



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Angel Rios, Jr.

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 11, 2017

Approved

D. DSyl

Date

9/21/17

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED PARK SITES FOR CITY'S 2017 GRANT
APPLICATION TO SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S ALL-INCLUSIVE
PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the recommended park sites listed in Attachment B to the Council memorandum for the City's application to apply for the County of Santa Clara grant for the development of all-inclusive playgrounds.

OUTCOME

Successful pursuit of this grant opportunity will secure grant funding from Santa Clara County to construct all-inclusive playgrounds at various City park sites.

BACKGROUND

Introduced by Santa Clara County Supervisors Joe Simitian and Cindy Chavez, the grant program to build all-inclusive playgrounds in each of the County's five Supervisorial districts sets aside \$10 million in funding for playgrounds that are accessible for children and parents with disabilities.

Over 10,000 children in Santa Clara County have "major disabilities," and over 20,000 take advantage of special education in our schools. For the past several years, PRNS has focused on going "above and beyond" traditional accessibility requirements to create more inclusive playgrounds. This has included enhanced accessibility at playgrounds such as Bramhall Park, Berryessa Creek Park, Newhall Park, and the Rotary Playgarden.

On June 20, 2017, PRNS provided a memorandum to the Mayor and City Council with a preliminary list of proposed grant eligible projects. As part of this council action, the Mayor and City Council supported pursuing a large grant in partnership with the Magical Bridge Foundation for the construction of a playground at Emma Prusch Park. The Mayor and City Council also encouraged staff to apply for multiple grants throughout all County Supervisorial Districts given the large ratio of County residents within the City of San Jose.

The Santa Clara County Parks Department released the grant guidelines in July 2017. PRNS staff has reviewed the guidelines and prepared the final grant park site recommendations for City Council consideration and selection.

ANALYSIS

The City of San José is one of the few cities in Santa Clara County that has an all-inclusive playground park. The Rotary Playgarden has been a huge success since opening and many parents drive miles to experience the park with their families. Because it is the only all-inclusive park in the immediate area, the Playgarden gets crowded at peak times. It would be ideal to have more all-inclusive parks spread throughout the City so that children of all abilities have more opportunities.

The approved grant program will allocate \$5 million through a competitive process by the County from the 2012 Measure A Reserve, with additional \$5 million coming from County Excess Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) funds. According to the grant guidelines, the funding would be used on a matching basis for the construction of one or two all-inclusive playgrounds in each of the five Supervisorial Districts.

An overlay of the City Council and Supervisorial Districts is included as Attachment (A) to this memorandum. As shown, supervisorial district two is entirely within the City of San José while the other five districts include San José and other cities. Staff anticipated significant competition amongst other cities for this grant program. The formal grant guidelines criteria state that up to \$2 million will be allocated per County Supervisorial District. Additionally, it is staff's understanding that the intent of this grant is to provide opportunities for accessible playgrounds Countywide as opposed to a concentration in any one geographic area.

Santa Clara County's criteria for the all-inclusive playground grant consist of the following:

- Project must go above and beyond the minimum standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Project must be complete in (3) years.
- Must provide a plan for long-term playground maintenance.
- Must provide matching funds (dollar for dollar).

Given the high level of competition expected from neighboring cities, staff is recommending to apply for multiple projects throughout the City of varying sizes. As mentioned in the prior memorandum, staff reviewed all potential sites factoring in the following: (1) availability of matching funds; (2) parking; (3) restroom facilities; and (4) adjacencies to other land uses. Ultimately, playgrounds that are located on Citywide/Regional park facilities or parks that are adjacent to City community centers appear to be the strongest contenders for large grants as they can better accommodate large amounts of playground users. PRNS staff is recommending to apply for both small and large grant amounts based on the project's location. For example, staff looked at citywide parks and sites near community centers for large grants. And playgrounds already geared for renovation and/or with available funding for the smaller grants. A summary of the project locations PRNS is recommending to apply for is shown in the below table, along with some key factors that led to their selection. Additional information on these sites, along with the recommended grant amount and sources of matching funds is included as Attachment B to this memorandum.

Project Park Sites	Supervisory District	Council District	Regional Park or Adjacent Community Center	Restroom	Off Street Parking
RAMAC	1	2	No	Yes	Yes
Lake Almaden	1	10	Yes	Yes	Yes
Emma Prusch Farm	2	5 (border of 3,5 and 7)	Yes	Yes	Yes
*Rotary Playgarden	2	3	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alviso	3	4	Yes	No	Yes
Evergreen	3	8	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lincoln Glen	4	6	Yes	Yes	Yes
Butcher	4	9	No	Yes	No
Calabazas	5	1	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Rotary Playgarden will be submitted as a second tier priority as the City has the entire \$2 million from Supervisory District for Emma Prusch Park.

Emma Prusch Farm Park: As mentioned in the June 2017 memorandum to the Mayor and City Council, staff is working on a partnership project with the Magical Bridge Foundation (MBF) to apply for a grant for Emma Prusch Farm Park. Staff has been in discussions with MBF and will return to the City Council in the near future with the details of the partnership agreement.

The All-Inclusive Playgrounds program grant applications will be due to the Santa Clara County on October 18, 2017 and the grant award notifications are anticipated to be sent out by January 2018.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Should the City's grant applications be accepted, PRNS will return to City Council through the budget process to recognize the final grant amount and recommend budgetary actions.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Alternative #1: Do Not apply for grant

Pros: Does not require staff time in preparation of an application package.

Cons: Inconsistent with City Council's approach of seeking grant funds to develop projects when feasible.

Reason for not recommending: In the City's current fiscal situation, it is prudent to maximize the dollar amount for grant opportunities in order to meet the important and diverse goals of the City.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This memorandum will be posted on the City Council's Agenda website prior to the October 3, 2017 City Council meeting.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Budget Office.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT

No commission recommendation or input is associated with this action.

FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

The proposed action is consistent with the Council-approved Budget Strategy Economic Recovery section in that it will spur construction spending in our local economy.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

At this time, staff estimates that the operating and maintenance impact would be approximately \$25,000 for a small all-inclusive playground (half-acre) and \$50,000 for the large playground (one-acre) sites. The all-inclusive playgrounds cost more to maintain due to extra inspections of the playground equipment and the need for City staff to monitor the park during the day.

A more precise estimate of the operating and maintenance impact will be developed once it is known if the City is awarded any of the grants, and after plans are finalized for the development of the park sites. As the parks would not likely be completed in the next few years, these costs will also be included in the 2018-2022 Five-Year General Fund Forecast scheduled for release February 2018. Additionally, as mentioned previously, Attachment B provides a list of projects and potential matching sources. It should be noted that the Citywide Construction and Conveyance Tax funding is very low, so staff recommends using Council District specific capital funds. For some Council Districts, this is very impactful, whereas in other Council Districts to satisfy the matching funds requirement the funding is less impacted. As noted, following the County's award recommendations, staff will return to the Mayor and City Council with specific budget allocations for these projects.

CEQA

Not a Project, File No. PP17-006, Grant Application with no commitment or obligation to enter into an agreement at the time of application.

/s/

ANGEL RIOS, JR.
Director of Parks,
Recreation & Neighborhood Services

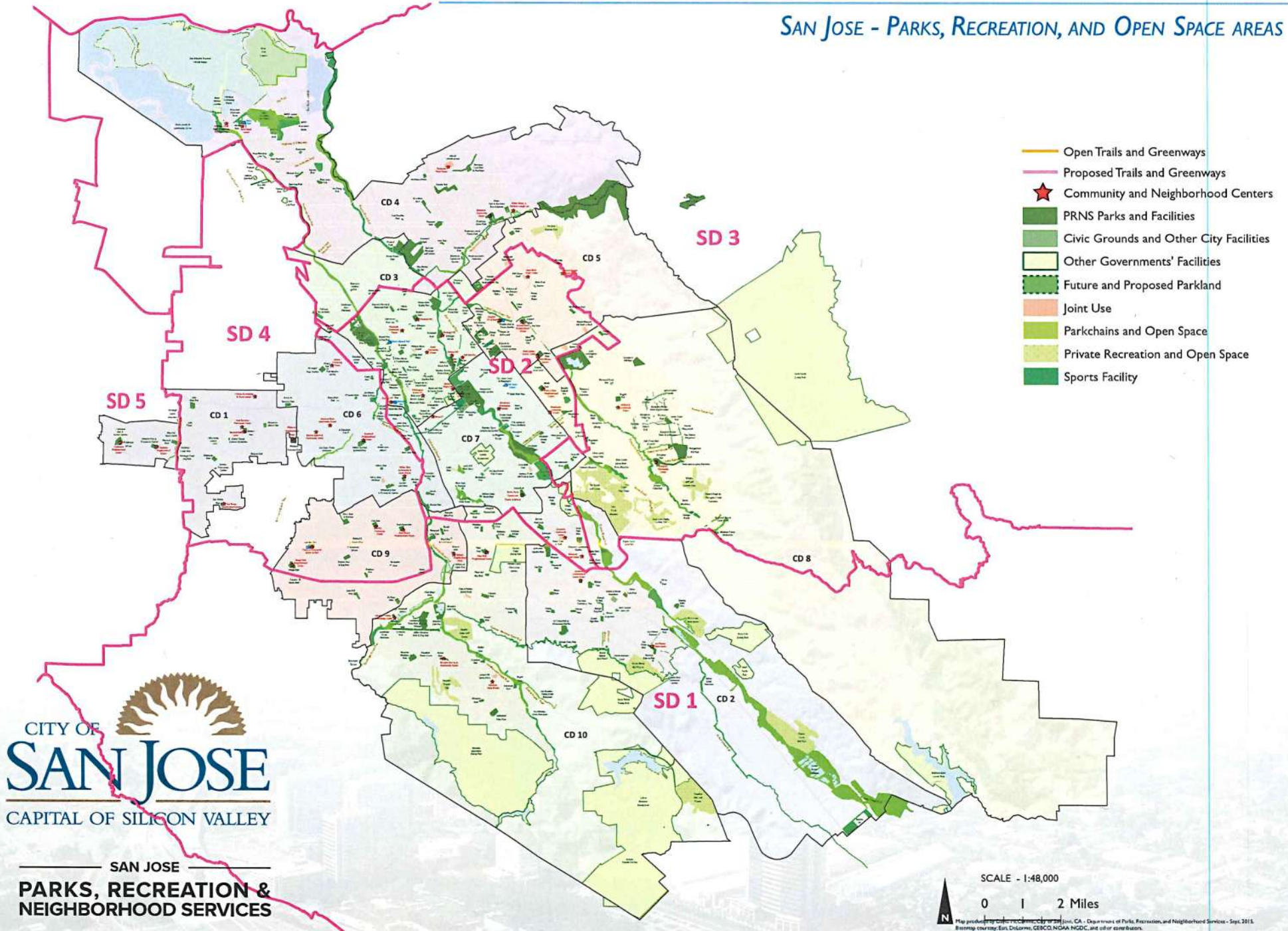
For questions, please contact Matt Cano, Assistant Director, at (408) 535-3580.

Attachment A: Overlay of City Council and Supervisorial Districts

Attachment B: List of Recommended Park Sites

ATTACHMENT A: OVERLAY OF CITY COUNCIL AND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS

SAN JOSE - PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE AREAS



LIST OF NINE RECOMMENDED PARK SITES FOR INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND GRANT

Attachment B

Recommended Park Project	Council District	Supervisory District	Project Size	Requested Grant Funding	*Required Match Funding	Total Potential Project Funding
RAMAC	CD 2	ONE	Small	\$250,000	\$250,000 (PTF-Reserve)	\$500,000
Lake Almaden	CD 10	(Mike Wasserman)	Large	\$750,000	\$750,000 (PTF-Nexus)	\$1,500,000
Emma Prusch	CD 5	TWO	Large	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000 PTF-Nexus C&C EFB	\$4,000,000
*Rotary	CD 3	(Cindy Chavez)	Small	\$500,000	\$500,000 (PTF-Nexus)	\$1,000,000
Alviso	CD 4	THREE	Small	\$500,000	\$500,000 (Infrastructure Backlog)	\$1,000,000
Evergreen	CD 8	(Dave Cortese)	Large	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 (Infrastructure Backlog)	\$2,000,000
Lincoln Glen	CD 6	FOUR	Large	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 (Future development fees)	\$2,000,000
Butcher	CD 9	(Ken Yeager)	Small	\$500,000	\$500,000 (C&C Project)	\$1,000,000
Calabazas	CD 1	FIVE (Joe Simitian)	Small	\$300,000	\$300,000 (C&C EFB)	\$600,000

* Rotary Playgarden will be submitted as a second tier priority as the City has the entire \$2 million from SD 2 for Emma Prusch Park

The All-Inclusive Playground grant requires a dollar for dollar grant match funding per project. The match grant funding will be funded out of Conveyance and Construction Fund and the Park Trust Fund.

The grant is a reimbursement program, so Conveyance & Construction Fund and the Park Trust Fund will front the grant award amount too. PRNS will invoice periodically and the reimbursement will go back to the fund that fronted the expenses.