



# John Ewald Park Improvements Update

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Park and Recreation Commission

February 29, 2024

# Park and Recreation Commission Action Items

1. Receive the staff memo regarding the park improvement implementation process
2. Provide feedback about the proposed implementation process

# John Ewald Park – Existing Conditions



# 2016 Ewald Park Improvements Recommendations

Endorsed by the Park and Recreation Commission November, 19 2015

- 1 **Create a turnaround and landscaped median in the parking lot**  
The current parking lot is, unstriped and does not allow for turnaround space or landscaped medians. This plan proposes installing a landscaped median and trees to provide a turnaround. It would also include parking spaces for disabled park users. The lot would be designed to not impact healthy existing trees.
- 2 **Create pedestrian entrance near Duke St./Jordan intersection**  
A new formalized entrance to the park would create a small space for a park sign, benches, and bike racks. It would also provide park access close to the Duke Street and S. Jordan intersection, encouraging safer pedestrian access.
- 3 **Install a second basketball court and maintenance path**  
The existing basketball court is one of the most popular in the City. The addition of lights will require a special use permit and may be added at a later stage of implementation due to cost.
- 4 **Renovate the turf and install a walking path**  
The park holds one of the largest and most popular unfenced turf areas in the City. This plan proposes adding irrigation and re-turfing the field to better sustain the active use. Steps from the multi-use courts to the open turf area may also serve as spectator seating. A path around the field will create a location for running and walking. Walking the path seven times would equal a mile. As requested by the Park and Recreation Commission on October 17, 2015, staff will investigate the use of synthetic turf and lights prior to implementation.
- 5 **Replace the pool and poolhouse with two multi-use courts**  
The pool has been closed since 2011. When it was open there was low use as the site is not conducive to a high capacity aquatics facility. The current poolhouse blocks visibility from Duke Street creating an unsafe setting behind it. This plan recommends replacing the pool and poolhouse with sport courts to meet the increasing demand in the city. One of the courts will be a multi-use court and include a movable net for tennis and pickleball. The other court would be used for futsal (court soccer).

- 6 **Restore the existing playground to forest area**  
This area is hidden from the street and difficult to access. Planting new trees in this site will help increase the tree canopy in the City, per the Urban Forestry Master Plan.
- 7 **Work with Alexandria Police Department (APD) to improve park safety, particularly in areas not visible from Duke St.**  
This plan recommends on-going community group involvement and cooperation to keep "eyes on the park." This can occur through regularly scheduled events in the park, communication with APD and increased park use. Over time, these strategies and crime reports will be measured to ensure safety and determine if other Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design tactics should be pursued while not impacting healthy existing trees.
- 8 **Move the playground to the former tennis court area**  
Moving the playground to the former tennis court area will increase its visibility from Duke St and encourage greater use. It will also include new and modern equipment and may integrate water features.
- 9 **Install shade structure and picnic area**  
A shaded area with seating will provide a community gathering space. The shade structures will be integrated within the existing trees to provide year round shade.
- 10 **Reserve space for community building**  
A community building can provide space for civic meetings, restrooms, and recreation offices. The location of the building allows for sightlines throughout the park to increase surveillance. It is also located next to the picnic area to allow for joint uses.



**2018 Ewald Park Improvements Plan Amendment**  
Endorsed by the Park and Recreation Commission November 15, 2018

**Overview:  
Parkour**

Physical Discipline

Adapting and  
overcoming obstacles  
in one's path

Jumping, climbing,  
swinging, landing,  
vaulting, balancing,  
flipping

Mastering the mind and  
body and using both to  
move creatively,  
efficiently, and safely



**Location  
and  
Layout**

Ewald Park - Proposed Site Improvements

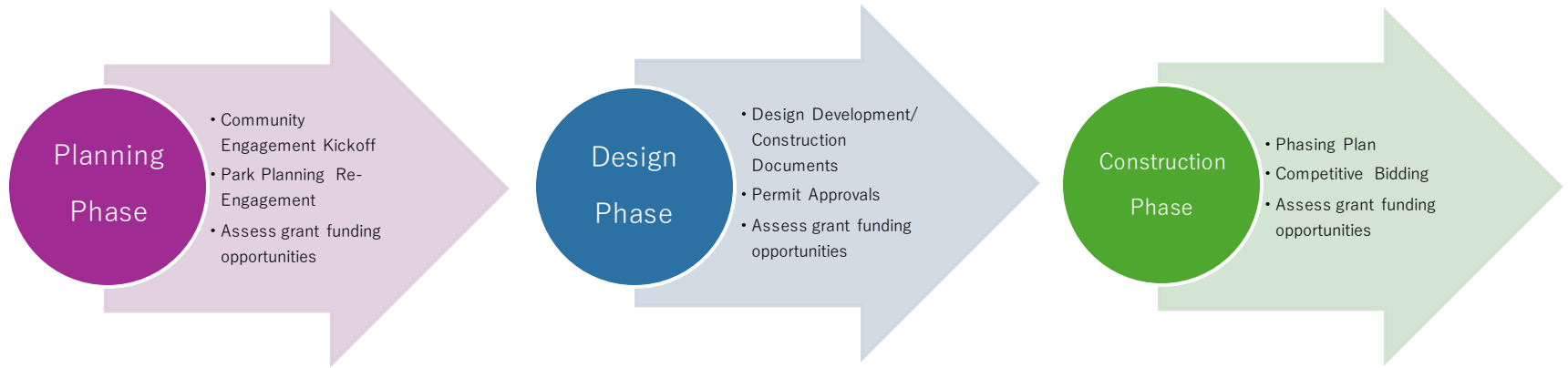


\*Parkour is only proposed change from 2016 Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan



Slough Parkour Park - Slough,  
Berkshire UK

# John Ewald Park Improvements Implementation Process



# John Ewald Park Improvements Implementation Process

## Planning Phase

Planning Phase

May/June 2024–  
February 2025

- Community Engagement Kickoff
- Park Planning Re-Engagement
- Assess grant funding opportunities

- Reaffirm park goals and objectives
- Revisit park improvement recommendations and identify updates
- Assess park equity
- Complete park asset conditions assessment
- Collect site data
- Develop site design concepts
- Develop preliminary cost estimate
- Conduct community engagement
- Coordinate with partner departments
- Seek grant funding opportunities
- Hold Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearing

# John Ewald Park Improvements Implementation Process

## Design Phase

Design Phase  
March 2025–  
November 2025

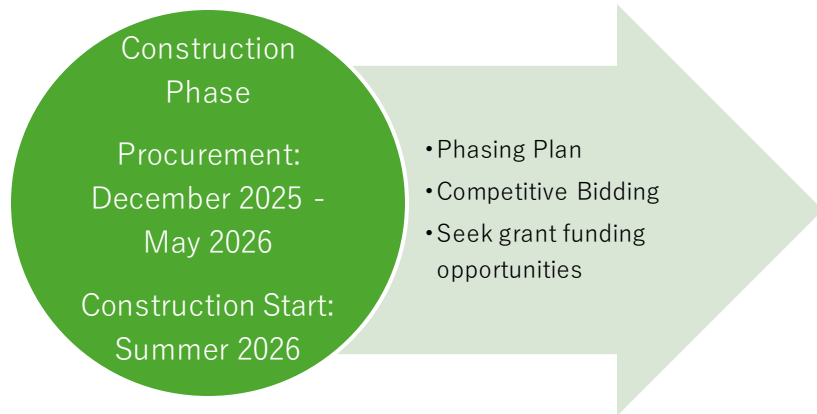
- Design Development
- Construction Documents
- Permit Approvals
- Seek grant funding opportunities

- Refine and complete technical design for proposed park program and project requirements
- Complete construction documents
- Obtain required permit approvals
- Conduct final cost estimating
- Determine project phasing
- Coordinate with partner offices
- Seek grant funding opportunities



# John Ewald Park Improvements Implementation Process

## Construction Phase

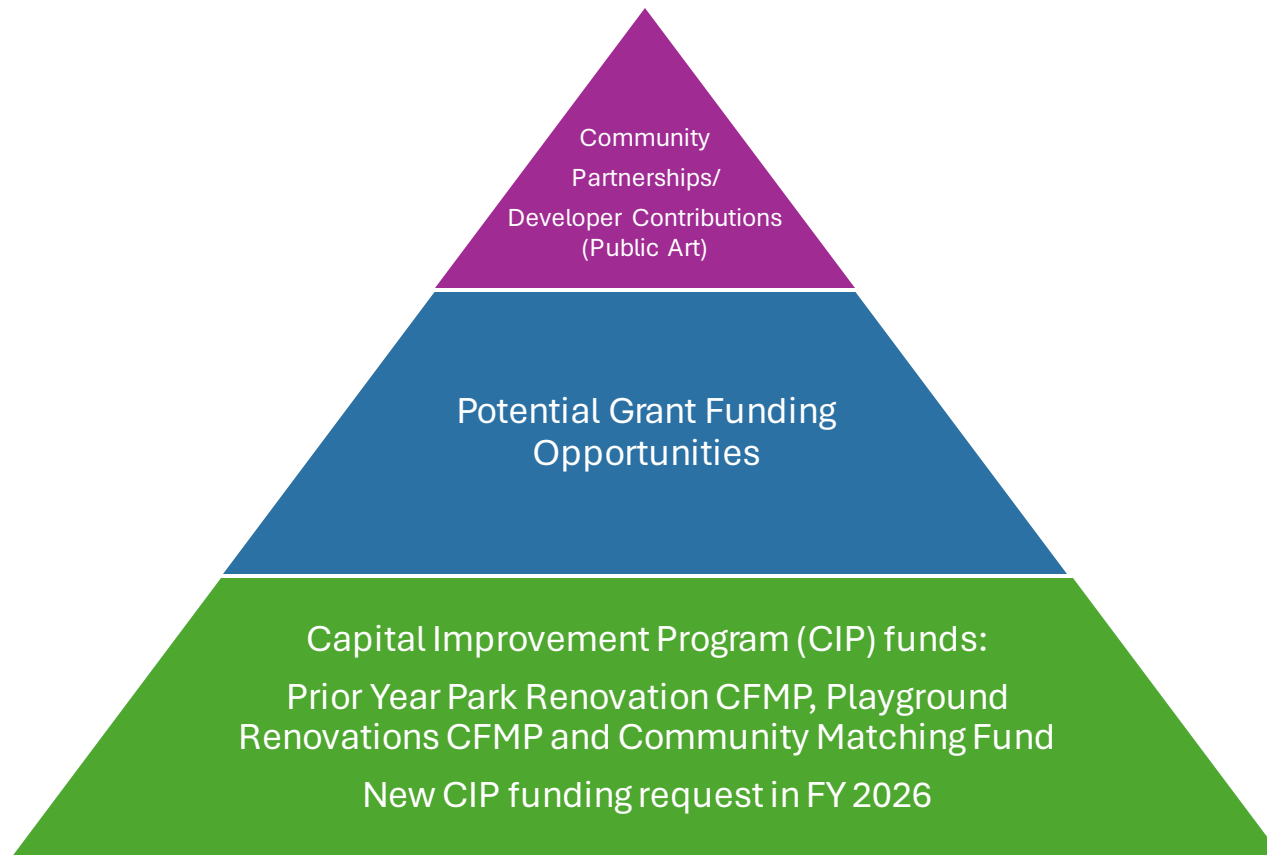


- Conduct competitive bidding process for construction services
- Implement Park Plan in phases
- Obtain construction permits
- Seek grant funding for construction/park plan phasing

# John Ewald Park Improvements Community Engagement



# John Ewald Park Improvements Project Funding





# Commission Discussion and Questions