

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS PARK FACILITIES—PHASE III—C



AFTER

Photo above: new accessible parking at War Memorial Gym.

Photo right: inaccessible parking at War Memorial Gym before changes.

Accessible parking is the first step towards inclusion of people with disabilities to park facilities.



BEFORE

Erosion control and best management practices were an important factor during construction, since many of the park locations were near or adjacent to environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.



Photo left: silt fence prevents sediment and runoff from flowing to the ocean at Hanakao'o Beach Park.

Photo right: drain inlet grate at Kihai Aquatic Center is wrapped with a geotextile filter fabric to prevent construction debris from entering storm water system.



The goal is to afford every individual equal opportunities to the benefits of Maui County's parks and facilities.



All photos: accessible shower, bench, and picnic table at Hanakao'o Beach Park.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Accessibility Improvements at Various Park Facilities is a \$1.3 million retrofit project for the Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Maui. The project is a part of the "Maui County Parks and Recreation Department ADA Transition Plan Implementation Project."

The objective of the project was to modify various park facilities to the ADA Standards for Accessible Design. These conversions included the following:

SITE WORK:

- Regrading, restriping, and new signage for existing parking spaces, sidewalks, curb ramps, and access routes.

BUILDINGS:

- Entry to buildings and restrooms were altered to provide accessible thresholds and level changes.
- Restrooms were remodeled to provide accessible toilets, sinks, and mirrors.

FACILITIES:

- Public bleachers were modified to provide accessible seating in competition viewing areas.
- Playgrounds were designed with accessible entry, accessible surfacing, and accessible play equipment.
- Showers, picnic tables, and other door cooking areas were modified to be accessible.

ENGINEERING DIFFICULTY

Often the most difficult projects for engineers include "fixing" problems at sites that are already developed. The engineering difficulty at the various park sites was two fold: first, interpreting the American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG) while considering local codes, often one in conflict of the other; and second, designing the new access such that the new construction incorporates aesthetic and utilitarian transitions to existing conditions. Moreover, the design had to minimize the impact to construction time and cost.

CONSTRUCTION DIFFICULTY

ADA requirements include detailed provisions for elements, spaces, and facilities. The success of an accessible design is limited to its constructability. The difference between accessibility and exclusion is often determined by fractions of an inch, so attention to detail is required. Contractors must have skilled and precise labor to achieve the desired results of the engineer's design.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

A major obstacle during construction projects is the management and minimization of environmental impacts on or adjacent to the construction site. Since many of the park sites are on or near the ocean, it is even that more important that care and caution be maintained during construction. The implementation of best management practices to reduce erosion, construction runoff, and safety hazards was key to the environmentally friendly completion of the project.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Disability is not the experience of a minority of Americans. Rather, it is an experience that will touch most Americans at some point during their lives. Today, there are over 54 million Americans with disabilities, a full 20 percent of the U.S. population. Almost half of these individuals have a severe disability, affecting their ability to see, hear, walk, or perform other basic functions of life. In addition, there are over 25 million family caregivers and millions more who provide aid and assistance to people with disabilities.

Although progress has been made over the years to improve access to public accommodations, challenges remain for Americans with disabilities. This project is a small part in the bigger dream of providing full access to participation in the aesthetic, recreational, and cultural experiences on the island of Maui.

"Inclusion is extremely important for kids with or without disability," Clay Aiken

Providing access to public facilities is important not only to adults with disabilities, but children as well. The playground below includes accessible route, safety surface, and accessible play equipment.



BEFORE

Photo: original Lahaina Youth Center playground



AFTER

Photo: new Lahaina Youth Center playground with accessible design.



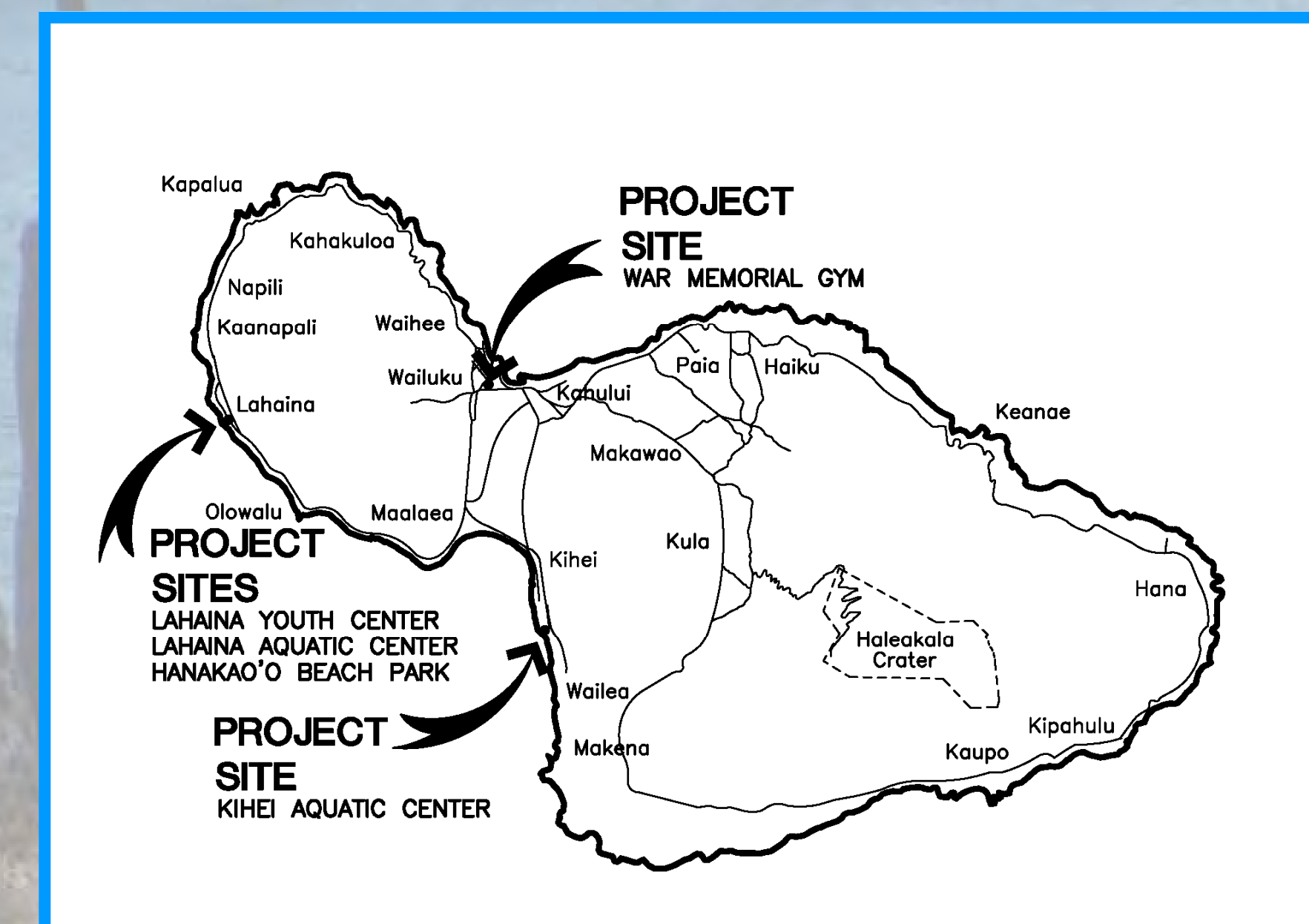
Attention to detail was required to achieve the correct grades, slopes, and tolerances. It is difficult to achieve small tolerances in large scale projects and with the use of large equipment. In addition, the Contractor is responsible for preventing damage to existing infrastructure.



Photo top: repaving War Memorial Gym.

Photo left: replacing sidewalk at Kihai Aquatic Center.

Photo right: altering existing bleachers to provide accessible seating at Kihai Aquatic Center.



PROJECT TEAM

Agency: County of Maui, Department of Parks and Recreation, Planning & Development Division
 Contractor: Site Engineering, Inc.
 Civil Engineer: Ronald M. Fukumoto Engineering, Inc.
 Architect: Brian Shimomura & Associates, LLC

Event: HSPE MAUI CHAPTER 2009 PROJECT OF THE YEAR COMPETITION
 Sponsor: Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers Maui Chapter
 Date: January 16, 2009
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