



# City of Carlsbad California 2023 - 2030

APPENDIX O -  
FEEDBACK GATHERED  
FROM PEOPLE WITH  
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



## Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

### Feedback gathered from people with physical disabilities

February 2022

The project team gathered feedback from community members with physical disabilities to learn more about their needs and priorities.

Information was gathered through several channels including:

- Sending a survey to a list of attendees who participated in a previous study about how to improve Carlsbad beach accessibility. Staff contacted individuals by email first and requested their participation in the survey.
- Sending the same survey to teachers in Carlsbad Unified School District who serve individuals with physical disabilities and asking them to share the survey with the students' parents. Staff was available to assist with the survey by phone, provide the survey in an alternative format, and in Spanish.
- In person by visiting clinics that serve people with physical disabilities to request their participation.

### Survey responses

#### **Number of survey participants: 5**

Do you visit City of Carlsbad's parks?

Yes, all the time – 60% (3 respondents)

Yes, occasionally – 20% (1 respondent)

No – 20% (1 respondent)

#### **What would make going to city parks even better?**

- Fewer homeless people sleeping around play structures
- More items for older Elementary kids

#### **What do you enjoy most about going to city parks?**

- The seesaw provides opportunities for collaborative play.
- Accommodates up to four kids at once.
- Fitness Course for older Elementary.
- Trees, open spaces, sense of community

#### **In your experience, what amenities would make city parks more accessible?**

- If there were more areas of shade.
- More equipment for 3-5th grade
- Communication boards posted near the play structures for non-verbal/low verbal kids.

**What is the main reason you don't visit city parks?**

- Newly arrived

**What specific sports leagues, fitness classes, special interest classes and camps would interest you and members of your household?**

- If a disability makes it harder for a child to join in on the playground
- If space is only equipped with slides and swings that aren't geared toward children with disabilities, it's unlikely they or their parents will spend much time there.
- Swimming, kayaking, surfing, boogieboarding
- Swim lessons, lap swim

**What recreational activities would you like to see more of in Carlsbad? What recreational activity helps kids with disabilities?**

- Creative hobbies with defined goals (such as sports or art projects) can provide individuals with disabilities with the opportunity to self-actualize and feel accomplished at the completion of a task. They also foster creative expression, self-esteem, and, in group settings, encourage inclusive environments where children can feel that they belong. This is especially true in settings where art therapy is practiced, as these programs are led by trained professionals, helping participants express themselves, resolve potential conflict, and increase communication.
- Increase lap swim hours at Monroe Street Pool

[Informal information gathering](#)

These comments were gathered from informal conversations with parents, teachers and teacher aids:

- For many people who work with individuals with disabilities, the daily walk involves going to a local park and exposing them to a variety of stimuli, exercising with them, use the playground to improve coordination skills, etc.
- Playgrounds have limited choices for kids with physical disabilities. Older kids can't use the swings because they don't have safety features.
- It would be fantastic if the city rented or offered beach wheelchairs to access the ocean, like they do in Oceanside. Those wheelchairs have wide, large wheels that make it easy to push someone with mobility issues to the water and enjoy the ocean.
- Offer more programs for the neurodiverse/differently abled population.