



Miller Park Play Structure Update Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you to the 411 community members who participated in our survey related to the playground update at Miller Park! The City reviewed the feedback received and presented the information to the City Council at their January 23rd meeting for approval of the playground purchase. We have outlined below some information on the playground update and answers to the common questions we received.

For reference, the City of Florence will be replacing the play structure at Miller Park, known as ‘Fort Miller,’ which was dedicated in June 1987. The new play structure will be inclusive to meet ADA standards so that children of all abilities can engage and play on the new structure. The existing stand-alone swings will be saved, refurbished, and reused in the project. The new play structure will be designed for children ages 5-12.

Question 1: What will the new play structure look like?

Working with Buell Recreation, the City has designed the play structure based on the needs of the park and feedback from the community. The City Council approved the purchase at their January 23, 2023, meeting. The selected design includes a new play structure incorporating maritime elements, climbing components, slides, bridges, multiple platforms, and relocating the current swings. The small toddler playground just north of the main structure will remain.

The project will remove over 11,000 square feet of sand in the play area. A combination of pour-in-place rubber surfacing material for the fall areas of the play structure, walking path from the

existing sidewalk near the picnic shelter to the play structure and swings, and engineered wood fiber chips for the remainder of the play area will all be included. This will assist with accessibility to the play structure.



Question 2: What color will be the playground equipment be?

In a community survey, respondents voted for “Lagoon,” or blue and gold, for the new play structure (Note: the rendering shows a different color scheme). We will also work to provide elements that represent both the Siuslaw Vikings and the Mapleton Sailors.

Question 3: What add-on items will be included in addition to the main play structure?

The survey asked respondents to rank some of the elements that the City was considering adding on to the main play structure. Based on those rankings, the playground will also include a musical play station, a rock climb structure, a domed climber, a spinner, and a balance path.

Question 4: Will there be a fence? What else will be included?

In the survey and online, we heard an overwhelming desire for the fence to remain – 78%. Based on that feedback, we will be keeping a fence around the play area. We did, however, hear the concerns over ease of access to the play structure from those wanting the fence removed. The updated play area will include more gates around the structure for quicker access from all sides. In addition to the fence, there was also an ask for more benches and trash receptacles. The City will add those elements to the overall plan. The City also heard the desire to add another ADA swing option in the form of a face-to-face glider swing. This will be incorporated as well.

Question 5: Why doesn't the new design have a cover for rain, sun, and wind?

This project aims to replace the 35-year-old play equipment at Miller Park, which needs to meet the safety and ADA regulations of 2023. If a cover were to be included, the cost of the project would at least double, the timeline would be significantly longer (years), and it would no longer be a replacement and would need to go through architecture design, land use approval, and building permitting. In addition, taking into account the height and size of the play equipment, the necessity of adding light, and the windy coastal weather, the addition of a cover is not feasible financially, nor does it fit in with the goals of the project.

Question 6: What is the timeline for completion?

The Miller Park Play Structure Update was projected to be complete by December 2023. However, it is the current hope to begin work this summer with a public grand opening on August 1, 2023, during the Florence Police Department's National Night Out at Miller Park.

Question 7: How much will it cost?

Based on the current design, the project will cost \$237,000. The City budget for parks is generally limited to maintenance of current assets as parks does not have a direct funding source. Capital improvements to parks, including replacements and new builds, are funded through grants, donations – both monetary and in-kind volunteer labor, and City staff time to perform the work, which is often used as a match to grant funds.

This project is funded through a combination of grants, local donations, and limited City of Florence funds. So far, the City of Florence has received a Lane County Public Health Grant for \$80,000 and a Local Government Grant Program Grant in the amount of \$75,000. City staff members are pursuing additional grant opportunities.

The community can donate via a tax-deductible link on the City of Florence website, <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/publicworks/miller-park-play-structure-update>.

Question 8: How can I help?

Miller Park is not only the City's largest developed park; it is also the signature park for the community. People from all across the Siuslaw Region come to the park for the playground, skate park, ball fields, picnic shelter, and walking trails. That makes the park feel like it belongs to the entire community. If you would like to volunteer to help with the removal of the existing play structure or installation of the new one, email randi.braaten@ci.florence.or.us with your name and contact information to be added to the list.

Question 9: How can I learn more?

The Miller Park Play Structure Update has a webpage on the City of Florence's website to keep the community informed of news, opportunities, volunteer days, and the donation totals. View it now at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/publicworks/miller-park-play-structure-update>.