

The City of Encinitas:

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FINAL REPORT

### Park Equipment Replacement – Glen Park Case No. CPP-006910-2024

The Park Equipment Replacement project at Glen Park consists of the replacement of existing playground equipment with new playground equipment. The project will also replace the playground's sand and poured in place rubber ground cover with an engineered wood mulch. The horseshoe court will be replaced with several adult fitness equipment options. Lastly, the playground's drainage will be investigated for potential improvements.

A neighborhood meeting was held on December 2, 2024, at 6:00 PM at Encinitas City Hall – Poinsettia Room. A letter and vicinity map notifying all property owners and occupants within 500 feet of the project site about the meeting was mailed on November 15, 2024. Additional community groups if applicable were also notified per the request of interested City departments. Of the 436 notices that were mailed out, 72 were returned as undeliverable. The meeting was hosted by Carlos Baldenegro, the project's project manager from the City's Engineering Department CIP Division. Four (4) citizens attended the meeting, including Ross Ridder from the City's Parks and Recreation Commissioner. Representing the City's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department was Edward Drobnicki, Parks and Beach Supervisor. The Engineering Department's design consultant, Michael Baker International, was represented by Jeremy Franzini and Jessica Leyva. After project team introductions, a brief presentation on the proposed project was made by Mr. Franzini. Citizens were encouraged to ask questions at any time during the presentation. After the presentation, there was a question and answer session regarding the details of the proposed project. The meeting ended between 6:30 PM and 7:00 PM.

The questions, comments, and responses shared during the meeting are as follows:

Citizens asked approximately 7 specific questions during the meeting.

**Question No. 1:** What is the need to replace this playground equipment and why not just replace the flooring?

**Response:** The playground equipment is old and is costing more to maintain. Sand and poured in place rubber ground covers don't live well together. We can't have all sand because it's not accessible. Engineered wood mulch can be rolled on. Maybe we can build a sandbox near the playground.

**Question No. 2:** October construction is a bad timeline. Where do we go with our children?

**Response:** We will investigate this.

**Follow up:** The project is in the process of finalizing conceptual designs before proceeding with the production of construction drawing. Thus, a lot of the project's development process remains to be completed before an initial construction schedule can be considered.

**Question No. 3:** What is the age of existing equipment?

**Response:** We will investigate this.

**Follow up:** The playground equipment was installed in 2011.

**Question No. 4:** Can we have more shade?

**Response:** One of the options includes shade. We can make sure it is included in the final layout.

**Question No. 5:** Commissioner Ridder asked if we can we have sand digging north of playground in current grass?

**Response:** We can look into this.

**Follow up:** Parks staff had mentioned that it would be better not to have sand so as to prevent the fountains from being damaged.

**Question No. 6:** Does the City want to build during summer?

**Response:** Unknown.

**Follow up:** The project will be constructed as soon as it is designed, permitted, approved, and a contractor is selected.

**Question No. 7:** On the fort, will there be opportunity to play with the park equipment's panels. (i.e., choose from multiple options).

**Response:** Yes.

The following comments were also received during the meeting:

**Comment No. 1:** Nobody was on the ground asking users about the playground equipment replacement.

**Comment No. 2:** Biggest issue with this project is swings – one option doesn't have any.

**Comment No. 3:** In response to a question posed by MBI regarding whether they would like to see 4 swings, a resident said yes. The resident also mentioned that swings are the biggest commodity. Park needs a baby swing. And that we should install multi-use swings – one for big kids and another for smaller kids.

**Comment No. 4:** Sand is a big draw to the park.

**Comment No. 5:** Park is very voyeuristic. People sit at perimeter to watch kids.

**Comment No. 6:** Adult fitness near playground will invite lurkers.

**Comment No. 7:** Mr. Drobnicki mentioned that kids like to put sand into the drinking fountains. This requires their repair or replacement.

**Comment No. 8:** I like the tree house with multiple layers.

**Comment No. 9:** Color wise, I'd like to see neutral colors. I'm not in favor of lime green. I do like tan color with deep brown. I like the blue color from another park.

**Comment No. 10:** People seem passionate about parks but don't show up.

**Comment No. 11:** Mr. Franzini mentioned that MBI is looking into a seat wall between the volleyball court and the playground. We can also investigate installing a sand digging area.

**Comment No. 12:** Various courts are cramped.

**Comment No. 13:** Commissioner Ridder commented that he uses the swings because he lives two blocks away from the park.

**Comment No. 14:** I'm not afraid of change. But I don't know why we're changing. The size of the equipment allows kids of various ages to be close to each other. Smaller structure for little kids. Would like to keep all the swings.

**Comment No. 15:** Adult fitness equipment will promote adults spying on kids more closely.

**Comment No. 16:** Commissioner Ridder commented that the more activity in a park the less undesirable element.

**Comment No. 17:** I like the current setup.

**Comment No. 18:** Mr. Franzini suggested we call the play structure a Beach Hut instead of a Fort to match the park's location.

**Comment No. 19:** Mr. Baldenegro mentioned that the next opportunity to review the plans for the park's equipment will be when the project is brought before the Parks & Recreation Commission.

At the end of the Q&A session, City Staff thanked the citizens who attended for their time and comments. Some questions and comments were received through the City's Engineering Public Notices website. Others were received in-person through a Comment Sheet or via email. Attendees were informed that a report (including the sign-in sheet, comment sheets, and correspondence received) would be prepared and submitted to the Development Services Department. Once approved, a copy of the report will be distributed to all CPP participants.

December 2, 2024

**Community Planning Meeting at City of Encinitas – Glen Park**

Attendance: Two people from community attended

- Largest concern: new improvements should have swings
  - It was mentioned that four swings would be ideal
  - Proposed swings should include infant swing
  - Different levels of swings are preferred so kids of different ages can use swings
  - In existing condition, there is often a line of kids waiting for swings
- Public wants more sand incorporated
  - City and MBI mentioned that sand and rubber don't mesh well together. Sand erodes rubber and rubber is expensive to replace in future.
  - Sand is also not ADA compliant
- Public questioned why we can't just replace the playground flooring. Structure seems fine.
  - City and Parks and Beaches answered. To replace flooring, structure must be removed and it becomes very expensive.
  - Structure is also getting expensive to maintain since it is older
- Workout area:
  - Public feels that workout area invites adults to hang out near kids at the playground. Prefers adults are distanced from kids.
- Construction Timeline
  - Public prefers to not construct park during summer months when kids are out of school
- City to review how old current playground structure is
- Proposed Playground Structure:
  - More shade is preferred
  - Fort option is preferred
  - Public mentioned that a beachy color scheme is preferred. One person liked blue to match the basketball court.
- Other Concerns
  - Balls from volleyball or basketball may conflict with playground
  - Community person mentioned how she doesn't see as much traffic on the 2–5-year-old equipment. From personal experience, her 2-year-old uses larger equipment.
  - Public is curious if there are other options for adult exercise area
    - Keep adults away from kid area

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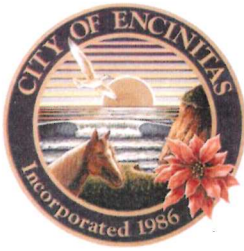


PARK EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT GLEN PARK  
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROGRAM  
Online Comments

ID	Start time	Completion time	Email	Name	Please choose from the two Playground Options being considered to replace the existing playground equipment.	Do you have any comments regarding the information presented about the choice of Playground Options?	(OPTIONAL) NAME - Please provide your contact information in case we need your assistance with evaluating your comments.	(OPTIONAL) PHONE NUMBER - Please provide your contact information in case we need your assistance with evaluating your comments.	(OPTIONAL) EMAIL ADDRESS - Please provide your contact information in case we need your assistance with evaluating your comments.	(OPTIONAL) MAILING ADDRESS - Please provide your contact information in case we need your assistance with evaluating your comments.	Question
1	11/20/24 15:31:05	11/20/24 15:32:25	anonymous		Option 2	Kids really like the swings that are there in the park as of now					
2	11/20/24 15:31:54	11/20/24 15:33:03	anonymous		Option 2	Kids like swings	Kay McKenzie	7606817792	Kay.loze82@gmail.com		11/20/2024
3	11/21/24 9:04:39	11/21/24 9:04:50	anonymous						cbrown@encinitasca.gov		
4	11/21/24 19:02:50	11/21/24 19:09:37	anonymous		Option 2	First of all, I believe it would be a BIG mistake to eliminate the swings. Our granddaughter loves to swing and whenever we're there, the swings are in use. I would note that we take her to a number of other playgrounds in the area, all of which have swings which are always being used. PLUS, Option 2 does not include a baby swing. This also would be a mistake. The baby swing is always in demand (it would not be wrong to include 2) and a swing set would be remis to not have at least one. Secondly, two more very popular features for our granddaughter are the tables, where she loves to serve imaginary dinners, and the steering wheel. We often see other children playing with these features. If these can be incorporated into the design, that would be appreciated.	Dan Wolf	818-669-6973	dan@lonewolfwriting.com	2140 Orinda Dr. Unit C, Cardiff 92007	11/21/2024
5	11/21/24 19:19:00	11/21/24 19:19:33	anonymous		Option 2	Please include swings. I have a toddler and they have love a playground with swings. Thank you!!					11/21/2024
6	11/22/24 8:46:31	11/22/24 8:48:20	anonymous		Option 2	I believe it's very important to include swings in the project. We see swings at every playground and they are almost always in use. Baby swings should also be included.	Elly Wolf	8188027465	ellywolf@gmail.com	2140 Orinda Dr. Cardiff 92007	11/21/2024
7	11/22/24 8:48:23	11/22/24 8:51:44	anonymous		Option 2	This is my second response. I just want to add one more thought. I think there should be a 3rd option: Simply fix the surface, put WD40 on the swings and maybe do some other rehab on the existing equipment. In other words, this is not some antiquated playground. Kids of all ages seem to love it. I suggest you consider saving money and just making some repairs on what's there. Is this a possibility? Thank you for considering this!	Dan Wolf	818-669-6973	dan@lonewolfwriting.com	2140 Orinda Unit C Cardiff 92007	11/21/2024
8	11/30/24 11:57:46	11/30/24 12:01:36	anonymous			One more comment: It is hard to assess the two options just from the images. As I've mentioned earlier, I believe a swing set should be included. If the sentiment is in favor of Option 1, perhaps it can be modified to include a swing set. The current swing set is partially on the sand. It seems that you can always put a swing set on the sand without intruding on the surface needed for the play equipment, and sand is the ideal surface for swinging (and jumping!). I wish I could join in the discussion on Monday! I hope it is productive.	Dan Wolf	818-669-6973		2140 Orinda, Unit C, Cardiff 92007	11/30/2024
9	12/2/24 17:04:57	12/2/24 17:11:38	anonymous			I strongly advocate adult fitness equipment at Glen Park. In general, residents of Cardiff are very physically active and will no doubt utilize the equipment. It would promote more adult interaction with their kids which is a win in itself.	Cary Gerhardt	818-445-4601	cary@spinc.com	2477 San Elijo Ave. Cardiff, CA. 92007	12/2/2024
10	12/2/24 17:37:15	12/2/24 17:39:26	anonymous		Option 1	Option 1 'Treehouse' play structure is much cooler, and closer to the style of the existing play structure. However, swings are a must for this location. Can you swap out one of the play structures for swings?	Cardiff resident - annual bday parties at Glen Park				12/2/2024
11	12/2/24 18:41:12	12/2/24 18:43:32	anonymous			In support of adding adult fitness equipment to the park					12/2/2024
12	12/3/24 7:07:56	12/3/24 7:12:33	anonymous			Adding adult fitness equipment would be a tremendous upgrade for this park. As a mid-20 year old, who lives in the surrounding neighborhood, I find myself always walking by/around this park for fitness. Always wishing that if this place had some outdoor fitness equipment, not only would there be tremendous physical benefits for all the adults in the community, but it could also add to the socialization and closeness that allows the surrounding community to embrace. I've always wanted an area outside, near the water, where adults could mingle and meet to share the enjoyment of living in this beautiful beach-side city to fully embrace the benefits and luxuries of where we live. I try to keep my space from the children's park in respect of families and kids to respect boundaries so an adult, having our own fitness equipment and area would be a spectacular boost to the already amazing park!					12/3/2024
13	12/3/24 13:42:54	12/3/24 13:46:22	anonymous		Option 1	Our kids love a playhouse to play together with their neighborhood friends. It looks like the best option for them!	July Vosper	213-604-0077	Julyelizabeth@gmail.com	2411 Newport Ave.	12/3/2024
14	12/4/24 12:36:10	12/4/24 12:40:47	anonymous		Option 1	I'm also in support of adding adult fitness equipment to Glen Park. I feel it will strengthen physical and mental bonds in the community, enhance the desirability of the park and provide a fitness option for residents who are unable or unwilling to pay for a gym membership. It also creates some variety for people who work out and gives people something to do if they are waiting for the tennis, volleyball or basketball sections to become available.	John Spencer				12/4/2024
15	12/4/24 15:31:44	12/4/24 17:09:58	anonymous		Option 2	I like the addition of swings with Option 2 but it would be nice to see some shade umbrellas on the play structures since it does get quite hot under the sun in the summer months.	Jude Matsalla		jude@matsalla.ca		12/4/2024

PARK EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT GLEN PARK  
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Online Comments

Adult Fitness Feedback:										
						On the Custom Cross Training Fitness Rack, I'm a BIG fan of the following Fitness Rack items in Option #5:  Swedish Ladder 1 Tall Standard Pull up Bar Station 1 Short Standard Pull up Bar Station Variable Pull-Up Bar Station (with a variety of hand positions & grips) Wall Bar Targets  My suggested revisions are:				
16	12/5/24 8:46:19	12/5/24 8:50:15	anonymous	Option 1	1. Remove the rings and replace with a standard pull-up bar like the pull-up bar directly across from the Rings Station. It has been my experience that rings are very rarely ever used on fitness courts and if the chains are truly that short as per the illustration, the only thing you could do with them is hang. I like having 2 standard pull-up bar locations directly across from themselves. This would foster competition when competitors could face each other as they try to out due one another. I could see where it could be used for competitions such as fire versus police versus lifeguards or competitions between friends. If a competitor is shorter and has difficulty reaching the high bar, they could compete side-by-side with the standard high and standard low pull-up bar stations.  2. Delete the low push up bar seen on Page 3 behind the guy doing a quad stretch and if possible install a "Variable Press" Station as on the GameTime Thrive 450 and Thrive 900. See the guy in the gray shirt working out on the "Variable Press" in the photo below. It has been my experience that push-ups are one of the most performed exercises at fitness courts. I think our fitness court should offer a variety of hand grips (bar versus ball) and degree of difficulty variety (based on the various styles of the bar/balls). The "Variable Press" offers this functionality in a compact space.	Ross Ridder	760-845-6200	ross.ridder@me.com	2493 Newport Ave Cardiff, CA 92007	12/5/2024
					Adult Fitness Equipment Feedback					
17	12/5/24 8:50:20	12/5/24 8:53:36	anonymous	Option 1	Replace Dual Chain Pod Climber with something else...perhaps move the Gymnast Rings to this location. My general sense is that it would be more inviting for little kids to climb...something I would prefer to discourage in this adult fitness area. Most people like myself would not know what to do with this apparatus...and I have an extensive fitness background.  If I had to choose between the Chain Pods and the Gymnast Rings, I'd prefer seeing this area be a Gymnast Rings Station instead. Between the two, I think a Gymnast Rings Station would enjoy more usage, less potential maintenance issues, and would be less of an enticement for children to play on the adult fitness rig.	Ross Ridder	760-845-6200	ross.ridder@me.com	2493 Newport Ave Cardiff CA 92007	12/5/2024



## COMMENT SHEET

### NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING Park Equipment Replacement – Glen Park Case No. CPP-006910-2024

Monday, December 2, 2024, at 6:00 PM  
Encinitas City Hall, Poinsettia Room  
505 South Vulcan Avenue, Encinitas, CA 92024

1. Please choose from the two Playground Options being considered to replace the existing playground equipment.

#1 Treehouse seems more inviting. #2  
modern teeter totter seems good. (I have no kids)  
SAND BOX seems like a good idea. Need swings (4)  
Make sure to have inputs from parents/school.

2. Do you have any comments regarding the information presented about the choice of Playground Options?

Natural colors looked good. Dark Green &  
Brown wood tones are nice. Beach colors could also work.  
Exercise Area – Good idea! Make sure  
it doesn't invite homeless people.

(OPTIONAL) Please provide your contact information in case we need your assistance with evaluating your comments.

NAME: Bahul Deshpande, Cardiff 101 Board Member

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: DESHPANDE\_RNE@yahoo.com

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Carlos Baldenegro

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**From:** Alison Wielechowski <director@cardiff101.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2024 12:27 PM  
**To:** Carlos Baldenegro; David Norgard; Dave Knopp; Ross Ridder  
**Subject:** Support for Glen Park Playground Equipment Replacement & Addition of Adult Fitness Equipment  
**Attachments:** Exercise Equipment support letter.pdf  
**Categories:** CP23D Park Equipment Replacement

**CAUTION:** External Email. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, verified their email address, and know the content is safe.

Hi all,  
Please see the attached letter of support for the Glen Park playground equipment from Cardiff 101 Main Street.

Thank you,  
Alison  
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November 30, 2024



To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Cardiff 101 Mainstreet Association's board of directors, I would like to express their support for the proposed improvements at Glen Park, which include the replacement of playground equipment and the addition of adult fitness equipment as a new park amenity. These enhancements align with our community's values of promoting health, wellness, and inclusivity.

I have had the time to personally meet with Ross Ridder on this topic and learned in full depth that it has been one of his primary goals to introduce adult fitness equipment in our parks and accessible trails. Cardiff 101 is excited to learn that Glen Park is one of the first two locations, alongside Orpheus Park, where these amenities will be installed. This addition will provide residents with accessible opportunities to engage in physical activity, cultivating a healthier community for all ages.

At Cardiff 101 Main Street, we are committed to fostering community partnerships and supporting initiatives that improve our public spaces. We look forward to seeing Glen Park evolve into an even more vibrant and inclusive destination for our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

Alison Wielechowski  
Executive Director  
Cardiff 101 Main Street Association

## Carlos Baldenegro

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**From:** Carlos Baldenegro  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 10:57 AM  
**To:** CPT  
**Cc:** Matthew Widelski  
**Subject:** RE: Glen Park equipment replacement in Cardiff

**Categories:** CP23D Park Equipment Replacement

Hi, CPT! Thank you for reaching out with your comments and questions. I recognize your concern over the homeless at this park. I've noticed it myself as I've been working on a couple of projects for this park. Other residents have brought this to my attention too. Rest assured that the City is working on addressing this issue in an appropriate way within its resources and authority.

However, please recognize that despite the homeless issue at this park hundreds of Encinitas families still bring their kids and grandkids to enjoy its amenities. In addition, our Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department (Parks Department) has a mandate to keep the amenities within City parks in tip top shape. As such, our Parks Department had identified this park's playground equipment for replacement some time ago. It applied for a grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation to help fund playground equipment replacement. The state awarded them a grant to do just that. And even though the grant wasn't specifically for this park, it freed up funding so that our Parks Department could self-fund a replacement project here.

We are replacing the playground equipment at this park for various reasons. For one, the age of the equipment has made it harder and more expensive to maintain and repair by our Parks Department. Replacing it with new equipment will reduce these costs. In addition, the combination of sand and poured in place rubber ground cover have proven to be incompatible. The sand has caused the rubber surface to prematurely wear and become damaged. Thus, both materials under the playground will be replaced with an engineered wood mulch. This wood mulch has been engineered to both meet fall protection requirements and be ADA compliant, which is what the rubber surfacing was for. The sand under the beach volleyball court will remain. Lastly, the City through its Parks and Recreation Commission is working to expand the use of its parks for more residents whose ages and capabilities vary. The wooden mulch serves this goal with its ADA compliance. The planned adult fitness equipment also serves this goal by providing opportunities for its use by individual adults, in addition to the volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts, which are more geared for group fitness. A commissioner from the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the siting of the adult fitness equipment where the existing horseshoe court is located so that it be as close to the playground as possible.

We are reviewing all the comments received for this park and seeing if our equipment layout options can be modified to accommodate as many suggestions as possible within existing constraints. We will then present these updated options to our Parks Department for a green light to proceed with design. The next opportunity residents will have to comment on this project is when it comes before the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Thanks again for your comments and questions, CPT. I will be documenting them with the project.

~Carlos B.

Carlos C. Baldenegro, P.E.  
Senior Engineer  
Engineering Department  
505 South Vulcan Ave, Encinitas, CA 92024  
760-633-2763 | [cbaldenegro@encinitasca.gov](mailto:cbaldenegro@encinitasca.gov) [www.encinitasca.gov](http://www.encinitasca.gov) Report an issue through MyEncinitas!

-----Original Message-----

From: CPT <mahalokai@icloud.com>  
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 4:05 PM  
To: Carlos Baldenegro <cbaldenegro@encinitasca.gov>  
Cc: Bruce Ehlers <behlers@encinitasca.gov>  
Subject: Glen Park equipment replacement in Cardiff

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Hi Carlos,

I appreciate the ability to give feedback regarding this project.

1) I live across the street and have for nearly 20 years. I have enjoyed the park and with this in mind, I think the playground equipment is fine as it is and we taxpayers don't need to spend the money on such a project.

Children and many others are constantly playing or enjoying the park in other ways with all the current playground equipment and other facilities such as tennis, bb, vball, horseshoe pit, bbq's etc.

My family and I would much prefer no such money spent on the proposed project and instead beg city leaders and staff to please use it to hire security to patrol the park 24/7 and not allow homeless people to loiter there, spend the night on or in the park, pitch a tent (as has been being done nightly for years under the covered picnic table area!), park overnight in any type of vehicle, park any type of vehicle in the parking lots nor around the perimeter and vicinity of the park if they are living or camping out of them. Perhaps you could take a trip to the park to view this with your own eyes if you're not familiar with what's been going on in the park. The park is for public use and the people paying through taxes for parks such as Glen Park deserve and want them/it to be clean, safe, free of free loaders, homeless people and scary people hanging out, camping, sleeping in vehicles nearby, using the facilities like the bathroom to essentially shower and live in.

The current playground equipment is entirely fine and we don't need to waste money, time and focus on replacing it especially while there are much more pressing issues which need addressing and affect a wider section of the neighboring population as opposed to a lesser size section of the neighboring population.

2) It isn't clear whether the footing for the vball area is being proposed to be changed to mulch however, as a vball player, mulch is not an acceptable nor safe type of footing for vball and the current sand type of footing is fine.

3) I am a fan of the horseshoe pit and would prefer it remain versus replacing with adult fitness equipment.

We are right here at the beach where adults can easily find all kinds of ways to exercise as opposed to installing unnecessary equipment which comes at a big cost and the money could be diverted to solve a big problem as I have explained above.

Thank you for your time and consideration, KC Orinda Village

## Carlos Baldenegro

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**From:** Carlos Baldenegro  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2024 6:49 PM  
**To:** Dan Wolf  
**Subject:** RE: Glen Park

**Categories:** CP23D Park Equipment Replacement

Hi, Dan! Thank you for reaching out. I'm sorry to hear you will not be able to attend the neighborhood meeting. But no worries, I will document your comments in this email for the project.

If you get a chance, please navigate to the Engineering Department's Public Notices webpage and scroll down to the Upcoming CPP/Neighborhood/Public Meetings section. There you will find an entry for Glen Park's upcoming neighborhood meeting, including the project's website, the public notice you received, an online comment feedback form, and the PowerPoint presentation that will be discussed at the meeting. The presentation shows two options for the replacement playground equipment for you to review and comment on. Follow this link:

<https://www.encinitasca.gov/government/public-notice/engineering-public-notice>

In a nutshell, all the playground equipment will be replaced as well as the sand and poured in place rubber ground cover. We are presenting two options for the replacement playground equipment. And the new ground cover will be an engineered wood mulch.

Once again, Dan, thank you for reaching out. I hope you get a chance to review the options and fill out the online comment feedback form

Take care!

~Carlos B.



**Carlos C. Baldenegro, P.E.**

Senior Engineer

Engineering Department

505 South Vulcan Ave, Encinitas, CA 92024

760-633-2763 | [cbaldenegro@encinitasca.gov](mailto:cbaldenegro@encinitasca.gov)

[www.encinitasca.gov](http://www.encinitasca.gov)

**Report an issue through MyEncinitas!**



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**From:** Dan Wolf <[dan@lonewolfwriting.com](mailto:dan@lonewolfwriting.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2024 4:51 AM  
**To:** Carlos Baldenegro <[cbaldenegro@encinitasca.gov](mailto:cbaldenegro@encinitasca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Glen Park

**CAUTION:** External Email. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, verified their email address, and know the content is safe.

Unfortunately, my wife and I will be unable to attend the meeting on 12/2 about Glen Park. We simply want to say that we are highly supportive of the plan to rejuvenate and upgrade the park. As we're sure you know, the rubber ground cover is worn and some of the equipment is dated. Other Encinitas playgrounds have more attractive, imaginative equipment. We live in the condo units immediately across the street, and our granddaughter gets great use out of the playground, as does a steady stream of other children.

We are curious as to what is specifically planned. Will this be total replacement or partial? The swings probably are most in need of upgrade, but much of the rest of the climbing equipment and slides still seem to be well within their useful life and lend themselves to creative play. How can we see what is planned?

Sorry we will not be in attendance, and thank you very much,

--Dan Wolf  
2140 Orinda  
Unit C

## Carlos Baldenegro

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**From:** Carlos Baldenegro  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 1:35 PM  
**To:** Hannah Kern  
**Subject:** RE: Feedback about Glen Park RE: Wood Mulch

**Categories:** CP23D Park Equipment Replacement

Hello, Dr. Kern! I wanted to reach out to let you know that I had received your email. I know it's been a while. I recall reading your message when I received it. You had expressed some unique concerns. I will be documenting your comments for the project. I am in the process of preparing the CPP Final Report for Glen Park. Our design consultant and staff from the City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department will be meeting soon to discuss all the comments received to determine which can be incorporated into the revised layout for this park before initiating design.

Regarding the engineered wooden mulch (EWM), this was a choice our Parks department made. One of the primary goals for this project, besides replacing the aged playground equipment, is to replace the ground cover. It has been clear to our Parks Dept. maintenance staff that sand and poured in place rubber ground covers just don't mix. The sand has contributed to the premature degradation of the expensive rubber ground cover. So, they chose the EWM as an acceptable alternative. Another one of Park's goals is to increase the accessibility of the playground equipment. Unfortunately, sand is not an accessible ground cover. The poured in place rubber is but it costs five times as much as the EWM. The EWM was designed for this purpose. It's not the same as plain wood chips that definitely can be associated with the hazards you mentioned. But I will see if there are any reasonable modifications we can make to the equipment layout for this park. Maybe a combination of the EWM and some poured in place rubber ground cover.

Lastly, regarding the baby swings, we will see what we can do. At all three neighborhood meetings I've held for the three parks in this project, residents resoundingly brought up their desire for swings in any final layouts. We are seriously looking into how we can move things around to accommodate swings. However, I want to let you know that there is a substantial limiting factor. Current rules for the layout of public park equipment require that each apparatus have an appropriate use zone or "safety zone" around it. For swings in particular, this use zone is large. The use zone for a typical belt swing extends both to the front and rear of a single-axis swing a minimum distance of twice the vertical distance from the pivot point to the top of the ground cover. In addition, use zones in the front and back of swings are not allowed to overlap with the use zone of any other playground equipment. This fact requires swings to take a substantial amount of playground space, which will limit what other equipment we can install. It becomes a matter of playing around with these use zone polygons within the space we have to see what fits the best.

Thanks again for your comments and questions, Dr. Kern!

~Carlos B.



**Carlos C. Baldenegro, P.E.**

**Senior Engineer**

**Engineering Department**

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**Report an issue through MyEncinitas!**



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**From:** Hannah Kern <hiskern@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 30, 2024 3:01 PM  
**To:** Carlos Baldenegro <cbaldenegro@encinitasca.gov>  
**Subject:** Feedback about Glen Park RE: Wood Mulch

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Hi Mr. Baldenegro,

My name is Dr. Hannah Kern. I'm a Cardiff resident, mom of a 3 year old and 1 year old, local doctor (I work at Scripps Encinitas), and a very frequent visitor to Glen Park with my daughters.

I love that the city is upgrading the park, but I am concerned about the choice of engineered wood mulch as the ground cover for several reasons. This park is frequented by young children (under age 5) and early walkers. There are so many reasons why an uneven ground surface is unsafe for these young children.

- a. Tripping
- b. Getting wood pieces stuck in shoes
- c. Choking - Toddlers putting pieces in their mouths
- d. Many children run from the sand to the playground and thus don't wear shoes, which would be painful on the wood mulch. So inability to be barefoot at the park.
- e. Children play with the sand then carry it to the playground, so it would get mixed in the wood mulch - this would be impossible to clean up!

Are there alternatives to wood mulch that can be considered? Why not use the same rubber ground cover that is there now? This is easy for bare feet to run on, easy for young walkers, easy to clean and doesn't pose a choking hazard. I would understand if this park was used for older kids, but the reality is that Glen Park is most used by young children. Toddlers who are home with their parents not yet in school, toddlers at home with their nannies, toddlers on weekend mornings with their parents since they're not yet in sports. It is a toddler park! Please make the ground cover young child friendly.

And one other comment - I feel the new park should have 2 baby swings, not just 1 as this is a highly sought after swing!

I'm happy to speak on the phone about my concerns.

Thank you for listening!

- Dr. Hannah Kern

[hiskern@gmail.com](mailto:hiskern@gmail.com)

Cell phone: 831-239-8958

## Carlos Baldenegro

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**From:** Carlos Baldenegro  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 10:57 AM  
**To:** cpmt  
**Cc:** Matthew Widelski  
**Subject:** RE: Concerns over Park Equipment Replacement-Glen Park

**Categories:** CF18A Glen Park ADA Improvements

Hi, Patrick! Thank you for reaching out with your comments and questions. I recognize your concern over the homeless at this park. I've noticed it myself as I've been working on a couple of projects for this park. Other residents have brought this to my attention too. Rest assured that the City is working on addressing this issue in an appropriate way within its resources and authority.

However, please recognize that despite the homeless issue at this park hundreds of Encinitas families still bring their kids and grandkids to enjoy its amenities. In addition, our Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department (Parks Department) has a mandate to keep the amenities within City parks in tip top shape. As such, our Parks Department had identified this park's playground equipment for replacement some time ago. It applied for a grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation to help fund playground equipment replacement. The state awarded them a grant to do just that. And even though the grant wasn't specifically for this park, it freed up funding so that our Parks Department could self-fund a replacement project here.

We are replacing the playground equipment at this park for various reasons. For one, the age of the equipment has made it harder and more expensive to maintain and repair by our Parks Department. Replacing it with new equipment will reduce these costs. In addition, the combination of sand and poured in place rubber ground cover have proven to be incompatible. The sand has caused the rubber surface to prematurely wear and become damaged. Thus, both materials under the playground will be replaced with an engineered wood mulch. This wood mulch has been engineered to both meet fall protection requirements and be ADA compliant, which is what the rubber surfacing was for. The sand under the beach volleyball court will remain. Lastly, the City through its Parks and Recreation Commission is working to expand the use of its parks for more residents whose ages and capabilities vary. The wooden mulch serves this goal with its ADA compliance. The planned adult fitness equipment also serves this goal by providing opportunities for its use by individual adults, in addition to the volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts, which are more geared for group fitness.

We are reviewing all the comments received for this park and seeing if our equipment layout options can be modified to accommodate as many suggestions as possible within existing constraints. We will then present these updated options to our Parks Department for a green light to proceed with design. The next opportunity residents will have to comment on this project is when it comes before the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Thanks again for your comments and questions, Patrick. I will be documenting them with the project.

~Carlos B.



**Carlos C. Baldenegro, P.E.**

**Senior Engineer**

**Engineering Department**

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**From:** cpmt <cpmt@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2024 3:56 PM  
**To:** Carlos Baldenegro <cbaldenegro@encinitasca.gov>  
**Cc:** Bruce Ehlers <behlers@encinitasca.gov>  
**Subject:** Concerns over Park Equipment Replacement-Glen Park

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Hello Mr. Baldenegro,

I am writing to you to express my concern over the subject project. I live adjacent to the park and am not in favor of spending money on the proposed upgrades to the park. These upgrades are not a necessary expense, especially with so many other issues in the city that need immediate attention.

One of those issues is the constant use of Glen Park, its parking lot and surrounding street parking as a homeless encampment. Money should be spent on more frequent patrols and enforcement of no camping in and around the park. Every day in and around the park I see tents, old RVs and old cars that are clearly occupied by homeless people. This illegal "camping" presents safety and cleanliness issues and given that it has been ongoing for a few years, clearly has not been a priority. What is more important, neighborhood safety or upgrading the park? It should be, by a wide margin, safety. Don't spend money on this project, spend money on preventing camping and removing it when it is attempted.

I am hoping with the new city leadership, there will be a renewed interest in the safety and well being of residents with spending prioritized in the right places. That is why I have copied Mayor Bruce Ehlers, whom I voted for.

Thank you.  
Patrick Tierney