

## Agenda Item Number: 9a

### PARKS TOUR

#### Costa Mesa P&R Parks Tour Report 5

#### Commissioners Abernathy, Matthew

Saturday, Feb 18, 2012

#### General Comments:

In general, Cost Mesa neighborhood parks are lacking active uses for older kids/young adults (specifically basketball...which could take place in schools, except that many schools are now fenced). In those parks with basketball hoops or the skate park young people were there early Saturday morning playing. Few parks support biking...all parks should have racks for neighborhood kids to secure their bikes. Should we develop standards for Costa Mesa parks for walk-ability and bike-ability? We currently have a program for tree dedication, could we develop a program for dedicated bike racks as is done in other cities?

All park tour photos are available at:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/101503190288071502668/CostaMesaParksTour0212>

**1. Brentwood Park 9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.** Park is in good condition, playground looks well-used, plants are flourishing. Early morning seems to be dedicated to dog walking/exercise (3 dog owners and six dogs). Many are off-leash.

1. Some graffiti on playground
2. Park structure is termite riddled. Is there a replacement/upgrade plan?
3. No bike rack
4. Dog bags by community group
5. Volleyball pit is rarely used. Could this be replaced with a basketball court?
6. Playground is a bit compacted and weedy



**2. Harper Park 9:35 a.m.-10:05 a.m.** The trees at this park are extraordinary.

1. Bad patch job at entry to playground. Grind the whole thing?
2. Sand clogged water fountain
3. Tire swing playground equipment is gone. Family requests that it be repaired (kids love it).
4. No bike rack
5. Can surface roots be cut off trees at edge of fields?
6. Broken fences and coded gate latch at back of field. Is this city or school?
7. Parents at two parks that abut schools requested open restrooms for children,
8. Field appears due for a rest (patchy)



**3. Heller Park 10:10 a.m.-10:40 a.m.** This park had it all going on! (kids climbing trees, group yoga workout parents and children on playground and riding scooters, dogs ).

1. Has bike racks!
2. The building is showing some wear and tear. Has termites/rot and needs roof shingles repaired
3. Drinking fountain needs to be repaired. Too strong



**4. Jordan Park 10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.** (kids arriving for baseball practice, families with small children at playground)

1. Seed grass (bare spots)
2. Slab under picnic table has tipped, needs grinding
3. Bike racks at rec center
4. Shoes in trees?



**5. Lindberg Park 11:20 a.m.-11:50 p.m.** Active park (families with small children on the playground, neighbors reporting graffiti.)

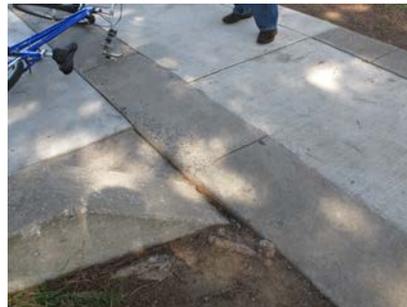
1. Wall of park had just been tagged with graffiti.
2. Moms requested a small gate to the school parking lot (parking and playground are close) and more rubberized surfaces.
3. No bike racks, bikes were leaning on fence in school parking lot
4. The large field has irrigation/drainage problems and is very muddy.
5. Requested that school bathrooms be opened during the weekend for children using park.



**6. Pinkley Park 11:55 a.m.-12:25 p.m. THIS PARK STOP NEEDS TO BE MOVED EARLIER IN THE TOUR (B/T HELLER AND JORDON PARKS)**

Talked with dog owners and kids in the park.

1. Some concrete grinding needed by trees at the end of the arched walkway
2. No bike racks, bikes were dropped on the walkways
3. The playground seemed to be low on sand, edge of synthetic surface was exposed. Also a pipe embedded in the play surface (unsafe?)
4. The large trellis structure is badly aged. Chipped concrete pillars and a few warped, rotted and termite eaten beams. Is there a plan for replacement?
5. Bent lamp in tree grove
6. Large sprinkler hole near tree grove



**7. Del Mar Gardens 12:30p.m.-1:00 p.m. Spoke to two users: THEY LOVE IT! Appears improved from last visit, fewer weedy plots. Angela (2006) and Jeff (reformed/new)**

1. Bike rack?
2. Squirrels are raiding fruit. Can vector control be called?
3. Better process for allotting unused plots? (through committee)
4. Set up Del Mar committee for 6 months trial run, then move to 1 year
5. DMG email list for all users/ promote community?
6. Some way to coexist w/ bees rather than killing (there is a bee club?) as part parks/ gardens.



## **PARKS TOUR REFERENCES:**

### **Community Liveability**

<http://www.vtpi.org/tdm/tdm97.htm>

[http://www.aarp.org/home-garden/livable-communities/info-08-2009/Planning\\_Complete\\_Streets\\_for\\_an\\_Aging\\_America.html](http://www.aarp.org/home-garden/livable-communities/info-08-2009/Planning_Complete_Streets_for_an_Aging_America.html)

America needs streets designed to be safe and convenient for travel by automobile, foot, bicycle and transit regardless of age or ability. As the nation ages, Complete Streets planning presents an opportunity to increase the safety and availability of older adults' travel options.

### **Bikeability**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bikeability>

Bikeability Denmark

<http://www.bikeability.dk/2010/07/03/bikeability-whats-that/>

### **bik·abil·i·ty**

Variant(s): also **bike·abil·i·ty**

Function: *noun*

1. suitability for human biking

### **Walkability**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walkability>

**Walkability** is a measure of how friendly an area is to [walking](#). Walkability has many health, environmental, and economic benefits. However, evaluating walkability is challenging because it requires the consideration of many [subjective](#) factors.<sup>[1]</sup> Factors influencing walkability include the presence or absence and quality of [footpaths](#), [sidewalks](#) or other pedestrian right-of-ways, traffic and road conditions, land use patterns, building accessibility, and safety, among others.<sup>[2]</sup> Walkability is an important concept in [sustainable urban design](#).<sup>[3]</sup>