

INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT TIERRA REJADA PARK

Why, What and When

WHY?

Across the country nearly 1 in 5 people have a disability, yet most playgrounds are not built to accommodate them¹. There are many benefits to providing playgrounds and encouraging children to play, such as brain development, developmental milestones, and the ability to develop social skills. Children with disabilities have less opportunity to experience these important benefits without access to fully accessible playgrounds and areas to play. Current playground design standards require that all playgrounds meet the requirements of the American with Disability Act (ADA). However, ADA compliance is typically only required to access the playground structure via ramps and other barrier free travel routes, with some accessibility to lower level play components.



Inclusive Playgrounds go beyond accessibility and include play features and design elements that appeal not only to individuals with mobility impairments, but also individuals with cognitive, developmental, sight, and hearing impairments. Inclusive Playgrounds are not only designed to engage kids and adults with disabilities, but they also encourage able-bodied children and adults to interact in an inclusive, non-segregated setting. These playgrounds encourage children with disabilities and able-bodied children to play side-by-side, allowing children with varying abilities or impairments to engage in play with their peers.

WHY NOW?

The City Council has had a goal for a number of years of providing an inclusive playground. However, funding challenges have limited what we can do. Inclusive playgrounds can cost anywhere from \$750,000 to many millions of dollars. Currently, there is an opportunity to apply for a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF grant funds can be used for renovations or additions to existing parks. This includes construction of playgrounds. Staff is proposing to convert an existing playground area at Tierra Rejada Park into an Inclusive Playground.

WHAT NOW?

By participating in this Community Survey your input will help us select a theme, identify components to include, and provide guidance on the spatial layout of the park. Our end goal is to design and construct an inclusive playground that EVERYONE can enjoy and feel comfortable playing at in a non-segregated way.

[Click Here To Take the Survey!](#)

WHEN?

The development and construction timeline of the inclusive playground weighs heavily on the receipt of the grant funds for this project. We should know if we receive the grant funds by September 2020 and if we receive the funds, the playground would be under construction by the end of Winter 2020. If we are not successful in obtaining the grant funding, staff will be on the hunt for alternative funding sources to bring the project to fruition.

¹ Barber, Megan. "Why cities need accessible playgrounds." *www.curbed.com*. July , 20, 2018. accessed 11/1/2019