



# AGENDA REPORT

BEACHES, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
Meeting Date: October 13, 2015

Agenda Item 5. B.  
**Approvals:**  
Dept. Head WP  
Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. Assistant MJ

**Department:** Public Works  
**Prepared By:** Aeryn Donnelly-Terrey, Park Planner

**Subject:** *ACCESSIBILITY OF THE SEA SUMMIT PARK PLAYGROUNDS*

**Fiscal Impact:** None.

**Summary:** This report is to provide information requested by the Commission at its July 14, 2015 meeting regarding accessibility of the parks in the Sea Summit (Marblehead Coastal) residential development. Staff recommends the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission receive and file this report.

**Background:** According to a recent study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 7 US children are affected by a disability. The 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessible design requires that all playgrounds be designed and constructed in such a manner that the equipment is readily accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities. Landscape Structures, Inc., the manufacturer of the Sea Summit playgrounds (as well as other playground manufacturers) has created playground components that address physical disabilities in addition to autism, sensory disorders & vision impairments.

Inclusive playgrounds benefit children of all abilities. Inclusive playgrounds not only offer wheelchair accessibility, but they also offer play features for motor coordination disorders such as Down syndrome. They have cozy, quiet spaces for sensory disorders as well as auditory features for visual or hearing impaired.

**Discussion:** Each playground designed for the Sea Summit at Marblehead Coastal playgrounds meets and/or exceeds applicable ADA requirements for accessible design. Each playground has an accessible Path of Travel for ease of access for individuals using mobility devices. Below is an overview of the components that are incorporated into each playground design at the Sea Summit at Marblehead Coastal Parks:

Canyon View Park Playground:

- 9 components accessible by transfer (only 5 required)
- 6 different accessible ground level components (only 3 required)
- 4 different types of accessible ground level components (4 required)

Pico Park Playground:

- 9 components accessible by transfer (only 5 required)
- 11 different accessible ground level components (only 3 required)
- 9 different types of accessible ground level components (9 required)

Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park Playground:

- 20 different accessible ground level components (0 required)
- 13 different types of accessible ground level components (13 required)

As discussed above, the playgrounds in the Sea Summit development meet or exceed applicable ADA accessibility requirements.

A play component is an element designed to generate specific opportunities for play, socialization, and learning. Play components may be manufactured or natural, and may be stand alone or part of a composite play structure. Swings, spring riders, water tables, playhouses, slides, and climbers are among the many different play components. At least one of each type of play component provided at ground level in a play area must be on an accessible route. Different “types” of play components are based on the general experience provided by the play component. Different types include, but are not limited to, experiences such as rocking, swinging, climbing, spinning, and sliding.

Ramps, transfer systems, steps, decks, and roofs are not considered play components. These elements are generally used to link other elements on a composite play structure. Although socialization and pretend play can occur on these elements, they are not primarily intended for play.

The Courtney’s Sandcastle Playground at the Vista Hermosa Sports Park has elevated play components that are connected by ramps and platforms. Because the majority of the play components in the Marblehead Parks are Ground Level Play Components, these ramps are not necessary.

The Courtney’s Sandcastle playground was originally planned to be located within the Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park but was eventually constructed at the Vista Hermosa Sports Park due to delays with the Seas Summit/Marblehead Coastal development caused by a private bankruptcy. The space within the Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park that was to be for the Courtney’s Sandcastle playground has been re-purposed as a turf warm-up field to support the three new soccer fields.

**Recommended**

**Action:** STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the Beaches, Parks & Recreation Commission receive and file this report.

**Attachments:** None.

**Notification:** None.