



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Contact: Connie Cochran, Community Relations Officer
209-937-8827 (o) / 209-629-1251 (c) / connie.cochran@stocktonca.gov

STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION TO PROVIDE GRANT FOR COLUMBUS PARK RENOVATION – NEARLY \$3.4 MILLION

STOCKTON, Calif. – The City of Stockton received confirmation today that a nearly \$3.4 million grant will be provided from the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation for the renovation and reactivation of Columbus Park, 401 W. Worth Street.

“We are incredibly pleased to learn the State has awarded \$3.4 million in funding to restore Columbus Park to a safe place for families to enjoy,” said Mayor Kevin Lincoln. “Columbus Park is located in a disadvantaged community within the city of Stockton, with many significant needs. We are grateful to our community partners who have helped us with outreach in this neighborhood and are excited to be able to provide amenities in the park that meet the needs and fulfill the desires of our residents.”

Plans for Columbus Park include a new playground, restrooms, picnic shelter, adult fitness area, sports courts, public art, landscaping, pathways, and lighting. In addition, a community garden will bring neighbors together and include an educational area. The proposed park design will be low-impact with features such as a bioswale for drainage and decomposed granite trails.

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Vice Mayor Christina Fugazi expressed excitement at the news. “Hazelton Elementary School is within a block of Columbus Park. I can’t wait to see school children and families enjoying the park. The families, neighbors, and businesses in the neighborhood have been patient and they deserve a first-class park.”

Councilmember Sol Jobrack shared, “There is lots of need in our community, and we are grateful for the community members and City staff who helped with making this project happen. This grant will help us make improvements toward the community that we all desire.”

Upon hear the announcement, Councilmember Wright said, “Exciting news! I’m very pleased about any opportunity to make improvements that provide for more recreational opportunities. I’m very glad to know public art that is reflective of the community’s interests will be part of the design.”

“Grant funding helps us to improve the quality of life in our community,” said Councilmember Canepa. “It is greatly appreciated and will help us to make a huge difference in the lives of community members who live in the Columbus Park neighborhood.”

Councilmember Susan Lenz said, “Great news! Very exciting for the neighborhood and our City. Thanks to our City staff and our community partners for their efforts in securing this funding. It will be wonderful!”

Councilmember Kimberly Warmsley shared, “Activating a park – especially one that has been dormant for years – is a blessing. This was a collaborative effort among

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community-based organizations, youth and community leaders who worked hard to help make the return of green, healthy space a priority for a much-deserved neighborhood.”

The first phase of the project is preparing for design and construction. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023.

The State of California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, approved the City of Stockton grant and is funding the Columbus Park renovations through the Proposition 68 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program. Stockton’s Columbus Park was [selected from among 468 applications requesting a total of \\$2.42 billion in funding](#).

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