

Residents Attack Rec-Park Extras

Constructive criticism, with a minimum amount of personal attack, keynoted the mood of the Simi Valley Recreation - Park District proposed budget hearing, held at the L. R. Stewart Auditorium Wednesday night June 5.

Approximately 60 persons attended the hearing, many of

them residents of the area for five or more years. Most of the audience expressed doubts as to the need for "such elaborate after-school recreation programs, the necessity of having many small parks adjacent to elementary schools, and the hiring of professional youth leaders." Still another fear was

that industry, badly needed in the district, would shun the valley if the tax levy was increased.

Taking the spotlight during the evening was Roger Moeller of Simi, who has vigorously opposed the proposed budget from its beginning. Moeller took the podium to make a prepared statement of his views, and told of his efforts to organize the recreation-park district urging voters to endorse the program in October of 1961.

Commending the board for keeping their current expenses at a rate that can be supported by less than a 10 cent tax, he also pointed out that many park sites were in the process of being donated, or have been promised, and that he felt that the money earmarked for buying park sites in the coming year was not necessary. He also outlined a plan for acquiring land, now outside the area of subdivision activity, at a very modest cost to the taxpayer.

Moeller passed mimeographed copies of his proposed budget which totals \$56,752, which was revised downward from his original proposed budget of \$87,800.

Blacher Speaks

Norman Blacher, executive secretary to the Ventura County Taxpayers Association, also spoke at length, saying he felt that the proposed budget would be "unrealistic" and bring up the tax rate too high. He also made the suggestion that the school district use their 10 cent recreation tax to develop parks adjacent to schools. "Whatever the Simi Valley Recreation Park District does now, will set a precedent for other newly formed districts in the county," Blacher said.

Many persons in the audience asked questions of the board members and gave their opinions on the entire recreation - park program, which boiled down to the opinion that the budget was not practical for current needs and that more cost cutting should be done by the board.

David Strathearn Jr., as spokesman for the board, said that those attending the hearing would help the board by submitting their ideas in writing to the board or by attending the final two board meeting before the budget is officially submitted to the county. These meetings will be held on June 12 and June 26, at the district office, 1734 Los Angeles Avenue, Simi, at 7:30 p.m.

At the adjournment time of 10:30 p.m. of Wednesday night's meeting, board members did not appear convinced of the need for change in the budget, but did indicate that the protests, both verbal and written would be carefully considered at the two future meetings.

Simi Valley Enterprise - June 7, 1963

Reed 'Dismayed' by Park Critics

Following the Wednesday night public hearing on the Simi Valley Recreation-Park District proposed budget, Leslie Reed, general manager of the district, told the Simi Valley Enterprise, "I was considerably dismayed by the inference that the board was irresponsible and didn't know what they were doing."

He went on to state, "The board has been meeting at least twice each month for the past year, and during that time perhaps four or five of the 60 people attending the meeting, have taken the time to attend one board meeting to express interest or concern.

"It would appear to me if the recommendations of last night's group are incorporated into the budget it would mean that there would be no immediate purchase of any park land.

"Also the district would program no teenage recreation on the contention that there is sufficient teenage activities already

available. The district would not hire personnel to conduct the school-year playground program for elementary school. Some of the group felt volunteer leadership is available, while others felt no need for the program."

Other things which would be altered according to Reed would be adult recreation programs which would have to be placed on a self-sustaining basis with no tax support. He went on, "Several in the group expressed belief that organizational activities for youth, rather than curbing juvenile delinquency, actually encouraged it."

He also said that members of the audience are invited to submit specific recommendations to the board of directors, to be considered at the next two board meetings on June 12 and June 26. All persons are invited to attend these meetings at the district office at 7:30 p.m.

Simi Valley Enterprise - June 14, 1963

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SIMI VALLEY ENTERPRISE

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Friday, June 14, 1963

Slice Another \$41,000 from Park Budget

Land Acquisition, Services are Cut

Another \$41,000 was cut from the Simi Valley Recreation-Park preliminary 1963-64 budget Wednesday night, following several hours of discussion with citizens who packed the district office at the regular board meeting.

With the new cuts in the budget, it brings the total down to \$117,651, making the tax levy approximately 24 cents per 100.

William Gault, representing the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, was one of the first speakers to be heard by the board. He read a statement prepared by the Chamber board which urged the recreation board to hold to a 12 cent per 100 tax levy. This endorsement was decided upon by the chamber board at a special meeting on Monday night.

Following several speeches by those attending, the board started to go down the items listed in the printed budget which had been passed out to those attending. Discussion of the possibility of having a full-time secretary working only six hours per day, thus cutting \$1,000 from the proposed salary of \$4,400 was recommended but no action was taken at that time.

Many Protests

The services of a recreation supervisor and other workers needed on paid basis for the after-school and summer recreation programs began a long, sometimes emotional, stream of protests from those attending. Many suggested that the program be cut out of the budget entirely, leaving the responsibility up to individual families, others wanted it cut including fees and adult recreation, it was pointed out that the adult program is self-financing and was not costing the taxpayer anything.

Roger Mueller, who has actively opposed the budget figure, spoke briefly, saying that it might be the board's advantage to abolish part of the recreation program this year as a test case, to see if residents protested the loss next year.

Many of the arguments against the recreation program were repetitions of the same points made at the public hearing held June 5.

Joe Appleton, former district supervisor, stated that the board would not be taking anything away from the community by cutting the recreation program, because he felt that individuals or youth groups would take over recreational projects, or force parents into creating their own recreation program.

BUDGET DEFENDED

Two persons, David Ross and Henry Savage stood up and openly defended the present budget. Ross pleaded with the board not to abandon the recreation program, so that "children would not run wild in the streets." Savage said "The budget is already as low as we dare go."

Summing up the objections about the program, Frank Seiser, board member, said, "We would be remiss in our duty to the public if we were to cut out everything that has been recommended here tonight or at

the public hearing last week."

The board then said they would continue to study the needs of the recreation program and would take no formal action at that time.

Continuing down the appropriations list, it was moved to eliminate \$1,000 for professional services for contracted leadership. It was also pointed out that if some of the professional help was deleted from the budget it would also cut the amount of materials, supplies and equipment needed for the program, thus bringing other cost cuts.

LAND CUT \$46,000

The biggest slice from the budget came when the board moved to delete \$46,000 for land acquisition. Land acquired would be largely dependent on bond monies from subdividers through the Open Space Ordinance, with no monies in the budget for acquiring land in areas where this ordinance would not be in effect, such as residential non-tract areas. David Stratton, Jr., board member, suggested that it might be possible to borrow money from the county if the need for buying park land was urgent.

Before the meeting, a proposed budget was submitted to the board under the name of Mrs. Betty Elmer, but the board members did not have time to study it. Several citizens' statements were also submitted.

The board indicated that they would give serious consideration to more cuts before the final budget is presented to the county board of supervisors in July. The \$30,000 figure proposed for structures and park development will be scrutinized, as well as recreation personnel.

The next regular meeting of the board will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 7:30 p.m., at the district office, 1724 Los Angeles Avenue. This meeting, like all board meetings, are open to the public.

Rec-Park Budget to be Finalized Tonight

Final adjustments in the Simi Valley Recreation-Park District proposed budget will be made by board members tonight, at their last regular board meeting before submitting the budget to the Board of Supervisors on Friday, June 28.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the recreation-park office, 1734 Los Angeles Avenue, Simi, at 7:30 p.m.

The budget has stirred up a considerable amount of opposition since it was drawn up this March. The first figure of \$221,710 has been revised downwards

several times, to the present figure of \$117,961, with the possibility of other cuts being made at the meeting tonight.

Opposition from some tax payers has focused mainly on the after-school recreational program and the planned park system. Many residents have felt that the entire program is too elaborate for the present needs of the area.

After the budget has been finalized and presented to the Board of Supervisors, and it has been adopted, the board will give a detailed report on their plans for the coming year.

Park District Given Land at 3 Sites

BY JOHN MARRS

Three grant deeds were presented to the Recreation-Parks District Board at its regular meeting Wednesday night totaling approximately 16 acres of donated land for park sites.

The board resolved to accept one grant deed and held the other two off only until they can check the legal aspects of certain clauses in the contracts.

A grant of 6.43 acres donated by the Larwin Co. was accepted

south of Los Angeles avenue next according to Leslie Reed, general manager of the district. He said the property donated is

to a proposed elementary school in the Berylwood tract just east of Erringer road.

It will be developed as a neighborhood park to serve the area bounded by Los Angeles avenue, Erringer road, Arroyo Tapo on the East and Arroyo Simi to the South.

Largest Donation

The largest donation was a grant deed presented by the Guardian Construction Co. of seven acres south and west of the corner of Appleton road and Fitzgerald road.

If this deed is accepted by the board, it will be part of a planned 10 acre park adjacent to the famous Elephant Rock formation, according to Reed.

Reed said it is hoped that the rock formation will eventually become part of the park. He said it is on property owned by Jim Runkle and that no actual negotiations have actually yet taken place regarding the property.

Also at the meeting, the Millgee Construction Co. expressed a desire to donate one and a half acres adjacent to the Guardian grant, which would be part of the same park.

Reed said the Millgee donation is expected to be made as soon as paper work is completed. The park site is planned for an all-around picnic, sport and playground facility.

Third Grant

The third grant made was for 2.6 acres of land in Santa Susana adjacent to a proposed elementary school. It is also adjacent to a hoped for grant from Larwin Co. that would add an additional 7.4 acres to the park.

This grant is just east of Arroyo Tapo between Cochran street and Los Angeles avenue. Reed said the grant will probably be accepted as soon as legal matters are settled.

The district general manager also informed that the board discussed the joint use of two grants that may be forthcoming from the Alscott Co. and Max Rosenberg and Sons.

If plans go right, he said, these grants would provide a seven-plus acre park on the boundary between the two developments and mid-way between two nearby elementary schools.

Summer Program

Various summer activity attendance figures were announced at the meeting, also. It was reported that total attendance at all activities for the month of July was 12,318.

Summer dance and sports programs for teenagers have closed and attendance figures for these was totaled at 3,075. Knolls and Lincoln playgrounds have closed, also, and their attendance was 1096 and 2017 respectively.

The board also heard and considered inquiries from various groups regarding district aid and assistance. These included the Simi Valley Archery club and groups hoping to form as a camera club and a soccer club.

Simi Valley Enterprise - August 30, 1963

New Rec - Parks Slate

An After School Playground Program, which will begin September 23rd and continue through Friday, May 29, 1963 will be available to children in the 3rd grade through 6th grade. The Simi Valley Parks and Recreation District announced this week.

Participating schools will be: Arcane, Belwood, Knolls, Lincoln, Park View, Santa Susana, Simi Elementary, Vista, and Walnut Grove.

The program will be conducted Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and holidays are not included.

Purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for elementary age children to enjoy a variety of games, sports, tournaments, quiet activities and special events under the leadership of specially trained adults. Specialist assistance will be assigned to aid in the conducting of special events.

Children under the 3rd grade

must be accompanied by an adult or responsible person.

Each playground will organize a Boy's sports club to teach the fundamentals of flag football, basketball, track and field, and other sports and games; to provide basic training in sportsmanship; to emphasize physical fitness and to give opportunities for service to others.

Membership is open and free to all boys in fourth, fifth and sixth grades. They will meet one afternoon each week under the direction of the local leader.

Each seasonal sport will culminate with a playday or a demonstration before the public. Attempts will be made to plan a football demonstration at the half time of a high school football game.

Plans for a basketball circus at the Junior High School gymnasium are being discussed. A Track and Field meet will also be planned.

A recreation club also will be formed for girls. They will meet from 3:05 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning the week of Sept. 30th. Membership will be free to all girls in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades.

A special teacher will be available one day a week, the remainder of the activities will be conducted by the local leaders.

Purpose of the recreation club will be to teach girls the fundamental rules of sports and games and to develop good sportsmanship and manners.

Four Valley wide playdays, including basketball, softball, kickball, and track and field, will be the Girls Club special event for the year.

Other special events planned for the year include cook-outs, kite construction, skate to music, free throw tournaments, safety tournaments, safety patrol, and quiet games.

A men's volleyball league will be discussed at an organization meeting Thursday, Oct. 3rd at 8 p.m. at the Recreation and Park District office, 1734 Los Angeles Ave., Simi.

Teams desiring to enter may do so by contacting the Recreation District office 526-3260, prior to the organization meeting. The Parks and Recreation reserves the right to select the teams from those applying for the purpose of having a balanced league.

Practice games will commence October 10 and league play will start October 24. All games are to be played at the Center Junior High School, Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

A league fee of \$20, which must be paid in advance according to the district, will provide for a team trophy and a maximum of 10 individual trophies.

Teams may be sponsored by any organization, however no team may bear the trade or brand name of an alcoholic beverage.

Deadline for entrants is Thursday October 3, at 8 p.m. For further information call Recreation

Simi Valley Sun - Sept 25, 1963

RECEIVED

SEP 30 1963

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District Managers Urge Buying Land for Parks Now

"Open space" for children and their parents without any major hazard involved is a critical recreational need of this area.

"It is absolutely necessary to buy some additional land to provide recreation for growing communities."

"If we don't set aside open space for relaxation people will go to the beaches and other areas where there is recreation."

And land donated in subdivisions under a county ordinance is not enough to provide for growing communities.

These are statements of

Frank Ray, manager of the Conejo Valley Parks and Recreation District. They are in accord with thinking of Les Reed and Dick Pollack, managers of the Simi Valley and Pleasant Valley Recreation and Parks Districts, respectively.

They met for three hours during the weekend for an exchange of ideas at which Ray discussed master planning for parks and standards for recreation areas.

Reed discussed county subdivision ordinances and county and district relationships while Pollack spoke on conduct of board

meetings and recreation programs.

Ray said "Everyone realizes that mere donations cannot provide open space for everyone and we have to look to the future of the growing valleys."

He said all three managers agreed that "we need a long-range master plan so that we can serve the public with the type of program actually needed." He said they agreed that there is a lack of general basic planning and factual information to go on. "No one has done an evaluation of needs," he said.

He announced intention to appoint a 10 or 12-man committee to survey the Conejo Valley for a definite approach based on social problems, accident rates and average incomes; "a profile of the valley to give a barometer of public need."

Such a plan would give us "group ammunition for planning for the future of the valleys," he said.

He said the Conejo Valley alone needs at least four or five neighborhood playgrounds now. One is

particularly needed in the Shadow Oaks subdivision, he said. Children break windows and go to other areas to take some of the load off in their need for "open space," he said.

Ray called for neighborhood playgrounds near schools and away from freeways and boulevards so that small children can walk to them. It has been determined that children can only walk half a mile to such areas, he said.

"Right now we need a swimming pool or pools that can ac-

commodate 450 at one time. We need two pools measuring 40 by 90 or one large one. This need is based on an estimate that an area of 15,000 people needs a pool that will accommodate three per cent of the people at one time," he said.

The meeting also was a training session for members of district boards and similar meetings in the future were planned.

Ray, Reed and Pollack will meet with John Montgomery, county supervisor, Monday to discuss district and county relationships.

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Simi, Calif., Wed., Sept. 25, 1963

Three Sections—26 Pages 10c The Copy

SUN

ALAMO GETS SPEED LIMIT

A 45 mile-per-hour speed limit has been established on Alamo Street from Sycamore Drive to Tapo Road.

The board of supervisors ordered the change on recommendation of the county traffic safety council.

Recreation to Be Provided For Entire Area

Under the directorship of Leslie Reed, widely experienced in recreational activities, the Simi Valley Recreation and Parks District has adopted a far sighted policy to provide the community with facilities that will create a wholesome atmosphere in every section of the district.

The district has been successful in acquiring several park sites through donations of developers. Under a county ordinance, developers are allowed to cut down the size of residential sites, by making available to the Recreation district land that equals the amount saved in scaling down lot sizes.

The accompanying map shows six such park sites which are either owned by the public district or are being processed.

1. A two (2) acre park site adjoining an elementary school, made available by the Larwin Company. This site will be de-

veloped for neighborhood purposes to accommodate the tract surrounding the property. Located at the North East corner of Los Angeles Avenue and Madera in Simi.

2. Two and eight-tenths (2.8) acres of property adjacent to the Arroyo Simi, slightly East of Erringer. This property is made available by the Larwin Company and will serve the neighborhood needs of these living between the Arroyo Simi and Royal from Erringer to Sycamore.

3. A six and one-half (6.5) acre park adjoining a large elementary school site located on the South side of Los Angeles Avenue, midway between Erringer and Sycamore. This park site may be developed as a community type park although such parks are normally of larger acreage. This was made available by Larwin Company.

4. A ten (10) acre park site located South and West of the in-

Turn to Page 2, Please

Bank of A. Levy Will Build New Home in Simi

Construction of more than \$300,000 of additional facilities at the main office of Bank of A. Levy in Oxnard began last week, bank president, A. A. Milligan announced today. Completion is scheduled for September 1, 1964.

The new construction will run 75 ft. east from the present building on the corner of 5th and A Streets, over the bank's parking lot and will include the camera shop. Structures in this area will be leveled to permit all new construction.

Founded in the late 1800's, the Bank of A. Levy employs more than 140 people in seven offices in Southern Ventura County. Its total assets now exceed \$42 million, an increase of over \$8.5 million since June 30.

"With the total number of depositors increasing from 8,949 in 1960 to over 23,000 at the present time," said Milligan, "we had to have more room or sacrifice service, which we won't do."

"This bank grew out of the soil of the community," said Mr. Milligan, "Some have called it 'the bank the lima bean built.' I suppose the statements are true."

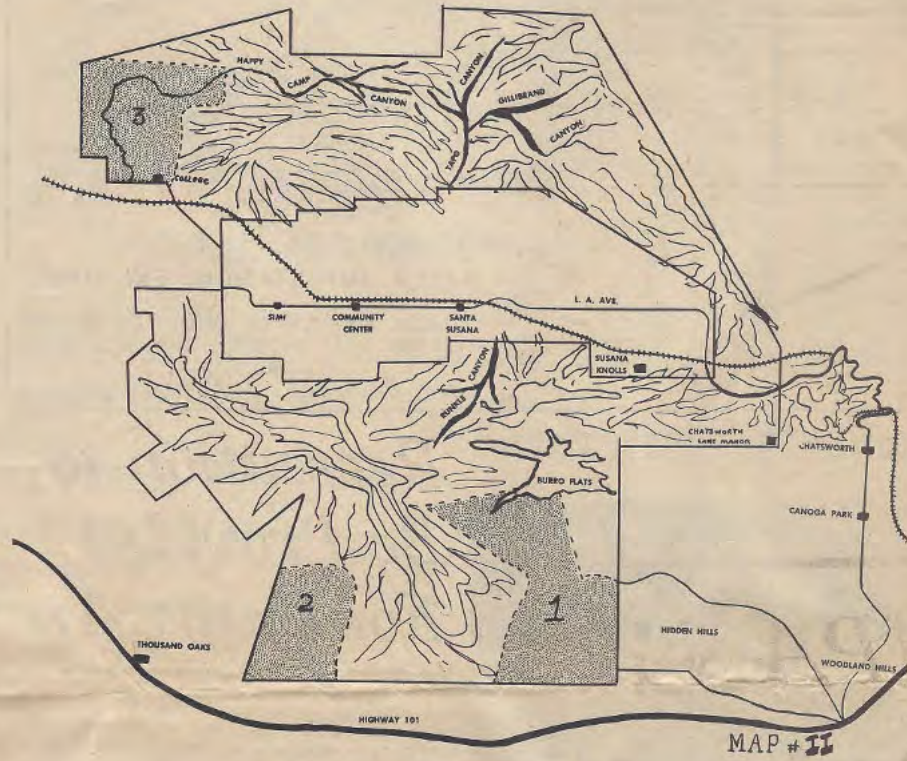
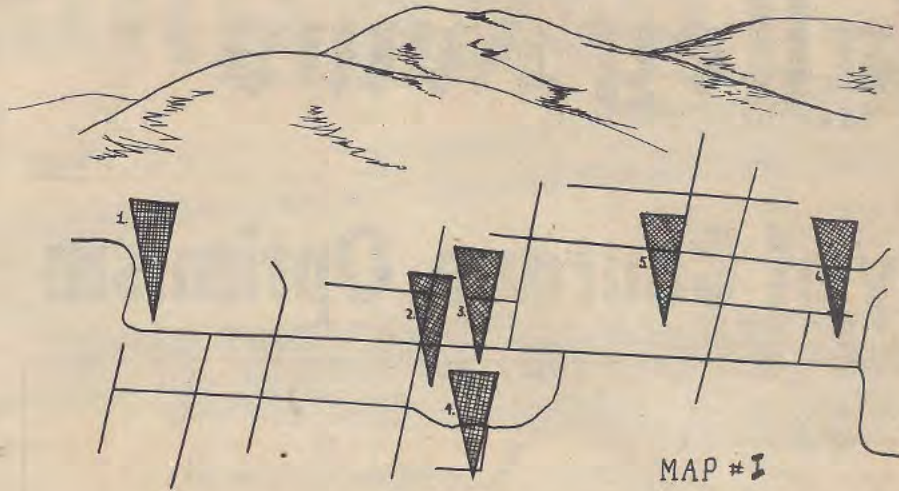
Architects Fisher and Wilde of Ventura designed the new building. Macleod Construction, Ventura, will build it.

The the same moment the expansion was announced, for the main office, Jay Paxton, manager of the Simi branch, announced plans for an elaborate new building for the Simi office. Only a short time ago, a Santa Susana branch was opened in the Tapo Shopping Center, which is under the management of Robert Worthington.

Larwin Square-Simi is one of four shopping centers currently being developed by Larwin Fund, an affiliate of Larwin Group Companies.

Simi Valley Advertiser & News
November 13, 1963

Maps Show Park Sites



Continued from Page 1

increase the park site to approximately ten (10) acres. This may be developed adjacent to a secondary school and across a residential street from an elementary school, and will be developed with both community park and neighborhood park facilities.

8. A seven and three-tenths (7.3) acres park resulting from reduction was made available by Alscot Development Company and Max Rosenberg and Soas. This property is located midway between Los Angeles and Cochran, and midway between the new High School and Kuehner. This area will be developed to meet neighborhood needs.

The District is now negotiating with three other developers for additional properties which may be made available.

Company at this location to intersect of Appleton and Fitzgerald was made available thru the combined efforts of four (4) developers. The Guardian Construction Company donated seven (7) acres and made three (3) additional acres available for others to donate. A. L. Gindling Company, Montgomery Fisher, Inc., and A. Robertson are making the donation of the remaining three (3) acres.

5. The District currently can claim two and six-tenths (2.6) acres of park property which is North of Los Angeles Avenue and West of the Patterson Railroad Spur, which has been made available by Louis Lesser Enterprises. The District Board of Directors intends to utilize additional acreage made available by the Larwin



LESLIE REED
Executive Head Parks and Recreation District



ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO
State Senator representing the local district.

SUN

Amorpark, Simi, Santa Susana, Susana Knolls and Environs

Sunday, Nov. 17, 1963

Two Sections—10 Pages—10c The Copy

Simi Valley Sun
Nov 17, 1963

Land Gift Accepted by Parks Board

Simi Valley Park and Recreation District directors have accepted 4.2 acres for a park from one Los Angeles builder, but aren't sure they want another 2.6 acres from another builder.

The 4.2 acres came last week from the Larwin Corp., which is building houses in the valley. The park land is near the corner of Los Angeles Avenue and Arroyo Tapo.

But the board was hesitant to accept 2.6 acres from Montgomery Fisher Corp., saying the area is too small for park use, may be threatened by drainage problems, and may be affected by the proposed Simi Valley Freeway.

Directors will investigate the possibility of adding to the 2.6 acres with adjoining land from developers building nearby. They will also see if the freeway route would cross the plot.

This land comes to the district under the Ventura County "open air" ordinance requiring builders to donate acreage for parks when they build certain types of developments.

District manager Les Reed also reported to directors on the district's role in the new Simi Valley Historical Society and proposed community center project.

Knolls Play Area Closed For Lack Of Attendance

Susana Knolls playground will be closed, according to Les Reed, Director of Recreation and Parks. The decision was made at the District meeting, Tuesday night.

Six playgrounds in the valley are well - attended, according to Reed, but the Knolls playground will be closed this year because of lack of attendance.

"The Knolls school is some distance from homes in Susana Knolls," Reed explained. "Also, many of the students live in other parts of the Valley and go home by school bus right after school closes each day and are unable to use the playground at Knolls."

"The location of the grounds makes weather a factor in discouraging attendance, also," Reed reported. "Winds have a particularly high velocity around the foot of Santa Susana Pass where the school is located."

"Last year we kept the Knolls playground open, but we have found that the money can be better spent on the remaining playgrounds elsewhere."

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Simi, Calif., Sunday, Dec. 1, 1963

Two Sections—

Park Land Coming In Too Fast?

The Simi Valley Park and Recreation District is getting park land donations from subdividers faster than it can plan what to do with it.

At the district directors meeting this week, nearly 10 acres of newly donated land were accepted at locations all over the valley.

Directors also learned that they must quickly master-plan allocation of another 19 park acres in the rectangle bounded by Alamo Street, Peppertree Lane, Los Angeles Avenue, and Erringer Road. The land has been donated to the district for parks, but before the district can accept deeds, it must plan park locations and allocations. A special committee was set up to do so in the next 45 days—the deadline for the developer's final tract map filing.

Directors also learned the district has another 10 acres of park land west of Appleton Street and Fitzgerald Road in Santa Susana.

And district general manager Leslie Reed reported to the directors that he has asked Douglas Aircraft Corporation about buying or at least providing public access to the corporation's park site in the northeast corner of the Simi Valley.

Reed said the corporation has about 400 acres with recreation facilities and a swimming pool. He said it is rarely used now. Reed said the corporation is making a study to see whether it is worth keeping, but doesn't intend to sell it yet.

Simi Valley Sun

Dec 1, 1963