

Agnew Park was built and dedicated in 1970. This 1.97-acre neighborhood park is located in North Santa Clara and is surrounded by single-family housing, dense housing and a commercial property. Park features include a reservable recreation building, restrooms, a basketball court, a playground, an amphitheater and picnic tables.

Demographics/Need

The City of Santa Clara has implemented research based best practices in its approaches to park design and recreational program outcomes across the park system. Currently the City has 36 neighborhood parks, playgrounds and open space sites. The Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining and programming the various Parks & Recreation facilities and works collaboratively to achieve the City's Parks & Recreation system-wide goals of health and fitness, inclusion, environmentally sustainable, and age-friendly facilities that integrate with, and support, natural habitats in our community.

The 2010 U.S. Census estimates that the population of the City of Santa Clara will have reached 125,948 in 2015ⁱ:

- 7.8 % under the age of 5 years
- 21.3% under the age of 18
- 10 % over the age of 65

It is estimated that 1 of 1,000 children in the United States 85 will have some form of disability includingⁱⁱ:

- cognitive (41.5)
- communication (17)
- social-emotional (11)
- chronic health condition (11)
- multiple disabilities (2)
- sensory (1.5)
- physical (1).

Further, in 2015, 10.6% of Californians reported having one or more disabilities. This means that an estimated 13,350 children, adults, and seniors in the City of Santa Clara will benefit from access to an age-friendly, inclusive playground.

In the State of California, the percentage of adults with obesity is 24.2%, adult diabetes is 10.0%, and hypertension is 28.5%.ⁱⁱⁱ Given these U.S. Census data statistics, a significant proportion of Santa Clarans are at risk of developing obesity and obesity related health problems.

Creating a citywide network of active play environments within walking distance of one's home where adults and seniors can play and exercise with and side-by-side with children encourages lifelong active and healthy lifestyles.

The State of California recommends cities provide 3 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. The State Community FactFinder report for Agnew Park (see below) reports that the Agnew park neighborhood has 0.79 acres per 1,000 residents within a ½ mile

radius of the park. As undeveloped land is difficult to acquire, expanding the capacity of this playground to serve more residents and increase play value is crucial.

History

In September 2013, the City Council adopted a goal to “enhance community sports and recreational assets.” Since then, the City of Santa Clara has committed to providing measurable play value in inclusionary, environmentally sustainable, age-friendly Parks & Recreation facilities for all residents.

In the City’s 2017 Facility Condition Assessment Report (Kitchell), Agnew Park Playground was identified as “Critical” and recommended for immediate replacement. The Agnew playground has outlived its lifespan and no longer provides a safe, educational and enriching environment for play.

In Fiscal Year 2019-20, the City will be renovating the Agnew Park playground to meet accessibility standards, consumer product safety guidelines and measurably improved recreational play value. Funding for this for this Capital Improvement Project is allocated from new housing development impact fees (Quimby Act; Mitigation Fee Act) as well as donations received by the Parks & Recreation Department.

The City has engaged citizens in the master planning of Agnew park by providing several opportunities for input. The Playground is Phase I.

- November 24, 2017- On-site public meeting
- March 21- April 5, 2018- Online survey
- April 17, 2018- Parks & Recreation Commission meeting
- July 10, 2018- City Council approval of schematic design

The playground project will be going out to bid Fall 2019, with an expected construction start date in Spring 2020.

Current & Recent Projects

- Central Park Annex, dedicated March 2018
- “Eddie” Souza Neighborhood Park & Community Garden, dedicated August 2018
- Reed & Grant Sports Complex, expected dedication Spring 2020
- Bowers & Machado Park Playgrounds, expected re-dedication Fall 2019

Goals for Promoting Community Health

Play New playgrounds in Santa Clara are required to implement design considerations and programming that promote age appropriate physical activity for children, adults and seniors (adapted from PlayCore). Children’s playgrounds promote active play by including the City’s “six, plus one” key elements of play into the play spaces: balancing, brachiating/bilateral upper body activities, climbing, swinging, sliding, spinning, and running, free play and imagination. Creating age-friendly playground environments address the need for diversity in multi-generational play. The City’s Landscape Architect contract requires implementation of evidence-based design for increasing physical activity. The playgrounds provide a variety of levels of engagement for a continuum of

skills mastery (introductory to advance), have “loose parts” and configurations for active play throughout the lifespan (ages 2-5, 6-12, multigenerational, adult, and senior). Design elements are subject to research and peer review and must demonstrate outcomes. The goals encourage using outcome based programming, such as the “Play On!” program to help promote lifelong physical fitness and fun by implementing creative/engaging playground learning activities.

Inclusive Playgrounds encourage inclusion by creating universally designed play environments that increase playability for people of diverse abilities by implementing the “Seven (7) Principles of Inclusive Playground Design.” These promote a unique and meaningful play environment that is usable by more people and to the greatest extent possible, as well as including design best practices that promote inclusive play throughout the play environment.

Developmentally Appropriate Using design evaluation tools to help assure spaces created encourage growth across all developmental domains, including: 1) social/emotional, 2) physical, 3) sensory, 4) cognitive, and 5) communicative. Considering and using outcomes based programming, such as the “2 Play Together” program to help create awareness; foster friendship; encourage side by side play; remove barriers, and promote character development.

Sustainable Playgrounds are sustainable, support natural habitats and, when possible, use natural and reclaimed materials that are responsibly sourced and reduce the “carbon footprint” in manufacture, transit, ongoing park site operations and maintenance, maintain mature trees and other natural features on the existing site and implement design best practices that promote sustainability and integration with the natural environment. The design must use a sustainable plant palette that favors California native species and local drought tolerant varieties and encourage and support a diversity of plants, animal foraging and living habitats over both the short and long term, including trees, shrubs, and grasses in proper locations for carbon sequestration, shade, bio-filtration, and storm water retention.

Transparent The new playgrounds are promoted in the monthly, online “Parks & Recreation News” notification, sent to more than 10,000 individuals, the City’s social media channels as well as the Activity Guide, which is mailed to every household in Santa Clara and available to the public at City facilities, including recreation facilities, libraries, City Hall, and online.

Project Details

The City retained the services of a professional consultant, David Voles Design, to work with the Parks & Recreation Department to gather input for the Agnew Park Master Plan by engaging the neighborhood surrounding the park, the wider community, the Parks & Recreation Commission, and City Council. Outreach and playground design included two community meetings, an online survey and review by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The community was able to prioritize play features and design, within the City’s design standards.

Play System Item Eligible for Funding Consideration:

1 RDU Game Time – PrimeTime Xscape Custom Designed Hybrid \$108,463.00

The Agnew Park Rehabilitation will be scheduled in phases, as funding becomes available. Phase 1, Agnew Park Playground Rehabilitation, is scheduled to begin in spring 2020 and is funded through the City's CIP process.

ⁱ www.Census.gov

ⁱⁱ 2015 Disability Status Report, California, Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability at the Cornell University ILR School

ⁱⁱⁱ State of Obesity website, 2015 statistics