

Iron picket fence to replace park's fortress feel

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billion water, natural resource and park bond measure voters passed in 2006. Applicants' requests total \$1.6 billion, according to Sedrick Mitchell, deputy director of external affairs for State Parks, and 11% of that is available.

Mitchell said that because Boeddeker passed "physical" review it is in the running. Some applicants never got past the paperwork review. The state's vetting may continue into early October before awards are announced, Mitchell said. Some applicants won't get as much as they requested.

"Even if we get it," Muszinski said, "we'll need to raise another \$500,000."

The makeover expenditure goal is \$5 million. The trust, which transforms neglected public parks so kids can use them, also applied for a \$500,000 urban greening grant from the state. But the state is so inundated with those requests that the recipients won't be known until year's end, Muszinski said. The trust additionally is trying to raise a half million from corporations and individuals. It was successful earlier in raising \$1 million for the planning and design.

Late last year the trust feared that the state's sinking bond status could indefinitely delay distributing Prop 84 funds. The trust's Jake Gilchrist, who spearheaded the trust's work with Boeddeker, said the project needed to go forward on schedule, and not be put on hold, even if it meant scaling down to \$3 million. But the application wasn't held up and the state process apparently isn't slowing.

NEXT UP: BIDDING PROCESS

After the grants are in, the bidding process will take several months. If construction starts next spring, the park will close for 16 to 18 months until it's finished.

Boeddeker is part of the public land trust's \$8 million improvement project for three San Francisco

parks. Hayes Valley at Hayes and Buchanan streets and Balboa Park out on San Jose Avenue are the others.

The preliminary plan presented in public meetings last year has undergone changes. But the aim to have a more open, greener and inviting park is still evident in the latest drawing.

Boeddeker is one of 475 parks statewide that have applied for money from Proposition 84, the \$5.4 billion water, natural resource and park bond measure voters passed in 2006.

The main gate will no longer be at the Jones and Eddy corner but pushed farther east on Eddy, where an 18-foot gate will roll open for ramp access. Walking up the ramp to the park level (from Eddy to Ellis the park slopes 16 feet) a visitor passes the glassed recreation room on the right, which also looks out on to Eddy. The rest of the clubhouse extends north and has activities and meeting rooms. Most of its west wall will be floor-to-ceiling glass for staff to keep an eye on the park. The floor will be warm from the radiant, geothermal heating system underneath. From

the roof, drain pipes will send rainwater into three large planters.

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BUILDING TO GO SOLAR

Supplying all of the one-story building's energy needs will be solar panels on the roof. A "living roof" of plants and grasses proved impractical.

At the top of the ramp is a patio. Looking west is the airy, open park that the critics of fortress Boeddeker wanted. Gone is the park split by a wide brick walk from the Eddy and Jones gate and sectioned by low brick ledges. Instead, there's an 80-by-45-foot lawn suitable for soccer, tai chi and group yoga. Adjacent, to the north, is a multi-purpose court. Next to it, surrounded by trees, is a kids' play area with a stage, but without a sunken amphitheater-like plaza that once was considered. Nearby, centrally located, is the outdoor bathroom.

Protecting the lawn and court on the south and west sides will be a light-colored, 6-foot-9-inch-high perimeter fence to supplant the heavy, dark metal one that contributed to Boeddeker's reputation. The

new fence's wrought iron pickets are less than half the thickness of the others. And park trees, mostly poplars, will border the main park's south and west sides and turn along the north side and go past the children's area.

Because of the sloping land, the park will be terraced and ramped in four places. One ramp leads up to the northernmost section that borders Ellis Street, where there will be a maintenance gate and doorway. That section, with several small garden areas, tables and benches, was once the haunt of raucous domino players and dope dealers who were chased away. In recent years, oldtimers from Presentation Senior Community next door have volunteered on Saturdays to weed and hoe the flower beds and clean up trash. That section will have two patios, planter beds, tables and benches under two bordering rows of trees.

Trust representatives brought a small sample of the lighter fencing that will surround the park to the Friends of Boeddeker Park meeting Aug. 12. It will create better visibility into and out of the park.

BULLETIN BOARD STAYS

Residents said they were eager to save the park's arty grant-funded bulletin board created two years ago. It's on the outside of the fence to the left of the gate and posts information on neighborhood special events, concerts and exercise classes. It's colorfully encircled by a wrought-iron garland of vines and flowers painted green, yellow and red. Rec and Park's Steve Cismowski said the bulletin board was popular and has remained undamaged since it was put up.

The historic clock at the park's Eddy and Jones corner was another consideration. It will be removed during construction, Muszinski said, but the city will decide if the JCDecaux privy will stay. Friends Chair Betty Traynor said she hoped the clock could be returned to the corner.

"While I was putting up some flyers for the concert, someone came up and asked why does this park have to look like a prison?" Traynor said later. "And why are there so many fences inside? Well, this is what the new design will change — it will transform the park into a truly open space. I really like the new design." ■

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