

## Red Morton Park Westside Renovation Project & Redwood City Magical Bridge Playground

### Q & A from Community Meeting #3

#### 1. *Preserve Cypress Tree at Valota Armory entrance if possible*

The tree has been assessed by Hortscience. Their assessment of the tree is *fair to poor*. And state: “Based on the tree’s moderate vigor and the presence of a trunk cavity with decayed wood, I rated the tree’s condition as *fair to poor*. Taking into account the tree’s health, age, and the structural condition of the tree, I rated the tree’s suitability for preservation – its potential to remain an asset to the site for years to come – as *low*, largely due to the presence of a significant structural defect (i.e. large trunk cavity) that cannot be mitigated.

Immediate tree decline is unlikely, but the large trunk cavity increases its risk of failure. We consider trees with such defects to be unsuitable for preservation in areas where people or property could be injured or damaged. In the case of this tree, the consequences of whole-tree failure in a high-traffic area (i.e. in this park and adjacent to the driveway) would be significant. Therefore, I recommend the Monterey cypress be removed.”

Kimley-Horn and Associates was tasked by the City of Redwood City to perform a sight-distance evaluation to assess potential visibility impacts of shifting the Red Morton Community Center driveway onto Valota by approximately 19’ towards Vera. The purpose of this evaluation was to:

- Measure existing stopping sight distance (SSD) and corner sight distance (CSD) and compare them to minimum required sight distances as outlined in the Highway Design Manual (HDM)
- Compare existing sight distances to future sight distances if the driveway were shifted toward Vera.

Kimley-Horn completed a field review to observe existing traffic operations and to collect the necessary measurements for the evaluation. Although shifting the driveway location does not significantly change all of the applicable sight distances, it does improve the visibility for drivers exiting the park, turning southbound.

#### 2. *Do emergency vehicles need to use Valota? Can they use Alameda or another street?*

We confirmed with Fire Chief Stan Maupin, that Valota Road is the fastest response route from Jefferson Avenue to Woodside Road and is critical to safety. Station 10 responds first to areas boarded by El Camino Real to the East, Alameda de las Pulgas to the West, Woodside Road to the South and Edgewood Road to the North. This is the largest geographical district in the City

3. *Trashcans to be wheelchair accessible. Too many cans in one area become crowded and no longer accessible.*

Accessible trashcans will be specified for the playground area of the project, if we can find ones that also address issues such as critter access. And, they will be arranged to accommodate the high volumes of users.

4. *Will there be compost bins?*

Not at this time. Compost bins are not picked up by the trash service at public parks. Also, compost attracts nuisance critters to the park.

5. *Innovation zone – adult and children interaction*

The content of the innovation zone is still in discussion; no decision has yet been made. And, it will partly depend on the sponsor of the zone.

6. *Bike parking?*

Yes, the intent is to provide bike parking - and stroller parking - near the playground.

7. *How many additional parking spaces will be added with the new armory lot?*

Currently, there are \_\_\_ parking stalls at the parking lot near the armory. The addition to the existing lot will provide approximately 75 new stalls.

8. *Pedestrian crossing at Valota to have flashers/ (South of Vera) advance warning*

The traffic consultant has studied several locations for a marked crosswalk on Valota Road at Vera Ave.

9. *Larger picnic pod for big parties*

Under design; most picnic pods will accommodate 8-10 people

10. *Screening at new armory parking for surrounding neighbors*

The plan is to install several trees along the park edge to create a screen between the neighbors and the parking lot.

11. *Added picnic around playground*

Yes, more picnic tables will be added immediately adjacent to the playground.

*12. Food inside the playground?*

Food will not be allowed inside the playground. Rubber matting (for fall attenuation) is very expensive and gets extremely dirty when food falls onto it.

*13. Fence off box culvert*

This is an item will need to be vetted by Engineering/PWS.

*14. Will tree pods attract the homeless population in the park?*

Most likely the level of activity will detract homeless from entering the playground and

*15. What will the park hours be?*

Park hours are from sunrise to sunset. The playground may be open until 10:30pm like the surrounding fields.

*16. Could the speed limit on Valota be reduced?*

The current speed limit on Valota Road between Jefferson Ave and Redwood Ave is 25 mph and it has speed advisory signs around the bends to 20 mph. The latest speed survey for that segment showed an average speed of 25 mph and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed under 29 mph. These results suggest that the current speed limit is appropriate.

Setting a lower speed limit would not be enforceable and likely ignored by drivers. Traffic calming the street would be more effective than putting up a sign with a lower speed limit.