

Gautho, Julia

From: Dan Haifley <dan.haifley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:59 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Treasure Cove at Jade Street Park universally accessible playground

Mayor Clarke, Vice Mayor Pedersen and City Councilmembers Jensen, Orbach and Morgan-

My daughter Julia lives with full time care across the street from the proposed Treasure Cove at Jade Street Park universally accessible playground. She's a non-verbal, non-ambulatory, dependent young adult who laughs easily and immediately tunes in to the joy exuded by those around her. Her age precludes her from being considered one of the children with cognitive, physical and sensory disabilities that make up at least 12% of youth in Santa Cruz County, but Treasure Cove will be a place where she and her peers of all ages and their families can connect with those with full abilities. She'll be able to feel and enjoy its sensory aspects, including the pollinator garden, and of course, the laughter that will emanate from the playground itself.

Of all the similar fundraising efforts I've been involved in over the past decades, this was one the most successful and rewarding. Donors connected with its need, driven by stories of the many individuals with disabilities who live among us. Being left out or overlooked is a common theme, but Treasure Cove will help to change that narrative. I also really appreciated the team I worked with, it was one of the best professional experiences of my life (and I'm retired). But, before ground can be broken this summer, your support for the final funding piece from the City will be needed. I look forward to helping to present the story of County Park Friend's campaign at the Council meeting on Thursday, and I again thank you for your support.

All my best,
Dan Haifley (He/Him)
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