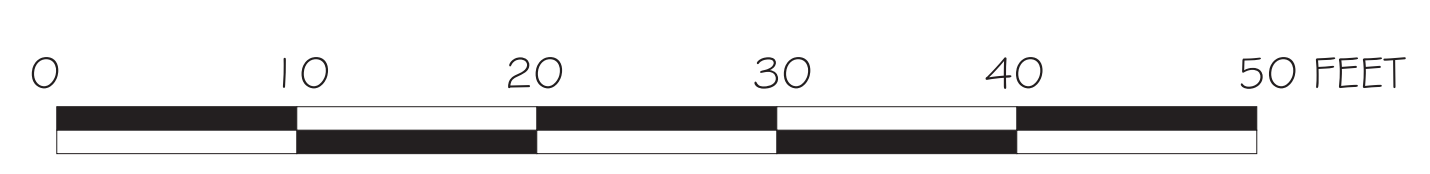
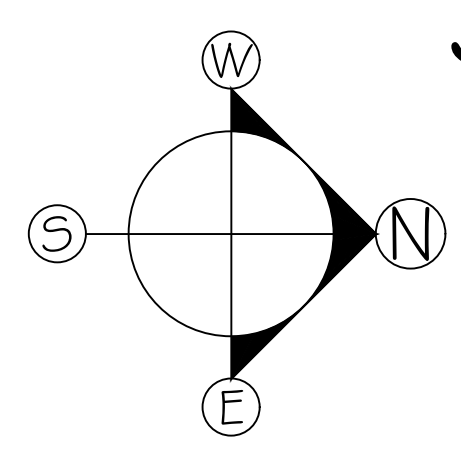
Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor

Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk



EXHIBIT A

WIND FESTIVAL PARK PLAYGROUND MARINA, MONTEREY COUNTY CA SCHEMATIC DESIGN 6-16-25



All-Inclusive Playground Schematic Design Highlights

- Schematic design is inspired by Monterey Bay landmarks
- **Entry Plaza** (intended to be a transitional area):
 - • Large arched entry sign (example provided)
 - • Sensory garden, gathering area, gaga ball pit, and seating
 - • Freestanding zip line (2–3 lanes) with accessible seat
 - • Two types of see-saws
 - • Information board and wayfinding graphics
 - • Tot lot entry to the left
- **Main Section:**
 - • Bay boat with swaying platform and monkey bar obstacle course (multi-height bars-for different abilities)
 - • Low ramp circuit designed to resemble a tide pool/Aquarium rocky enclosure
 - • Central Aquarium-themed structure with Three levels:
 - • Large fish tank wall and tunnel tank
 - • Lookout seating and accessible tall tube slide
 - • Net course connecting to tide pool and lighthouse with interior rock climb
- **Cannery Row-Inspired Playhouses:**
 - • Two accessible levels
 - • Connected by 'Monterey Canning Company' catwalk
 - • Balcony overlooking 'bay' with climbers.
 - • Ends in 7' 'giant squid slides' and arched 'sea lion' climbing rock
- **Bridgeway and Kelp Forest:**
 - • Long accessible bridge (modeled after Bixby Bay Bridge in Big Sur)
 - • Connects dunes and rock walls to Kelp Forest climbing area
 - • Kelp Forest includes climbers, kelp/otter decorations, mesh decks for underwater climbing effect to give the feeling of being among the kelp and fish
 - • Adjacent manufactured large humpback whale
- **Additional Features** (available for overstimulated children to retreat to):
 - • Hidey huts, pod spinners, and music area
 - • Sensory panels along fence
 - • Quiet hammock net area near lighthouse with sensory panels

- • Zero-barrier-entry merry-go-round (like Tatum's Treehouse)
- **Fencing and Layout:**
 - • Entire playground fenced except low perimeter area between tot lot and merry-go-round
 - • Third-party fence encloses west side walkways and revised gathering/grassy area
- **Tot Lot:**
 - • Themed as Pinos Point Lighthouse.
 - • Includes 2–3 slides, way bridge, dune-themed climber, dolphin/seahorse spring riders
- **Swings and Seating:**
 - • 5–12 swings: strap seats, backed harness seats, parent-child backed seat, tire and disk swings
 - • Wheelchair-accessible swing in safety enclosure
 - • Tot lot swings: bucket, backed harness seats, and parent-tot swing
- **Lookout Point:**
 - • Topography prevents connected lookout tower
 - • Optional lookout space below relocated stairs with benches and playground view
 - • Good vantage point to view the boat, lighthouse, lagoon, nets, and monkey bars

Schematic Design Summary from Lead Designer Jim ☺

The schematic design draws on a variety of local landmarks to try and capture Monterey Bay and its environs.

The entry plaza is intended to be a transitional area. A large arched entry sign is suggested for the main entrance (an example will be provided) , and the plaza as currently shown includes a sensory garden, a picnic area, a gaga ball pit and seating. Upon entering, there are several freestanding pieces including a zip line with 2-3 lanes and an accessible seat, and two types of see saws. There is also an information board and wayfinding graphics. To the left is the tot lot entry.

Proceeding into the main section, the first element is a bay boat with a swaying platform, which is also connected to a monkey bar obstacle course which includes bars of different heights for different abilities. Further in is the low ramp circuit, which is designed to look like a tide pool, and reminiscent of the rocky enclosure at the Aquarium. The ramp circuit enters a central, three level section with aquarium themes, including a wall resembling a large fish tank, and a tunnel through another tank. This feature includes lookout seating and an accessible tall tube slide.

There is a net course connecting to the tidepool, which includes a lighthouse with an interior rock climb.

The side of the structure transitions to playhouses resembling Cannery Row. The bulk of the playhouses have two accessible levels and connect via a “Monterey Canning Company” catwalk over the “street.” The backside of the playhouses has a balcony overlooking the “bay,” and includes climbers. The end transitions to a set of “giant squid slides” which are 7’ slides, with an arched “sea lion” climbing rock adjacent to the aquarium and tide pool.

Extending from the squid slides is a long accessible bridgeway resembling the Bixby Bay bridge in Big Sur. Both sides of the bridge emerge from high dunes, which include rock walls, and they link the other structures to a Monterey Bay Kelp Forest climbing area, which includes several climbers and is decorated with kelp, and otters under the handrails. The effect is intended to suggest climbing underwater kelp. There is also access under the decks, with meshed and decorated sections designed to give the feeling of being among the kelp and fish. There is also a large humpback whale (manufactured piece) adjacent.

There are several “hidey huts” scattered around the playground, as well as pod spinners, available for overstimulated kids to retreat to. There is a music area near the big climbing rock, sensory panels along the fence, and a quiet area near the lighthouse which includes a hammock net to lie or bounce in, and some quiet sensory panels. There is also a zero-barrier-entry merry-go-round like the one in Tatum’s Treehouse.

The playground is fenced except for a section between the tot lot and the merry go round, which would be low perimeter, and connects to the revised picnic area (by others, though a layout is suggested). To maintain one way in/one way out, the area adjacent to the walkways, from the tot lot around to the west side of the swings would be enclosed with a third-party fence as previously discussed, thus enclosing the picnic area and grassy/treed areas.

The tot lot's structure is themed as the Pinos Point Lighthouse, and has 2-3 slides, a way bridge and a climber themed to look like dunes, and dolphin/seahorse spring riders.

There are benches located throughout. The 5-12 swings include strap seats, backed seats with harnesses, parent-child swing with a backed seat, tire swing, and disk swings. There is also a planned wheelchair-accessible swing in its own enclosure for safety. The tot lot has bucket sets, backed seats with harnesses, and a parent-tot swing.

Topography did not support adding a lookout tower connected from the upper walkway, but it would be possible to include space in the semicircle below the relocated stairs, possibly including some benches, to look out on the playground. This is a good vantage point to view the boat, lighthouse, lagoon, nets, monkey bars.

City of Marina All-Inclusive Playground Schematic Design Feedback Summary

Feedback from the Recreation Commissioners and the All-Inclusive Playground Steering Committee

Design Theme & Artwork

- Add artwork along the zipline area
- Incorporate native Marina flowers, and plants/features that reflect the City of Marina
- Increase use of animals, such as City of Marina Snowy Plover Bird, cultural elements, and structures that highlight Marina's history and diversity
- Encourage creative, themed play structures that represent the City of Marina's identity

Accessibility & Inclusion

- All areas of the playground should be accessible to adults assisting children
- Add more diverse surface textures for children of all abilities to explore and enjoy
- Include a sensory panel near the zipline area to create separation from the tot lot
- Include a stationary train structure that is accessible for climbing and sitting

Layout & Safety Considerations

- Relocate the gaga pit to a better location
- Ziplines should be placed farther away from the tot lot
- Improve access to grassy/gathering areas but ensure child safety and containment (to prevent running out)
- Clarify the height and latch mechanism of all fencing for safety
- Ensure emergency exits are clearly marked and include a simple emergency evacuation plan
- Address wind, fog, and moisture conditions typical of Marina—assess potential impacts on play structures
- Add shaded lookout areas with access to water fountains

Amenities & Utilities

- Install water bottle filling stations that are accessible to all, with:
 - Water fountains for those without bottles
 - Placement near entrance and throughout the playground

Signage & Communication

- Add a bulletin board at the playground entrance that includes:
 - - Playground rules (in multiple languages including American Sign Language).
 - - Donor recognition board for local business sponsors and city event announcements.
 - - Map of the playground layout and its relation to the overall park.
 - - Fencing guidelines clearly shown.

Operations & Maintenance

- Provide guidance on ongoing playground maintenance
- Address how staff and the city will manage upkeep and safety checks

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Marina City Council

City Council Meeting of
June 24, 2025

**CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. 2025-,
RECEIVING A PRESENTATION AND APPROVING THE SCHEMATIC
DESIGN FOR THE INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT THE CITY PARK AT
THE DUNES.**

REQUEST:

It is requested that the City Council consider:

1. Adopting Resolution No. 2025- , receiving a presentation; and approving the schematic design of the Inclusive Playground at the City Park at the Dunes with recommendations included from the Recreation & Cultural Services Commission; and
2. Finding this action is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061 (B)(3) of the CEQA guidelines.

BACKGROUND:

On March 21, 2023, the City Council received a presentation on the various concept options for the City Park at the Dunes and approved Option 2.

On February 6, 2024, the City Council received a presentation and approved the specific program elements in the park, which includes a great lawn, fitness court, multi-sport court, sand volleyball court, tennis/pickleball courts, a restroom, and an expansive inclusive playground.

On November 6, 2024, the City Council approved an agreement between the City of Marina and Leathers and Associates for design services, project management services, and construction supervision for the inclusive playground for the City Park at the Dunes.

On April 14, 2025, the Recreation & Cultural Services Department, with the assistance of the Inclusive Playground Steering Committee, the Recreation & Cultural Services Commission, and Leathers & Associates, hosted Design Day. Design Day consisted of school site visits, focus group meetings, and a large community engagement event to solicit input and inspire the playground design. Design Day was a huge success with almost 1500 children participating by sharing their ideas and sketching their dream playground. Additionally, over 25 educators, about half of which work directly with children with special needs, and parents of special needs children participated in 3 different focus groups. Finally, over 500 community members attended the kickoff event.

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ANALYSIS:

The vision for the playground is a state of the art, custom designed, inclusive playground approximately 30,000-38,000 square feet.

This playground will break the mold of traditional, manufactured playgrounds by creating one that is custom designed, community built, and unique to the ideas and dreams of Marina youth and their families.

Each Leathers and Associates, Inc. playground is one-of-a-kind and reflects the community in which it is built. Designs are inspired by natural and historic features, local traditions, architecture and the ideas and imagination of local youth. As stated previously, over 1500 Marina youth, parents, and educators contributed to the design through their participation in Design Day.

Leathers and Associates are leaders in accessible play. Their designs include features for children and adults with mobility limitations, sensory processing disorders, visual and auditory impairments, and developmental and cognitive delays. Their designs utilize equipment with different levels of challenge, providing play opportunities for children of all abilities, which fosters cooperative, social, and shoulder-to-shoulder play.

Together, the City of Marina and Leathers and Associates will create one of the largest inclusive playgrounds in California which will not only serve Marina but will become a destination, drawing families from the region and potentially the entire state. When the schematic design is approved, Leathers and Associates will move into design development.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for the All-Inclusive Playground is included as part of the Dunes City Park construction budget.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The presentation and providing input for Dunes City Park is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Article 20 Section 15378 and under General Rule Article 5 Section 15061.

CONCLUSION:

This request is submitted to the City Council for consideration and input.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Diallo
Recreation Manager
Recreation & Cultural Services Department
City of Marina

REVIEW/CONCUR

Layne Long
City Manager
City of Marina