

NEWS

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Playground designed for both disabled and non-disabled children opens at county park in Chino on Saturday

Imagine a playground where all children, regardless of disability, can play together. It doesn't seem like an unusual concept, but very few places like this exist. One of them is opening up in Chino this Saturday.

After various planning sessions and with the cooperation of multiple local, regional and state agencies, 4th District Supervisor Patti Aguiar is pleased to announce the Grand Opening celebration of the "Fun for All" playground on Saturday, November 13, at the County of San Bernardino's Prado Regional Park regional park in Chino.

The dedication ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and the day's planned, kid-friendly activities will continue till 2 p.m. Supervisor Aguiar's colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and City Council members of the surrounding communities have been invited to attend. Former County Supervisor Fred Aguiar, now the California Secretary of State and Consumer Services, will be there as well.

The new playground, "Fun for All," designed as a "universally accessible playground," will be the first of its kind in all of San Bernardino County. Inspired in part by a Los Angeles-based organization, "Shane's Inspiration," a foundation that provides fully integrated, universally accessible play areas for children of all abilities, this model makes it possible for children with disabilities to play alongside their able-bodied peers and siblings.

The playground, itself, not simply a swing set on a patch of sand, is beautifully designed and nestled by mature, native trees to provide shade. It's conveniently located near the lake and concession area. The initial phase consists of both pre-

-MORE-

Accessible Playground
November 10, 2004
Page 2

school and school-age state-of-the-art equipment with a unique sensory wall incorporated among both water play and sand areas.

Various planning sessions were held, with direct input from staff, parents of special needs and able-bodied children and the children themselves. Supervisor Aguiar is happy to see the project come to fruition as her interim term comes to an end. She did not seek election to her 4th District seat. She refers to the playground as one of the most gratifying projects on her watch.

“The playground is just spectacular and to know that it's meant specifically for children of all abilities to play alongside each other only adds to it's promise to provide immediate benefit to our community,” Supervisor Aguiar said.

Prado Regional Park is located on the southwestern edge of San Bernardino County and can be accessed from the 71 or 60 Freeway using the Euclid Avenue ramp. In celebration of the grand opening, the normal entry fee to the park for the playground will be waived for the day.