Larchmont Farmers Market and Playground FAQ

Q: Is the Larchmont Farmers Market at risk of closing or being disrupted by the planned playground?

A: No. The Larchmont Farmers Market is a loved and valued institution on Larchmont that enhances the neighborhood for all families. Councilmember Ryu does not, and would not, support any plan that harms the Larchmont Farmers Market. The pocket playground seeks to accomplish the same goals by adding to the family experience on Larchmont, and plans are in place to ensure that there is no net loss of space or vendors during or after construction of the playground.

Q: Will any of the current vendors be displaced?

A: No. There is no plan for the playground that includes losing any of the current vendors.

Q: Is the Larchmont Farmers Market moving?

A: The growing popularity of the Farmers Market has led the organizers and the City to work to find a more suitable space where the market can grow and accommodate more people. These discussions have been ongoing for years, and the Farmers Market faces space needs and high demand with or without a pocket playground. If and when the Farmers Market decides to move to a more suitable location on Larchmont, it will stay on the Boulevard.

Q: Why is the playground being built? Where did the idea come from?

A: Councilmember Ryu is a strong proponent of green space and expanding community space on public land. The parking lot is one of two City-owned parking lots on Larchmont. While the underground lot across the street is consistently under parked, the surface parking lot represents an inefficient use of space that increases the heat island effect caused by the sun shining on the black asphalt. For many years, community members have sought more green space and family oriented uses on Larchmont. Mayor Garcetti has also long called for a conversion of City owned surface lots to a more efficient sustainable use. This playground will offer a place for families and children to gather, and be very similar to pocket parks, parklets, and playgrounds that currently exist on public land across the City of Los Angeles, including in spaces previously used for parking.

The playground has support from the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, the Windsor Square Association, the Larchmont Business Association, Larchmont Village Neighborhood Association, Hancock Park Homeowners Association and the Recreation and Parks
Commission. It was reported on in the Larchmont Chronicle, the Larchmont Buzz and Urbanize LA in April of 2018, and in local Larchmont news outlets throughout the process.

**Q: Is the playground safe?**

A: Yes. The playground is being built with the highest safety standards, with one exit/entry onto the sidewalk, and the perimeter of the playground will be built with K-Rail with tubular steel fencing. The proposed playground has passed all impact review standards, and is more secure than existing parklets found along streets across the City of Los Angeles and the United States.

**Q: How many parking spaces are proposed to be taken by the playground?**

A: Six spaces would be converted into the playground area. An additional four spaces would be converted to a loading zone but would remain blacktop. Any loss of space to Farmers Market vendors will be made up for by providing more space for vendors on Larchmont Boulevard.

**Q: How will the playground be maintained?**

A: The playground will be maintained by the Department of Recreation and Parks. It will be closed and locked each day from dusk til dawn and will be cleaned and serviced by the department.

**Q: Why was I not informed about the proposed playground and why was I not given an opportunity to give input?**

A: Councilmember Ryu believes that public engagement is essential to building a strong community. At every level he and his staff sought to encourage each neighborhood group and members of the public to share the plans and encourage widespread participation. The pocket playground was discussed and supported at the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council meeting on July 10, 2019, and at a Parks Commission Meeting on October 23, 2019. The proposed pocket playground was covered by the Larchmont Buzz in April 2018, May 2018, July 2019 and January 2020, and by the Larchmont Chronicle twice in April 2018 and January 2020, among other coverage.

It is unfortunate that this message did not make its way around to everyone in the community. Councilmember Ryu wants to make sure all the information is shared with our Larchmont Community. For this reason, Councilmember is holding the upcoming forum on March 14, 2020.

**Q: What is the proposed timeline for this pocket playground?**

A: Construction is tentatively slated to start in April and finish in June 2020.

**Q: Who do I contact for more information and to stay up-to-date?**

A: Contact CD4 Field Deputy Rob Fisher at rob.fisher@lacity.org or by calling 323-957-6415.