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City of El Paso Receives Award for All-Abilities Playground Planning Process

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso's Capital Improvement Department, Urban Planning + Design Division, and the Parks and Recreation Department are being honored with a merit award by the Texas Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for its work on the *Beyond Boundaries: El Paso's All-Abilities Playground Planning Report*.

The report has been recognized as a superior professional accomplishment in the planning and analysis category as part of the 2025 Professional Awards program.

"This recognition underscores the City's exceptional leadership in creating inclusive, forward-thinking community spaces," said Deputy City Manager Yvette Hernandez. "The award affirms our commitment to innovative planning that enriches our city and enhances quality of life for all residents."

The report outlines a comprehensive data-driven site selection process for the City's regional all-abilities playground project, and highlights the community engagement process with the public, stakeholders and experts to shape the regional playground's vision, theme, programming, and caregiver amenities.

The regional all-abilities playground, funded by the 2022 Community Progress Bond, will be located at Lomaland Park, 715 Lomita Drive. The design phase for this \$10 million project is set to begin this fall, with additional public engagement opportunities. The construction phase will follow.

The City of El Paso currently offers all-abilities playgrounds at the following sites:

- James "Jim" Crouch Park, 7500 W.H. Burgess Drive
- Thorn Park, 53300 Mace St.
- J.P. Shawver Park, 8100 Independence Dr.
- Eastside Sports Complex, 14380 Montwood Dr.
- Joey Barraza and Vino Memorial Park, 11270 McCombs St.

All-abilities playgrounds are designed to provide inclusive recreational opportunities for individuals of all abilities, including those with intellectual disabilities, autism, hearing or visual impairments, and physical disabilities. These spaces foster both cognitive and physical development, while engaging users at a personal level.

Read the report at https://www.elev8ep.com/abilities-playground.

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