



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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August 31, 1990

Budget and Finance Committee
Transportation and Community Development Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: ACCESS FOR ALL PLAYGROUND

SUMMARY

This report provides information regarding a program to improve access to City playgrounds for children with all levels of ability. Further, this report asks that the City Council endorse this policy and approve the implementation of a five-year program to improve accessibility to City playgrounds.

BACKGROUND

One of the major goals of the 1989 Master Plan Update for Park Facilities, and Recreation Services is to improve access to public recreation. As a step to implement this goal, the Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee formed the "Access for All" subcommittee to propose ways the City could improve access to park playgrounds.

The "Access For All" committee consists of members from the Citizens Advisory Committee, city staff, and parents of handicapped children. The Committee began by touring existing park playgrounds and reviewing plans for development of new playgrounds. The Committee discovered that access for physically challenged children and toddlers into playground areas, as well as onto the equipment, is limited or nonexistent at most City playgrounds.

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Designers and manufacturers of playground equipment do not routinely include points of access for the handicapped and younger children.

On May 2, 1990, the Access for All Committee held an "Awareness Picnic" at McKinley Park to bring city staff and physically challenged children together. The picnic was an opportunity for the staff who design and select play equipment to see first hand the difficulty children have accessing play equipment.

In June 1990, the Citizens Advisory Committee unanimously adopted a resolution to provide policy recommendations to the Landscape Architecture Section (Exhibit A). The resolution recommends that all new and replacement playgrounds be designed to provide at least basic level accessibility for all children. A summary of the resolution follows:

1. All newly development playgrounds be designed with at least basic level access;
2. All playgrounds scheduled for improvement be modified to provide at least basic level access;
3. A schedule for retrofitting playgrounds in each Planning District of the City be started and implemented as funds are available;
4. At least one playground in the City be designed and developed to be fully accessible, including wheelchair access, by 1991-92;
5. Plans for all new or remodeled playgrounds be reviewed by the Access for All Committee.

The Department of Parks and Community Services fully supports the policy recommendations set forth in the Access for All Resolution. Since the adoption of the Resolution in June, staff has worked with the Committee to develop an implementation program that is consistent with the Committee's goals as well as financially feasible.

The Committee worked with the Landscape Architecture Section and conducted site reviews of City parks to determine which playgrounds should be high priorities for replacement or retrofitting. The Committee primarily emphasized community parks which serve a larger population and provide a variety of recreation activities for family participation. Funding for the projects varies and includes State Bond funds, Landscape and Lighting Assessment District Funds, potential community and volunteer projects, and Quimby funds.

Playgrounds recommended for replacement by the Committee and new playgrounds which will include several elements to improve accessibility are shown in Exhibit B. In addition, the Committee has selected parks from each planning District that could benefit the most from retrofitting improvements as funds are available (Exhibit C).

Retrofitting existing playgrounds varies depending on the specific type of play equipment at each park. Common areas for access improvement include the addition of steps and hand rails to access slides; half bucket for half tire swings to replace strap swings to provide back support; additional hand rails; and spring toys with back support.

FINANCIAL DATA

Funding sources for the new or replacement projects identified in Exhibit B include State Bonds, grants, Landscape and Lighting Assessment District, community and volunteer projects, and Quimby funds. The new playgrounds currently being designed for Oki, University and South Natomas parks were already slated for development and, as a result of this resolution, will include some elements to improve accessibility. Other projects listed have no funding source identified at this time. Staff will continue to seek funding for these projects including State or Federal grants, corporate sponsorships or community service organizations.

Playgrounds that include basic level accessibility features generally do not cost more than traditional play structures. However, estimates for a fully accessible playground including ramping and special ground service for wheelchair access would increase the cost to approximately \$200,000. The standard cost for City park playgrounds is between \$40,000 and \$75,000.

It is recommended that the retrofit projects identified in Exhibit C be funded primarily through the Landscape and Lighting Assessment District over the next five to ten years. Cost estimates for retrofitting playgrounds vary from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending on the type of improvements made. The Citizens Advisory Committee is currently reviewing the Landscape and Lighting District five-year plan to see how retrofitting play equipment can be worked into the plan. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Director of Parks and Community Services. Staff is also meeting with local public service organizations who have expressed an interest in supporting improved access to playgrounds with fund raising activities.

The Access for All Committee recognizes that wheelchair access to playgrounds is expensive and is not necessarily required at all city playgrounds. McKinley Park has been targeted for a totally accessible playground in the future because of its central location, variety of recreation opportunities and because it is the site for the City's handicapped programs at Clunie Community Center. This playground could serve as a model for accessibility statewide. The Committee recognizes that City funds are not available for this project and is currently investigating outside funding opportunities.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Access for the physically challenged child or parent to public playgrounds is an important link in the City's program of handicapped access to public facilities. Manufacturers of playground equipment have recently begun to include apparatus designed for the physically challenged child in their product line. This will enable the City to purchase and install such equipment.

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In addition, this program supports the national Americans with Disabilities Act. The Citizens Advisory Committee would like to see Sacramento become a model City for playground accessibility.

The Citizens Advisory Committee and the Access for All Committee recognize that funding for improved accessibility may result in postponing other rehabilitation projects. Additional or alternative park sites may also be considered for improved accessibility if funds become available.

MBE/WBE EFFORTS

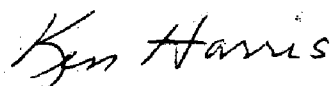
Every effort will be made to meet MBE/WBE goals in the selection of playground equipment.

RECOMMENDATION

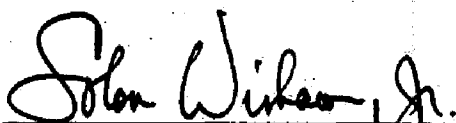
It is recommended that the Budget and Finance and the Transportation and Community Development Committees approve this report and forward it to the full City Council, and that the City Council, by resolution:

1. Approve the "Access for All" resolution from the Citizens Advisory Committee calling for improvements to existing playgrounds and consideration of access for all children and parents in the design of new playgrounds.
2. Adopt the attached plans for replacement or retrofit of play equipment to improve access to City playgrounds for all children as presented in Exhibits B and C. This plan will be contingent on the availability of funding.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Harris, Manager
Parks and Recreation, City Wide

Recommendation Approved:



SOLON WISHAM, JR.
Deputy City Manager

Approved:


ROBERT P. THOMAS, Director
Parks & Community Services

Contact person: Janet Baker, Administrative Analyst, 449-5535

KH/RT:pmg
khrac4all

September 11, 1990
All Districts

RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S "ACCESS FOR ALL" RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO PLAY EQUIPMENT IN CITY PARKS FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN AND ADOPTING A PLAN FOR REPLACEMENT AND RETROFITTING OF PLAY EQUIPMENT AT DESIGNATED PARKS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

That the "Access for All" resolution from the Citizens Advisory Committee calling for improvements to existing playgrounds and consideration of access for all children and parents in the design of new playgrounds be approved.

That the attached plans for replacement or retrofit of play equipment to improve access to playgrounds for all children as presented in Exhibits B and C be adopted.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____

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CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACCESS FOR ALL PLAYGROUNDS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that all young children should have access to playgrounds in order to facilitate improved motor and social interaction skills; and

WHEREAS, parks and playgrounds should be designed to encourage family activities and multi-age participation; and

WHEREAS, for many families, free public playgrounds are one of the few leisure activities which are affordable; and

WHEREAS, children with disabilities benefit from the adventure, fun, social activities and motor challenges provided by community playgrounds; and

WHEREAS, fully accessible structures are usable by the entire community; and

WHEREAS, public funds are used to develop and maintain parks and playgrounds for all the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. All newly developed playgrounds shall be designed to provide at least basic level access to children with disabilities.
2. All playgrounds scheduled to be upgraded shall be modified to provide at least basic level access to children with disabilities.
3. Improvements for accessibility shall be provided to at least one park in the City each year beginning in Fiscal year 1990-91 as funds become available. The Department of Parks and Community Services shall consider using a portion of Lighting and Landscaping funds to provide basic level access to existing playgrounds.
4. At least one playground in the City of Sacramento shall be designed and developed to be fully accessible to all children by fiscal year 1991-92.

5. Plans for new and/or modified playgrounds shall be reviewed by persons knowledgeable about children with disabilities.

BASIC LEVEL

1. Every playground must include some play structures usable by toddlers and disabled children.

2. At least one access point to each playground structure must include either steps with rails or ramps with rails rather than vertical rungs, timbers or platforms; e.g., slides and clatter bridges should not be accessible solely by children with fully developed balance skills.

3. Every playground must have at least one apparatus which can be used by a child unable to walk, e.g., parallel bars or overhead bars/rings at wheelchair height, swings with back support, playhouse structure, tunnels, etc. Such structures shall have resilient surfaces under them to provide access.

4. At least one playground in the City shall be renovated each year to improve access in some way starting in fiscal year 1990-91.

5. All new playgrounds installed either by the City or with volunteer assistance shall be designed for access at least at the basic level.

PREFERRED LEVEL

1. At least one playground within the City limits shall be designed to be fully accessible to all children regardless of disability by fiscal year 1991-92.

OPTIMUM LEVEL

1. At least one playground in each Planning District shall be designed to be fully accessible to all children regardless of disability.

Adopted by the unanimous vote of the Department of Parks and Community Services' CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE on June 21, 1990.

New and Replacement Playgrounds

Current Projects*

<u>Park</u>	<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year Scheduled</u>
Okie	Replacement	1988 State Bond	\$40,000	1990-91
University	New (small tot lot)	Quimby	\$20,000	1990-91
S. Natomas	New	1989 COP	\$75,000	1991-92

Community Fund Raising*

Glenn Hall	Replacement	Community Fund Raising	To be determined	Unknown
Marriott	New	Community Fund Raising	To be determined	Unknown

Proposed Projects**

McClatchy	Replacement	None	To be determined	Unknown
Johnston	Replacement	None	To be determined	Unknown
McKinley	Replacement	None	To be determined	Unknown
Mangan	Replacement	None	To be determined	Unknown

* These parks were already slated for playground replacement or development and will include several elements to improve accessibility for the physically challenged.

** These parks were selected by the Access for All Committee as playgrounds in the most need of total replacement. The Committee hopes to secure funding to make McKinley Park a wheelchair accessible playground. McKinley Park was selected because of its central location and proximity to the City's handicapped programs at Clunie clubhouse.

Playground Improvement Recommendations

Landscape & Lighting Assessment District Funding

Planning District Park Improvement Priority*

1	Southside	Retrofit	H
2	Land Park	Retrofit	M
3	Renfree Reichmuth	Retrofit Retrofit	H M
4	Sim Valley Hi	Retrofit Retrofit	H M
5	Oak Park Tahoe	Retrofit Retrofit	M M
6	Henschel	Retrofit	H
7	Del Paso (softball complex)	Retrofit	H
8	Hagginwood	Retrofit	M
9	Northgate	Retrofit	M
10	No parks		
11	Cabrillo Woodbine	Retrofit Retrofit	H M

*: M = Medium Priority

H = High Priority

The committee recognizes that Landscape and Lighting funds are used for various park improvements other than improved accessibility. Therefore, these projects may take up to 10 years to complete. Other funding sources will also be investigated for these projects. Additional or alternate park sites may be slated for accessibility improvements if funds become available.

8/15/90

JB:pmg

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