

P-AD-94 Inspiration Playground at Downtown Park

Category: **Innovative, Vibrant, & Caring Comm** Status: **New**
 Department: **Parks & Community Services** Location: **NE 1st & 100th Ave NE**

Programmed Expenditures

Programmed Expenditures	Appropriated To Date	FY 2015 Budget	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Budget	FY 2018 Budget	FY 2019 Budget	FY 2020 Budget	FY 2021 Budget
2,000,000	-	500,000	1,500,000	-	-	-	-	-

Description and Scope

The Inspiration Playground is a joint effort between the City and the Rotary Club of Bellevue to "build the most unique playground on earth; a self-contained world, dedicated to fun, imagination and learning, where all ages and abilities play and explore at their own pace." Phase 1 will complete the initial components of the overall design concept, and include features such as the wisteria gateway, imagination station play area, whimsy plaza, free spirit natural play area and wavy walk. Seating areas and a water feature will also be provided. The timing of construction depends on fundraising. A minimum of \$1.5million is required to initiate phase 1.

Rationale

1 in 50 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with autism; 1 in 10 King County residents have a disability; 15% of Washington children have one or more special health care needs; 1 in 3 children aged 2-19 are considered overweight or obese. Disabilities challenge how individuals and families go to school, work or even spend a day in the park. ADA guidelines have made public places more accessible, but they have not ensured their playability or equitable inclusion for the estimated 6 million children with disabilities in the U.S. The Inspiration Playground seeks to bridge the gap. Extensive research supports the positive relationship between play and social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. Play also has therapeutic powers, helping children heal from trauma and other health issues. Play also offers a natural and unstructured way to engage kids in the physical exercise they need.

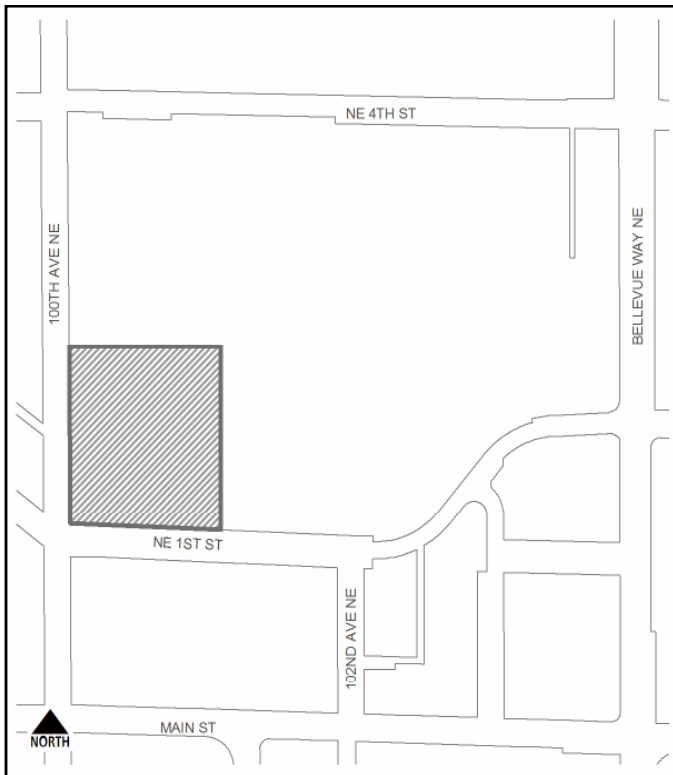
For children with disabilities who are often marginalized by society, integrated play with their peers provides opportunities for meaningful interactions that build independence and self-esteem. Inclusive play also gives able-bodied children the opportunity to experience children with disabilities as equals – teaching the vital lessons of compassion, awareness and acceptance.

Environmental Impacts

Environmental impacts are being studied as part of project design and permitting.

Operating Budget Impacts

Maintenance costs will be determined during the design phase and M&O funding requests will be submitted prior to project completion.

Project Map**Schedule of Activities**

Project Activities	From - To	Amount
Project Costs	2015 - 2016	2,000,000

Total Budgetary Cost Estimate: 2,000,000

Means of Financing

Funding Source	Amount
Private Contributions	2,000,000

Total Programmed Funding: 2,000,000

Future Funding Requirements:

Comments