

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City of Torrance  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services Department – Update of Library and Park Improvements in the North Torrance Area.**

The Community Services Department provides a wide range of informational, recreational, cultural, and educational programs and services for persons of all ages and abilities with an emphasis on serving the City's youth. In addition, the Department is responsible for providing proper management, maintenance, and stewardship of the City's libraries, recreational facilities, parks, landscaped areas, and natural resources.

The following list provides an update of enhancements to the library, parks and recreational programs that serve the North Torrance community.

**North Torrance Library and Park Improvement Projects Update**

➤ **North Torrance Branch Library**

- Library book stacks made earthquake safe.
- Upgrades throughout the facility including paint, carpet, lighting and remodel to accommodate increased customer flow.
- New check out desk installed.
- Upgrades to exterior landscaping and customer walkway areas.
- Established a mobile homework center for youth;
- Purchased educational materials including books and DVDs in the subject areas of mathematics, science and technology; to purchase an early literacy computer work station for pre-school aged children;
- Purchased new furnishings (tables, chairs, and lounge furniture).
- ExxonMobil 80th Anniversary Grant Project expanded capacity at the library throughout the facility

➤ **McMaster Park**

Updated Park Renovation Plan for:

- Renovation of the existing West and East Wings of the Recreation Buildings to include an outdoor patio.

- Expansion of the Herma Tillim Senior Citizen Center to include a community meeting room and a space for a North Torrance Police Community room.
- Establishing a formal entrance off of Artesia that would create an identifiable gateway into the park and would enhance the circulation of the interior parking lot, Installation of a new basketball court, new playground equipment, picnic facilities, turf renovation, additional sports lighting, perimeter fencing and landscaping.
- Renovation and upgrade of the existing restroom building.
- Implemented a "Movie in the Park" in collaboration with the NT Homeowners Association.

#### ➤ **Columbia Park**

- Continued partnership with AYSO\ALSO for the upgraded maintenance of the soccer fields.
- Soka Gakkai Inc. has sponsored the planting of over 110 cherry trees in the east end of the park.
- Implemented the first Annual Cherry Blossom Tree Festival in collaboration with the NT Homeowners Association, Sister City Association, and Soka Gakkai Incorporated.

#### ➤ **El Nido Park**

- Driveway was widened to accommodate vehicular traffic.
- Upgraded sports field lighting to be installed in 2013.
- Sport Court to be resurfaced in 2013.

#### ➤ **Guenser Park**

- Sport Court to be resurfaced in 2013.

#### ➤ **La Carretera Park**

- Sport Court to be resurfaced in 2013

#### ➤ **Pueblo Park**

##### **Phase I**

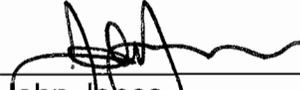
- Installation of new play equipment.

##### **Phase II**

- Replacing port-a-potty with new pre-fabricated park bathroom.
- Renovation of the basketball court.
- Empty dirt lot transformed into a grass play area.

- Development of walking path, perimeter fencing and landscaping.
- Plans for additional amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, tables.

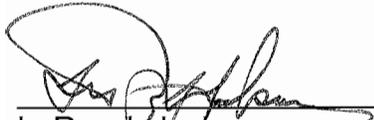
Respectfully submitted,



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John Jones  
Community Services Director

CONCUR:



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LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager