

Crescent City gets first look at Discovery Center

April 28, 2023



The public caught a glance of how the 35-acre Beachfront Park is going to be modified.

Moderated by City Manager Eric Wier, accompanied by GreenWorks Landscape Architects, the city shared the wind, water and waves vision with those attending the Saturday conference at the Cultural Center.

The public also learned State and National Parks, the Redwood Conservancy and the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce all collaborated on a feasibility study to conduct all visitor and tourist activity under one roof. The partners will serve the public under the new Del Norte Discovery Center which will replace the cultural center designed by GreenWorks.

Presently, the half-century old cultural center is seldom utilized. The city and chamber split an approximate \$80,000 annual loss. The present location of State and National Parks, across Front Street at 1111 Second street will convert to a transportation center.

City Manager Wier called the Discovery Center with the new tenant base transformational to this community. If this project moves forward, all matters visitor-oriented will be situated in what is now the Cultural Center.

The protocol of funding the project now moves forward to the grant application process and a \$3 million opportunity to move to phase two. All parties agreed the future is a bright one for the Del Norte Discovery Center.

Earlier in the day, GreenWorks presented two concepts for a bike pump track on the east end of Front Street. One concept was a 12,000+ square-foot track, the other a 21,000-square-foot track with jump lines. GreenWorks also sought community feedback on Kid Town.

A total of \$8 million has been approved to be divided into the following categories:

\$5 million is to be allocated for the bike pump track, improvements to and Kid Town expansion, a one-mile loop around the park, Tollowa Interpretative education, and signage.

An additional \$3 million of grants has also been approved for the Amphitheater and Waterfront Plaza.

Both grants stipulate addressing all projects identified. The funding must be carefully considered to fulfill both grants' requirements.

Those in attendance joined a live YouTube presentation via WIFI device responding to select feedback questions from GreenWorks.

The bike pump track and Kid Town expansion is expected to commence in the Spring of 2024.