

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

AGENDA DATE: February 6, 2018

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Tracy Novak, Director (212-1708)

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Goal 4 – Enhance El Paso’s Quality of Life through Recreational, Cultural, and Educational Environments

SUBJECT:

Presentation updating progress on an ordinance amending Title 19 (Standards for Deeded Parkland) of the El Paso Municipal Code. In particular, Chapter and Section 19.20.050B - Minimum improvements for lands to be dedicated as parklands, requiring shade canopy over playgrounds as a minimum standards requirement.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The presentation will provide background information on proposed language to change the parkland dedication ordinance related to shade over playgrounds, as well as changes to the Design and Construction Standards for Park Facilities.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

1/8/13 – City Council approved Design and Construction Standards for Park Facilities
August 2017 – During budget sessions, had City Council directed City Staff to propose changes to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance requiring shade over playgrounds.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) _____ **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: T. Novak

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____



SHADE OVER PLAYGROUNDS

**PLD Ordinance Change
City Council Agenda
March 6, 2018**



STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 4 - Enhance El Paso's Quality of Life through Recreational, Cultural and Educational Environments



CITY COUNCIL DIRECTION

Shade Over Playgrounds

- During FY2018 Budget Hearings, City Council directed City staff to pursue ordinance change to make a requirement for all Parkland Dedication parks accepted by the City to have shade over playgrounds



BENEFITS OF SHADE OVER PLAYGROUNDS

Shade Over Playgrounds – Benefits

- Shade is a critical safety factor for the most vulnerable population... kids
- Shade over playgrounds provides significant sun protection for children exposed to solar rays during play activities
- The American Academy of Dermatology states:
 - Current estimates are that 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime
 - Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults 25-29 years old and the second most common form of cancer for adolescents and young adults 15-29 years old.
 - Unprotected exposure to sun at a young age is the greatest threat to developing cancer as an adult



MODIFICATIONS WILL AMEND

- 19.20.050B, Standards for Deeded Parkland
- Design and Construction Standards for Park Facilities (2013) to include options for fabric and metal shade structures over playgrounds



AMENDING 19.20.050

- e. One age appropriate play structure unit **covered by a shade canopy**, for either two through five year olds or five through twelve year olds, with a minimum fifty foot by fifty foot user zone, from an approved park department list of acceptable alternatives, including an appropriate safety surface that meets industry requirements. If a structure already exists within a dedicated park within one-fourth mile, other comparable amenities may be provided such as basketball courts, outdoor exercise stations, splash pads, **or shaded amenities such as covered picnic tables**;
- i. **The playground shade structure shall cover the playground use zone with a minimum fifty foot by fifty foot size.**



Changes to Design and Construction Standards for Park Facilities

- **Provides options for fabric and metal shade structures over playgrounds**
- **Irrigation**
 - Requires pump to maintain irrigation head to head coverage for all parks
 - Simplifies specifications
 - Requires Maxicom centralized irrigation system connection
- **Other Minor changes**
 - Fencing options
 - Required soil profile for landscape specifications



PLD Ordinance Process

- January 8, 2018 - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (**Recommended Approval**)
- January 10, 2018 – Chamber of Commerce Briefing
 - Questioned “proportionality”. Addressed by amending proposed ordinance.
- February 22, 2018 – City Planning Commission
- February 20, 2018 – City Council, 1st Reading
- March 6, 2018 – City Council, 2nd Reading



Comments or Questions?

