



**CITY of CALABASAS**  
**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

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**DATE: MARCH 20, 2023**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS**

**FROM: ERICA L. GREEN, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE EQUIPMENT ENHANCEMENTS TO BRANDON'S VILLAGE/GATES CANYON PARK PLAYGROUND PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$160,000**

**MEETING DATE: MARCH 29, 2023**

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**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends City Council approve equipment enhancements to the Brandon's Village/Gates Canyon Park playground project in the amount not to exceed \$160,000.

**BACKGROUND:**

In September of 2022, the Community Services Department presented City Council with a recommendation to approve the Gates Canyon/Brandon's Village playground project and funding with PlayPower Little Tikes Farmington, Inc. and Unlimited Play, Inc. City Council approved the project for \$1,117,744 with a contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,500,000.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

In October – December 2022, the Community Services Department, Unlimited Play, Inc., PlayPower Little Tikes Farmington, Inc. (PlayPower), and the Kaplan's conducted a public outreach campaign to obtain feedback from the community to identify desired elements and amenities and preferable theme for Brandon's Village.

Two virtual workshops and an on-site workshop at Brandon's Village were conducted, and two city-wide surveys. As each workshop and survey was completed, PlayPower, Unlimited Play, and staff created the playground design to include the feedback received. Overall survey results indicated the community felt that imaginative play, challenge levels, active motion, and safety and access were most important in addition to being a fully-inclusive play space. The treehouse/nature theme was the community's preferred theme. The final design was unveiled at the on-site workshop in December. Staff situated large prints of the renderings so that participants could get an actual perspective of the new design, which was well received due to its theme, functionality, inclusiveness, and representation of Calabasas. In January of 2023, staff presented the design to the Parks, Recreation, and Education Commission and obtained approval to move forward.

In concurrence with the public engagement campaign, Unlimited Play, the Kaplan's, and the Calabasas Community Foundation administered a fundraising campaign. While the approved \$1.1M is a considerable amount, the major work required to replace the compromised substrate utilizes a majority of the funding, leaving nominal funds for the play structures. The fundraising campaign was established to help raise additional funding to assist with constructing a playground that continues to represent and provide the play experience that Brandon's Village does today, to return it to its original scope. The current western town theme represents a village of imaginative play and creativity. The community has been supportive, and over \$8,000 has been raised.

To allow additional time to fundraise and enhance the playground design, PlayPower graciously agreed to honor 2022 equipment pricing in 2023, a savings of about 7%. Overall, PlayPower has provided the City a 35% discount on standard equipment and free freight estimated at \$25,000 for a total savings of over \$200,000.

Brandon's Village is not only a playground but an experience and destination essential for differently abled youth to imagine and play. The proposed theme is being within the clouds, playing in the tree line, with a bird's eye view. The additional funding will increase the theme to a level that immerses children in a world of play which is essential and beneficial for their cognitive development, learning, positive behaviors, and socialization. The hawk climber will literally allow children to have a birds eye view of the playground and "world," no matter their ability. Not only are the equipment enhancements crucial to play and learning, the centerpiece – hawk climber – represents Calabasas and its unique land while providing a climber that is unlike anything in the region or even further.

**FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

The original funding sources included \$192,744 Prop 68 Per Capita Grant, \$125,000 Gates Canyon/Brandon's Village maintenance allocation, and \$800,000 American Rescue Plan Act allocation for \$1,117,744. \$160,000 is available in the FY 2021/2022 general fund surplus.

<b>PROJECT COSTS</b>	
<b>SUBTOTAL (W/O ENHANCEMENTS)</b>	<b>\$1,231,141.09</b>
Little Tikes standard equipment discount and free freight	-\$200,341.65
<b>TOTAL WITH DISCOUNT (\$86,943.56 under budget)</b>	<b>\$1,030,799.44</b>
Enhancement equipment cost (includes standard & custom – discount, tax, and freight)	\$242,330.16
Unlimited Play, Inc. fee	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST (WITH ENHANCEMENTS)</b>	<b>\$1,283,129.14</b>
<b>APPROVED BUDGET</b>	<b>\$1,117,743.00</b>
DONATIONS	\$8,600.08
TOTAL BUDGET	\$1,126,343.08
<b>ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST</b>	<b>\$156,786.52</b>

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Staff recommends City Council approve equipment enhancements to the Brandon's Village/Gates Canyon Park playground project in the amount not to exceed \$160,000.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Brandon's Village Playground Presentation