



Legislation Text

File #: 04-2075, **Version:** 2

Recommendation to receive and file the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the development of universally accessible playgrounds. (Citywide)

In September 2004, the City Council requested that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine examine the feasibility of developing universally accessible playgrounds in new parks and incorporate elements of universally accessible playgrounds into projects currently under design or planned for the future. The staff reported back to the City Council, on November 9, 2004, and the City Council referred the issue to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities (CACOD).

The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission held five meetings in January 2005 to obtain public input on universally accessible playgrounds. The meetings were held at Houghton Park, Bixby Park, Silverado Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and El Dorado Park, respectively. Thirty-six adults and six children attended one or more of the meetings.

On March 14, 2005, Parks, Recreation and Marine Department staff met with Brad Thornton and Tiffany Harris of "Shane's Inspiration" to gain insight into the development and fundraising processes for universally accessible playgrounds. Shane's Inspiration is a recognized expert in designing and fundraising for universally accessible playgrounds. On April 1, 2005, the CIP Committee met with the CACODs Youth Committee and staff to formulate recommendations for presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Need for Universatlv Accessible Plavnrounds

By the conclusion of the current fiscal year, all 44 of the playgrounds in the City's parks will be compliant with the standards set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). However, ADA compliance does not ensure that the playgrounds are totally accessible and fully integrated for disabled children. There are currently 7,600 disabled students enrolled in the Long Beach Unified School District. Parents are driving to Los Angeles and other cities to provide their children the opportunity to play on universally accessible playground equipment.

[Timing Considerations]

[Fiscal Impact]

Approve recommendation.

[Enter Body Here]

[Respectfully Submitted,]