

# THE RECREATION SENSATION

by Heide Aungst, managing editor



**T**hose wanting to escape the congestion of San Diego can head to the peaceful oasis of Lake Poway, just 20 miles from the city. The park offers visitors 34 acres of lakes and recreation areas. But the favorite spot among children is the playground. Park director Lee Lewis

chose BigToys wooden play structures to establish a rural theme which carries through the landscape. "We originally planned a high sierra theme, but converted over to a more applicable theme with woods. We got rid of synthetic equipment," Lewis says.

The various types of play equipment allows Lewis to segregate

the 1/4-acre play area by age group. He has placed the equipment in designs which avoid collisions between children. Lewis' crew inspects the equipment regularly to minimize risk and maintenance costs. Lake Poway has not had any law suits since the installation of the equipment 10 years ago.

To keep the sanded play area weed-free, Lewis sprays it annually with Roundup. Children rarely track sand onto the turf because landscape timbers, provided by the California Conservation Corp., separate the sand from the turf. The turf surrounding the play area is Northrup King's Medalist blend of fescue and bluegrass. All turf areas are irrigated. The crew mows once a week at 2 1/2 inches. Lantana (left) grows as a ground cover around the area. Sycamores provide shade for tuckered-out youngsters.

**BigToys: Circle No. 190 on Reader Inquiry Card.**



**I**t took an act of Congress, but visitors to our capital city can enjoy a work out in front of the capitol on the Parcourse Fitness Cluster.

Congress approved the measure to put the center on the mall, and it opened for public use in April 1986. The redwood and stainless steel equipment conforms to the natural landscape of the historic area. "The mall is a very active place. At lunch there's hundreds of joggers. They can run right from work," says Ken Williams, the landscape contractor who installed the system. Williams arranged the equipment in four clusters covering an all-weather asphalt area 16 X 64 feet. The National Park Service maintains the area by sweeping the asphalt at least once a week and checking for damage to the equipment. The arrangement of the equipment lets the park service easily mow the surrounding turf which consists of K-31 fescue, Palmer and Citation ryegrass and Merit bluegrass.

Joseph Kanter, chairman of the



First National Bank of Florida, donated the equipment. An avid jogger for 40 years, Kanter has reportedly run the equivalent of the earth's circumference. He chose the Parcourse equipment because it fits the needs of all ages and levels of fitness, including the disabled.

The amount of the donation is private, but Williams says such an installation would run about \$4,500, with the equipment valued at \$13,000.

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**Williams Landscaping: Circle No. 192 on Reader Inquiry Card.**



**K**ids have always had fun down on the farm. That tradition continues, with a more modern twist, at the Juilfs Park playground in Cincinnati, Ohio. The land used for the park began as the Juilfs family farm. The park designers, Jennings of Ohio, reconstructed the old farm silo into an observation tower. The play area, constructed in 1986, uses wooden equipment from Quality Industries to maintain the family-farm flavor.

The 150 ft. X 130 ft. sanded playground took six months to grade and construct. The sand

depth is 15 to 18 feet and has not needed to be treated for weeds. Eight different slides, including a zoom slide (above left) and underground slide, make the playground an adventure for kids of all ages. The bench swing (above right) gives adults a break while kids play on the equipment. Trees provide shade and an aesthetically pleasing perimeter to the play area. The staff planted three 25-foot sycamores. Other trees planted include six red maples, six October glory maples and one pin oak. Already in the area was a swamp willow, four scotch pines and one white pine.

The park management crew originally sodded the turf area with bluegrass, but overseeds because of wear from heavy traffic with 80 percent K-31 tall fescue and 20 percent Regal ryegrass. The crew mows the non-irrigated area twice a week.

The entire play area cost about \$43,225. The project won the 1986 Ohio Parks and Recreation Association's "Outstanding Award" for recreation facilities costing less than \$75,000.

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