



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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November 5, 1986

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CROCKER ART MUSEUM
GOLF
METROPOLITAN ARTS
MUSEUM & HISTORY
PARKS
RECREATION
ZOO

Budget and Finance Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Del Paso Heights Park - Report Back

SUMMARY

As instructed by the City Council at the October 21, 1986 Council meeting, the following is a report that provides information on potential solutions to problems associated with Del Paso Heights Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Del Paso Heights Park was dedicated in December of 1969 as a neighborhood park serving primarily the small children and youth of the area. The park contains a children's tot lot and adventure area, wading pool, basketball courts, softball field and some passive open space.

Until recently, the park has served its intended purpose. However, it is now experiencing some undesirable anti-social behavior by individuals which has caused serious concern for the residents of the area and City officials and staff. Residents of the community addressed the City Council at its October 21, 1986 meeting and requested immediate remedies to the situation.

Prior to the appearance of community members before the Council, the Police Department had made several recommendations to reduce and/or eliminate the social problems at the park. Those recommendations coupled with recommendations from the community that affect the park will be addressed in this report. The Police Department will address specific law enforcement activities in a separate report while the Traffic Division of Public Works, because of the possible departure from the normal undulations installation process, will also prepare a separate report. Included in that report will be information pertaining to the request for a painted red curb on the north side of the park and "no parking" signs in front of residences in the immediate area.

Issues raised at the City Council meeting, along with staff comments and recommendations, are as follows:

- A. Remove all tables and benches and replace with immovable concrete ones, if replaced at all.

Comment: Staff have already removed the picnic tables, bleachers and portable benches. There remain four benches placed in concrete and after a conversation with the office of the Chief of Police, it was determined to leave the benches in place. If, however, they are a problem, they will be cut off at ground level and removed. Further, it is recommended that the furniture not be replaced at this time. Replacement cost: \$3,400.

- B. Adjust automatic irrigation system to activate at various hours of the night to discourage nighttime use of the park by undesirables.

Comment: The irrigation system has been adjusted.

- C. Lock restrooms concurrent with darkness.

Comment: The restrooms have been locked since the day after the October 21 Council meeting. It has been the staff's experience that in troubled areas, a total temporary lockdown of restrooms for a period of time is far more effective than a lockup at a specific time daily. When conditions return to normal, the restrooms are opened and locked on a scheduled basis.

- D. Install a chain link fence on the north side of the park with two exits: one on the east side and the other on the west side.

Comment: Staff suggests that fencing would do little to deter inappropriate behavior and recommends no additional fencing at this time. Cost: \$4,365.

- E. Increase the number of lights in the park and use the low pressure sodium vapor type of lighting.

Comment: In view of other mitigation measures to be taken, it is recommended that this item should be held in abeyance and the park conditions be re-evaluated. The Police Department has suggested that it is questionable if lights are a mitigating factor. In addition, SMUD cannot provide the type of lighting recommended. Therefore, the City would have to design and/or special order the appropriate fixtures. Cost: \$15,000.

- F. Close the park.

Comment: Completely closing the park would be a "last resort" measure. However, it is recommended that the City Manager close the park at dusk daily and cause appropriate signage to be placed in the park. Parks and open space are acquired, developed and maintained for the enjoyment of

residents in and around the park area. When circumstances prevent the use of the park by said residents, it is the City's responsibility to take actions such as outlined in this report to return the facility to the use for which it was intended.

Department of Parks and Community Services staff have taken action on the irrigation, park furniture, and total restroom closure. In addition, staff recommends that the City Manager close the park at dusk and that appropriate signage be placed in the park.

Specific law enforcement action will be addressed in a separate report by the Police Department. In addition, the Traffic Division will prepare a separate report regarding painting of curbs, no parking signs and possible departure from the normal undulation installation process.

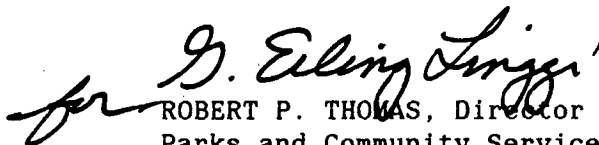
FINANCIAL DATA

Costs of adjustment of the irrigation system, restroom lockdown, park closure signage, and removal of the non-permanent picnic tables, benches and bleachers, as well as related personnel costs, will be absorbed by the Parks Division operating budget.


RECOMMENDATION

This report provides the City Council with the staff recommended solution to the recent social problems in Del Paso Heights Park. Staff will report back to the City Council on the status of the park problems and recommend appropriate further action.

Respectfully submitted,

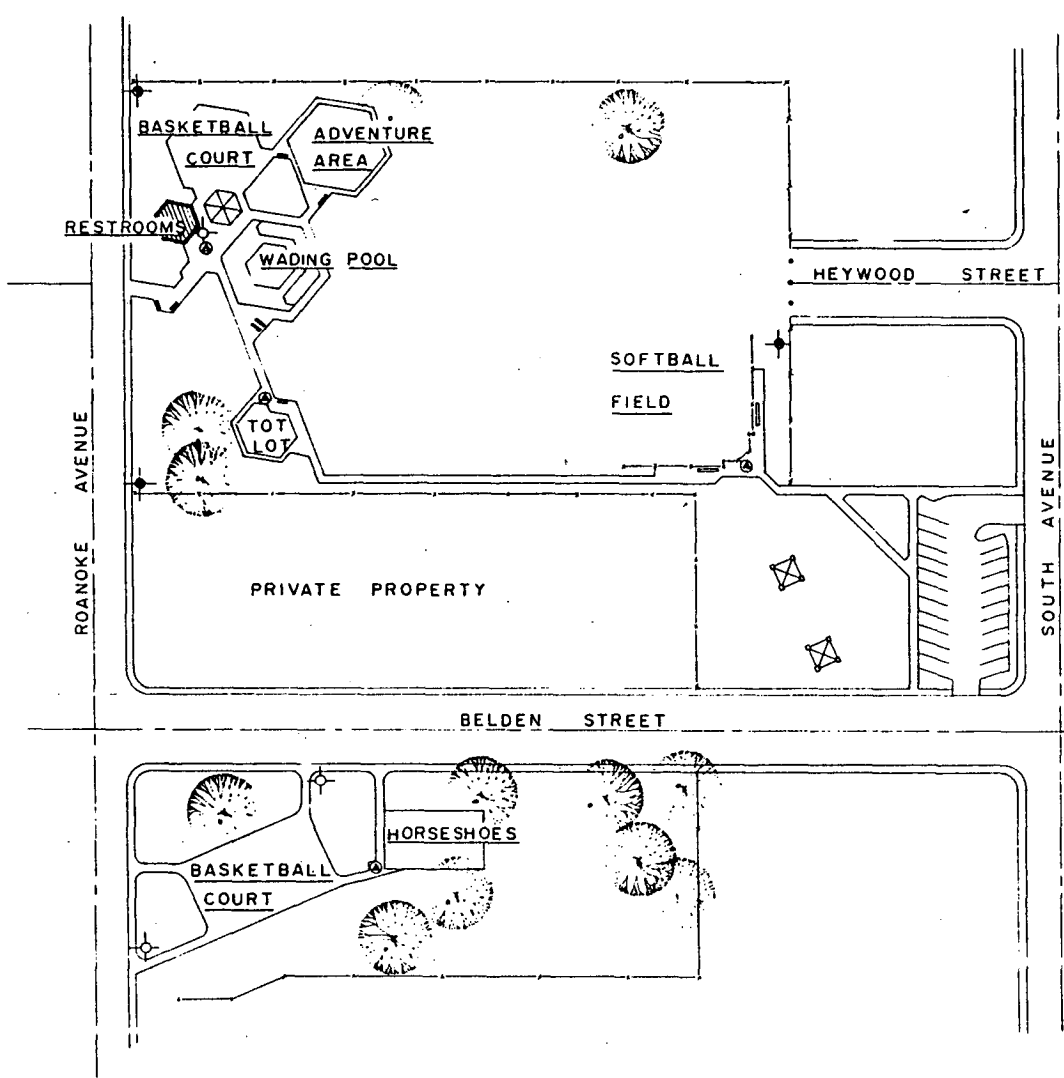
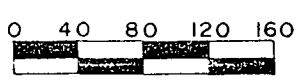
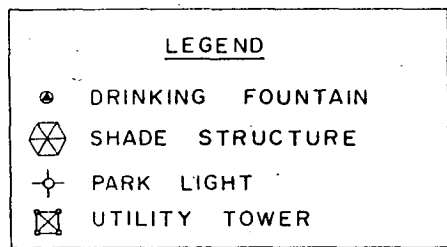
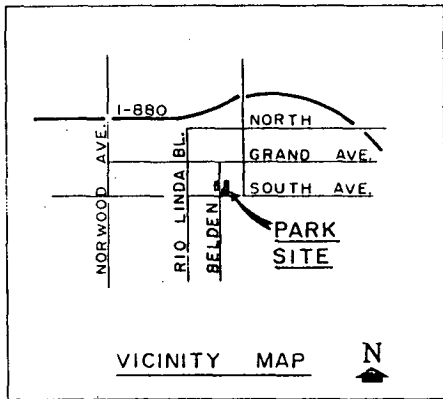

ROBERT P. THOMAS, Director
Parks and Community Services

Recommendation Approved:


JACK R. CRIST
Deputy City Manager

RPT:ja

November 12, 1986
District No. 2



REVISIONS	DRAWN BY	E. [unclear]
NO. DESCRIPTION	DESIGNED BY	[unclear]
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	FIELD BOOK	[unclear]
	SCALE	[unclear]

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



DEL PASO HEIGHTS PARK (4 of 5)

SHEET	
SHEETS	5