



# AGENDA REPORT

BEACHES, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
Meeting Date: December 12, 2023

Agenda Item **6.A.**

**Approvals:**

Dept. Head SW

Admin. Asst. MS

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**Department:** Beaches, Parks & Recreation  
**Prepared By:** Samantha Wylie, Beaches, Parks & Recreation Director

**Subject:** *PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT – NORTH BEACH*

**Fiscal Impact:** This project is budgeted at \$300,000 and is included in the FY 2022-23 budget. The proposals considered in this report vary in cost but can be reduced to meet the maximum allocated budget. Additional details related to this are included in the Discussion section of the report.

**Summary:** Staff recommends that the Commission select a playground design for the scheduled playground replacement at North Beach and provide a recommendation to the City Council for approval.

**Background:** The City has recently begun the initiation of the North Beach Placemaking Plan to revitalize the historic district of North Beach, encourage new visitors, and perpetuate positive resident engagement within the area. A critical component of this project is the replacement of the existing playground equipment on the beach proper of North Beach. This playground area once housed swing sets and a slide, but has been reduced over time due to sand loss.

In Fall 2023, staff conducted an online public survey to gain feedback on the typical uses of the existing North Beach playground and what features users desired to see in the future. Survey results are included in Attachment 1.

Following the closure of the survey, staff analyzed the data provided and subsequently released a Request for Proposals to all interested playground manufacturers and design groups. The City received three qualified proposals.

**Discussion:** The online survey yielded 209 responses and provided a baseline for design considerations. Based on data from this survey and input from professional staff, the following items should be considered in the overall design of the playground:

- Shade over the playground
- Slide(s)
- Swing(s)
- Ramp/Platform is preferred
- Ocean/beach or sea-themed
- Climbing features

Out of the designs submitted, staff is recommending the Commission consider the following options from the proposals received (Attachment 2). The options are highlighted below with cost estimates and key features listed.

**Structure 1:** Pacific Play Option 1 – Pirate Theme (\$293,948)

- Shade structure over the playground
- Swing set (2 seats and 1 play share seat)
- Sand digger/excavator
- Pirate ship play structure
- Sensory play panel

**Structure 2:** Pacific Play Option 2 – Boat Theme (\$339,275)

- Boat play structure
- Interactive standalone speed boat
- Shade structure over the playground
- Swing set (2 seats)
- Whale climbing feature
- The total can be reduced to \$324,696 by removing the seesaw and sensory play panel; additional reduction to the cost can be accomplished by removing the whale climber (\$24,250) or the speed boat (\$15,414)

**Structure 3:** Western State Builders – Beach Shack (\$320,984)

- Beach shack playground with
- Surfboard climbing ramp to playground
- Surf van/bus climber
- Standalone leaf seat with shade
- The total cost can be reduced to under \$300,000 by removing the drum feature, gas pump station, and store panel/leaning rail.

**Structure 4:** Zoom Recreation Option 1 – Beach Swings & Structure (\$186,501)

- Beach theme play structure with shade
- Swing set with shade (2 seats)

**Structure 5:** Zoom Recreation Option 2 – Jeep & Structure (\$265,125)

- Beach theme play structure with shade
- Lifeguard jeep and boat with shade

**Recommended**

**Action:**

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the Beaches, Parks, and Recreation Commission select a playground design for North Beach and recommend the City Council approve the installation of the proposed playground design.

**Attachments:**

1. North Beach Playground Survey results
2. Playground Design Options (Structures 1-5)

**Notification:**

North Beach Community Association

## Constant Contact Survey Results

**Campaign Name:** North Beach Playground Questionnaire

**Survey Starts:** 371

**Survey Submits:** 209

**Export Date:** 10/09/2023 01:11 PM






### MULTIPLE CHOICE

What is your zip code?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
92672			132	63%
92673			71	33%
Other			6	2%
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>209</b>	<b>100%</b>






### MULTIPLE CHOICE

How often does your household visit this playground?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Daily			8	3%
A few times per week			40	19%
A few times per month			75	36%
A few times per year			58	27%
Never			27	12%
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>208</b>	<b>100%</b>

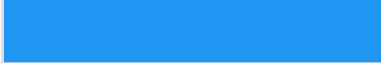

### CHECKBOXES

Describe the age of the playground users in your household

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
0-1 Years			30	14%
2-5 Years			124	60%
6-12 Years			92	44%
13-17 Years			7	3%
18+ Years			22	10%
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>205</b>	<b>100%</b>

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

What general style of play equipment do you prefer?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Traditional (ramp and platform)			112	54%
Challenging Play (Nets and ropes)			93	45%

**Total Responses**                      **205**                      **100%**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

Is it important that the playground have a theme?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			54	25%
No			155	74%
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>209</b>	<b>100%</b>

**CHECKBOXES**

What types of equipment do children in your household prefer? (Please select all that apply)

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Slides			172	82%
Raised Platforms			68	32%
Ladders/bridges			114	54%
Monkey bars			96	45%
Climbing walls			109	52%
Balance beams/stepping stones			96	45%
Tunnels			79	37%
Rockers/Seesaws			69	33%
Swings – Infant/Toddler			119	56%
Swings – Traditional			171	81%
Track Rides/Zip Lines			91	43%
Ropes Courses			72	34%
Sand and Water Play			110	52%
Accessible Equipment			36	17%
Other			3	1%
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>209</b>	<b>100%</b>

**CHECKBOXES**

What other playground amenities are important to you?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Benches			146	71%
Picnic Tables			125	61%
Shade			180	88%
Educational/Enrichment elements			53	26%
Other			5	2%
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>203</b>	<b>100%</b>

OPEN QUESTION

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What other items are important to you and your children when visiting this playground site?

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Great to have a playground that has areas that are safe for young kids and still fun for older kids

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We are so concerned about the homeless and the drug use at North Beach that we no longer go there. Please help us get our beautiful beach back. Thank you!

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We stopped going to this beach because of the needles and broken glass around. I hope there is a solution to this before the playground is finished or it'll be a total waste.

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**98 Response(s)**

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Responses continued to next page...

**8. What other items are important to you and your children when visiting this playground site?**

<b>1</b>	No homeless please
<b>2</b>	Please do not invest another penny in our beaches until something is done about the homeless. It is deplorable how the city has let this get so bad and the last thing we need is more places for the homeless to sleep and gather and foul and leave their drugs and syringes all over for everyone to step on. City officials should be ashamed of themselves !
<b>3</b>	Clean ( no needles everywhere, like currently), smoke free, no drama
<b>4</b>	No homeless, no needles, no naran, no feces
<b>5</b>	I think playing on the sand is still an important component of this park for the kiddos. It would be ideal if a workout area for adults could be incorporated into the design with pullup bars, sit-ups, leg lifts, and a dip zone. Thanks for asking
<b>6</b>	More Fire pits
<b>7</b>	We don't go to this beach because there always seems to be a group of adults camped out on the picnic tables right by the play area which makes me uncomfortable to have my children play nearby
<b>8</b>	Everything
<b>9</b>	Thank you
<b>10</b>	I dont think the playground HAS to have a theme, but being at the beach, it would be cool if it tied into that! Ocean animals, beach lifestyle, etc.
<b>11</b>	Safety is the priority!
<b>12</b>	Would love a safe place to play my kids have lived within walking of this their whole lives and we've been only seldomly bc of the risk or homeless/trash/needles. They're 5 and 7 and live just down the street. Thanks for this community effort!
<b>13</b>	Clean bathrooms!
<b>14</b>	have the area clean and safe with no needles scattered throughout. stop letting the homeless have a soup kitchen every morning at 8am would be a great start.
<b>15</b>	I love playgrounds that have toddler sections and little kid sections
<b>16</b>	This particular site is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the wonders of the ocean!
<b>17</b>	To be honest, what keeps us feeling unsafe are the homeless population hanging around the area. I noticed the security guards there every so often which makes us feel better. I would love to see the homeless out of the area completely so it feels safe for all families. I am so happy to hear that this playground is being updated!!! We are so excited to see what's to come.
<b>18</b>	- Safe access over the train tracks and good barriers from the beach/park side of the tracks - easy access to the beach for walking, strollers/wagons - Considering the homeless population that frequents this area, I am concerned about the structures being "too inviting" for them to use for sitting, sleeping, etc.
<b>19</b>	Something unique. Something that isn't like all the other playgrounds around. My family often travels to the central coast for vacation and we have seen parks in Pismo beach and Cayucous and Monterey that are unique and so fun! maybe something similar to those!
<b>20</b>	First - the area needs to feel safe! Families need to feel that they can approach a safe area without walking through open drug use and squatters. North Beach can once again be a family friendly area to purchase food, picnic on the sand, and kids can play without stepping on a needle. Families should not have to share a picnic table with a disheveled person and all their belongings strewn about. We were there alot when my kids were little, and they used to go back to swing, but not safe anymore
<b>21</b>	Coffee!
<b>22</b>	That the playground be safe and homeless free
<b>23</b>	We stopped going to this beach because of the needles and broken glass around. I hope there is a solution to this before the playground is finished or it'll be a total waste.

<b>24</b>	Cleaning up the area from all the homeless, druggie, and drunk people. I refuse to visit this part of the beach right now due to the city just allowing others to completely take over and make it unsafe for children. Make our city and beaches safe again!!!!
<b>25</b>	Please make this playground and the adjacent restrooms a safe environment for kids again. Bring back the snack bar.
<b>26</b>	Clean bathrooms with doors on stalls
<b>27</b>	Clean, bright and beachy
<b>28</b>	-Restrooms (we never go to Pines Park because too risky without restrooms and little ones). Distance from streets in case toddler makes a run for it -water fountain for people & dog fountain
<b>29</b>	Shade! Not enough playgrounds in our area are shaded!
<b>30</b>	Clean and functional bathrooms. Water supply.
<b>31</b>	Safety and cleanliness of the area.
<b>32</b>	Cleanliness and safety - always see lots of homeless there , leaving trash around and they light fires even in the mornings and the kids breathe in the smoke
<b>33</b>	1. Safety 2. Cleanliness 3.
<b>34</b>	Usage is impacted due to safety concerns - the park is a homeless camp 90% of the time and there is no real
<b>35</b>	If new playground is constructed we need to have some sort of security measures. That area is unsafe.
<b>36</b>	Get rid of the homeless and drug dealers first. 2nd clean the needles, drug paraphernalia, and human feces from the site including raking the sand and sterilizing sand and rocks where homeless are constantly urinating and defecating. What should be a beautiful gateway to the beach and coastal trail is a zombie apocalypse filled with emboldened, drugged out, thieving, mentally unstable, freeloaders. Then bring more sand in. Then worry about upgrading the playground.
<b>37</b>	Clean and well ventilated restrooms An enclosed area that toddlers can't escape from
<b>38</b>	No rocks more sand
<b>39</b>	Soft surface for falls
<b>40</b>	Great to have a playground that has areas that are safe for young kids and still fun for older kids
<b>41</b>	I do not use this playground because it feels like an unsafe place to spend time by myself or with my children due to the number of homeless or drug abusers who spend time in close proximity and use the north beach restroom - if you take measure to address this issue I would use this park in the regular.
<b>42</b>	Safe and clean
<b>43</b>	I'm so glad this space will be improved! I think something bright and lively will help refresh North Beach. I really like the design of the new playground going in at San Gorgonio, with the color scheme and natural wood vibe almost feeling artistic and more natural. Given challenges in the area, I think it's important there aren't elements that can be used as shelters or surfaces that can be used for sleeping.
<b>44</b>	Traditional playground that all even younger kids can play on.
<b>45</b>	Chess!
<b>46</b>	Maybe slightly separated from the playground but it would be nice for adults who run on the trail to have pull up and dip bars similar to the one further south by the volleyball court.
<b>47</b>	I put "never" for the frequency because we stopped going to North Beach over safety concerns. We used to go weekly and stopped playing/using North Beach for beach access after an adult male used the shower to washing himself under his shorts for an extended period in full view of children playing.

48	Keeping it safe and free from the homeless lingering nearby.
49	Keep the homeless away
50	Clean, needle free, safe
51	No needles or drug users nearby.
52	Shady areas for summer
53	Shade is so important!!!
54	Safety. I moved fo SC with my fam of 4 - 6 mos ago Our girls are 2 and 8 and we are always the only NORMAL at this beach. We had no idea it was unsafe with needles, but we did notice the huge homeless population, so we stopped going. Seems like thatâ€™s THEIR spot! Redo the playground, make it a family friendly place with security +!flora to drive out the homeless drug users and take back your city. Linda lane is our new beach, but we dislike all the tourists. North beach should be a loca spot!
55	The associated bathrooms area; not very welcoming.
56	Honestly safety. We live 5 minutes away, but never go because it doesnâ€™t look safe at all. The sand is all chalky and thereâ€™s hardly any play equipment. With the update, I think parents would really appreciate shade!! Thank you!
57	Lots of shade and areas to sit... Water play is important
58	Haven't been there in years because of the homeless taking over the area. Look forward to being able to go back to NB with the grandkids again.
59	Safety for our children over the years have been infest with syringes razors and homeless under the influence hanging out in those restrooms make it frightening. I would like a new playground perhaps more parents will come. I know a community of people that refrain from this area with their children due to the homeless drugs paraphernalia and issues at hand. We need to cone together as a community abb N d do something. Let's start with a better upgraded playground. Any type will do.
60	No homelessness, no needles, make it safe for the kids
61	Not a place where the homeless would be enticed to hang out please
62	Water Refill Station, Concession Stand, Shower with Soap Dispenser, Tables and Chairs or Picnic Tables adjacent to or near Concession Stand, ADA Compliant Bathroom with real doors/flexible doors that can easily be pulled to open & pushed back to the side across the portal stall when leaving.  Beach Safety Posters with emergency phone #s to call in protected cases.  Visual Educational snippets about each Marine Animal. Invite Dana Pt Ocean Institute Director in for their A+ collaborative ideas
63	Safety for the children is of paramount importance. No one visits North Beach currently, which is a travesty for families.
64	Cleanliness and beach aesthetic .
65	Safety, cleanliness
66	.
67	It's important we feel safe using the bathrooms. People who are doing drugs and other obscene behavior are not tolerated. This needs a to be place for small children to enjoy. It is easy access with strollers. Maybe some no loitering laws? Thank you!
68	We prefer if the playground is sand and the squishy mar versus mulch! don't love little ones getting poked by mulch or potentially eating it when they are really little



	The playground equipment should be unobtrusive, modest, and should occupy minimal space due to the lack of sand. It should have one slide. It should also have traditional swings and for infant/toddlers. The style should be basic and simple. The types that are in the survey only give two options of a Traditional (ramp and platform) and Challenging Play (Nets and ropes) and should have an "other option category.
69	The second to the last question should have the option of "NONE" as a category.
70	Please make this happen and give us North Beach back!!!
71	No drugged out homeless People !!!!
72	A clean bathroom nearby and a hand washing station.
73	We are so concerned about the homeless and the drug use at North Beach that we no longer go there. Please help us get our beautiful beach back. Thank you!
74	Most important is that the equipment doesn't get burning hot. thank you!
75	Safety and cleanliness
76	For the sand to be free of trash, needles and to be an overall safe environment for kids and families.
77	Clean up the sand!!! Fires out of fire pits have made the sand around the playground equipment black with carbon. Clean sand needs to be moved into the area. This can easily be done with the equipment you already have. Just move the dirty sand toward the water and scoop up clean sand from the waters edge at low tide.
78	I don't like that the beach shower is so close to the playground. Would prefer more separation. Same thing with the picnic tables. At the north beach park specifically, the table is often used by homeless or by people with alcohol and it creates a terrible dynamic for taking young kids to enjoy the play equipment. I would rather just not have the tables or fire pits or a shower than have them be so close to the playground.
79	Bathrooms and shade! It is far too hot to not offer shaded playground. The equipment becomes too hot to even use without it.
80	Bathrooms
81	Covered playground as all of them get too hot to touch in the summer
82	Safety! The area can have visitors that are not family friendly and that is why we don't go there more
83	I think it should be updated as is. A slide and swings. With the current changes with our sand and ocean is it wise to spend money on a large playground area in this location?
84	water bottle fill station, bathrooms, trash cans, no-smoking signs, shadow boxes for community flyers, emergency button
85	Safety is important. The drug addicted vagrants, make North Beach undesirable for family activities.
86	Patrolling a lot of the people that hang out down; there are a lot of individuals that are openly doing drugs and drinking on North Beach it does not feel safe for my kids
87	Maintaining site safe and clean. Zip line!
88	Safety
89	We used to love coming here years ago and now it feels taken over by the homeless. If it can get cleaned up so I don't find broken glass, needles, human feces, or men sleeping on the slide in the morning, then it would be a great place to visit again. We've missed North Beach and are looking forward to it getting back to itself.
90	Clean and safe

91	That it is SAFE! I want to see less homeless at this park because I do not feel even safe leaving my stroller nearby. Shade is important too, we live under the sun all the time and to protect our skin is important. I would love to see more than just swings here. We really need a playground at the beach. The next one is up in Laguna beach.
92	Expanded play area, snackbar, North Beach can be great again.
93	bon fires and security to get rid of the homeless. they tend to always hang in this area
94	I would love to see a playground that includes everyone!
95	Remove the homeless!!!! The beach needs more sand!!!
96	<p>That it is safe. Usually kids on playground are younger so make it safe for the younger kids not the pre teens.</p> <p>The nets and rope type playground is popping up everywhere (Rancho SC park, Jim Johnson) and the younger kids who frequent the parks the most don't use it. They are always empty.</p>
97	Keeping it safe from drug users and mentally ill unhoused people. Keeping it safe with a security presence.
98	sand by train imported from desert , please post use at own risk adult supervision mandatory , insurance is difficult need to put the liability back on the parents id like to share my bring the beach to the land side of tracks but it takes more than three minutes

**Structure 1:**

Pacific Play Option 1 – Pirate Theme



**NORTH BEACH CITY OF  
SAN CLEMENTE OPTION 1**

System Type:  
R-5  
For Ages:  
5-12















**Structure 2:**

Pacific Play Option 2 – Boat Theme



**NORTH BEACH CITY OF  
SAN CLEMENTE OPTION 2**

System Type:  
R-5  
For Ages:  
5-12















**Structure 3:**

Western State Builders – Beach Shack

**North Beach Playground-Project 110809-01-Opt 1  
San Clemente, CA**



A STRONG FOUNDATION IN PLAY FOR OVER 50 YEARS

P: (435) 245-5055 / F: 435 245-5057 KJ@gwpark.com



**North Beach Playground-Project 110809-01-Opt 1  
San Clemente, CA**



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**North Beach Playground-Project 110809-01-Opt 1  
San Clemente, CA**





**Structure 4:**

Zoom Recreation Option 1 – Beach Swings & Structure



Conceptual Renderings Only. Subject to change without notice at SRP's Discretion



Conceptual Renderings Only. Subject to change without notice at SRP's Discretion

Structure 5:

Zoom Recreation Option 2 – Jeep & Structure



Conceptual Renderings Only. Subject to change without notice at SRP's Discretion



Conceptual Renderings Only. Subject to change without notice at SRP's Discretion