

Town of Monterey
Proposal for use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds – Form

- Completed forms are due no later than Thursday October 13th, 2022.
- Please use as many words and images as you feel necessary to describe accurately your proposal. Do not be limited to this document and feel free to attach supporting documents as appropriate.
- Please reach out with any questions to the Select Board at selectboard@montereyma.gov or mail to Town of Monterey Select Board / Post Office Box 308 / Monterey, MA 01245.

Requestor information

Name of requesting entity (public body, Town department, individual citizen, etc.):
Monterey Park and Recreation Commission

Contact information for submitter:

Name: Thomas J. Mensi

Phone number: 860-729-4619

Email: tjmensi@gmail.com

Mailing address: 18 Sylvan Road, #595, Monterey, MA 01245

Date request is submitted August 5, 2022

Funding information

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Amount of request: Playground Equipment List | \$73,788.00 |
| FAC 104 20% Discount | -\$14,757.60 |
| Equipment Price | \$59,030.40 |
| Freight | \$3,600.82 |
| Installation Price | \$27,000.00 |
| Surfacing | \$8,640.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$98,271.23 |

The entire quote and breakdown of components is available in the “Quote” pdf. The 20% discount is a result of the provisions of the state contract that the equipment firm holds. The cost of equipment is subject to adjustments at any time.

There are many playground equipment firms throughout the country, eager to sell their equipment but most do not offer site evaluations and selections based on what our online survey showed to be of interest to the survey respondents. See the “Survey” pdf. My research led me to a Massachusetts firm and playground architect that had recently managed systems in Egremont and Sheffield, Cindy Maak of Site Specifics, LLC of Rochester, MA. Cindy met with me on site on July 12, 2022. Coincidentally, Cindy was the installer of the present playground in Greene Park back in 2008. She is certified in the

professional organizations of her profession and is knowledgeable with current state and national requirements of materials, construction and layouts of municipal playground setups.

Will additional funds be required to complete the project? This presentation represents a comprehensive and all-inclusive plan. Site preparation and the removal of old equipment are the only expected additional items and hopefully these can be accomplished through volunteerism and the assistance of the town's public works department.

If yes, where will those funds be obtained? N/A

Will additional expenses be incurred regularly for maintenance or replacement after the initial project? The surfacing ground cover, engineered wood fiber, will need maintenance over the life of the playground. Typically, a play area of our size will need roughly 1/3 of the engineered wood fiber added every 3-4 years depending on use. That would be about 64 cyds, which at today's pricing would be \$1,920, furnished only. The piece of playground equipment that will require regular maintenance is the Cyclone Spinner and a pdf "Cyclone Spinner Maintenance" is attached. Of course, the entire playground should be regularly examined for any unusual wear and tear. Swing chains for example, need to be checked for metal fatigue which will depend upon usage.

If so, how will maintenance be funded? (Operating expenses within the Line item budget in annual Town Meeting, regular replacement or maintenance to be added to the capital plan, or other – please specify) Sources of possible funding would be through the Park and Recreation Commission's budget or through a line item budget in the annual town meeting.

Proposed project

What is the proposed use of these funds? The existing playground area in Monterey's Greene Park has served the community well since 2008. The useful life of playground equipment is approximately 15 years. Our swings are no longer securely anchored to the ground and do not match current safety standards. We do not meet ADA requirements. Our play structures are severely faded and not level to the ground. The lumber border has splintered and heaved. The ground cover, although recently replenished by the Parks Commission to even out the playing surface and improve the appearance of the playground is an ineffective material compared to today's choices. Therefore, the Parks and Recreation Commission strongly recommends a rebuild of the Greene Park playground. The plan, customly designed for Monterey based on the space available and the comments of the respondents of the Playground Survey is high quality, innovative, safe, durable and an eco-friendly system where children can explore and our community can bond.

At an earlier presentation of request of funds to the select board on March 29, 2022, for ARPA monies as a means of funding this project, I was requested to provide a compilation of the number of children, birth through age 18. The Monterey town clerk supplied me with this information which is included in the pdf "Town clerk number of children". I was also asked to determine how much use the present playground experiences, so a survey was developed to not

only answer that question but to also to collect the ages of children using the playground and what the parents of these children wanted to have in the new playground. Close to fifty responses were received which is an impressive number considering the total population of Monterey. See the survey pdf “Survey” for that data.

Please see attached pdfs for plans and layout of the project. (“Greene park 3D”, “Greene park1_1”, “Greene park1_2”, “Single Miracle Timber”, and “Timber Access Ramp”. The timeline depends greatly upon when the order is placed.

A playground ordered today would most likely be delivered late next spring. This is a about a 5-day installation, with a 3-day cement cure.

Please be as complete and thorough as possible, include drawings, plans, estimates, and anything else you believe will be helpful in our evaluation of the project. Please also include an expected timeline for the project, once potential funds are secured.

Statement of benefits

How will this project benefit the residents of Monterey? [Click here to enter text.](#)

Who in the community will be most directly served? The recreational resources in Monterey greatly contribute to the attractiveness of life in our town. This certainly includes the outdoor venues we provide for the children and families in our community. The town’s dedication to its recreation plan is an effective strategy to advance the town’s vitality and beauty. The Parks and Recreation Commission strongly supports the rebuild of the playground in Greene Park. It will add innovative equipment of present day play concepts that will stay fresh, dependable and challenging long after the installation. The presented design addresses the sensory needs of special needs children and will be therapeutic for children of all abilities. A new playground system will not only be of great benefit to the children of Monterey, by encouraging a fun approach to physical outdoor activity but also serve as a gathering place for our community to bond.

Relevance to the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act

How will this project fulfill the purpose of ARPA? The American Rescue Plan Act’s purpose is to assist local entities respond to the public health and economic impacts created by the COVID-19 pandemic. It supports investments in public facilities and infrastructure projects that encourage safe socialization, neighborhood revitalization and community development. The rebuild of the Monterey Playground in Greene Park will advance all these objectives as well as create a challenging and joyful play experience leading to healthier and happier children in a safe, outdoor setting.

(Information from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and KP Law about the ARPA program can be found on the Select Board website <https://www.montereyma.gov/select-board/pages/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa> or upon request at Town Hall)

Additional comments

Is there anything else that the Select Board should know while considering this proposal for use of ARPA funds? On 6/15/2022, a Title 5 Official Inspection was performed at Monterey Town Hall. The report filed by Scott T. McFarland on 6/22/2022 is included as a pdf. The concrete distribution box and the soil absorption system are marked on page 16 of the report and have been provided to the playground architect so the placement of the playground equipment does not interfere with these components. Mr. McFarland states in his correspondence, "I believe any work done within 2' of current grade shouldn't impact the septic. Any playground work planned deeper than 2' below grade will need to be worked around the septic SAS component locations." A copy of his pertinent email to Melissa Noe and Jim Wilusz is attached.

Please email completed forms to selectboard@montereyma.gov or mail to Town of Monterey Select Board / Post Office Box 308 / Monterey, MA 01245.