



CONSENT CALENDAR

DATE: April 20, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin, Mayor Arreguin (co-sponsor)

Subject: Budget Referral: Remediation Plan for Lawn Bowling Green and North Bowling Green

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the budget process the development of a remediation plan, with further testing and cost estimate, for the Berkeley Lawn Bowling Green at 2270 Acton St and the North Bowling Green at 1324 Allston Way.

BACKGROUND

According to an Analysis of City-Owned Property provided to the City Council in 2017, the North Bowling Green “contains elevated levels of pesticides and metals, and the contaminated soil would need to be excavated or encapsulated prior to active use or development[.]”¹ The parcel is also protected from development by Measure L, but is currently fenced off and vacant.

The North Bowling Green has not been in use as a lawn bowling green since 2008. It is one block from the Strawberry Creek Lodge 150-unit affordable senior complex, Strawberry Creek Park, and the Berkeley Lawn Bowling Club.

A budget referral from 2019² erroneously estimated \$150,000 as the lower bound of the full cost of remediation itself, but city staff estimates that the cost will be much higher, pending further testing and remediation that must include both sites.

¹ [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_General/2019-02-21%2520Land%2520Use%2520Policy%2520Committee%2520Agenda%2520Packet\(1\).pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_General/2019-02-21%2520Land%2520Use%2520Policy%2520Committee%2520Agenda%2520Packet(1).pdf)

² https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/06_June/Documents/2019-06-11_Item_47_Budget_Referral___Remediation_of_Lawn_Bowling.aspx

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The city-owned vacant parcel with toxic soil is fenced off and does not confer any benefit to the public. Upon further testing and financial modeling, a remediation plan may present the full cost of toxic soil cleanup. No plan for park space, affordable housing, or any other previously proposed uses can be contemplated before these costs are fully determined. Due to their adjacency to the Corporation Yard and Santa Fe ROW, both bowling green sites would have to be included in the development of a remediation plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Determining costs of environmental remediation for toxic soil.

FISCAL IMPACTS

In communication with the District 2 office, Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront Department staff has estimated the cost of testing, cost estimates, and development of a remediation plan to be roughly \$90,000-\$110,000.

CONTACT

Councilmember Terry Taplin (District 2), 510-981-7120