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ROSENDAHL OPENS PLAYGROUND ACCESIBLE TO ALL CHILDREN

Kids of All Ability Levels Can Now Play

LOS ANGELES –Councilmember Bill Rosendahl celebrated the completion of a new playground in West Los Angeles earlier this month with parents, nannies, city officials and whole bunch of happy kids who can now play with their peers regardless of their ability levels.

The new play area, called a Universal Access Playground, at the Stoner Park Recreation Center is approximately 6,400 square feet and features rubberized resilient surfacing, water misting sprays for cooling down, swing sets and shaded areas in addition to new landscaping, irrigation, benches and a drinking fountain. At the new site, children with or without disabilities can comfortably access the play area, further enhancing their emotional, physical and social development.

“Our goal was to create an innovative design that stimulates interactive play for children

of all ages and abilities,” said Rosendahl. “I am proud to say we have achieved this goal and provided a safe environment for all families to enjoy time with their kids.”

The design reflects the work of the Department of Public Works’ Bureau of Engineering, Architectural Division, the local park advisory board and Shane’s Inspiration, a non-profit organization started by Catherine Curry-William whose son Shane succumbed to spinal muscular atrophy at a young age. She was later inspired by a newspaper article about a family who also lost a child and their decision to turn grief into action by creating a playground. The playground’s manufacturer, Landscape Structures, Inc., incorporated access ramps, platforms and custom play panels into the area’s play pits. The over \$500,000 project was funded by Proposition 40 passed by California voters in 2002 to provide local grants for safe neighborhood parks.

Anne Stickley, a member of the park advisory board helped design the new playground since 2005, also has three kids who will be playing there too. “This project brought together families committed to make this park a safe and enjoyable place for everyone to play. I am so pleased because the City followed community input until the final product was complete. This gives our neighborhood the small town feeling it wants in a big city. It really makes you feel welcome,” said Stickley.

The park is the twelfth universal access playground in the City of Los Angeles. It is part of an effort by the Department of Recreation and Parks to make Los Angeles a national leader in providing playgrounds for children with disabilities. The department is planning at least six more playgrounds citywide.

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