

To Whom it may concern:

1-29-2023

Hello, my name is DeAnn Dobbins. I am the President of DeAnn's PAASS Kids. Pass Area Activities Sports and Stuff for People with Special Needs. I'm also a proud mom of a wonderful 27-year-old Special needs daughter, Samantha. Samantha has brought much joy to our hearts and lives, teaching us many things and 1 of them is that she sees and utilizes the world differently than we do. That opened our eyes about more things. Samantha is Nonverbal, Physically and Intellectually Delayed. We have worked very hard over the years to get her to be as independent as possible and is still very unstable at times. She still needs much supervision and assistance.

I am writing to you today about your plans to build a new playground at Shadow Creek Park. We were invited by your Parks and Rec department to view the layout of the proposed plans and I am very appreciative to be included. I wanted to share my thoughts and opinion on the access of the play area.

We were hoping you would consider using Rubber Chips or some kind of padding to be placed around the ground as cover instead of Wood Chips. Wood Chips would be like pushing a stroller through the SAND at the BEACH. We have many Wheelchair bound Residents in Beaumont/ Cherry Valley communities, even some who use Walkers or Stroller Chairs. Rubber chips would COMPACT better as the Wheelchairs/Walkers roll across the Play area. This would help the playground be more accessible for ALL and allow them to get out and enjoy the playground as much as possible. We have spoken with many of our friends and families who have Special Needs children here in the Pass area and most of them are looking for Wheelchair Swings, Communication/Sign language board, and a Sensory Wall. If you are not able to provide the BEST accommodations and needs for ALL your residents who may frequent the PARKS in this Community, then maybe it shouldn't be called an ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND.

I'd like to also suggest HANDRAILS at the steps near the park on Conner Street. Without handrails my daughter and many others would not be able to independently walk down those steps without assistance. Along with a Wheelchair ACCESSIBLE RAMP closer to the Gazebo near Conner Street, and more Shaded Areas covering the Playground. Many families we have discussed this with mentioned more shade at ALL parks if possible. We feel this would really accommodate the children and Adults of ALL ages in this Community. Our Special Needs Families really want to and deserve to be involved and have more options in their neighborhoods. We have many Special Needs Families that I'm sure would love to hear about how the city is including them.

We look forward to hearing from you on how the plans for this park turn out. I hope this information serves you well. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

DeAnn Dobbins

DeAnn's PAASS Kids 951-267-9041