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NEIGHBORHOODS, PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

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April 3, 2000

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Development & Operation Plan For City Wading Pools

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that City Council adopt the proposed Development & Operation Plan for City Wading Pools and direct staff to: 1) Relocate and consolidate eight wading pools needing reconstruction to facilities with existing swimming pools; 2) Proceed with planned reconstruction for three additional wading pools, and 3) Recognize water spray/play facilities and other park amenities as viable alternatives to wading pools at four locations.

CONTACT PERSON: Victor Edmisten, Parks Manager, 264-5336

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: April 25, 2000

SUMMARY

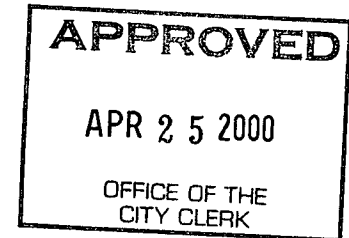
This report gives information on the present condition, cost, and current usage of City wading pools. The recommended development and operation plan brings the total number of wading pools/water play areas to 20 over the current 9 open sites. The plan reduces development and maintenance costs, and enhances public safety and monitoring efforts.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE ACTION

The Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee gave input on the draft plan on January 6, 2000. On March 2, 2000, they recommended that City Council adopt the Development & Operation Plan and requested a construction schedule when available.

BACKGROUND

Wading pools are designed to introduce children to water, provide some water orientation training, provide relief from summer heat and provide safe and enjoyable play areas for children and caretakers. Children aged 3 - 6 years accompanied by a parent or guardian are the target users.



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Present Condition & Operation

There are 19 wading/play pool sites within City of Sacramento parks, and two additional sites with water/spray features only. All of the wading pools were closed in 1993 due to budget constraints and water conservation efforts. Most were in need of significant repair or complete reconstruction, as they were 20 – 40 years old and did not meet current ADA nor State health and safety requirements. Presently, less than half are open (see Exhibits A: Site Overview and B: Overview of Current City Aquatic Facilities).

The pools are typically open 4 hours per day, 7 days a week for 10 weeks per year. The average annual cost to staff and maintain a wading pool is \$13,000. Each pool requires a staff person and/or lifeguard to supervise activities. All of the wading pools must be fenced to protect against unauthorized use and vandalism. Bottles, dirt and paint being thrown into the pools are the most frequent types of vandalism.

The older pools, lacking adequate filtration, circulation and cleansing devices, require water to be filled and drawn every day. Newly reconstructed pools are not designed to be drained daily, since health codes require pool chemicals to be at an equilibrium, which is typically a two-day process.

Impact of Revised Health & Safety Codes

All public pools, including wading pools, are regulated under State health and safety codes. The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (SCEMD) is the local governing agency enforcing State statutes and oversees construction, operation, and maintenance of public pools. The City's swimming and wading pools are inspected and permitted annually by SCEMD.

Over time the codes have become more stringent, with the newest requirements effective January 2000. Revised codes require increased filtration, new drainage pressurization systems, etc. Consequently, the cost of renovating wading pools has increased dramatically, and City staff must evaluate, design and construct each pool on a case-by-case basis. Recent renovation project costs are as follows:

Park	Year Renovated	Council District	Cost	Comments
Henschel	1998	3	\$125,000	
McKinley/Clunie	1996	3	\$125,000	co-located w/ larger pool
Colonial	1998	5	\$182,500	redesign added to cost
Tahoe	1997	6	<u>\$120,000</u>	co-located w/ larger pool
Total			\$552,500	

Reconstruction Management & Costs

Through an agreement with the Parks division, the Technical Services section of Public Works manages the design and construction of City wading pools. This is due to mechanical and electrical components which require review and signature by mechanical and electrical engineers.

The City of Sacramento has 12 wading pools which need to be reconstructed or removed. A total of

\$1.8 million is budgeted and will be appropriately distributed to meet cost of reconstruction (see Exhibit C). The project cost of construction of a separate wading pool is \$170,000 (Design / Administration / Fees / Inspections: \$45,000; Construction: \$125,000). The cost may be reduced by \$25,000 or more if the wading pool is co-located with a larger swimming pool.

Advantages of Co-Location with Swimming Pools

Studies for the 1999 season indicate that wading pools co-located with larger swimming pools (at Tahoe and McKinley Parks) have the greatest daily attendance. Inter-generational playtime is increased because family members are together in one location. Younger children are also exposed to a variety of activities the larger swim facilities offer. As well, co-location with larger facilities generally means the pools can be more efficiently maintained, monitored and staffed, bringing the annual operational costs down from \$13,000 to \$11,500 per pool. Construction costs may be reduced if existing infrastructure is adequate (electricity, pumping, fencing, etc.).

Alternative Water Play Options or "Spraygrounds"

Water play in parks can be created outside of pool complexes by the installation of water spray/play facilities at a much lower cost. Known in the pool industry as "Spraygrounds", spray/play facilities have non-slip surfaces, a variety of intermittent water jets, and a below-grade vault where the water is collected, filtered, chemically treated and re-circulated. These areas can be very simple, with little or nothing above-ground, or can contain play features that can spray, squirt, bubble, mist, etc. Spray facilities with more fountain-like features are also used as focal points in plazas. These facilities do not have to meet wading pool health and safety requirements. They require no fencing, no standing water, nor monitoring by staff.

Regionally, there is a fountain at Central Park in Davis with several intermittent spray jets. It serves as a water play area and as a focal point in the plaza. It has been a great success and is used by children ages 2 - 10. In Stockton, an interactive fountain was recently completed at Webber Point, containing 250 aerating, misting and fan jets. The City of Stockton will build an additional 20' x 40' interactive spray/play area without a pool, expected to cost \$50,000.

Development & Operation Plan For City Wading Pools

Staff recommends that Council adopt a plan to consolidate and relocate wading pools that need reconstruction next to swimming pools as follows:

- Council District 1: Gardenland and Northgate to Doyle Pool in Northgate Park
- Council District 2: Hagginwood to Johnston Pool
- Council District 4: Southside to Southside Pool
- Council District 5: McClatchy to McClatchy Pool
- Council District 6: Sim to Sim Pool; Oki to Oki Pool
- Council District 8: Chorley to Cabrillo Pool; Hopkins replaced by Pannell (not yet built)

and to implement reconstruction and fencing projects for wading pools at Mama Marks and William Land Parks.

Council is also asked to direct staff to conduct neighborhood meetings to determine whether or not

residents would prefer an alternative water play area, requiring no standing water or fencing, or other amenities such as ball courts or picnic areas, for Gardenland, Hagginwood, Chorley and Hopkins Parks. (See Exhibit D for an overview of City aquatic facilities should Council adopt this plan.)

The wading pool at Robertson Park was previously approved for reconstruction and is now in the design phase. Pending approval of this plan, staff will return with a design and construction schedule for wading pools at Northgate, McClatchy and William Land Parks.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

No additional general fund monies are requested with this report. Funding to reconstruct wading pools was approved as part of the Lighting & Landscape District bond. Approval of the recommended plan will maximize available funds. Additional operating and maintenance costs for new or reconstructed wading pools will be addressed with Council as part of the budget process.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Appropriate environmental review will be conducted in the development process.

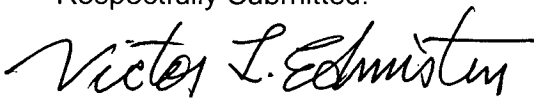
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Leveraging park amenities and maximizing recreation opportunities is consistent with the City Council's priority of neighborhood revitalization and providing positive alternatives for youth.

ESBD CONSIDERATIONS

No goods or services are being purchased under this report.

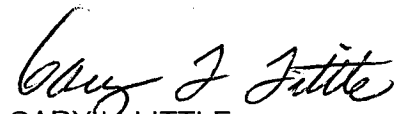
Respectfully Submitted:



VICTOR EDMISTEN
Parks Manager



DUANE WRAY
Technical Services Division Manager
Public Works Department



GARY L. LITTLE
Area Director
Parks, Trees & Landscape Architecture

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

All City Wading Pool & Water Spray Sites

Wading Pool Site	Council District	Neigh. Area	Planning Area	Era of Const. or Remodel	Status
Gardenland	1	4	9	1970's	closed
Muir	1	1	1	1950's	removed
Northgate	1	4	9	1960's	open
Hagginwood	2	4	8	1960's	open
Mama Marks	2	4	8	1970's	open
Robertson	2	4	8	1970's	*under design
Henschel	3	1	6	1990's	open
McKinley/Clunie	3	1	1	1990's	open
Land	4	2	2	1950's	open
Southside	4	1	1	1950's	closed
Colonial	5	3	5	1990's	open
McClatchy	5	3	5	1970's	closed
Baer	6	3	4	1950's	removed
Lawrence	6	3	5	1950's	removed
Oki	6	1	6	1960's	closed
Sim	6	3	4	1960's	closed
Tahoe	6	3	5	1990's	open
Warren	6	3	5	1950's	removed
Reichmuth	7	2	3	1960's	spray only
Chorley	8	2	11	1970's	closed
Hopkins	8	2	11	1960's	closed

*Planned for construction completion in July 2000.

Notes:

All of the pools (except McClatchy, Mama Marks and Tahoe) have a rectangular shape, measuring 20' x 40' and are typically 1' to 1½' deep. **McClatchy** is round and **Mama Marks** is six-sided. **Tahoe** is crescent-shaped and was constructed using a new design and is without a water feature. It is more a training pool where entry level swimming classes are held.

Henschel, McKinley, and Colonial were remodeled, keeping their rectangular shape. A zero entrance area allowing ADA accessibility, an extensive new filtration and circulation system, and new surfacing were added to each wading pool.

Henschel and Colonial now have large, mushroom shaped water features to the side of the pools near the zero entrance section. **McKinley** pool utilizes a pre-existing water cascade - an historic WPA fountain.

Overview of *Current* City Aquatics Facilities

Park	Council Dist.	Wading Pool	Both	Swimming Pool Only
Gardenland	1	X (closed)		
Northgate	1		X (not together)	
Hagginwood	2	X		
Johnston	2			X
Mama Marks	2	X		
Robertson	2	X (closed; spray feature only)		
Hall	3			X
Henschel	3	X		
McKinley/Clunie	3		X (co-located)	
Land	4	X		
Southside	4	(closed)	X (not together)	
Colonial	5	X		
McClatchy	5	(closed)	X (not together)	
Oki	6	(closed)	X (not together)	
Sim	6	(closed)	X (not together)	
Tahoe	6		X (co-located)	
Reichmuth	7	(spray feature only)		
Cabrillo	8			X
Chorley	8	X (closed)		
Hopkins	8	X (closed)		
Mangan	8			X

1999-2000 Reconstruction and Fencing Budget for 12 Remaining Wading Pools

Park Site	Council District
Gardenland	1
Northgate	1
Hagginwood	2
Mama Marks	2
*Robertson	2
Land	4
Southside	4
McClatchy	5
Oki	6
Sim	6
Chorley	8
Hopkins	8

Total Available Budget for Above Sites: \$1,803,000

** Robertson Wading Pool was previously approved by Council and is under design at this time.*

Existing & Proposed City Aquatics Facilities
(Bold Indicates a Proposed Project)

Park	Council District	Co-Located Wading Pool & Swimming Pool	Swimming Pool	Wading Pool	Spray Feature Only
Gardenland	1				X
Northgate	1	X			
Hagginwood	2				X
Johnston	2	X			
Mama Marks	2			X	
Robertson	2			X	
Hall	3		X		
Henschel	3			X	
McKinley/Cl.	3	X			
Land	4			X	
Southside	4	X			
Colonial	5			X	
McClatchy	5	X			
Oki	6	X			
Sim	6	X			
Tahoe	6	X			
Reichmuth	7				X
Cabrillo	8	X			
Chorley	8				X
Hopkins	8				X
Mangan	8		X		
Pannell	8	X			