

Gautho, Julia

From: Heidi <Heidy@cwo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 6:37 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Treasure Cove

Dear Members of the Capitola City Council,

I'm writing to express my support for the Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks' fundraising campaign in support of Treasure Cove Playground and am eager to hear the report at this week's City Council meeting. As someone who served on the fundraising committee, I appreciated the opportunity to connect with our community and share the story of Capitola's commitment to shared funding for this project. Our city's visible partnership made a real difference to donors—including me, as both a committee member and a donor.

As a longtime child advocate, I've watched the landscape of service delivery for children shift, particularly post-pandemic. Increasingly, vital supports are found within family, friend, and neighbor networks rather than institutional settings. Parks play a central role in this ecosystem, offering resources that promote connection, engagement, resource sharing, and wellbeing. They serve as crucial access points for prevention strategies that, when invested in early, help avoid more costly interventions later in life.

Treasure Cove Playground promises to be a shining example of what inclusive, forward-thinking community investment can look like. A universally accessible playground—where *all* children, including our most vulnerable, can play, learn, and grow—should be the standard in every community. Sadly, it isn't. That's what makes Treasure Cove so exceptional.

It is more than a playground—it's a magnet. We know families routinely travel two hours or more to visit truly accessible playgrounds. Treasure Cove will not only meet that need—it will reinforce Capitola's reputation as a cherished destination and a community that cares for people.

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership in bringing Treasure Cove to life. I hope you'll remain steadfast in your support to strengthening children and families.

With gratitude,

Heidy Kellison

Capitola Resident