

Zamora Park Renovation Project Summary

The Zamora Park Renovation Project proposes to significantly enhance Zamora Park, a 4.48-acre public park located in the densely populated City of El Monte. This Renovation Project incorporates years of community input, with plans to create new amenities based on community-desired features.

New features

The Project will include recreational and aesthetic amenities, such as walking trails, native and drought tolerant landscaping, bio-swales, subterranean infiltration basins, educational signage, and the following:

- New playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12
- New basketball courts (one half court and one full court)
- Open field for youth sports and passive recreation
- Splash pad
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Walking and jogging paths
- Picnic areas with barbecue grills
- Amphitheater
- Plaza
- Teen zone
- Community art
- LID elements
- Water conservation elements
- Lighting and security cameras

DAC Benefits

Renovating Zamora Park will provide many socially vulnerable residents with a first-class open space to recreate, gather, and connect with other community members. Additionally, the Project will provide various air quality benefits for the DAC. The Project will add over 112 new trees and large planting areas of shrubs, which will filter toxic air contaminants and pollutants and create a healthier space for residents in and around the Park. Renovation of the Project will also increase community safety for the neighborhood by adding new features selected by the community, such as additional lighting and security cameras creating a safer and more inviting environment for the DAC while driving out illicit activities that currently occur in the dilapidated existing amenities. The Zamora Park Renovation Project will create a usable, safe, and engaging park space that invites the community by renovating an existing deteriorating park.

Water Quality

The park renovation will improve water quality and habitat in the local area as well as in the nearby San Gabriel River by infiltrating stormwater runoff at the park and from a portion of the streets bordering the park. This will aid the City in achieving MS4 Permit compliance and San Gabriel River Watershed TMDL compliance. Effectiveness Monitoring will be conducted, and metrics tracked to determine water quality improvement.

Water Supply/Water Conservation

The Project is located above the aquifer of the Main San Gabriel River Basin and should provide some groundwater recharge.

The Project will add about 60,000 square feet of native/drought tolerant shrubs and groundcover planting beds throughout the park as well as permeable pavers at a plaza. Approximately 112 new trees (minimum) will also provide canopy cover during storms and shade during summer months. Passive stormwater infiltration will be achieved through bioswales and subterranean infiltration basins.

The Project will install a water-efficient irrigation system that utilizes rain sensors, soil moisture meters, and tree bubblers. Drip line irrigation will be installed where possible to reduce evapotranspiration while the system is in use. Landscaped areas are expected to be established after three years' time at which point the City could discontinue watering in those landscape zones.

Nature-Based Solutions and benefits

Drought efficient landscaping, pervious walkways and surfaces, bioswales, and subterranean infiltration basins will mimic natural processes to slow, capture, and infiltrate stormwater and also enhance and restore the park's green space and usable open space. Renovation will include invasive plant removal and native plant propagation. All proposed plant material and trees will be drought tolerant, non-invasive, and/or native, and will be selected and sited to minimize the need for and use of toxic pesticides and inorganic fertilizers. The Project will remove and replace approximately 1.4 acres of turf with native plants that require little to no irrigation once established and provide habitat for insects, birds, and other small animals. The Project will plant approximately 112 new trees, resulting in a more than 300% increase to the existing tree canopy and a reduction in heat island effects.

Community Investment Benefits/Recreation

Other nature-based solutions and benefits at the park will include a looped DG walking path, nearly a mile long, that will wind around the park's perimeter, passing through areas of native plantings and fitness equipment areas, with smaller paths leading into the heart of the park. This will be a natural route for joggers and walkers. The residents of the adjacent senior housing complex in particular have expressed the desire for walking paths and nature trails in the park to promote exercise. Much of the existing park is currently comprised of turf areas. These are used for informal or youth pick-up sports games. This has been an important use that the community would like to see remain after the renovation. A new great lawn with drought tolerant turf and a subterranean infiltration basin will be created so the park can continue to provide unprogrammed space for informal sports, games, and passive recreation for youth, seniors, and families.

Outreach/Engagement /Local Support

The City and The Trust for Public Land (TPL) have conducted extensive community engagement including at least eleven meetings and workshops related to the park renovation and will continue to meet with neighborhood residents and stakeholder groups throughout the renovation process. TPL and City staff regularly work with Best Start to present the results of community design workshops or provide Project updates to the community. TPL will continue to host community activities at the Park such as the community mosaic workshop, to create artwork that will be installed in the Park when the renovation is completed. TPL and City staff will continue to work with the Best Start network and other local organizations to sustain meaningful relationships with residents and partners, building on and uniting Park stewards in the community. Community Engagement meetings for this Project started in January

2017, with four meetings that year. Three meetings/workshops were held in 2018. Four more meetings/workshops were held in 2019. At least one additional workshop is planned to create artwork for the Park. Pre-construction and during construction meetings are also planned but not scheduled at this time.

The scoring for this Project at application was **78**. The Project scores well for Water Quality (50) but is too small to provide much Water Supply Benefit (0). The Project scores fair for Community Investment (5) and well for Nature-Based Solutions (13) and Leveraged Funds (10).