



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, April 21, 2014  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center  
979 17th Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

- I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
- II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS
- III. CONSENT AGENDA (Action)
  - A. Approve minutes from February 24, 2014 ..... Pages 1-2
  - B. Consider Reports:
    1. Maintenance Section – Status Report..... Pages 3-4
    2. Facilities Section – Status Report ..... Page 5
    3. Planning Section – Status Report ..... Pages 6-7
    4. Recreation Section – Status Report ..... Pages 8-12

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission but not on today's agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications.

#### IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### V. REGULAR AGENDA – Informational Items

1. Review the County Parks Naming Policy and Nominations for Naming of the New Seacliff Area Park Site Commonly Referred to as McGregor Park (Pages 13-23)
2. Presentation by Santa Cruz Playground Project Regarding Proposal to Build an Inclusive Playground at Chanticleer Avenue Park (Pages 24-57)
3. Presentation by Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park Regarding Proposal to Improve Public Access to and Preservation of the Open Space at Anna Jean Cummings Park (Page 58)

V. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

1. Take Nominations and Elect Chair and Vice-Chair of the Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commission

VII. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING



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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of February 24, 2014, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Santa Cruz, California

#### I. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Bennett, Katharine Minott, Mariah Roberts, Jim Lang, Dave Mercer  
Staff: Betsey Lynberg, Gretchen Iliff

#### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS: Item V.2. moved to VI.3. Motion/Second: Minott/Lang

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AYES:    | 5 |
| NOES:    | 0 |
| ABSTAIN: | 0 |
| ABSENT:  | 0 |

#### III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approved Minutes from December 16, 2013, meeting.
- B. Accepted and filed Reports.

Motion/Second: Lang/Minott

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AYES:    | 5 |
| NOES:    | 0 |
| ABSTAIN: | 0 |
| ABSENT:  | 0 |

#### IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Directors report was given.

#### V. INFORMATION ITEM

- 1. Presentation given of Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan.
- 2. (Item moved to VI.3. below.)
- 3. Reviewed the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission Annual Public Art Plan for 2014.

#### VI. REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Approved the conceptual plan for the addition of two interim disc golf tee pads/baskets at the Farm Park located at the southeast corner of Soquel Drive and Cunnison Lane in Soquel.  
Additional direction – Commission requested that the Soquel High Disc Golf Club work with neighbors to develop the new baskets/tees and to locate baskets and tees to not interfere with path, including a demonstration of disc golf.

Motion/Second: Minott/Lang

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AYES:    | 5 |
| NOES:    | 0 |
| ABSTAIN: | 0 |
| ABSENT:  | 0 |

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of February 24, 2014, 7:00 p.m. meeting**  
**Page -2-**

2. Deferred consideration off-leash dog criteria to October 20, 2014, Parks & Recreation Commission agenda and directed staff to inform Commission prior to that date if report is not prepared by then.

Motion/Second: Minott/Lang

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AYES:    | 5 |
| NOES:    | 0 |
| ABSTAIN: | 0 |
| ABSENT:  | 0 |

3. Approved update regarding proposed Parks Ballot Measure on the February 25, 2014, Board of Supervisors agenda, with authorization for Chair to sign a letter addressed to the County Board of Supervisors in support of County Parks.

Motion/Second: Minott/Roberts

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AYES:    | 5 |
| NOES:    | 0 |
| ABSTAIN: | 0 |
| ABSENT:  | 0 |

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.





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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

**DATE:** April 16, 2014  
**TO:** PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
ARTS COMMISSION  
**FROM:** GRETCHEN ILIFF, MAINTENANCE DIVISION  
**RE:** STATUS REPORTS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

### **PARKS, BUILDING, AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

**NORTH COUNTY PARKS** (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

Clean up of the undeveloped areas along the San Lorenzo River at Felton Covered Bridge Park and Highlands Park occurred this month.

Vegetation removal for Fire protection is on-going at the Probation center.

A new drinking fountain with doggie bowl was installed at Felton Covered Bridge Park.

Fourth and fifth graders from Tierra Pacifica Elementary School removed iceplant from Scott Creek Beach to help protect Snowy Plover nesting areas.

**MID-COUNTY PARKS** (AJC, Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Mid-County beach access areas)

New beach signs were installed along several Live Oak Beaches.

A new trail opened in late March that connects to the Vienna Woods trail in the Forest of Nisene Marks.

Staff replaced the vandalized 'shark tank' cigarette butt container at Plerasrue Point this month.

3

**SOUTH COUNTY PARKS** (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Freedom Government Annex)

Staff installed some new fencing at the Dolphin Sumner access stairs.

The 6" x 6" posts around the perimeter at Polo Grounds Park are being removed and replaced with Split Rail fencing. The Aptos Lyons group is supplying the labor for the work.

Aptos Park had several new irrigation valves installed, and the lawn was slit seeded this month.

**SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER**

Staff waxed and repaired a few small cracks on the Simpkins Water slide this month.

Staff received training on playground safety inspections this month



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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: April 16, 2014  
TO: Parks & Recreation Commission, Arts Commission  
FROM: Gretchen Iliff, Facilities Management Division  
RE: Status Report on Current Projects

### **Summary for reservations in the Parks for the months of February through April 2014, (excluding SFSC):**

#### **Attendance at Reserved Facilities:**

The months of February through April begin the increased use of parks including picnic reservations, athletic field use, and center rentals that have hosted weddings, parties and memorial services. Staff estimates that approximately 65,400 park visitors attended events in reserved facilities at County Parks during these three months.

#### **Center and Meeting Room Rentals in February through April 2014:**

February through April hosted 19 weddings, receptions and events held at our various Park Centers, with rental revenues totaling \$12,400.00. These three months also included 55 meeting room rentals totaling \$2,850.00.

#### **Picnic Areas in February through April 2014:**

Picnic area rentals have become busy once again as the spring season increases park use altogether. 60 picnics took place during these three months, and revenues totaled \$7,200.00

#### **Athletic Fields in February through April 2014:**

The season for athletic field use began late February through mid-March and has become very busy, for both baseball and soccer fields, with over 700 individual field bookings in 18 athletic fields in February through April. Revenues for these three months totaled \$34,150.00

#### **Special Events:**

The special event season has been kicked off during these past few months with a number of events having already successfully taken place. The **Off Road Ramble 5k/10k Race**, the first of four races in the Santa Cruz Race Management series in County Parks hosted by Fleet Feet Sports, was held at Pinto Lake County Park in March. The race raised proceeds for Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks. Additional races to be held will take place at Seascapes Park in May (**Seascapes 5k & 5 Miler**), Aptos Park-Nisene Marks Run in June (**Superhero 5k & 10k**), and the November Run for Pie at Aptos Park-Nisene Marks Run. Each race benefits a local non-profit organization. April events include the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz hosted the **Santa Cruz Mountain Bike Festival** in Aptos Village utilizing the Aptos bike jump and pump tracks during their two-day event. **Earth Day** is planned for April 19<sup>th</sup> at the San Lorenzo Park, with use of the Governmental Center Parking lot for parking or for event activities as back-up plan for weather.

5



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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

**DATE:** APRIL 16, 2014  
**TO:** PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, ARTS COMMISSION  
**FROM:** BETSEY LYNBERG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** PARK PLANNING DIVISION STATUS REPORT

### **BERT SCOTT ESTATE ROOF REPLACEMENT**

Wald Ruhnke & Dost has prepared draft plans and specifications and cost estimates for replacing the roofs on the main house and on the caretaker's house.

### **CARMICHAEL TRAIL**

This trail will provide connections between Cabrillo College, Vienna Woods neighborhoods and Nisene Marks State Park. Conservation Corps crews cleared and constructed the trail in a trail easement on the Carmichael property. Parks staff posted trail signage, and the trail opened to the public on March 28, 2014. Parks staff is now working with Cabrillo College to plan for an extension of the trail to complete connections to existing trails on the college district property.

### **CHANTICLEER PARK**

The Planning Department has issued a development permit for interim improvements. Staff is working with the Consultant, County Planning, and community members on implementation of the interim plan. The fenced off-leash dog area is open, planning for a community garden is underway, volunteers have constructed the bike pump track, and Parks staff has prepared an interim parking area and installed erosion control measures. Two sculptures by artist Madeline Wiener have been installed at the park and the artist attended a dedicated on March 12, 2014.

### **EAST CLIFF PARKWAY PROJECT**

The Contractor has completed the project, and the community continues to enjoy the parkway improvements along East Cliff Drive in Pleasure Point.

### **THE FARM PARK**

Parks staff continued with efforts to implement the Prop 84 Urban Greening Grant for stream and oak woodland habitat restoration and a community garden. Fish and Game permits for stream bed restoration have been secured, and plant propagation is underway. Invasive tree removal work has been completed. H.T. Harvey and Associates are preparing final construction documents, and the public art is being coordinated. Construction is planned for summer 2014.



### **FELTON COVERED BRIDGE ROOF RESTORATION**

Caltrans has completed the Preliminary Environmental Study for the replacement of the roof for the Felton Covered Bridge. Environmental Science Associates has completed the Historic Properties Survey Report. Caltrans, as the agency responsible for administering the Federal Highway Administration grant, has approved the Historic Properties Survey Report and issued a NEPA Categorical Exclusion for the restoration work. Local architect, William M. Holl has volunteered to prepare construction plans and specifications for the repair and roofing work.

### **HEART OF SOQUEL**

Development permit application for creek side trail, gathering area, and parking and circulation improvements will be considered by the Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 23, 2014. The County was recently awarded a State Water Board Grant of over \$660,000 for storm water quality low impact development features at Heart of Soquel. A Call for Artists for a 2% for public art installation is being prepared. Construction is planned for summer-fall 2014.

### **MCGREGOR PARK SITE**

Plans and documentation necessary for development permits for Phase 1 improvements of McGregor Park have been submitted to the Planning Department. Phase 1 improvements are planned to include drainage and site infrastructure, park walkways and a sidewalk along McGregor Drive, picnic area, play area, accessible parking, turf and landscaping. A Call to Artists for a 2% for public art installation is being prepared. Construction is planned for FY 2014/15.

### **PROPOSITION 40 UNALLOCATED FUNDING**

In July 2011 Parks received notification that the enacted State Budget provided additional time for Proposition 40 grant recipients to complete their projects under the Per Capita and RZH Block Contracts. To date Parks has utilized all but \$131,119 of the original grant amounts. Parks staff has submitted three new grant applications to the State. The projects include: additional picnic tables at Ben Lomond Park; new poured-in-place surfacing and tot structure at Willowbrook Park; and a new group picnic area and shelter at Pinto Lake Park. New contracts with the State have been approved. Parks staff is currently proceeding with final design of the Willowbrook Park tot structure replacement and purchase and installation of the tables and Ben Lomond Park.

### **QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH PARK**

A community meeting was held on September 17, 2013, to discuss trail and creek restoration opportunities at Quail Hollow Park. The Discovery Loop Trail and Quail Hollow Brook have suffered damage as the result of heavy seasonal drainage patterns and a culvert failure in the creek. Ideas to address these problems were discussed with volunteers, neighbors and horse boarders at a well attended meeting. Staff has submitted two grant applications to the State Habitat Conservation Fund for Trail Restoration and Riparian Habitat Restoration work. The County was informed in April that trail restoration grant was denied, and that the Quail Hollow Brook Restoration Grant in the amount of \$182,670 has been awarded.

### **TWIN LAKES BEACHFRONT**

In a unanimous decision, on August 15, 2013, the California Coastal Commission approved the Twin Lakes Beachfront Project. This project is a coastal access improvement project that creates a pedestrian oriented beachfront with Universal ADA access along East Cliff Drive between 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The project also improves East Cliff Drive to include bike lanes, organized parking, improved vehicular circulation, interpretive elements and public art. The Regional Transportation Commission recently awarded a \$200,000 grant for this portion of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. Final design and easement acquisition is underway. The County is seeking additional grant funding for this project.



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DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062  
(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

DATE: April 15, 2014  
TO: Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission  
FROM: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator  
RE: Recreation and Cultural Services Division Status Report – April 2014

### ARTS AND CULTURAL

Outside the Box – A “Call to Artists” has been issued for Phase 5 of the Outside the Box (OTB) program, which includes eight traffic controller boxes. Artist proposals are due April 25, 2014. Details about the application process, as well as box locations and images, are listed on the Parks website. The OTB panel will meet the last week in April to select the artists who will continue in the processes. At the May 5 meeting of the Arts Commission, the commissioners will review the panel’s recommendations. Artists approved by the Arts Commission will begin work in late May.

Chanticleer Park Public Art Project – A lovely afternoon was had by all attendees at the dedication of Madeline Wiener’s recently-installed public art project at Chanticleer Park. “A Day at the Park” features a (5’ x 7’ x 4’) couple sitting side-by-side, perhaps looking to their past or their future or watching children play in the park. The more playful, single figure (3’ x 6’ x 3’) leans back on her elbows with one leg crossing over the other, and appears to be looking up while enjoying her day at the park. Supervisor Leopold spoke about the history of the park’s development, future plans, and introduced the artist. Madeline explained her process in creating the pieces and answered questions. At the conclusion of her talk she handed out bits of limestone that she had chipped from the block while sculpting, which she signed for those who were interested in taking home a piece of their new public artwork.

**Art Exhibitions** – Tim Matthew’s color pinhole camera photographs are on exhibition at the Simpkins Family Swim Center / Parks office through the end of May, 2014.

## **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

### **Mar Vista ACE**

County staff attended the Mar Vista Elementary Kindergarten Registration Day on April 3, 2014, to inform parents that a Kinder Enrichment program is on campus to meet their after school needs. Registration day is where the parents and the children come to the library to do some initial assessments before entering school; like making sure they have had all their shots. Our display table featured pictures of past program activities, calendars, and parent handbooks. We saw about 40 families on Kinder Round-Up day.

April brought four new themes that fit the times. Yuk it up Week celebrated humor and wit. We discovered what made the little kinders laugh - mostly making funny faces, which got the biggest reaction. The last week before spring break was Bunny Trails. Pastel funny little bunny stand-up table decor were created, as well as spinning tops. The children got to play with plastic eggs during indoor exploring time. A special stuffed animal bunny came to visit the children. The children learned how to be gentle with Rebecca the Rabbit's Ears. After spring break we cover keeping the earth green with discussion about recycling, reducing, and reusing different items in our lives with the theme earth week. We also concentrated on the fun learning and enjoying the beauty Mother Nature has to offer. We learned about the four elements: fire, water, air and earth. Then we traveled to the tropical topic with Luau week. The boys and girls got to make tribal outfits out of paper bags. They also got to imaginary play traveling on an air plane and got served snack and drinks. As we end another wonderful month of fun and education through recreation, we realize that we are getting ready to wrap up the kinder enrichment school year very soon. We can hope that in the fall the kinder enrichment program will start its 8th year and start a new set of kids. We have just May and one week of June left and then we say good-bye to our Kinder participants of 2013-2014.

### **La Selva ACE**

La Selva Beach ACE is having a great start to the spring season. Recent weekly themes include Super Spring Week, which included activities such as colorful beads art; leprechaun race; a game of sea, shore, sand; a clover shakes activity; a flower pens art activity; a game of bulls eye; a game of musical chairs; a game of leprechauns and colorful bunnies; a game of beckon at triangle park; a quesadillas cooking activity; and a game of soccer. We followed Super Spring Week with a Spring Celebration theme, which included activities such as an air dry clay craft, a game of rainbow, shrink paper art, aluminum foil sculptures craft and a bubble solution activity. The highlight for Spring Celebration week was a Celebrate Spring Potluck Party with food, drinks, music, a dance competition, and prizes. Our most current theme was H2O Week, which included activities such as a marshmallow tower contest, a water game of drip, drip, splash, a shooting rockets science experiment, a water obstacle course, mad science experiments, an H2O porthole craft & a game of flag football. The highlight for H2O week was a field trip to the Simpkins Swim Center. La Selva Beach ACE is continuing to partner up with the local La Selva Beach Library each Thursday for a one-hour Lego Class from 3:00-4:00 p.m.. In addition, there is a certified school teacher that gives one-on-one attention to a group of our participants with their homework each Tuesday from 3:00-4:00 p.m.. Upcoming Special Events include field trips to Manresa Beach and the Simpkins Swim Center.





**Water Polo** - Sundays from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Participants must be a member of USAWPA to participate in the program.

**Spring Break Pool Junior Lifeguard Program** – For the second year we offered a week-long Spring Break Pool Junior Lifeguard Program at Simpkins Family Swim Center, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with the option for participants to stay for Recreation Swim from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., free of charge. The program was successful with 28 children participating. The spring program schedule and activities was similar to the popular Summer Pool Junior Lifeguard Program, including a “special activity day” on the last day.

**Summer Programs** – Summer program registration began on April 7. Once again the Junior Guard Program filled up quickly. There is plenty of room to sign up for summer swim lessons.

**Lifeguard Training Classes** - Lifeguard Training Classes are being offered and will continue through May 2014. Most classes will be held on Friday evenings and Saturdays; fees are \$290 for residents and \$319 for non-residents. Limited courses in First Aid for Public Safety Personnel (CA Title 22) will also be offered. Interested candidates can find more information on the parks website at [www.scparks.com](http://www.scparks.com). All course materials are included in the course fee.

**Lifeguard Training Exercises** - The April in-service training exercise was Emergency Action Plan practice. Staff practiced responding to mock emergencies, covering the following topics; victim recognition, rescue techniques, continued care, CPR, first aid, clearing pools, meeting EMS, writing reports, resuming pool operations.

**Aquatic Staff Recruitment** - The following positions are currently open; Lifeguard, Head Lifeguard, Aquatic Specialist. The recruitment ends April 25.

#### **Pool Rentals**

**Swim Teams** - The Cabrillo Threshers and Santa Cruz County Aquatics swim teams continue to rent lanes in the 50-meter pool. The swim teams offer school-age competitive swimming programs Monday through Friday from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**Infant Swim Rescue (ISR)** is again renting the pool to conduct swim lessons for children using the ISR method.

**Special Olympics** - On Friday evenings through June 1, Special Olympics has rented five lanes in the 50-meter pool for training and coaching.

**Private Pool Parties** – Private Pool Parties are available on Saturdays and Sundays starting March 1 through August 31, 2014. A variety of aspects of the facility may be rented for Private Pool Parties, from just the warm pool to aspects accommodating up to 110 people. Private Pool Parties are scheduled on weekends, spring, summer and fall, after the facility has closed to the public.

**School Parties** – Once again local schools will be renting the facility for their end of the year parties starting in May. Every weekday for three weeks schools enjoy the pool with their classmates.

11

## QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

### Recent and upcoming interpretive programs:

- Broom Bashes will take place this month on Saturdays, April 5, 19 and possibly 26 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lee Summers, Parks interpreter, led the program on the April 5 in which seven enthusiastic pullers attended. Linda Brodman from CNPS Habitat Restoration team and Chuck Baughman, Quail Hollow volunteer, will co-lead the other two programs.
- Preschoolers from Tierra Pacifica were be out on Monday, April 7 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. for a Creepy Crawly bug hunt with Lee Summers
- A Lost and Found Birthday Party with Lee Summers took place on Saturday, April 12 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Sean Wharton will lead three walks to the sandhills habitat owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on Sundays, April 13, 20, and 27 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The program is entitled Trek to the Forbidden Sandhills and is limited to 15 per program.
- A History Hike with Lee Summers will took place on Sunday, April 13 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Lee Summers will lead a Creepy Crawly bug hunt on Sunday, April 20 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- A Creepy Crawly birthday party with Lee Summers will take place on Sunday, April 27 from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Leeann Ravenale from the Scotts Valley Water District will offer a program called From Laundry to Landscape: Simple Greywater Harvesting on Sunday, April 27 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

This year's Volunteer of the Year award for Quail Hollow is the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club, who were recognized by the County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 8. Chris Angelos accepted the award for the club having put in over 20 years of star gazing. The club's long-term dedication and willingness to share their vast knowledge of the field of astronomy made them the ideal candidate.

Summer camp interviews for volunteer positions will take place on Saturday, April 26. So far two campers who have aged out of the program will be interviewed in hopes of helping with this popular program.

The Quail Hollow Nest Box Checkers are looking into installing new nest boxes for kestrels next year. Kestrel nesting has been on the decline both in Santa Cruz County and throughout the nation. It is hoped that installing boxes near the visitor center will not only give them additional nesting habitat but also offer the public a chance to learn about and appreciate these amazing birds of prey.



JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

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April 17, 2014

**SUBJECT: REVIEW THE COUNTY PARK NAMING POLICY AND NOMINATIONS FOR NAMING A SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARK IN THE SEACLIFF AREA OF APTOS**

Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission:

On December 20, 2007, the County acquired 1.25 acres for a future park bounded by Sea Ridge Road, McGregor Drive, and Canterbury Drive in the Seacliff area of Aptos. Since then the County has referred to this park site as McGregor neighborhood park. Recently, the City of Capitola has begun design and planning work for the construction of a new neighborhood park also located on McGregor Drive. The City of Capitola also refers to their new park as McGregor Park. This prompted interest on the part of the Seacliff community and staff in selecting another name for the County park.

Attached for your reference is the County of Santa Cruz Park Naming Policy approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2002. This policy provides the criteria and process for naming parks. Per the policy preference in name selection is to be given to a name that relates to three criteria: 1) Geographical location or feature; 2) Historical feature; and 3) Individual or family, and as further described in the policy. A process is also outlined in the policy which includes: staff preparing a park name recommendation based upon the criteria; submission of proposals by community groups or individuals; a public hearing by the Parks and Recreation Commission; and park name recommendation to the Board of Supervisors who take final action to name the park.

Commissioner Minott and members of the Seacliff Improvement Association prepared a list of possible park names. As discussed in the attached letter from Commissioner Minott, members of the Seacliff Improvement Association conducted a non-binding vote at an association meeting on March 11, 2014. The results of that vote are included Commissioner Minott's letter. Of the possible names based upon geographical features considered by the Seacliff Improvement Association, Seacliff Beach Village County Park and Seacliff County Park received the most votes. Of the possible names based upon historical features considered by the Seacliff Improvement Association, Alicia and Manuel Santana County Park received the most votes. Although considered on the list of names categorized as Historical features, it should be noted this name could qualify under the Individual or family criteria. As of the writing of this letter, County Parks has not received additional written nominations.


In order to give the Seacliff neighborhood the opportunity to provide input into the name for this park, staff sent a postcard informing the neighborhood and inviting them to attend the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on April 21, 2014. This postcard stated that the Commission would be considering naming the park Sea Ridge Corner Park. This name was suggested based upon the criteria for a geographical location such as a street. The park is located on Sea Ridge Road which assists users in locating the park. In addition the name makes reference to the location of this park in close proximity to the Monterey Bay, yet avoids confusion with Seacliff State Beach. This suggestion is only brought forward for discussion purposes, and all nominations should be considered by the Commission. The interest is to establish a park name that is supported by the community and is consistent with the park naming policy.

It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission review the County Park Naming Policy, take nominations and community input for naming the neighborhood park in the Seacliff area of Aptos, and direct staff to return to the Commission on a future agenda with a staff recommendation and to conduct a public hearing.

Yours truly,

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
Director of Public Works

By:



Betsey Lynberg  
Assistant Public Works Director – Parks Division

BAL:mh

Attachments

## **Section 300**

### **PARKS NAMING POLICY**

It shall be County policy to establish that all park names and identification of park areas shall be referred to the Parks Commission for review and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for its approval. The park naming procedure shall be guided by the following principles:

#### **A. Criteria**

Preference in name selection for any park and/or facility or portion thereof will be given to a name that relates to the following criteria:

1. Geographical location or feature - relating to the street or community the park is located in, or a recognized and well- known feature of the area;
2. Historical feature - relating to an event, era or person of historical relevance which will have lasting significance to the public throughout the life of the park.
3. Individual or family – a name which recognizes a person or family who made a distinct, significant contribution to the well-being of the County or made an extraordinary donation of land or funds.
  - a. Donation of land or funds for park purposes shall not constitute an obligation by the County to name the park or any portion thereof after a family or individual.

#### **B. Park and Recreation Commission Recommendations**

The Park and Recreation Commission will be guided by the following:

1. Parks Staff will prepare a park name recommendation, based upon criteria listed above.
2. Community groups or individuals may submit a proposal using any of the approved criteria. All proposals will be forwarded to the Commission for its consideration.
3. The Parks Commission shall hold a public hearing as part of the process for determining the name of a park/facility or portion thereof prior to making its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.
4. The Commission will make a name recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for each park in a separate action from the Master Plan approval.
5. Signs or plaques used to identify the park/facility must blend with and complement the existing Parks Department signage. Any deviation from the Parks Department signage standards shall be reviewed for approval by the Parks Commission.

**TO: Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation Commission**

**Re: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARK NAMING POLICY AND CONSIDERATION OF NON-BINDING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SEACLIFF COMMUNITY FOR NAMING A SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARK IN THE SEACLIFF NEIGHBORHOOD OF APTOS**

April 14, 2014

Dear Fellow Parks & Recreation Commissioners,

Presented for your consideration are possible park names suggested by members of the Seacliff Improvement Association for the new 1.25-acre county park at the corner of Sea Ridge Road and McGregor Drive in the Seacliff neighborhood of Aptos [APN 038-081-40]. Plans to build the neighborhood-size park have been on the drawing board since 2007, when the County purchased the 1.25-acre site from the nonprofit developer who recently completed building the Canterbury Park housing project adjacent to the park.

**BACKGROUND**

On the evening of March 11, 2014, about 100 members of the Seacliff Improvement Association [SIA] attended a quarterly SIA members meeting held at the Mediterranean Tavern [The Med] on Center Street in Seacliff Village. That night, SC County Supervisor Zach Friend announced a late-August 2014 ground-breaking is scheduled for the long anticipated neighborhood park.<sup>1</sup>

For decades, the park site has been referred to and labeled in all planning documents as McGregor Park. To date, neither local history buffs nor SC County employees have been able to identify why the road fronting the park site was named McGregor. Several Seacliff residents strongly feel "McGregor" is not a popular choice for a park name. Finding a new name for the Seacliff neighborhood park is probably a prudent move because at the west end of McGregor Drive, the City of Capitola is close to constructing a new City park, also named McGregor Park.

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<sup>1</sup> In January 2014, Sheryl Bailey, the Park's Project Manager with the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works re-submitted the neighborhood park plans were to the Planning Department. The review by the Planning Department should take about 30 days and no additional issues are anticipated to further stall construction of the park.

16

Because of Seaciff resident dissatisfaction about the name "McGregor Park," a non-binding "Name Our County Park" poll was part of the March 11, 2014 evening entertainment. A week earlier, the SIA Board of Directors sent an email to its 300+ membership, requesting suggested names for Seaciff's first county park. The SIA solicitation of park names was accompanied by the SC County Park Naming criteria and policy for naming SC County parks [included at the end of this letter].

At The Med, a foam board display listed all of the suggested park names from SIA members and the general public. Each SIA voter was allotted two green dots to stick next to any name. Emphasized on the SC County "Park Naming Policy" foam board was the reminder the informal green-dot poll does NOT mean the neighborhood choice[s] will become the name of the park.

#### **SIA AND NON-BINDING PARK NAME VOTING RESULTS**

In the category for the "Geographical Features Criteria," "Seaciff Beach Village County Park" and "Seaciff County Park" each received 24 votes.

In the category for the "Historical Event, Era or Names Criteria," "Alicia & Manuel Santana County Park" [Manny's Park] garnered 45 votes.

#### **ADDENDUM**

##### **Title VII Department Procedures Section 300** **PARKS NAMING POLICY**

It is Santa Cruz County policy to establish park names and the identification of park areas. Preference in name selection for any park shall be given to a name utilizing the following criteria.

##### **The Criteria Listed in Order of Priority:**

###### **I. Geographical Features Criteria**

- a) A park name may be based on its proximity to surrounding streets or in the community where park is located.
- b) The name is a recognized and well-known topographical feature of the area.

###### **II. Historical Events Criteria**

- a) The park name may be a historical event or an era of historical significance that will have lasting interest to the public throughout the life of the park.

5

- b) The park name may be a historical person of significance whose name will have lasting interest to the public throughout the life of the park.
- c) Partial donation of land or funds for park purposes does not constitute an obligation by the County to name the park or any portion thereof after a family or individual.

**So, I've Put My Green Dots Next to My Park Names, What Happens Next? <sup>2</sup>**  
**Santa Cruz County Park Naming Procedure**

Following Santa Cruz County Parks Naming Policy, the SC Parks and Recreation Commission holds a public meeting and takes into consideration suggested park names from Seacliff residents and other members of the public. The SC County Parks and Recreation Commission reviews the findings and recommendations in a report prepared by the Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Staff, considers the public input, discusses the submitted park names and votes to recommend a county park name to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors for final approval.

**I. Geographical Features Criteria: proximity to surrounding streets or the community the park is located in or a well-known topographical feature of the area [In alphabetic order]:**

- Canterbury County Park
- Cement Ship County Park: 1
- McGregor County Park
- Monterey Bay-Seacliff Beach County Park
- Paradise County Park: 1
- Seacliff Beach County Park: 1
- Seacliff Beach-Monterey Bay County Park: 1
- Seacliff Beach Village County Park: 24
- Seacliff Community County Park: 5
- Seacliff County Park: 24
- Seacliff "Friends" County Park
- Seacliff Kid's Corner County Park: 8
- Seacliff Sea Ridge County Park: 2
- Seacliff Village Green County Park: 2

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<sup>2</sup> Katharine P. Minott, S/A Member Meeting, March 11, 2014.

18



- Seaciff Village Square County Park: 1
- Searidge Corner County Park
- Sea Ridge County Park
- Sea View County Park: 4
- Sea Wave County Park
- *SS Palo Alto* County Park: 1
- Whitecap County Park

**II. Historical Event, Era or Names Criteria [In alphabetical order]:**

- Alicia & Manuel Santana County Park: 45 votes

[Manny's Park]

Alicia and Manuel Santana were more than the successful proprietors of Manuel's in Seaciff and Jardines de San Juan in San Juan Batista. Alice and Manny were generous supporters of the creative arts. Manny described himself as an "avatar," a student and teacher of the tangible and intangible. Manny worked daily in his art studio, creating a legacy of paintings, prints and sculptures. Their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren continue to live in Aptos and uphold the Santana family legacy of welcoming diners to their restaurants and supporting the creativity of local artisans.

- Awásawas County Park: 4 votes

Awásawas was the local language spoken by natives whose small tribal units stretched from present day Davenport to Rio del Mar.<sup>3</sup>

- Costanoan County Park

Anglicized version of Spanish word "costefios" meaning "people of the coast."<sup>4</sup>

- Kallen<sup>5</sup> Rúne<sup>6</sup> County Park: 1 vote

In Awásawas, these words mean "sea" and "wave."

- Nicolay K. Fougner County Park: 1 vote

In 1910, Nicolay K. Fougner, a Norwegian civil engineer was inspired to utilize cement to build WWI freighter ships. Fougner's concrete ships were constructed in 1917, when wartime steel shortages of steel required alternative

<sup>3</sup> Linda Yamane, ed., *Santa Cruz History Journal Issue Number Five*, "A Gathering of Voices: The Native Peoples of the Central California Coast," Museum of Art & History.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 173.

<sup>5</sup> Linda Yamane, Awásawas word "kallen" means "sea," p.179.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* Awásawas word "rúne" means [water] "wave," p. 181.

19

resources. The ships were not ready until the end of WWI. Of the three Fougner concrete ships built, it is the SS *Palo Alto* that rests at the end of a pier at Seacliff Beach State Park.<sup>7</sup>

- **Rafael Castro County Park**

Don Rafael Castro was a California and a savvy businessman. *Rancho Aptos* extended along the coast of the Monterey Bay, encompassing the acreage we now think of as Aptos.<sup>8</sup>

- **SS Palo Alto Neighborhood County Park**

The SS *Palo Alto* is a concrete ship, designed as a WWI supply ship. In 1930, the *Palo Alto* was sold for \$1.00 and towed to Seacliff Beach State Park, where its weathered hull rests as a fishing pier.

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<sup>7</sup> Nicolay K. Fougner, <<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/95spring/shipbuilding.htm>> [5 March 2014].

<sup>8</sup> Donald Thomas Clark, *Santa Cruz County Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary*, p. 271, Santa Cruz Historical Society, Santa Cruz CA, 1986.

20



## **Our Team**

**Patricia Potts, MA Ed** has 15 years of elementary teaching experience ranging from K-8 to homeschool and is currently an instructional design consultant and freelance writer for children's publications.

**Robert Potts, M.D.** is a husband and father of 3 who enjoys growing bonsai trees in his spare time. When not occupied with those duties, he is the Medical Director of the Dignity Hospitalist Physician Group at Dominican Hospital.

**Charlotte Henderson, CFRE**, is a fundraising professional with 20 years experience in the non-profit sector. She has raised millions of dollars for health care, secondary and higher education as well as other non-profits. She currently is the Director of Alumni and Development at Monterey Bay Academy, La Selva Beach, CA.

**Martha Jacobson** has worked for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District as a Behavior Technician, preschool teacher for children with Autism (Duncan Holbert), and for the last 15 years as a Home and Hospital teacher. The purpose of Home and Hospital is to provide instruction for students who are severely restricted and unable to attend school for health reasons.

**Paul Jacobson** worked for 10 years in the steel industry in Los Angeles. He married Martha in 1987 and that same year purchased a Snap-On Tool Franchise, relocating to Watsonville (eventually Aptos) in the process. Due to steady business growth, he has frequently been honored as one of the top 100 in the nation. Today he is starting a second franchise and enjoying the start-up challenges all over again.

**Gaelyn Betts** is a native of Santa Cruz. He has extensive work experience in the non-profit sector. He was also involved in planning and building a playground for a private school in the area.

**Diane Van Wagner** is an occupational therapist specializing in working with special needs pediatric patients.

**Amy Selover** is a physical therapist specializing in working with special needs pediatric patients.

The committee will continue to be expanded with a focus towards individuals who have a neighborhood connection to the park in which the playground will be built, parents of children between the ages of 0-12 (including those with disabilities), and other community members.

## Public Notice

The Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commission will consider naming the new County park in Seacliff (at Sea Ridge, Canterbury, and McGregor Roads) to Sea Ridge Corner Park at the Commission meeting on:

Monday, April 21, 2014  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Simpkins Family Swim Center - Community Room  
979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz

The public is invited to attend.  
For more information, please visit:  
[www.scparks.com/parks&rec\\_commission.html](http://www.scparks.com/parks&rec_commission.html)  
or call: (831) 454-7901

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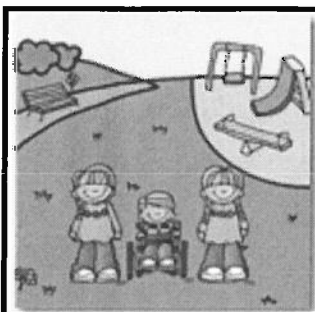
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# Santa Cruz Playground Project

**Our Mission: Bringing the Community Together To Build an Inclusive Playground for All Our Children**

## **Who We Are:**

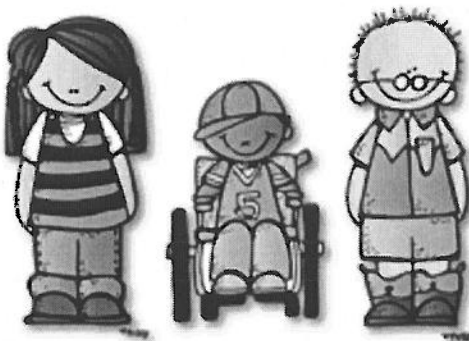
The Santa Cruz Playground Project was started by Bob and Tricia Potts of Aptos Hills, CA. We have three children: seven year old twins, Lauren and Evelyn, and Oliver who is three. All three are hearing impaired. Additionally, Oliver was born with multiple cardiac and orthopedic problems which necessitate his use of a wheelchair for mobility.

In December of 2013, we attended the opening of Tatum's Garden, a fully inclusive playground in Salinas. We came away with our eyes opened to the need for a similar playground in our own county of Santa Cruz. For families of disabled children, having access to an inclusive playground literally means the difference between being stuck on the sidelines versus being able to play and have fun like other kids. While there are county playgrounds with partial accessibility, none come close to allowing the kind of play experiences that a fully inclusive playground would provide.

Inclusive playgrounds provide ALL children the opportunity to learn and develop together. They improve social, physical, and cognitive skills. They provide a safe and sensory-rich play space. They also reduce or eliminate barriers those with special needs encounter at current playgrounds by meeting or exceeding ADA accessibility requirements.

We talked with other members in the community about the idea of bringing the community together to find a site, fundraise, and build an inclusive playground. From these conversations the grassroots Santa Cruz Playground Project was begun. We met with individuals from the Santa Cruz County Parks and Rec Department about possible sites. We had our first major donor establish a fund at Community Foundation Santa Cruz County. We also have received a service grant from Shane's Inspiration. They will provide the knowledge base and guidance we need to take our dreams and energy and help us focus on completing our mission.

We continue to move forward, dedicated to creating a playground where all children, regardless of ability, can play.



Let's make our dream of an inclusive playground for all our children in our community a reality.



## INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUNDS

Provide ALL children the opportunity to learn and develop together.

Improve physical, cognitive, and social skills.

Provide sensory-rich play experiences.

Provide a safe play space for those who have cognitive, social, or physical disabilities.

Allow disabled adults the chance to play with their children and grandchildren.

Meet or exceed current ADA playground requirements.



### Who We Are

The Santa Cruz Playground Project was started by Bob and Tricia Potts of Aptos Hills. We have three children: seven year old twins, Lauren and Evelyn, and Oliver who is three. All three are hearing impaired. Additionally, Oliver was born with multiple cardiac and orthopedic problems which necessitate his use of a wheelchair for mobility. In December of 2013 we attended the opening of Tatum's Garden, an inclusive playground in Salinas. We came away from that experience with the desire to bring the Santa Cruz community together to build a fully inclusive playground in our own county. If you would like to join us please contact us via one of the methods below.

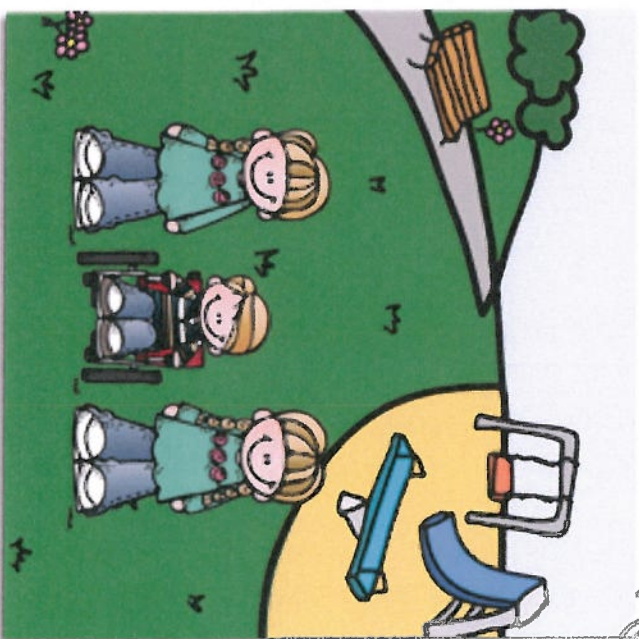


[santaacruzplaygroundproject.org](http://santaacruzplaygroundproject.org)

Facebook: Santa Cruz Playground Project

Twitter: @sc\_playground

[info@santaacruzplaygroundproject.org](mailto:info@santaacruzplaygroundproject.org)



# Santa Cruz Playground Project

Bringing the Community  
Together  
To Build an Inclusive  
Playground  
for All Our Children



## Traditional Playgrounds



Meet minimum ADA standards which still present barriers for those in wheelchairs, walkers, or other assistive devices in accessing play structures.

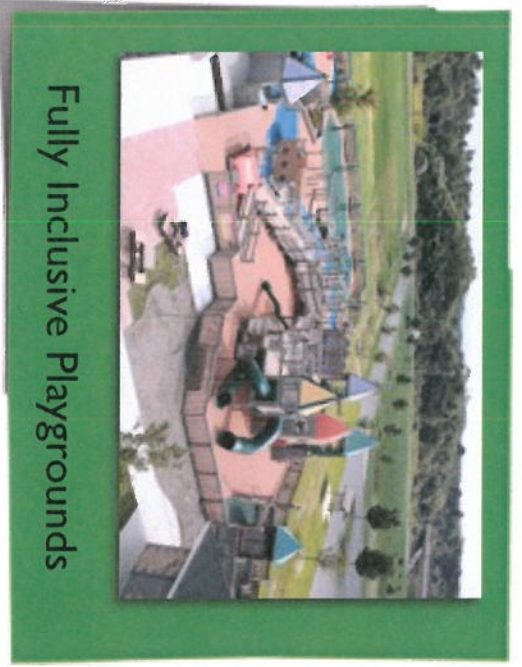


Use sand or wood chips for all or part of the playground surfacing which bars those with limited mobility from most play areas.

Are a source of frustration or isolation for special needs children and their families.



Allow all children of all abilities the chance to play and have fun with their friends and family.



## Fully Inclusive Playgrounds



Play equipment designed to appeal challenge, and include all children.



Equipment, such as this bucket swing, provides support and safety for children who need it.

Ramping allows children with mobility assisting devices to access the top of the major play structure without having to leave their chairs or walkers behind.



Rubberized surfacing used throughout entire playground for wheelchair accessibility.

We need an inclusive playground

in Santa Cruz County.



# Creating Playgrounds for All Children







## Who We Are

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The vision of Shane's Inspiration is to foster a bias-free world for children with disabilities. Shane's Inspiration's mission is to create inclusive playgrounds and programs that unite children of all abilities

We began this journey in 1998, when two Los Angeles parents realized that most children with physical and developmental disabilities spend their entire childhoods without ever playing on a playground. Inspired to change this, they formed Shane's Inspiration...a non-profit organization dedicated to creating enriching, integrated play environments that allow children with and without disabilities to swing, slide, and play together.

Two years later, Shane's Inspiration opened the first Inclusive Playground in the Western United States. Since that time, we have **opened 47 playgrounds** in California, Colorado, Mexico, Canada, and Ecuador with another **16 opening this year in the United States, Israel and Sochi, Russia in association with the 2014 Winter Olympic/Paralympic Games.** In 2013 Shane's became a member of the **Clinton Global Initiative** with a Commitment to Action that will establish inclusive playgrounds and programs on five continents by 2018. Shane's also has projects in development in Connecticut, Iowa, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Washington, Louisiana, Illinois, Kansas, and as far away as South Africa.

Shane's Inspiration also offers innovative programs that utilize these playgrounds in their highest possible capacity...as classrooms. Each year, we bring thousands of children with and without disabilities together through school field trips, monthly community events, and a school-based disability awareness program.

### Awards received include:

Award for Outstanding Playgrounds from Los Angeles Parent Magazine; In partnership with the City of Los Angeles "The Most Playable City In The World", "Best Playground" from Los Angeles Magazine's "101 Things to Shout About," The Architectural Landscape Design Award from the Los Angeles Business Council; The first "Heroes for Health Award" by Good Housekeeping Magazine and General Electric; The Community Enrichment Award for "Parque de los Suenos" from the Southern California Development Forum; The Nickelodeon Best Playground or Park award.



28

## Our Team

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**Founder & CEO:** Tiffany Harris co-founded Shane's Inspiration in 1998 after working with Catholic Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Los Angeles for over five years in development and special event fundraising. In this capacity, she produced many successful special events throughout Los Angeles for the non-profit community. As Co-Founder of Shane's Inspiration, she, along with Catherine Curry-Williams, was responsible for catalyzing the first Universally Accessible Playground on the West Coast. They raised over \$1,000,000 for this project through corporate, foundation and community support, securing the allocation of two acres of land in Griffith Park. Tiffany also guided the project team through the development and completion of this endeavor.

Since the first playground opened in 2000, Tiffany has helped raise over 40 million dollars in mission revenue and grown the organization from the idea of creating one playground to 40 currently opened with over 90 Universally Accessible Playground projects in development, from California to Bangalore, India. She also helped design, implement, and secure funding for 3 programs that serve thousands of children with disabilities each year. As CEO, Tiffany oversees the organization's administration and growth, fundraising, outreach, and program development. She speaks nationally and internationally on the importance of creating integrated play environments that serve children of all abilities.

**Director of Design:** Diane Scanlan-Ross holds a post graduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences from Northwestern University. She is an active member of ASLA, and brings over 15 years of experience as a Project Architect/Manager to Shane's Inspiration. Diane has worked with a number of Landscape Architecture firms in Los Angeles, most notably Melendrez Design Partners, up until her association with Shane's Inspiration in 2006. As of today, she has designed over 30 playgrounds throughout the United States and as far away as Tel Aviv, Israel and Sochi, Russia. Diane's goal is to create unique, innovative play spaces so children of all ages and abilities can play together. Her designs celebrate the principles of an inclusive design while addressing the developmental needs of the particular community, so no child is left behind. Diane's designs are sensory rich, age appropriate and support multi-generational play for all.

**Director of Programs:** Marnie Norris Fisher graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater from University California, Los Angeles and has worked for over 10 years in the non-profit sector in both education and fundraising. Her skills include: delivering site-specific programs and school-based education programs to both elementary and secondary students; creating curricula elements and in-class activities that are based on the state academic standards; designing program evaluation methods, and; creating program delivery and database management systems to improve implementation. Marnie was instrumental in helping to create "Together, We Are Able," Shane's Inspiration's unique, one-of-kind ability awareness program.

**Director of Project Development:** Brad Thornton graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Law Administration from Western Illinois University. Two years later, he joined the Landsburg Company, a television and motion pictures production company, as a Production Services Manager. In 1988, he was hired as Vice President of Operations at Hirsch and Associates. There he oversaw real estate portfolios, developed expansion plans and managed company staff. He worked for TriStar Pictures and Universal Pictures as Director of Publicity and Marketing for the Academy Awards Campaign from 1992 to 1999, implementing a worldwide publicity campaign. In 1998, he worked as a consultant providing marketing services for Ismo Software, and began working for Shane's Inspiration as the Director of Project Development in 2002. Through his leadership Brad has helped grow projects working with diverse communities that have generated over \$40 millions dollars.



## Our Services

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Shane's Inspiration works with municipalities, communities, and families to create these fully-accessible and exciting play environments. Our architects and development team design to any budget and size specifications. Past projects have ranged from \$1 million / 2-acre projects to a \$65,000 / 60 X 70 ft. elementary school playground.

**Knowledge:** Our Director of Design has extensive experience working with municipalities both locally and nationally. She brings over 20 years experience as a certified Landscape Architect, is a trained playground designer and is very familiar with both local and federal codes.

**Design:** Each of Shane's Inspiration's unique playground designs are guided by experts...the children with disabilities who use them and medical experts who work with those children every day.

To ensure that the project is truly relevant, our staff facilitates community design workshops for each playground, where children, parents, residents, civic and business leaders, healthcare professionals, educators, and others have the opportunity to dream up their ideal playground. We help them explore play elements, landscaping ideas, recreation needs, and aesthetic values. The community members vote and narrow down the elements that are the highest priority.

We then work with the government agencies to make sure those playground elements fit the project scope, their master plan, and maintenance needs. Our Director of Design also consults with our 20 plus Professional Advisory Board members — a team of experts in medicine, rehabilitation, psychology, education, and other industries—to combine these real-world needs with proven therapeutic and child development theories and existing disability research. Weaving all of this input together, our team works with landscape architects to transform the space into a rich, thriving recreation resource that truly serves the community for which it is intended.



**Project Management:** Shane's Inspiration can facilitate each aspect of the project's evolution, from conception to completion. Our team is experienced in facilitating the bidding process, working with sub-contractors, consensus-building among designers, acting as a community liaison, budgeting, construction management, and safety inspection.

**Fundraising:** Shane's Inspiration has helped communities raise over \$40 million to support the development of Universally Accessible Playgrounds. Our development team can offer templates and guidance for foundation and corporate cultivation, special events, and individual donor solicitation.

**Grand Opening:** Our staff can work with you to plan the grand opening, including building community support, public relations, and event planning.

**Program Development:** Shane's Inspiration's program department will work with cities, families, and other non-profit organizations to help them implement community outreach, education, and transportation programs that ensure maximum usage of the playgrounds.

## Our Standards

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Our commitment is to create safe, enriching play environments that support the physical, social and emotional development of children of all abilities.

To accomplish these objectives, we design playgrounds that meet the following standards:



- All materials used meet safety standards for city/state/federal requirements, such as American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (USCPSC), NPSI (National Playground Safety Institute) and the Americans with Disabilities Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).
- Shane's Inspiration's equipment and sensory designs provide the highest level of interactive play available for **all** children.
- Each of Shane's Inspiration's designs is unique and community-driven.
- We collaborate with landscape architects to create a theme for each playground and its surrounding environment.
- Each design is checked against a design matrix guided by the Shane's Inspiration Professional Advisory Board (PAB) to help us determine the play environment needs of children with a wide spectrum of disabilities.
- Our play environment designs are challenging, sensory-rich, age-appropriate and encourage cerebral and physical development.
- Shane's Inspiration's Director of Design provides a Design Review for all playgrounds.
- Shane's Inspiration designs are environmentally-conscious. It is our commitment to incorporate and preserve each site's natural surroundings.
- We make every effort to insure usage of the playgrounds by applying an education and community outreach model to each project. This helps connect families with this resource, such as play dates, transportation and educational programs.
- All playgrounds receive the Shane's Inspiration Design Seal of Approval when they have met our criteria.



## Accessible Play Elements

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While each of our accessible playgrounds offers a unique design and theme, most offer some form of the following adaptive play elements...

**Horizontal Ladders / Upper Body Peddlers** encourage multiple motor skills such as reaching, pushing, pulling, releasing, grasping and the development of upper body strength.

**Rubberized Surfacing** encourages complex motor skills like walking, running and climbing, which is promoted through ambulatory games such as hide-and-go-seek or tag.

**Adaptive swings** with seats, high backs, and safety belts give children with disabilities the exhilaration of flying and a sharper sense of body awareness, which is vital to their development.

**Communication skills** are taught through talk tubes, games and signage. They teach children to follow verbal instructions, learn non-verbal communication, practice sign language, and learn the use of pictorial symbols.

**Magical Water and Sensory Walls** embedded with shells, animal shapes and whimsical sound pucks stimulate tactile senses for sensory-impaired children.

Shaded, enclosed **story circles** provide reduced stimuli for children with conditions such as Autism, Down Syndrome or Cerebral Palsy.





## Program Support

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Shane's Inspiration's team offers support in implementing community programs that utilize the playground to promote inclusion and understanding among children with and without disabilities:

**Shane's Club:** Each month, we bring families to our playgrounds from across Southern California. Children of all abilities come together through play, arts & crafts, and entertainment. To date, we have over 900 Shane's Club members and have reached thousands of children since the program began. Thanks to the generosity of Laidlaw Transit Services, we are able to provide a free, accessible bus each month on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**Shane's Buddies:** At each play date, Shane's Inspiration offers volunteer buddies...children with typical abilities who want to spend the day playing and getting to children with disabilities. The experience gives children the chance to reach beyond the disability barrier and simply play together, creating greater understanding towards people with disabilities. The volunteer program, which began in 2002, has become one of the favorite features of our monthly play dates, as it gives so much to both children.

**School Field Trips:** Each month, we schedule field trips to our Universally Accessible Playgrounds for schools that serve children with disabilities. It gives children who rarely have access to outdoor recreation a chance to strengthen their bodies and minds out in the sunshine. Accessible buses are generously provided by the Los Angeles City Councilmembers and County Supervisors.

**Together, We Are Able:** Shane's Inspiration's unique ability awareness education program is designed to promote integration and understanding by bringing children with and without disabilities together in a meaningful way. Through this program, we combine in-class disability awareness exercises with an interactive field trip to one of our Universally Accessible Playgrounds – giving children a hands-on opportunity to learn from and with their peers with disabilities.

### The end result:

“Being a buddy taught me that disability doesn't mean anything. It just means something to be a great person inside.”

Jeff, Age 11, program participant.

“Our community outreach/playdates at Shane's are so important. Every child that meets our kids knows, for the rest of their life, that each of our children are individuals too, with a unique history, a one of a kind present and a future yet to be determined.”

Robbie Wise,  
Washington Elementary School







## Shane's Inspiration ~ Los Angeles ~ Opened 2000



Size: 2 Acres

Budget: \$1 million





## 2010 Vancouver Games Projects\*



Size: 12,000 Sq. Ft.

Budget: \$300,000

\*Richmond, Canada venue.



# Jerez, Mexico

\*Current Size: 15,000 Sq. Ft.    \*Budget: \$350,000



\*With All 3 Phases Complete:

Total Size  
45,000 Sq. Ft.



\*Overall Budget  
\$700,000





# Jerez, Mexico - Construction Phase 1

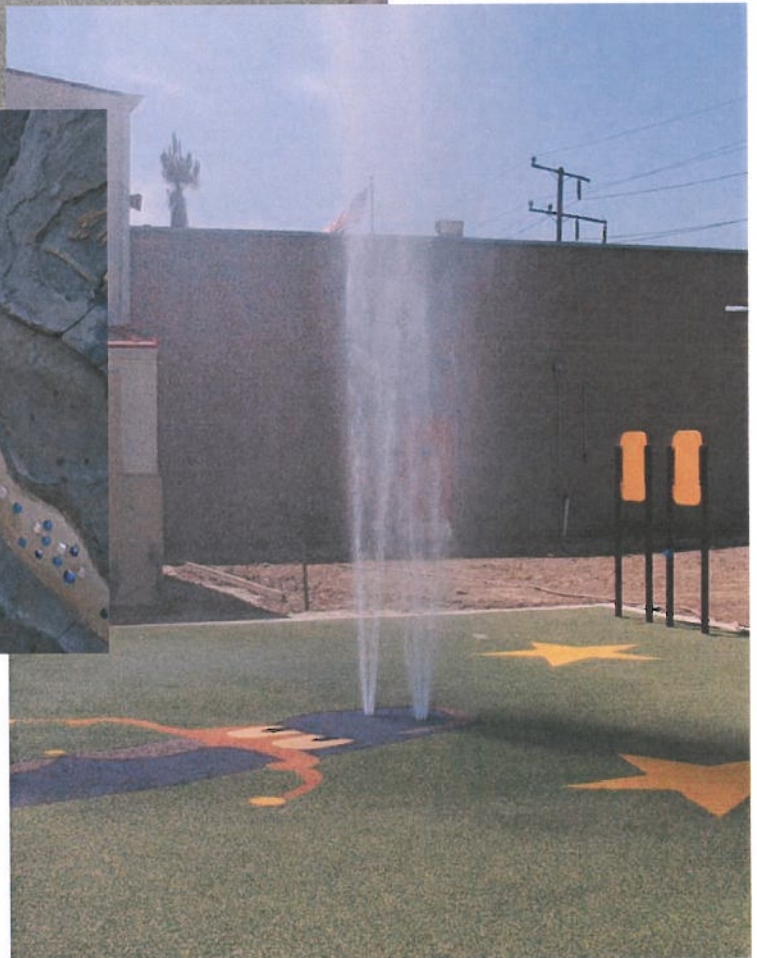




# Corona-Norco Family YMCA

Size: 5,700 Sq. Ft.

Budget: \$400,000







## Pan Pacific Park

Size: 20,000 Sq. Ft.

Budget: \$430,000





# Brandon's Village



Size: 1 Acre  
Budget: \$1 million

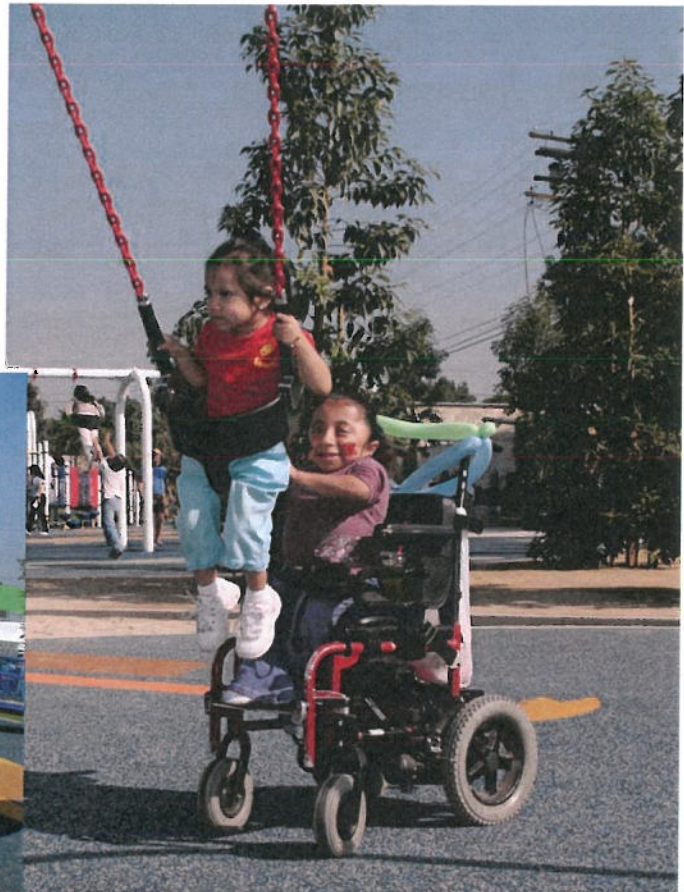




# Parque de los Suenos

Size: 1.5 Acres

Budget: \$1.4 million





## Orthopaedic Hospital - A Ground Breaking Public Private Partnership

Orthopaedic Medical Center, Shane's Inspiration, and the City of Los Angeles created a dynamic public-private partnership that established a ground-breaking playground...the first fully accessible, sensory-rich play environment in the nation that will reach 150,000 children with and without orthopaedic conditions each year.

Each partner brought a substantial offering to the table, securing over \$1.2 million from private funders and a joint-use agreement that will allow the playground, which is located at the hospital, to serve the surrounding, impoverished community.





# Orthopaedic Hospital





# Fairmount Park, Riverside, CA

Size: 25,000 Sq. Ft.

Budget: \$1 million





## Shane's Inspiration Sensory Elements





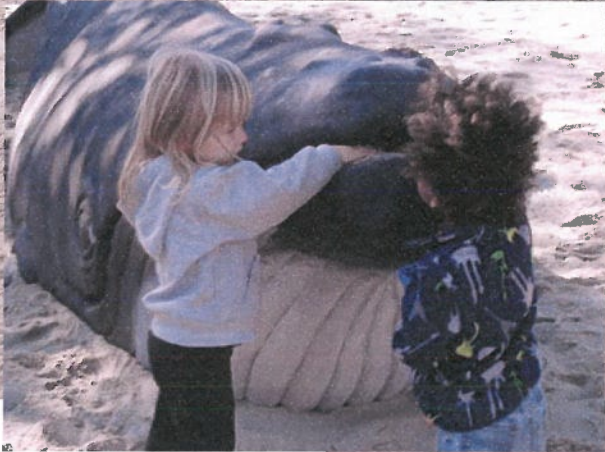
# Shane's Inspiration

## Sensory Elements



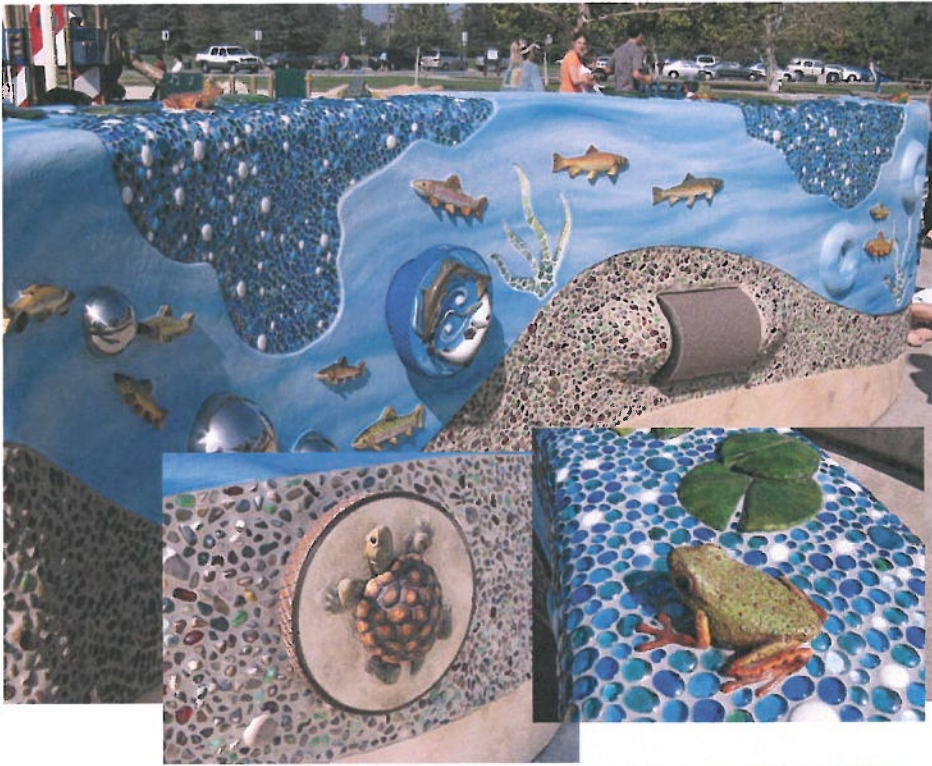


# Shane's Inspiration Sensory Elements





# Shane's Inspiration Sensory Elements







Ms. Tiffany Harris  
Executive Director  
Shane's Inspiration  
15213 Burbank Boulevard  
Van Nuys, CA 91411

Dear Ms. Harris:

The February 2008 opening celebration of the Everychild Foundation Universally Accessible Playground at Orthopaedic Medical Center is a memory that many of us will treasure forever. This playground is the culmination of a vision that our executive leadership had for a mission-compatible project that represented the highest and best use of this land on our campus, and the most beneficial gift to our patients and the community we serve. We are enormously grateful for our partnership with Shane's Inspiration that has made this playground possible.

As the safety net provider experiencing more than 55,000 outpatient children's visits each year—regardless of their ability to pay—Orthopaedic Hospital realizes the value of play for children with crippling disorders. Now, as we see children with spina bifida delight in being pushed on the supportive high-back swings, or those with cerebral palsy being able to feel their bodies in motion as they roll down the soft surface and trigger musical notes, we are confirmed in our belief that play enables the development of physical, social and emotional skills.

Our rehabilitation specialists, i.e., physical and occupational therapists, are thrilled to be able to utilize the playground for their therapy sessions with children two-to-twelve years of age. While the children believe they are playing, their movements are the very therapy that had been prescribed. From our observations, children never tire of playing, while they get board quickly if a set of repetitive motions are required in a gym or physical therapy department. The playground, with its balance activities, upper and lower extremity strengthening and cardiovascular fitness opportunities, serves as a perfect therapy setting.

Socially, many of our children in wheelchairs and on crutches have been kept from traditional playgrounds when they can't maneuver through the circle of sand or wood chips that surround the equipment. A mother of one of our long-term patients told us that she and her husband put a piece of rug down in their garage and bought a small slide so their child in leg braces could learn to climb up and slide down. While gaining some physical skills, this little girl was missing out on the "classroom of life"—the playground. If children don't grow up seeing how others manipulate equipment and move their bodies, they have a limited sense of possibilities. They learn to negotiate while waiting in line for the slide; they learn to communicate by playing

learn to negotiate while waiting in line for the slide; they learn to communicate by playing pirates on the bridge. Most importantly, they learn to trust themselves and others through their interactions. For our young children, the playground serves as a marvelous social classroom.

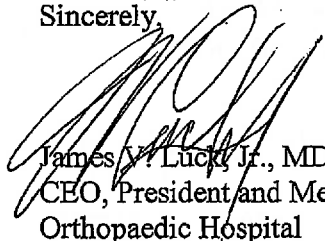
We are particularly proud of our Joint Use Agreement with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Through this agreement, we are able to open the playground to the public, seven days a week. Patients, their siblings and the entire community are welcome. This integrated play has benefits for everyone. We notice in our work how frequently there is a sense of discomfort when a typically-able person comes face-to-face with someone in a wheelchair. This social barrier simply does not exist when the children meet on a playground. They are there to play and the mutual focus is on the game, the piece of equipment, the fun rather than on each other. At the end of the day, their similarities as children is what they remember most, not their differences.

Orthopaedic Hospital primarily serves the communities of south and central Los Angeles. The surrounding area has very few playgrounds that are safe for families and small children. Our ability to open this playground to the public provides a much-needed safe, clean, creative green space for a community desperate for a safe haven for their children.

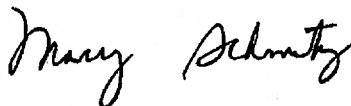
One of the distinguishing factors of our universally accessible playground is its built-in demographic of users. Given the number of our pediatric patients, the siblings who accompany them on visits, student volunteers, children from nearby schools and from community organizations who serve those with disabilities and children from the larger community, we anticipate that Orthopaedic Hospital's universally accessible playground will be the most used playground of its type in the nation. Orthopaedic Hospital has made a commitment to promote our playground as a model for hospitals and other institutions nationwide.

Tiffany, all of what we are able to accomplish through our universally accessible playground would not have been possible without our valued partnership with Shane's Inspiration. You provide not only the focus of vision for what is possible, but the experienced selection of play equipment and placement. Your ongoing educational efforts, bringing children with and without disabilities here to play, is a superb model for integration of children of all abilities. We remain profoundly grateful for what we have been able to achieve together for the children and look forward to even greater accomplishments on their behalf in the future.

Sincerely,



James W. Luck, Jr., MD  
CEO, President and Medical Director  
Orthopaedic Hospital



Mary Schmitz, Ph.D.  
President  
Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital Foundation

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
**RECREATION AND PARKS**  
1200 W. 7<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
SUITE 748  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

(213) 928-9033  
FAX - (213) 928-9031

**JON KIRK MUKRI**  
GENERAL MANAGER

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the last ten years, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks has had the honor of partnering with Shane's Inspiration in developing award winning Universally Accessible Playgrounds (UAPs) with the vision of eliminating bias against children with disabilities.

The first project, Shane's Inspiration Playground in Griffith Park, opened in 2000 and cost over \$1 million. One of our most seasoned Landscape Architect and Project Managers proclaimed it was the only time in her 17 years with the City of Los Angeles where a private organization followed through on their commitments from conception through completion. Shane's Inspiration was responsible for raising the funds, designing the UAP, construction managing and organizing the grand opening. This powerful partnership was just the beginning of what the future would hold.

Our partnership with Shane's Inspiration has generated over \$13 million towards this effort. These are resources that would not have been available to the City of Los Angeles without the advocacy and efforts of this extraordinary non-profit. Currently there are 10 Shane's Inspiration UAPs opened throughout the City of Los Angeles, with another nine opening over the next year. With 380 playgrounds in our public parks, Shane's Inspiration's UAPs are the most utilized playgrounds, receiving numerous awards. This accomplishment has made Los Angeles one of the most playable cities in the nation for children of all abilities.

The impact that Shane's Inspiration has made in our community is immeasurable. Their ongoing education program, which is now in over 100 local schools, and Shane's Club, a monthly play date held at one of our City's UAPs, helps to ensure these playgrounds are utilized and the mission is successfully fulfilled.

In my many years of public service, working with Shane's Inspiration is one of my most rewarding experiences. I have had the extreme honor of traveling throughout the United States and abroad as an ambassador of the movement towards leveling the playing field for children with disabilities. I look forward to deepening this most extraordinary and impactful partnership, which is changing the landscape of play throughout the world.

Sincerely,

**JON KIRK MUKRI**  
General Manager

JKM:sr





CITY of CALABASAS

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great privilege that I write this letter to acknowledge the efforts and impact that Shane's Inspiration is making in communities throughout the nation. I can speak first hand regarding the attributes of this organization as the Director of Community Services of the City of Calabasas, California.

A few years ago, two mothers that have children with disabilities came to me and said "We want a Shane's Inspiration Universally Accessible Playground (UAP) in our community." At that time I didn't know what a UAP was and had not heard of Shane's Inspiration. A few days later I found myself at one of their playgrounds which was full of children of all ages and abilities joyfully playing on the uniquely designed play equipment. I walked away that day repeating the same mantra those two mothers were saying, "We have got to build a Shane's Inspiration UAP in our community."

Over my 20 years of working for city government I have never experienced and appreciated a relationship with another organization such as the one we have built with Shane's Inspiration. From that initial meeting at the playground until the grand opening of Brandon's Village in Gates Canyon Park a few years later, our partnership with Shane's Inspiration was one of the most professional and inspiring experiences of my career.

The population of Calabasas is just over 23,000 and building Brandon's Village with a \$1 million dollar budget was a major event in our community. With Shane's Inspiration developing the project from beginning to end and providing the following services the process was seamless:

- Grant writing and fundraising materials
- Fundraising - \$1million raised at one event
- Organizing community focus groups for design input
- UAP design – from schematic to construction documents
- Created and facilitated request for proposal and bidding process
- Project and construction management
- Guidance on grand opening ceremony
- Implemented educational and community programs that are ongoing today

I am reminded daily by families on how important the Brandon's Village Universally Accessible Playground has become to the City of Calabasas, as well as the surrounding communities. If my legacy with the City of Calabasas is based solely on the Brandon's Village project, I will feel that my work has been accomplished, as this playground continues to serve the community on many levels but with one goal in mind: Eliminating bias against children with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Jeff Rubin  
Director of Community Services  
City of Calabasas

100 Civic Center Way  
Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 224-1600  
Fax (818) 225-7324

52



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## Los Angeles County Office of Education

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Leading Educators • Supporting Students • Serving Communities

Darline P. Robles, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

March 5, 2009

Los Angeles County  
Board of Education

To Potential Supporters of Shane's Inspiration:

Leslie K. Gilbert-Lurie  
President

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), I am writing in support of Shane's Inspiration's education program, "Together, We Are Able." This ability-awareness effort builds understanding and promotes compassion in children with and without disabilities.

Angie Papadakis  
Vice President

Sandra Jones Anderson

Sharon R. Beauchamp

Douglas R. Boyd

Rudell S. Freer

Thomas A. Saenz

For the past few years, LACOE's special education classes have participated in the program, and its impact is evident to all. Our students, many of whom truly need opportunities to be included socially with their peers, get so much out of the day. The playgrounds are fully accessible and -- due to the extensive ability awareness work Shane's Inspiration does with their buddies -- fully inclusive.

Students thrive in this environment, running and wheeling around the playground with a joy and freedom that is wonderful to see. From the moment they are paired with their buddies with typical abilities, they are included socially and accepted as they are. That experience is priceless.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Shane's Inspiration and encourage your investment in its vital mission.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (562) 922-6112.

Sincerely,

Madeline Hall  
Chief Grants Officer

53



To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to be writing to you regarding our ongoing, successful relationship with *Shane's Inspiration* that began over ten years ago.

Meléndrez has designed numerous, high profile landscape architectural, urban design and community outreach projects in the Southern California area, which have received many prestigious awards, including projects designed in partnership with *Shane's Inspiration*.

The architectural division of *Shane's Inspiration* is seasoned with decades of experience in landscape architecture, with a major focus on designing site plans and playground spaces that provide children of all abilities, a chance to play, interact and learn together. The *Shane's Inspiration* design team has educated our designers on their unique process, and the necessary developmental research and design guidelines they use in creating a truly enjoyable and educational play environment, which serves a wide spectrum of children with and without disabilities. This attention to detail is what sets a *Shane's Inspiration* playground apart from all others. Our collaborative relationship is one we have learned from, contribute to and appreciate beyond others.

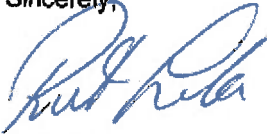
The *Shane's Inspiration* design process begins by working with the community and municipality, building design consensus. Based upon the information gathered, *Shane's Inspiration* and Meléndrez then collaborate to create a Schematic Concept plan, laying out the individual play spaces, major entries, accessible paths, landscape buffers, shade requirements, and locations for necessary sound, water and textural sensory elements.

Once the concept plan is approved by the stakeholders, the design team begins the Design Development process. During this phase of work, *Shane's Inspiration*, in conjunction with the equipment manufacturer, begins the design and development of the equipment structure which contains a customized innovative theme. At this stage, the design of the sensory elements is explored through sketch and detail collaboration, with *Shane's* bringing as much playfulness to each item as possible. The Meléndrez design team applies their expertise in context-based site design, landscape materials, site constructability and accessibility code standards to the development of the design concept. During the final Construction Document phase, we jointly ensure all ADA standards have been met and that *Shane's* design intent and unique sensory elements have been detailed and incorporated into the final documents.

It is through this collaboration that we have been able to produce the award winning playground designs that have distinguished *Shane's Inspiration* and Meléndrez as the premier designers of Universally Accessible Playgrounds.

We welcome any questions you may have regarding *Shane's Inspiration*. Please feel free to call me at (213) 673-4400.

Sincerely,



Robert Larlee  
Managing Principal

MELÉNDREZ

Landscape Architecture,  
Planning & Urban Design  
James Oviatt Building, 11th Floor  
637 South Olive Street  
Los Angeles, California 90014  
T 213-673-4400 F 213-673-4410  
www.melendrez.com



## References

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### **Brandon's Village, Calabasas**

Jeff Rubin  
Community Services Director  
City of Calabasas  
100 Civic Center Way  
Calabasas, CA 91302  
818-224-1654

### **Los Angeles Universally Accessible Playground Initiative**

Jon Kirk Mukri  
General Manager  
Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks  
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 1550  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
213-202-2633

### **Orthopaedic Hospital**

Dr. James Luck  
CEO, President and Medical Director  
Los Angeles Orthopaedic Medical Center  
2400 S. Flower Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
213-741-8380

### **Spring Canyon, Ft. Collins, Colorado**

Robert Powell  
President  
All Children Together, Inc.  
1610 South College Avenue  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
970-988-9349

"When all children play, the boundaries slip away." Aya, Age 11



56







## **Proposal to Improve Public Access to and Preservation of the Open Space at Anna Jean Cummings Park**

The Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park would like to propose a number of improvements for the coming fiscal year that would greatly enhance the community's enjoyment and experience of the open space area in AJC Park, and promote preservation of its natural terrain and wildlife.

We are requesting the following:

- 1) Design and placement of an interpretive kiosk or sign at the main entrance to the open space at the west end of the upper parking lot, which would provide a map of the open space with new, descriptive trail names and distances. The information in the sign/kiosk would include a brief description of the land's dairy farm origins, its existing ecosystems and a list and/or photos of significant or rare plants and animals. It would also explain why off-trail exploration is detrimental to habitat and wildlife, and that county leash laws are in full effect in the open space for the same reasons.
- 2) Installation of simple, low-cost trail markers that help visitors orient themselves in the open space, especially at trail junctions.
- 3) Installation of temporary signs and barriers to discourage new trails and to rehabilitate dangerous or highly erosive trails, with the overall goal of reducing unnecessary erosion and allowing for habitat restoration.
- 4) A coordinated plan to install permanent fencing along some openings of the south and west borders of the open space with private property on Greenbrae Lane and Soquel Drive (including Soquel High School), to discourage unauthorized access to the park that has led to illegal camping. We are available to assist the Parks Department in contacting some of the owners for their involvement.

We recognize that producing durable, vandal-resistant, high quality interpretive signage requires a thoughtful and thorough planning process. Friends of AJC is ready to participate in any and all aspects of this project, and can help raise both awareness and funds, once a plan is in place. We look forward to working with Santa Cruz County's Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services to ensure that these improvements will help educate the public about the unique qualities of the open space and contribute to a more satisfying community experience at Anna Jean Cummings Park.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING:

The Written Correspondence Listing is established to act as a report of materials received by the Commission as a whole, but may also include items requested for inclusion by individual Commissioners.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has received the following items of correspondence which require no official action by the Commission at this time:

1. Email from Ted Coopman, dated March 12, 2014, regarding off-leash dogs.
2. Proposal from Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park, dated April 2, 2014, regarding Improve Public Access to and Preservation of the Open Space at Anna Jean Cummings Park,