

Rotary PlayGarden Centennial Project Summary

Background

Organized in 1914, the Rotary Club of San Jose is one of the community's most active and well-known service organizations. During the past 100 years, more than 4,000 business and community leaders have been at the forefront of efforts to build the infrastructure and social fabric of our community.

As part of our 100 year anniversary, the Rotary Club of San Jose wanted to complete a project that would create a lasting legacy. After reviewing several proposals, the Club selected the Rotary PlayGarden as our centennial project. The Rotary PlayGarden is a unique regional equal access playground located on a 4.5 acre site in Guadalupe River Park in San Jose. It is free to the public and the opening ceremony was held Saturday February 21, 2015.

The project fills an unmet need for access to recreation facilities for the estimated 46,064 children with special needs living in Santa Clara County. We called on members of the public, including the Santa Clara County Office of Education, families of disabled children, and city parks staff, to help determine the need and the overall design for the Rotary PlayGarden. The final design assures that children with disabilities will gain access to the benefits and joy of the traditional playground experience, and children without disabilities will learn lessons of awareness and acceptance.



Rotary PlayGarden - Project Goals and Objectives

The transformative potential of the Rotary PlayGarden centers on individual children and their families. All children coming to the PlayGarden, including those with special needs, are able to interact in an informal, outdoor environment that fosters stimulating play. They will learn from each other, play together, and develop emotional, cognitive, and social skills.

We are especially interested in the educational benefits that the Rotary PlayGarden provides to children traditionally denied easy access to physical activity and play. Mounting evidence shows that increased physical activity helps children learn faster, remember more, and think clearer. The Rotary PlayGarden ensures that children with disabilities can develop both socially and academically.

The Rotary PlayGarden raises awareness about disabilities across the community at large. Many children with disabilities (including autism) are unable to play and interact socially with other children. The Rotary PlayGarden brings attention to the lack of accommodations in our community for people with special needs.



San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo welcomes donors, Rotarians, and guests to the opening of the Rotary PlayGarden on February 21, 2015.

Rotary PlayGarden - Project Outcomes and Deliverables

The Rotary PlayGarden is an inclusive playground destination where children of all abilities can discover, explore, and play together side by side. The key elements of the Rotary PlayGarden include adaptive playground equipment such as disc-shaped swings and wheelchair-accessible carousel; a tunnel entrance featuring wind turbines and kinetic art made from gears and recycled airplane parts; an earthen hill with embankment slides, rock steps and a bridge; a multi-sensory water and sand area; and a small amphitheater for outdoor classrooms and other gatherings.

The Rotary PlayGarden provides more than just standard play equipment by including natural elements, flexible space, and other unique features. It blends water, sand, and musical elements with traditional play equipment in a varied and stimulating landscape adapted to bring fun and wonder to all children.

The development of the Rotary PlayGarden was a collaborative effort among the Rotary Club of San Jose, the City of San Jose and the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy. The nonprofit Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, which operates the Visitor & Education Center adjacent to the Rotary PlayGarden site, will provide maintenance and on-going programming for the completed Rotary PlayGarden. The Santa Clara County Office of Education and San Andreas Regional Center will also support programming at the facility for their clients.

The Rotary Club of San Jose has gifted the Rotary PlayGarden to the City of San Jose to serve the children and families of our community forever.



Rotary PlayGarden – Project Financing

The total budget for the Rotary PlayGarden project was \$6 million. Although more than 300 San Jose Rotarians and their companies contributed more than \$2 million to this project, it would never have been completed without the incredible support of our many community partners.

The City of San Jose contributed \$1.4 million from their Parks Fund to infrastructure and permitting expenses. The Santa Clara County Office of Education and Santa Clara County also made important contributions from their capital funds. Foundations, local companies and other members of the public made significant contributions totalling almost \$1 million. The balance of almost \$1 million came as in kind contributions from many different contractors led by designer-builder Hensel Phelps Construction Company.

The Rotary Club of San Jose will be forever grateful to the 400+ generous donors who contributed to this new community asset. The major donors included:

City of San Jose	\$1,400,000
Rotary Club of San Jose Foundation	628,000
Santa Clara County Office of Education	600,000
Hensel Phelps Construction Co.	350,000
David & Lucile Packard Foundation	250,000
County of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Dept	250,000
The Joseph George Family	150,000
Foundation for Youth Investment	135,000
Blach Construction/Margie & Mike Blach	110,100
Lin & Carol Krebs	100,000
Moore Family Foundation	100,000
Sobrato Family Foundation	100,000
Cupertino Electric, Inc.	90,000
Green Waste Recovery, Inc.	80,000
Duran & Venables	72,000
Verde Design, Inc.	55,000
Barry Swenson Builder	50,000
Cisco Systems, Inc.	50,000
Kaiser Permanente	50,000
Comerica Bank of California	40,000
Stella B. Gross Charitable Trust	40,000
Howard & Karen Loomis	36,650
Carl & Marianne Salas	30,100
Dennis Fong & Polly Kam	30,000
Hedco Foundation	28,450
Clean Solar/Zechman & Ritchey Families	27,750
Dan Caputo, Jr.	25,000
John F. Hopkins	25,000
Larry Kuechler & Ivonne Montes de Oca	25,000
Knight Foundation Fund	25,000
Julie & Mel Matsushima	25,000
Sharks Foundation	25,000
Robert A. Bothman, Inc.	25,000+
Greg & Pam Yoder Family	20,100
John & Susan Baird and Our Grandchildren	20,000
Adolph & Rosemary Quilici	20,000
Sereno Group Willow Glen	20,000
The Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation	20,000
The Diridon Family	15,000
Gary & Sue Gianinni	15,000
Heritage Bank of Commerce	15,000
Skip & Nancy Franich	12,179



The D'Amico Family	12,000
Bay Area Builders	11,000
BKF Engineers	11,000
Jon & Paula Ball	10,500
Lexus of Stevens Creek	10,500
The Applied Materials Found.	10,000
Robert & Lynn Archer	10,000
Armadillo Willy's BBQ	10,000
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Eric & Anna Heckman	10,000
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PG&E	10,000
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Drew & Jodi Starbird	10,000
Larry & Carmen Stone	10,000
The Toeniskoetter Family	10,000
Warmenhoven Family Found.	10,000
Wells Fargo Foundation	10,000
Best Electrical Co., Inc.	10,000+
Central Concrete Supply Co.	10,000+
Monterey Bay Rebar, Inc.	10,000+