



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Albert Balagso
Jennifer Maguire

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: November 13, 2007

Approved

Deanna Sastre

Date

11/16/07

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-Wide
SNI AREA: N/A

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS AND FUNDING SOURCES RESOLUTION AMENDMENTS IN THE GIFT TRUST FUND FOR THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAN JOSÉ DONATION TO FACILITATE EQUAL PLAY IN SAN JOSÉ PARKS

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approval and acceptance of a donation from the Rotary Club of San José to fund the purchase and installation of adaptive swings in City parks to facilitate equal play for special needs children.
2. Adoption of the following Appropriation Ordinance and Funding Sources Resolution Amendments in the Gift Trust Fund:
 - a. Increase the Earned Revenue estimate by \$17,500; and
 - b. Establish a gift appropriation to the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department for the Swings for Special Needs Children for \$17,500.

OUTCOME

If approved, the Rotary Club of San José (“Rotary Club”) donation of \$17,500 will be used to fund the purchase and installation of 29 adaptive swings for City parks.

BACKGROUND

In July 2007, the Rotary Club presented a proposal to provide approximately \$17,500 to fund the purchase and installation of special adaptive swings in City parks to enrich the quality of play for all children in San José. At today’s costs, this will fund the installation of one of these swings in approximately 29 parks throughout the City. Although all City parks renovated in the last

decade meet the California State Title 24 accessibility requirements, playable elements for children with mobility impairments are limited. The Rotary Club’s donation will enable staff to make 29 playgrounds playable for special needs children with mobility and other impairments.

A fully accessible swing needs to have an adaptive seat and a rubber resilient surface wide enough for a wheelchair leading to and around the seat. The adaptive seat is similar to a plastic chair and provides support to the child’s back and neck. It can be used by any child and is very durable. Most existing swing sets can be easily retrofitted to provide an adaptive seat in place of the standard belt or toddler seats.

San José’s first special needs youth playground will go into construction in February 2008 at Berryessa Creek Park in Council District 4. The playground will be fully accessible via ramps, adaptive swings, and multiple activity areas for children of differing capabilities. A fully accessible tot playground will be completed in December 2008 as part of the new Mayfair Community Center and Park in Council District 5.

ANALYSIS

Currently there are 126 City parks with swing sets, of which the following three have an adaptive swing and resilient surface: Lincoln Glen Park in Council District 6, Houge Park in Council District 9, and Parma Park in Council District 10. There are 57 parks that can easily provide equal play opportunities with the addition of an adaptive swing. These parks have the resilient surface path but do not have the adaptive seats. As shown in the following chart, the remaining 66 parks need the resilient surface or both the resilient surface and adaptive seat:

Council District	# of Parks	# of Parks with Swings	Provides Equal Play	Needs Adaptive Seat	Needs Resilient Surface	Needs Adaptive Seat & Resilient Surface
1	10	9		2		7
2	17	15		8		7
3	22	13		5		8
4	11	10		7		3
5	13	10		4		6
6	18	12	1	3		8
7	16	12		8		4
8	15	11		4		7
9	14	10	1	5	2	2
10	23	19	1	8		10
Citywide	9	5		3		2
Total	168	126	3	57	2	64

The Rotary Club donation will enable the purchase and installation of an adaptive seat at just over half of the 57 City parks that have resilient surface. In selecting the parks to receive adaptive swings, the park's location and size of population being served will be considered. In addition, staff will attempt to spread the swings out as much as possible to obtain as much coverage as possible. City staff will select the 29 parks to receive adaptive swings in collaboration with the Rotary Club and the Council Office staff. To ensure Citywide coverage, the list of parks will include all three City-wide parks with swing sets, at least one park from Council Districts 6, 9, and 10, and at least two parks from the remaining Council Districts. The adaptive seats will be installed within 12 weeks of acceptance of the Rotary Club donation.

The attached map shows the location of 3 parks that have a fully accessible swing, 57 parks that need an adaptive seat, 2 parks that need resilient surfacing, 64 parks that need resilient surfacing and an adaptive seat, and 42 parks that do not include swing sets.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

In the long-term, the Department's playground goal is to go beyond accessibility requirements with all new playground construction and renovation sites by creating equal play opportunities to the maximum extent possible given budget and space limitations. Specifically, staff will continue to explore recreational opportunities for special needs children, and incorporate the following elements in new playgrounds and playground renovation projects:

- ♦ at least one adaptive seat in playgrounds that contain a swing set;
- ♦ resilient surface to all transfer points of the playground; and
- ♦ wheelchair ramps to elevated sections of the play structures in larger playgrounds.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

Although this project does not meet any of the above criteria it was heard and approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on September 19, 2007 and October 3, 2007, and by the

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
11-13-07

Subject: Rotary Club of San José Donation to Facilitate Equal Play in San José Parks
Page 4

Disability Commission on October 15, 2007. This memorandum will be posted on the City's Internet website for the December 4, 2007 Council meeting.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

CEQA

CEQA: Exempt, File No. PP07-244.



ALBERT BALAGSO
Director
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services



JENNIFER MAGUIRE
Acting Budget Director

I hereby certify that there will be available for appropriation in the Gift Trust Fund in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 monies in excess of those heretofore appropriated therefrom, said excess being at least \$17,500.



JENNIFER MAGUIRE
Acting Budget Director

For questions, please contact Ron Hunter, Administrative Officer, at 793-5587.

Attachment