

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED:	July 11, 2012	REPORT NO:	102
ATTENTION:	Park and Recreation Board Agenda of July 19, 2012		
SUBJECT:	North Park Mini-Park General Development Plan (C	GDP)	

SUMMARY

Issue - Should the Board approve the GDP for the North Park Mini-Park?

Director's Recommendation - Approve the GDP for the North Park Mini-Park.

<u>Other Recommendations</u> - The North Park Recreation Council recommended unanimous approval of the GDP for North Park Mini-Park on April 23, 2012 with a vote of 3-0-0. The motion to approve was as follows, "To approve the GDP as presented, and that the North Park Recreation Council works with City staff and other North Park organizations to develop a fundraising scheme and strategies to deal with potential security and crime issues."

The Design Review Committee (DRC) recommended unanimous approval of the GDP for North Park Mini-Park on May 9, 2012 with a vote of 11-0-0. The DRC recommended approval of the GDP with the following recommendations:

- 1. Do additional study of the blank wall to address heat and light reflection into the park space. The introduction of water or green wall may be viable options.
- 2. Move the accessible ramp to the stage to the back of the stage instead of running it at the front of the stage.
- 3. Expand on the design detail of the pergolas, especially those ends exposed to the adjacent streets.
- 4. Expand on the design detail of how the park's paving interfaces with the street right-of-way paving.
- 5. Incorporate design elements to discourage skateboard use within the park.
- 6. Provide a stronger design connection between the park and the boulders.
- 7. Carefully evaluate tree species selected and how to address adverse soil conditions to ensure the tree plantings are successful.
- 8. Consider incorporating moveable tables and chairs into the park's design to allow for flexible seating.

All of the recommendations by the DRC will be incorporated into the project, with the exception of #2 above: moving the accessible ramp to the back of the stage. This option was reviewed, but space limitations near the back of the stage would result in the ramp and handrails disrupting the view and circulation within the park.

<u>Fiscal Impact</u> – Annual maintenance costs for the park will be determined and budgeted when the scope for Phase I of the park has been identified and at the time funding has been secured for design and construction.

<u>Water and Energy Conservation Status</u> - The proposed project complies with all water and conservation guidelines contained in Council Policy 200-14.

<u>Environmental</u> – The North Park Mini-Park GDP has been processed through the City's Development Services Department (DSD) and the project has been determined to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15332 (In-Fill) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

BACKGROUND

This project provides for the design of a GDP for an approximately 0.50 acre mini-park to be located between Granada Avenue and 29th Street, along North Park Way in the Greater North Park Community Planning Area. The mini-park will be located behind the recently renovated historic North Park Theater.

The community input process for the park included the establishment of an Advisory Group (stakeholder committee) and a number of publicly-noticed community open house and workshop meetings held by the City to gather input on the project. These meetings included: an Open House on 4/28/11 to identify community opportunities, assets, key issues, challenges, and project background information; a Visioning and Design Workshop on 6/4/11; an Open House and Workshop on 11/16/11 to review preliminary alternatives; and an Open House and Workshop on 3/19/12 to review the preferred alternative.

DISCUSSION

Located in a dense, urban area of the City, this mini-park is expected to receive heavy community use as a central gathering space for passive recreational uses and events. The location of the park will provide a connection between the residential neighborhoods to the south and the Business District to the north.

Proposed park amenities will include: A large multi-purpose space for events such as movies in the park as projected on the theatre wall, a raised stage for performances, space for a temporary stage, interactive play sculptures, pergolas, sculptural wayfinding elements, lighting, seat walls, planters, trash receptacles, a drinking fountain, a donor's walk/arc for display of donor tiles or pavers, and a possible green wall. The park will also have numerous game tables to encourage use of the space during the day and at times of non-events. The park features a large grove of trees along the south side of the site to provide shade and to buffer the directly-adjacent homeowners.

The Greater North Park Community Planning Area is currently severely park deficient. The North Park Mini-Park project will add valuable population-based park acreage to the Greater North Park Community Planning Area.

The proposed GDP for the mini-park is one of three interrelated ongoing projects within the Greater North Park Community Planning Area. These projects include, in addition to the mini-park, the Jefferson Elementary School joint use area, and an associated Streetscape Master Plan.

The Jefferson Elementary School joint use area recently opened to the public and is located at 3770 Utah Street, providing approximately 1.5 useable acres for the community to enjoy after school, on weekends and on holidays. The joint use area also includes a children's play area and a drinking fountain and will likely be used for more active types of recreational activities.

A Streetscape Master Plan is also in the process of being prepared which will propose amenities to tie the North Park Mini-Park and the Jefferson Elementary School joint use area together, as well as to tie the mini-park to University Avenue. These improvements will provide additional areas for community interaction.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. Recommend approval of the proposed GDP for the North Park Mini-Park.
- 2. Recommend approval of the proposed GDP for the North Park Mini-Park, with modifications.
- 3. Do not recommend approval of proposed GDP for the North Park Mini-Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Hossein Azar, Acting Deputy Director Public Works Department, E&CP Architectural Engineering & Parks Division

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Prepared by: Todd Schmit, Project Manager Public Works Department, E&CP Architectural Engineering & Parks Division

HA/trs

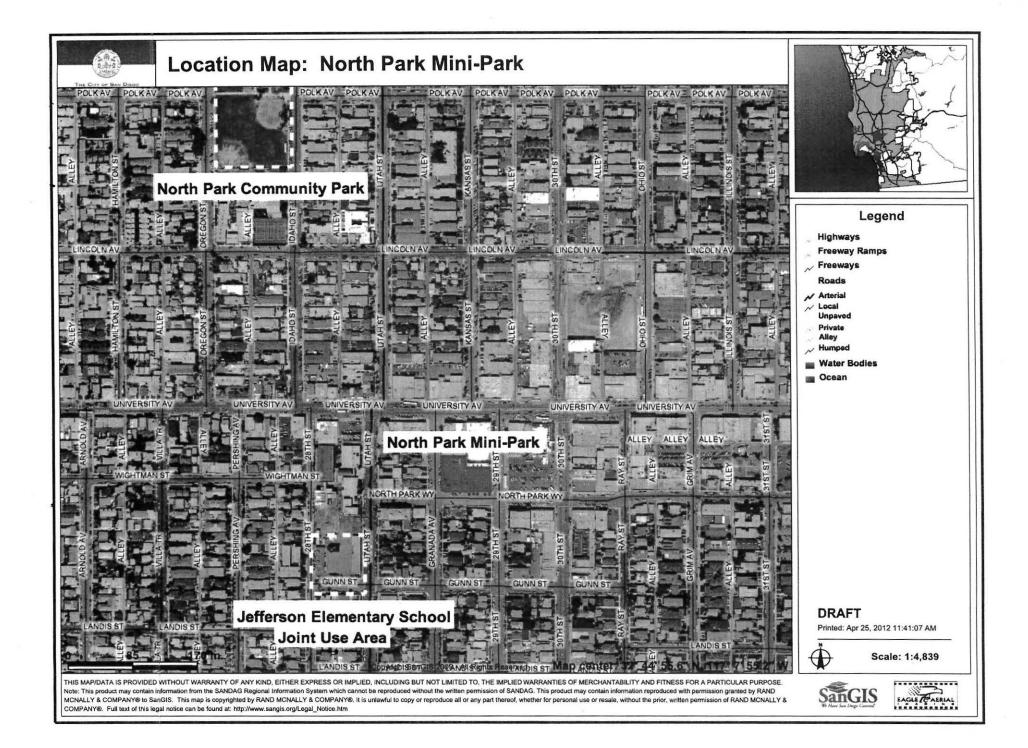
Attachments: 1.

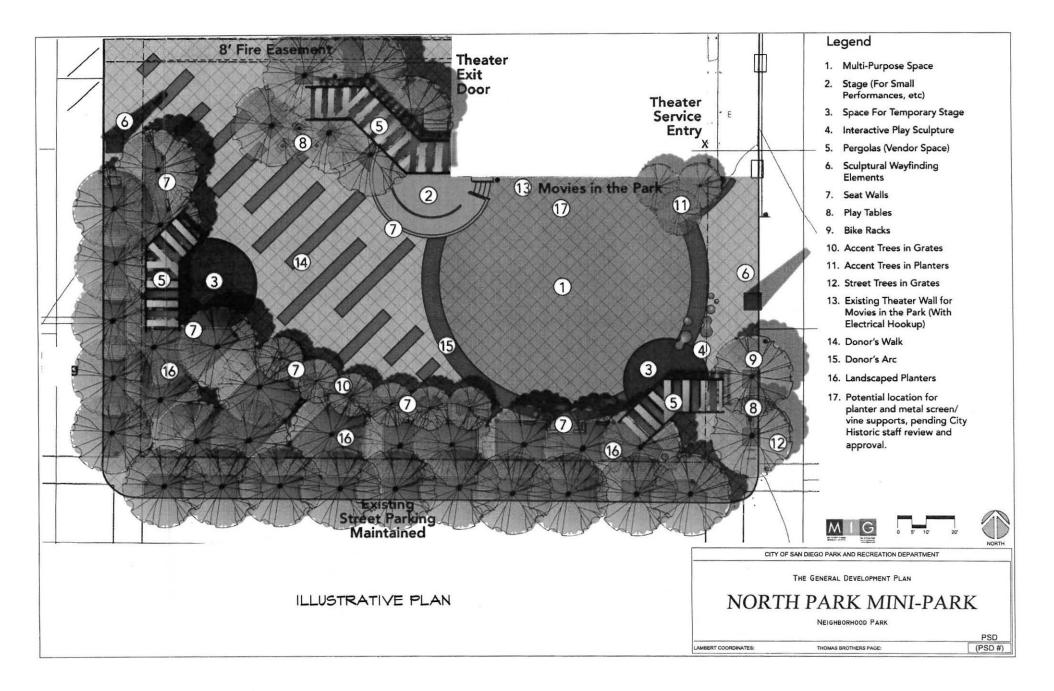
- 2. Illustrative Plan
 - 3. Illustrative Perspective

Vicinity Map

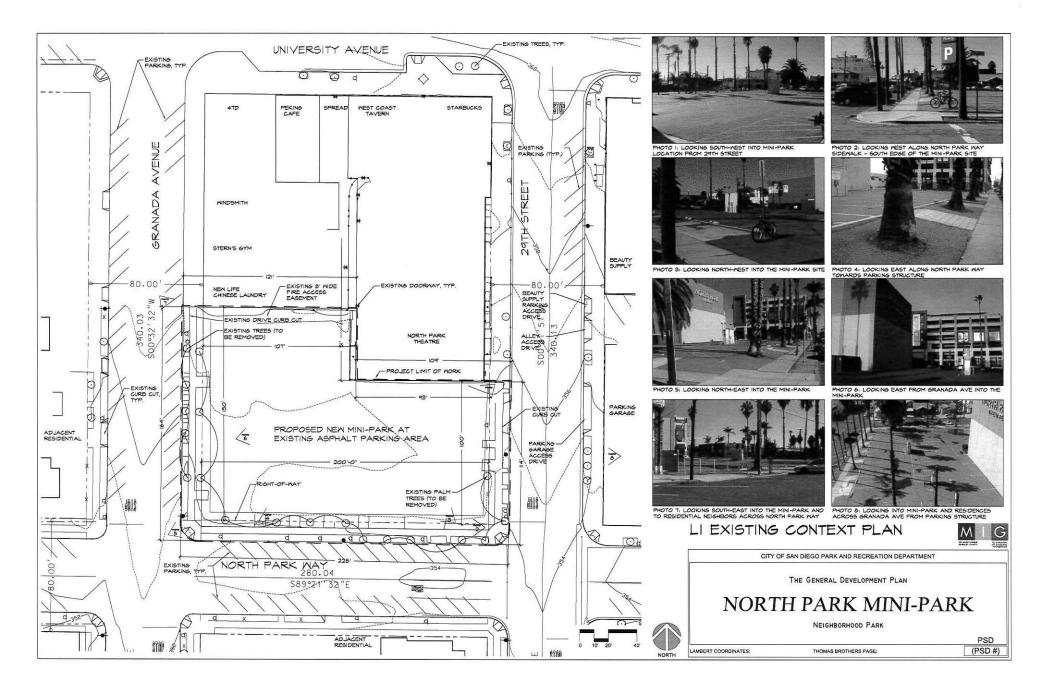
- 4. Existing Context Plan (L1)
- 5. Materials Plan (L2)
- 6. Conceptual Grading Plan (L3)
- 7. Planting Plan (L4)
- 8. Details and Furnishings (L5-1)
- 9. Details and Furnishings (L5-2)
- 10. Details and Furnishings (L5-3)
- 11. Details and Furnishings (L5-4)
- 12. Plant Palette: Shrubs, Groundcovers and Perennials
- 13. Plant Palette: Trees
- cc: (without attachments)

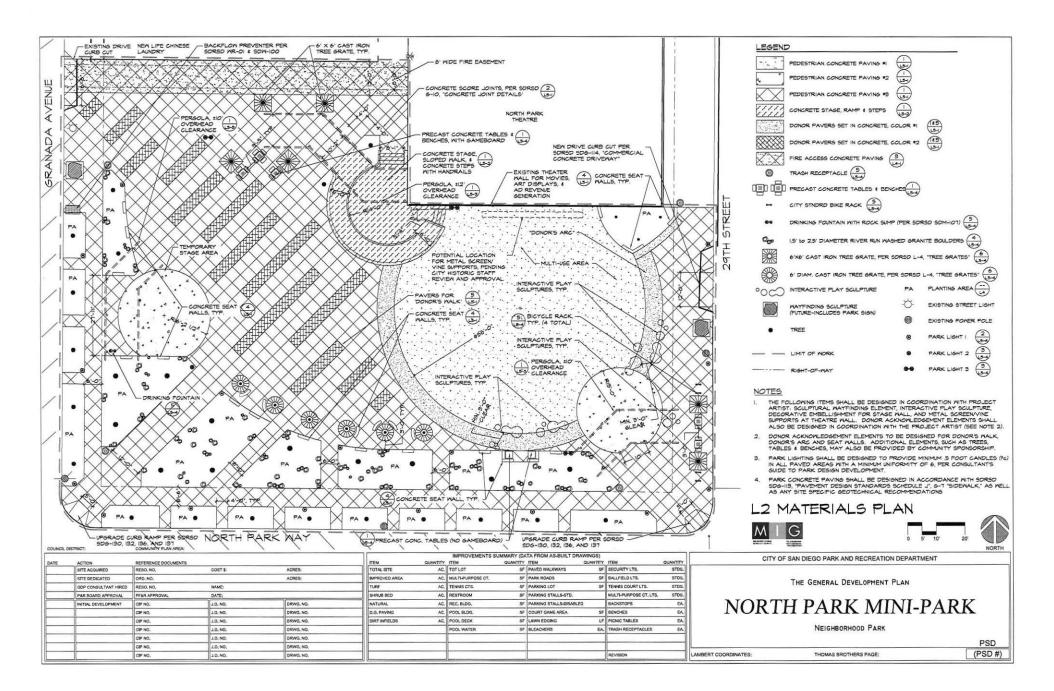
Anthony Bernal, Council Representative, Council District 3 (MS 10A) Stacey LoMedico, Director, Park & Recreation Department (MS 37C) Scott Reese, Assistant Director, Park & Recreation Department (MS 37C) David Monroe, Deputy Director, Community Parks II, Park & Recreation Dept. (MS 35) Jim Winter, Project Officer II, Park & Recreation Department (MS 35) Kevin Oliver, Project Officer II, Public Works Department (MS 908A) Todd R. Schmit, Park Designer, Public Works Department (MS 908A)

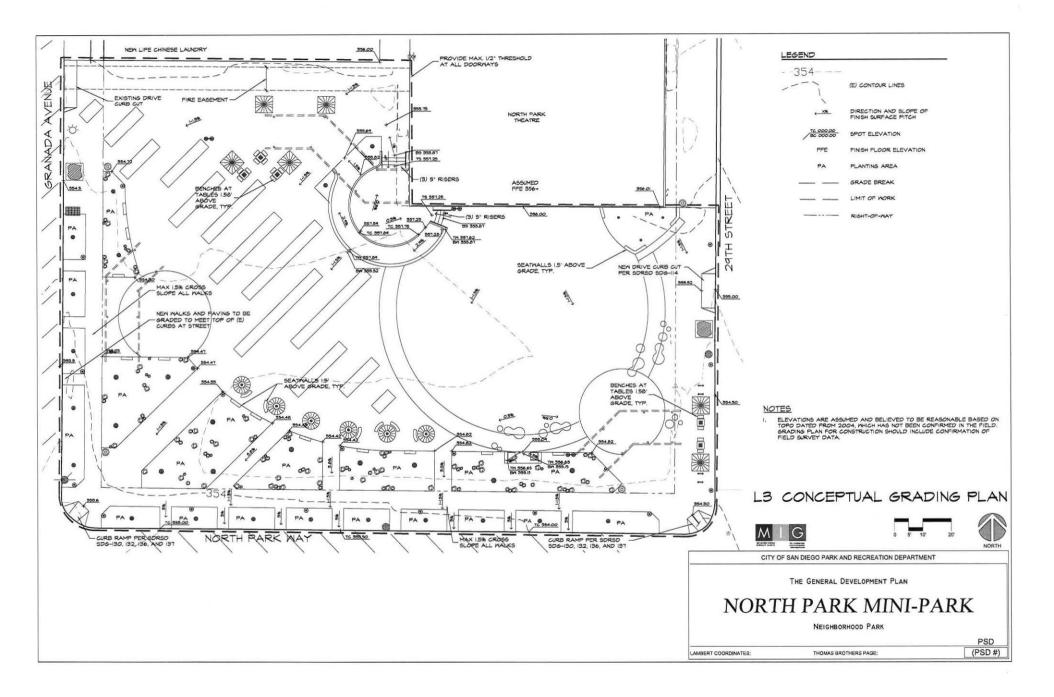


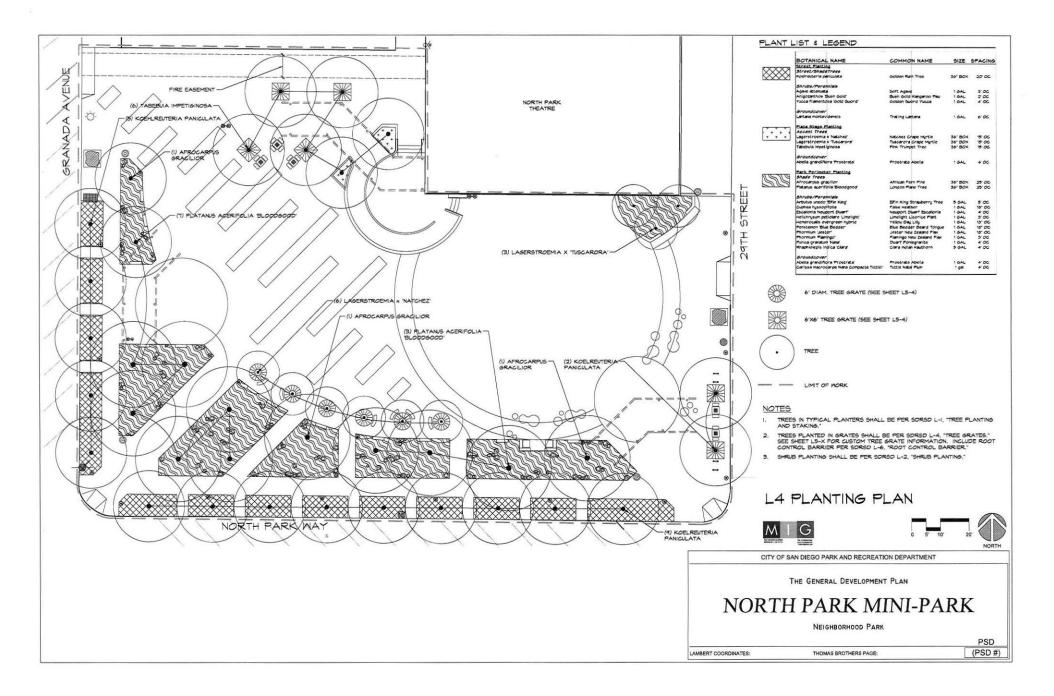


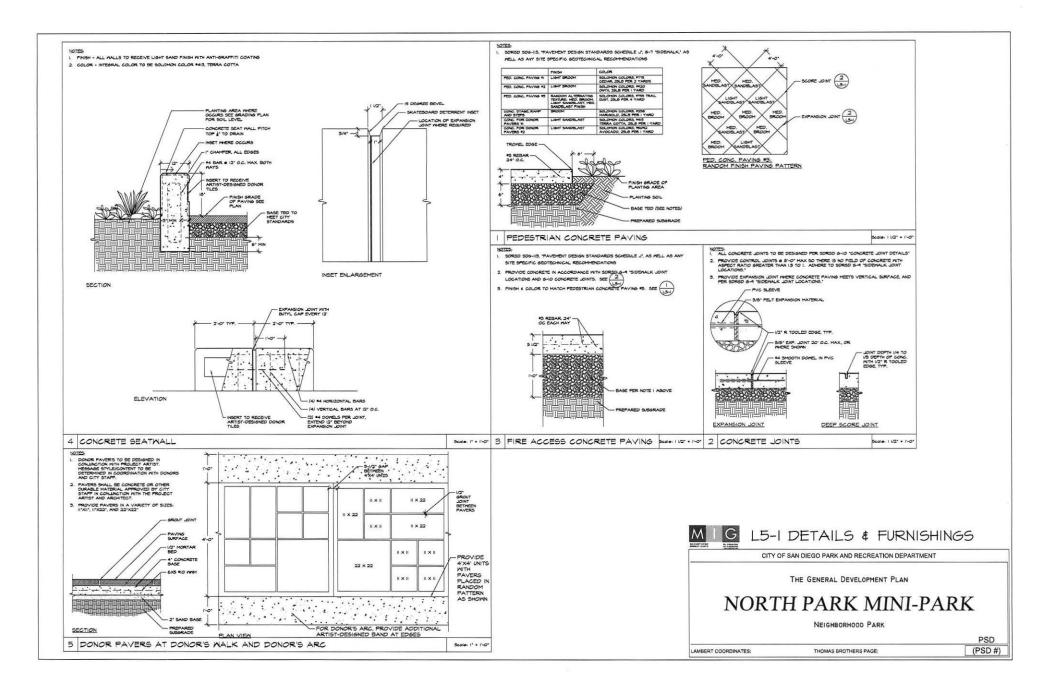


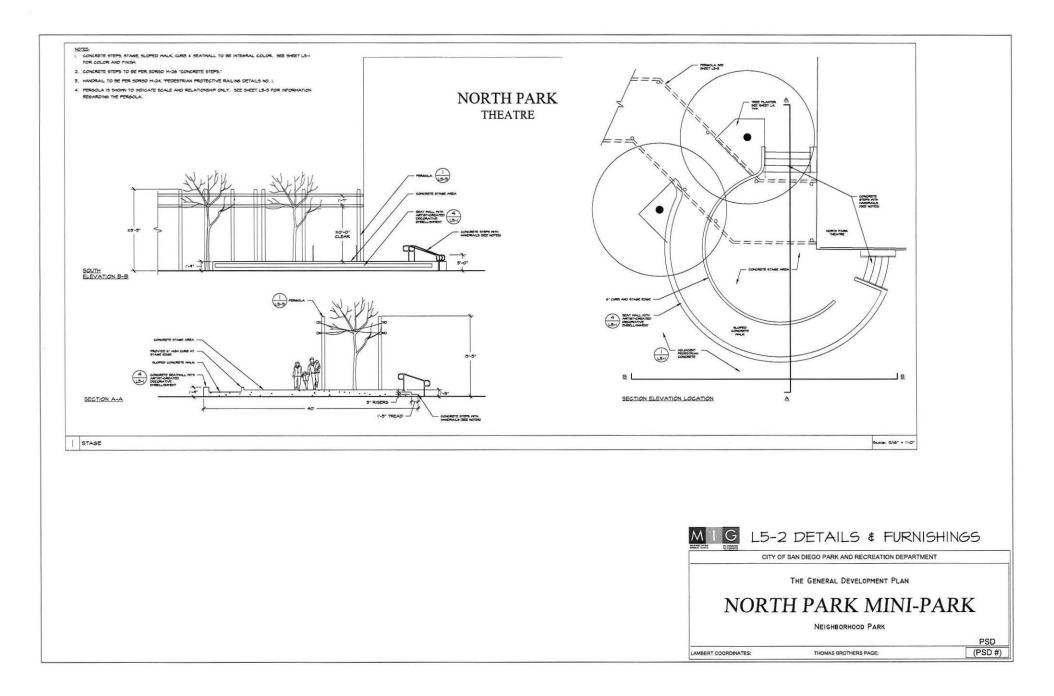


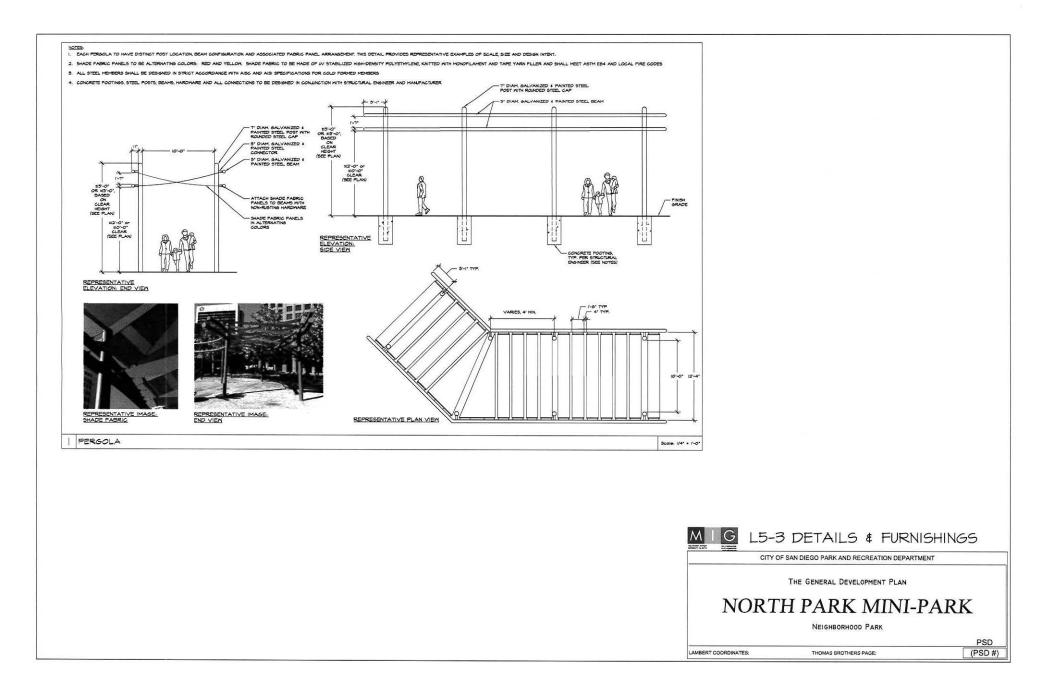


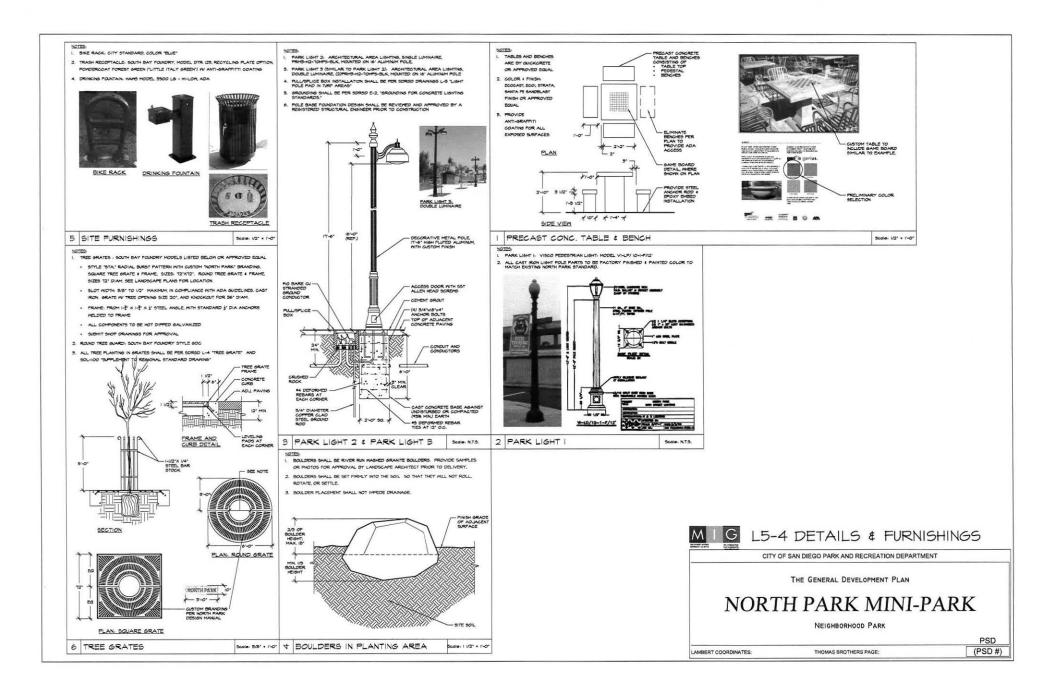


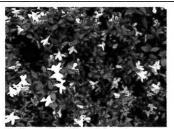












Abelia grandiflora 'Prostrata', Prostrate Abelia





Anigozanthos 'Bush Gold', Bush Gold Kangaroo Paw



Arbutus unedo 'Elfin King', Elfin King Strawberry Tree



Carissa macrocarpa 'Nana Compacta Tuttlei', Tuttle Natal Plum





Penstemon 'Blue Bedder', Blue Bedder Beard Tongue



Escallonia 'Newport Dwarf', Newport Dwarf Escallonia

Agave attenuata, Soft Agave



Phormium 'Flamingo', Flamingo New Zealand Flax



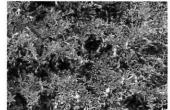
Helichrysum petiolare 'Limelight', Limelight Licorice Plant



Phormium 'Jester', Jester New Zealand Flax



Hemerocalis evergreen hybrid, Yellow Day Lilly



Punica granatum 'Nana', Dwarf Pomegranite



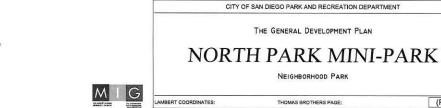
Trailing Lantana



PSD

(PSD #)

Rhaphiolepis indica 'Clara', Clara Indian Hawthorn







Afrocarpus gracilior, African Fern Pine



Koelreuteria paniculata, Golden Rain Tree



Tabebuia impetiginosa, Pink Trumpet Tree



Lagerstroemia x 'Natchez', Natchez Crape Myrtle



Lagerstroemia x 'Tuscarora', Tuscarora Crape Myrtle



Platanus acerifolia 'Bloodgood', London Plane Tree



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PLANT PALETTE: TREES