

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
Interoffice Memorandum



**Office of Parks and Recreation**

**TO:** Jeffrey Taylor, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
**FROM:** David Valeska/ Mark Hall  
**DATE:** July 8, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Request for approval of the proposed improvements to the park land located at 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Martin Luther King Jr.

SUMMARY

This item requests PRAC review and approves the design plans for restoration and enhanced facilities at the quarter-acre 25<sup>th</sup> Street and MLK Jr. Mini Park. The proposed facilities include replacement of a central concrete space with lawn (natural or artificial), installing two new children's play structures; adding half a dozen trees, upgrading lighting and fences and related improvements. The park is currently closed for repairs. Funding will be provided by Measure WW and other sources. Construction is slated to begin in 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT

The construction of the park is projected to cost between \$400,000 and \$700,000. The primary expenses of the project include resurfacing and re-landscaping the park; while providing enhanced lights and security fencing. Some existing facilities such as trees and a cultural mural may be retained. The park is under the control of Park and Recreation staff.

BACKGROUND

The City's General Plan Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element (OSCAR) were adopted in June 1996. Pages 5-7 states "West Oakland also contains a large number of mini-parks and plazas. Some provide a recreational amenity for young children. A greater variety of activities, along with increased public safety (lighting, ornamental gates, etc.) might help make these parks more hospitable to a broader range of users." Page 5-8 of OSCAR states that for the "25<sup>th</sup> Street Mini Park Public Safety and landscaping improvements would be helpful."

In March of 2009 the City is submitting this park and a dozen other parks for funding from Measure WW, as previously discussed at PRAC meetings.

Project Description

The Park is a level quarter-acre corner parcel at 25<sup>th</sup> Street and MLK in West Oakland. The Park was built over 20 years ago, and deterioration has set in; since closure; and has been fenced until adequate resources are identified for rehabilitation. The new plan proposes replacing the central oval shaped paved surface with turf or a type to be determined before construction, adding two children's play structures, half a dozen new 36-inch-box sized trees, new lighting and fencing. Some existing improvements like the mural and trees would be restored and retained. The design would promote access for the disabled (ADA)

**Key Issues**

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Security

The park is exposed on a corner near the 980 freeway and has been a security and graffiti problem in the past. The new design enhances lighting and fencing, while preserving the viability of positive neighborhood use. The design follows provisions of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) staffed by police officers, planners, and others, including safety lighting, control shrubs to maintain security viewing from the street and fencing for control.

Neighborhood Input

The PRAC hearing would be followed by a conditional use permit/ regular design review, public hearing before the planning commission within the next month. Notices to the neighbors are involved in each hearing. Staff anticipates that neighbors have generally been waiting patiently for these improvements and would welcome an upgrade from the status quo.

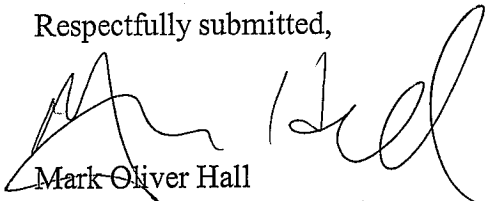
Disability and Senior Citizen Access

The shape and location of the flat rectangular mini-park promotes access for the disabled and senior citizens. Security and landscaping improvements will enhance the park experience for these groups.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve the 25<sup>th</sup> St. and MLK Jr. park restoration plan and related grant funding review requests. PRAC is asked to recommend to the Planning Commission approval of the conditional use permit/ design review.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Oliver Hall  
Special Assistant to the Director on Capital Improvement Projects  
Office of Parks and Recreation

David Valeska  
Planner, CEDA

Attachments: Police beat/crime statistics  
Demographics of adjacent neighborhood  
Hazmat cleanup/ closure information  
Park Maintenance plans



### FACT SHEET

## Zip Code Tabulation Area 94609

View a Fact Sheet for a race, ethnic, or ancestry group

### Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights:

#### General Characteristics - show more >>

	Number	Percent	U.S.		
Total population	21,093			map	brief
Male	9,938	47.1	49.1%	map	brief
Female	11,155	52.9	50.9%	map	brief
Median age (years)	32.8	(X)	35.3	map	brief
Under 5 years	1,103	5.2	6.8%	map	
18 years and over	17,152	81.3	74.3%		
65 years and over	2,128	10.1	12.4%	map	brief
One race	19,735	93.6	97.6%		
White	7,464	35.4	75.1%	map	brief
Black or African American	9,432	44.7	12.3%	map	brief
American Indian and Alaska Native	144	0.7	0.9%	map	brief
Asian	1,624	7.7	3.6%	map	brief
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	30	0.1	0.1%	map	brief
Some other race	1,041	4.9	5.5%	map	
Two or more races	1,358	6.4	2.4%	map	brief
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,063	9.8	12.5%	map	brief
Household population	20,589	97.6	97.2%	map	brief
Group quarters population	504	2.4	2.8%	map	
Average household size	2.18	(X)	2.59	map	brief
Average family size	3.03	(X)	3.14	map	
Total housing units	9,949			map	
Occupied housing units	9,447	95.0	91.0%		brief
Owner-occupied housing units	2,591	27.4	66.2%	map	
Renter-occupied housing units	6,856	72.6	33.8%	map	brief
Vacant housing units	502	5.0	9.0%	map	

#### Social Characteristics - show more >>

	Number	Percent	U.S.		
Population 25 years and over	14,428				
High school graduate or higher	11,889	82.4	80.4%	map	brief
Bachelor's degree or higher	5,283	36.6	24.4%	map	
Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and over)	1,297	7.8	12.7%	map	brief
Disability status (population 5 years and over)	4,396	22.9	19.3%	map	brief
Foreign born	2,743	13.4	11.1%	map	brief
Male, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	2,307	29.0	56.7%		brief
Female, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	2,282	24.7	52.1%		brief
Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)	3,800	19.6	17.9%	map	brief

#### Economic Characteristics - show more >>

	Number	Percent	U.S.		
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	11,519	67.7	63.9%		brief
Mean travel time to work in minutes (workers 16 years and older)	30.2	(X)	25.5	map	brief
Median household income in 1999 (dollars)	34,398	(X)	41,994	map	
Median family income in 1999 (dollars)	39,369	(X)	50,046	map	
Per capita income in 1999 (dollars)	22,083	(X)	21,587	map	
Families below poverty level	760	19.2	9.2%	map	brief
Individuals below poverty level	4,411	21.8	12.4%	map	

#### Housing Characteristics - show more >>

	Number	Percent	U.S.		
Single-family owner-occupied homes	1,949				brief
Median value (dollars)	256,700	(X)	119,600	map	brief
Median of selected monthly owner costs	(X)	(X)			brief
With a mortgage (dollars)	1,415	(X)	1,088	map	
Not mortgaged (dollars)	347	(X)	295		

(X) Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3)

**Incident Detail Report (Sorted Ascending By Crime Type)**

#	Crime Type	Date	Time	Case Number	Description
1	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	20090603	1010	09-038870	INFLECT INJURY UPON CHILD (AMENDED)
2	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	20090606	2132	09-038790	SHOOT AT INHABITED DWELLING/VEHICLE/ETC
3	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	20090618	0300	09-041609	FORCE/ADW-OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPON:GBI
4	BURGLARY	20090612	1900	09-040438	BURGLARY-FORCIBLE ENTRY
5	BURGLARY	20090612	2130	09-042872	BURGLARY-FORCIBLE ENTRY
6	BURGLARY	20090609	2000	09-039565	BURGLARY-FORCIBLE ENTRY
7	BURGLARY	20090614	1000	09-041105	BURGLARY-FORCIBLE ENTRY
8	NARCOTICS	20090614	2000	09-040805	POSSESS HYPODERMIC NEEDLE/SYRINGE
9	NARCOTICS	20090620	1300	09-041003	POSSESS NARCOTIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
10	NARCOTICS	20090609	1900	09-039532	POSSESS/PURCHASE FOR SALE NARCOTIC/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
11	NARCOTICS	20090623	1130	09-042762	POSSESS NARCOTIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
12	NARCOTICS	20090630	1903	09-044645	POSSESS NARCOTIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
13	NARCOTICS	20090630	1903	09-044645	POSSESS HYPODERMIC NEEDLE/SYRINGE
14	NARCOTICS	20090630	1903	09-044645	POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PARAPHERNALIA
15	NARCOTICS	20090607	1323	09-038928	POSSESS NARCOTIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
16	NARCOTICS	20090607	1323	09-038928	POSSESS HYPODERMIC NEEDLE/SYRINGE
17	NARCOTICS	20090605	0740	09-038402	POSSESS/PURCHASE FOR SALE NARCOTIC/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
18	NARCOTICS	20090623	1349	09-042797	POSSESS/PURCHASE COCAINE BASE FOR SALE
19	NARCOTICS	20090617	1550	09-041497-001	POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PARAPHERNALIA
20	NARCOTICS	20090606	0105	09-038615	POSSESS NARCOTIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
21	NARCOTICS	20090608	2246	09-039302	POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
22	NARCOTICS	20090604	1740	09-038324	POSSESS NARCOTIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
23	NARCOTICS	20090612	0230	09-040120	POSSESS NARCOTIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
24	NARCOTICS	20090608	1230	09-039140	POSSESS NARCOTIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
25	NARCOTICS	20090625	1628	09-043411	POSSESS NARCOTIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
26	NARCOTICS	20090629	1835	09-044353	TRANSPORT/SELL NARCOTIC/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
27	NARCOTICS	20090625	1628	09-043411	POSSESS CONTROLLED

					SUBSTANCE PARAPHERNALIA
28	NARCOTICS	20090603	1742	09-038050	POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PARAPHERNALIA
29	NARCOTICS	20090614	1546	09-040731	POSSESS NARCOTIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
30	PROSTITUTION	20090623	1515	09-042822	DISORDERLY CONDUCT:PROSTITUTION
31	PROSTITUTION	20090610	1753	09-039795	DISORDERLY CONDUCT:PROSTITUTION
32	PROSTITUTION	20090617	1500	09-041475	DISORDERLY CONDUCT:PROSTITUTION
33	ROBBERY	20090622	1400	09-042556	ROBBERY - STRONG ARM (HANDS, FISTS, FEET, ETC.)
34	ROBBERY	20090621	0030	09-042253	ROBBERY - STRONG ARM (HANDS, FISTS, FEET, ETC.)
35	ROBBERY	20090612	1215	09-040191	ROBBERY - STRONG ARM (HANDS, FISTS, FEET, ETC.)
36	SIMPLE ASSAULT	20090603	1030	09-037937	BATTERY:SPOUSE/EX SPOUSE/DATE/ETC
37	SIMPLE ASSAULT	20090612	0030	09-040117	BATTERY
38	SIMPLE ASSAULT	20090603	1232	09-037981	BATTERY
39	SIMPLE ASSAULT	20090626	1600	09-043647	BATTERY
40	SIMPLE ASSAULT	20090624	0000	09-043054	THREAT CRIME:INT:TERRORIZE

#	Crime Type	Date	Time	Case Number	Description
41	SIMPLE ASSAULT	20090628	0030	09-043940	BATTERY:SPOUSE/EX SPOUSE/DATE/ETC
42	THEFT	20090620	0030	09-042029	GRAND THEFT FROM PERSON
43	THEFT	20090605	1255	09-038461	BURGLARY-AUTO
44	THEFT	20090626	1000	09-043668	ATTEMPTED BURGLARY- AUTO
45	THEFT	20090610	0000	09-040027	GRAND THEFT
46	THEFT	20090619	1035	09-902024	BURGLARY-AUTO
47	THEFT	20090616	0900	09-902077	BURGLARY-AUTO
48	THEFT	20090618	1200	09-044655	BURGLARY-AUTO
49	VANDALISM	20090616	0030	09-041099	VANDALISM:DAMAGE PROPERTY
50	VANDALISM	20090621	0200	09-902011	VANDALISM
51	VANDALISM	20090626	1600	09-043647	VANDALISM-\$400
52	VANDALISM	20090612	0230	09-040143	VANDALISM
53	VANDALISM	20090607	1500	09-039459	VANDALISM
54	VEHICLE THEFT	20090611	0010	09-039868	VEHICLE THEFT - AUTO
55	VEHICLE THEFT	20090604	1630	09-037583-001	VEHICLE THEFT - AUTO
56	VEHICLE THEFT	20090617	1700	09-039469-001	VEHICLE THEFT - AUTO