

## WATERWORKS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

September 15, 1992

### WESTERN KIWANIS' HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT

Twenty years ago in October of 1972 Western Kiwanis first became interested in Waterworks Park. At the time, it was little more than a two acre patch of grass with a few scattered trees and a dirt path worn in the turf bisecting the park from Eighth to Seventh St. A few large old trees (Willow, Elm and Basswood), dominated the space closer to the Seventh St. frontage and two sanitary sewers and one 60" diameter storm sewer cut through the center of the low lying park.

Bruce Amrine who grew up in the area around the park, realized the potential it had to better serve the old westside neighborhood as a neighborhood park or play lot with Western Kiwanis involvement. He contacted the City's Parks and Recreation Dept. and yours truly and a new Kiwanian was born.

A plan for improvements was prepared by Parks staff, with the involvement and input from both Western Kiwanis and neighborhood residents. Priorities were discussed and things got started in 1972 with the planting of a number of pine trees transplanted from Phil Weaver's property behind Vitality Seed Co. on Jackson Rd. Over the years additional trees have been planted by Kiwanis from a variety of sources (i.e. 1974,78,79,81 and 88). The trees in '78 were transplanted by Kiwanis from Ecology Center Park, which was located at the NW corner of N. Main and W. Huron where the Manufacturers Bank/Office Bldg. is now located.

In 1974 we built the three existing picnic tables and four original park benches in Ben Colmery's garage and installed them along with the picnic grill.

The City constructed the existing bituminous walk through the park in 1974-75 to accommodate the foot traffic cutting through the park to Slauson School.

We installed the first play equipment in 1978 which included a climber and tire swing. In 1980 we added a swing set and made some improvements to the climber. Also in 1980 we installed four new park benches to replace the original ones and we added some custom designed trash barrels.

We survived some major disruption when the sanitary sewer was improved in 1980, requiring the transplanting of several trees.

We have also painted the fire hydrant, repaired and stained the picnic tables and original park benches, and performed tree trimming from time to time.

In 1986 we helped fund the installation of 6" x 6" treated timber edging and sand play area surfacing as an Eagle Scout project by William Bowman, the son of former member Tony Bowman. And finally in 1988 we planted some additional Redbud trees and in 1990 we repaired and stained the picnic tables.