

Subject: FW: MYAC Comment Aug 11 City Council

I looked at the Agenda for Monday's City Council meeting and I would like to address Agenda Item 7.15. Here is the summary for Agenda Item 7.15:

Agenda Item 7.15 Sensory Playground pages 162 - 165

A report of the Manager of Recreation and Culture and the Accessibility Coordinator is attached for the information of Council. Mover Councillor A. Caputo Seconder Councillor S. Hollingsworth Resolved that the report of the Manager of Recreation and Culture and the Accessibility Coordinator dated August 11, 2025 concerning Sensory Playground be received as information.

Here is what I would like to say at the meeting:

Good evening, Mayor and Council. I'm here on behalf of MYAC who is excited about the new sensory playground at Manzo Park. We believe teenagers can play an active role in making sure it's a fun, safe, and welcoming space for everyone. Our ideas focus on helping with day-to-day tasks like greeting families, checking equipment, running activities, promoting the playground online, and gathering feedback. By involving teens, we not only support the playground's success but also build leadership skills, community pride, and stronger connections between generations.

Here are three practical and meaningful ways teenagers could be involved in the day-to-day operations of the sensory playground at Manzo Park:

1. Firstly,

- Teen volunteers could welcome visitors, model inclusive play, and help younger children, especially those with disabilities navigate equipment.
- They could be trained in basic accessibility awareness, communication strategies, and safety protocols.
- This role would foster empathy, leadership, and social skills while building a welcoming atmosphere.

2. Second,

- Teens could do daily walk-throughs with staff, checking that pathways are clear, equipment is clean, and features are in working order.
- They could assist with setting up portable shade structures, cleaning sensory panels, and reporting any safety hazards.
- Involving them in upkeep promotes pride of ownership and environmental responsibility.

3. Lastly,

- Partnering with recreation staff, teens could help design and run small events such as inclusive games days, sensory art workshops, or even storytelling sessions.
 - This provides a creative outlet and strengthens the connection between the playground and its youth community.
- They could also create social media content to promote accessibility, events, and community engagement.

- The social media account would provide feedback and volunteers could compile suggestions and present them to city staff to help guide future improvements.

Thank you for listening and for your time.

Alexandra Bishop