



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** SHERIDAN BOHLKEN, RECREATION SERVICES DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** APPROVAL OF THE INCLUSIVE ELM STREET PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND ITS ASSOCIATED PROPOSITION 68 PER CAPITA GRANT APPLICATION, AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT

**DATE:** OCTOBER 26, 2021

### **SUMMARY OF ACTION:**

Approving the proposed Inclusive Elm Street Park Playground Replacement Project will allow the City to apply for the Proposition 68 “Per Capita Program”, known as the “Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018” (Senate Bill 5). By also approving the additional funding sources, the project will be fully funded.

### **IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:**

The estimated total project costs for the Inclusive Elm Street Playground Replacement Project is \$369,484. Through the “Per Capita Grant Program”, the City is eligible for a grant award of \$177,952. The Arroyo Grande Valley Kiwanis Club has raised \$21,000 in support of the inclusive playground at Elm Street Park. As the proposed playground replacement project is 80% ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) inclusive and 100% ADA compliant, it is recommended that 80% of the balance for the project, \$136,426, be allocated from the local sales tax fund as it pertains to facility upgrades to meet ADA requirements, and the remaining 20%, \$34,106, be sourced from the Park Improvement Fund as allocated in the Capital Improvement Program fund.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council: 1) Approve the Inclusive Elm Street Park Playground Replacement Project proposal, allowing the City Manager to submit an application for the Prop 68 Per Capita Program and process any associated grant documents as necessary; and 2) Appropriate \$136,426 from the Sales Tax Fund as part of the total project costs.

### **BACKGROUND:**

On June 5, 2018, California voters approved Proposition 68, the “Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018” (Senate Bill 5). The “Per Capita Program”, administered by California State Park’s Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS), was established through this proposition with the intent of supplementing existing capital outlay expenditures for recreation purposes. Allocations for the Per Capita program are determined based on the

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population of cities, counties or other eligible districts. Under this program, grant recipients are encouraged to utilize awards to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and to address deficiencies in neighborhoods lacking access to the outdoors.

On October 22, 2019, a discussion of the Per Capita Program was held by the City Council and a resolution was adopted authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application and associated documents. At that time, staff identified qualifying projects within the Capital Improvement Program Unfunded Parks Projects such as:

- BBQ repairs at Strother Park
- Fencing repairs at Soto Sports Complex
- Ballfield renovations at Soto Sports Complex
- Turf leveling at Elm Street Park and Heritage Square Park
- Repairs to the Rotary Bandstand
- Strother Park Sidewalk and Concrete Replacement
- Playground Structure Replacement (Rancho Grande, Elm Street, Oro)
- Soto Sports Complex Resurface Tennis Courts
- Soto Sports Complex Porter Field Lighting
- Oro Park Engineered Wood Chips Surfacing
- Strother Park Fencing Repairs/Replacement
- James Way Open Space Foot Bridge
- Strother Park Basketball Court Resurfacing
- Kiwanis Park Maintenance Access

Since the adoption of the resolution in support of the Per Capita Program grant application in 2019, the City has received confirmation from OGALS that an allocation of \$177,952 is available with an approved application. Staff also attended a mandatory grant administration workshop on July 24, 2020, with OGALS. As next steps, project and funding approval are needed in order to submit the grant application, due on December 31, 2021 (extended due to COVID). The project must be completed by December 31, 2023, to qualify for funding.

In the Biannual FY 2021-23 budget, this project was budgeted for \$75,000, including funding for the required 20% match for the Per Capita Program grant of \$40,000 and \$35,000 from the Parks Improvement Fund. These estimates were used for planning purposes because the per capita allocation information had not been provided and the scope and design of the project had also not yet been finalized.

#### **ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:**

After evaluation of the potential Unfunded Parks Projects that qualified for the Per Capita Program grant, staff determined that a playground replacement project would be the most effective use of grant funds. Through communication with the Arroyo Grande Valley

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Kiwanis Club, it was also acknowledged that the City Council had previously approved a conceptual design to install inclusive play equipment at Elm Street Park in 2015. The Arroyo Grande Valley Kiwanis Club have continued to fundraise for an inclusive playground since 2015 and have raised over \$21,000 towards this goal. Considering this and the current condition of the playground equipment, staff identified the Inclusive Elm Street Park Playground Replacement project for the Per Capita Program grant.

In April 2021, staff conducted three virtual community meetings to solicit feedback from relevant user groups and the general public related to the Per Capita Program grant opportunity. Staff installed signage in Elm Street Park, posted information to City social media accounts and website, and emailed flyers out to over 3,000 parents through the Lucia Mar Unified School District providing notice of the virtual meetings and upcoming grant opportunity for park upgrades.

The public outreach resulted in valuable feedback related to the playground replacement project. The following concepts introduced through community outreach have been incorporated into the final design that is proposed:

- Adult fitness
- Native plants
- Emphasis on play for babies and toddlers
- Bars (brachiated play) for older children
- Swings for all ages
- Shade
- Replacement of sand with Pour and Play surfacing
- Multi-generational access
- Diversified color scheme
- Diversified design from nearby playgrounds
- Inclusion of bike racks and benches

Once the elements above were incorporated into a working design, staff also shared the playground design in a Staff Advisory Committee meeting consisting of representatives from each City department and the following topics were discussed and addressed: maintenance and warranty for shade structures (10 years plus fire-treated and UV rated materials), appropriate drainage (permeable pour and play surface), and benches for sitting and viewing children while playing (included in design).

The final design proposed for consideration not only includes an inclusive playground, but also includes an inclusive adult fitness zone. In addition, the service organization, Arroyo Grande in Bloom, has agreed to assist with designing the native plant component of the playground, which consists of several pocket spaces within the playground footprint featuring native plants and grasses in conjunction with interpretive education.

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The cost of the final design estimate for the Inclusive Elm Street Playground Replacement Project is \$369,484. The costs and funding sources are further described in the following table:

<b>Project Title:</b> <i>Elm Street Park Playground Structure/PIP</i>			
<b>PROJECT DEPARTMENT</b>			
Public Works/Recreation			
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>			
Replacement of existing play structure and poured-in-place (PIP) fall protection at Elm Street Park.			
<b>Revenue</b>			
Account	Source	FY 2021-22 Original Budget	FY 2021-22 Adjusted Budget
4458	State Grant	40,000	177,952
4809	AG Kiwanis Donation		21,000
4950	Sales Tax		136,426
4914	Park Improvement	35,000	34,106
Total		75,000	369,484
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Account	Description	Total Budget	
7001	Construction	75,000	369,484
Total		75,000	369,484

The Per Capita Program grant requires a 20% match of the project total to be local matching funds for areas that do not serve severely disadvantaged communities (median household income less than 60% of the statewide average), and can be met through Federal, City or private funds, in-house employee services, or volunteer labor. If this project is approved as presented, the proposed funding sources would meet the match requirement as the City does not qualify as serving severely disadvantaged communities.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Approve the recommendation to apply for the Per Capita Program grant for the Inclusive Elm Street Playground Replacement Project design and allocate associated funding as proposed;



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2. Do not approve the recommendation to apply for the Per Capita Program grant program for the Inclusive Elm Street Playground Replacement Project design; or
3. Provide other staff direction.

**ADVANTAGES:**

Approval of the Elm Street Park Playground Replacement Project and associated funding is anticipated to result in an inclusive playground for the community. The inclusive playground would incorporate NatureGrounds, Play-On Technology Promoting Physical Activity, the 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design and an Outdoor Adult Fitness Zone, qualifying the playground for four National Demonstration Site accreditations, the first in the nation.

**DISADVANTAGES:**

As the grant would provide funding to accomplish goals identified in the Capital Improvement Program and provide community members additional access to recreational opportunities within the City of Arroyo Grande, there are no known disadvantages at this time.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

No environmental review is required for this item.

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:**

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code 54954.2. At the time of report publication, no comments were received.

**Attachments:**

1. Elm Street Park Playground overview
2. 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design – National Demonstration Site
3. NatureGrounds - National Demonstration Site
4. Outdoor Adult Fitness Parks – National Demonstration Site
5. Play On! – Promoting Physical Activity & Fitness Through Active Play – National Demonstration Site





SPRING

# **ELM TREE PARK** CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE, CA

821-138194C

**PROPOSED PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT ELM TREE PARK.**  
FUNDING PROVIDED THROUGH STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROP 68 PER CAPITA GRANT.  
TO SHARE YOUR COMMENTS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT,  
VISIT [WWW.ARROYOGRANDE.ORG](http://WWW.ARROYOGRANDE.ORG) OR CALL (805) 473-5474



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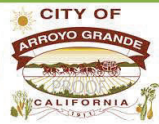


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## ELM TREE PARK | CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE, CALIFORNIA



1 Be Fair



2 Be Included



3 Be Smart



4 Be Independent



5 Be Safe



6 Be Active



7 Be Comfortable

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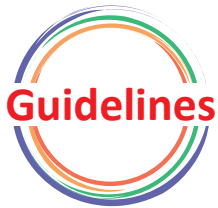
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# Me2® - 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design<sup>SM</sup> Become a PlayCore NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

*Join our national initiative to build a network of communities moving beyond accessibility to provide truly inclusive play spaces that promote participation, healthy activity, and social interaction.*



- 
**1. Engage the Community in Planning, Implementation, and Sustainability**  
 Ascertain the goal of your project and undergo a carefully considered step-by-step process to ensure your play space meets the desired outcome. This process may include master planning, partnerships, design workshops, and strategies for implementing product choices to promote usage by people of all ages and abilities.
- 
**2. Implement Design Best Practices that Promote Inclusive Play throughout the Play Environment**
  - Create universally designed play environments that increase playability for people of diverse abilities by implementing the 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design to promote a unique and meaningful play environment that is usable by more people, to the greatest extent possible.
  - Utilize tools to help create a space that encourages growth across all developmental domains, including social/emotional, physical, sensory, cognitive, and communicative.
  - Consider usage of programming, such as the 2 Play Together program to help create awareness, foster friendships, break down barriers, and promote character development.
- 
**3. Participate in Local Recognition and National Press Opportunities**  
 Submit photos after the installation is complete to validate implementation of best practices, and to provide visuals that can be shared through web reporting, press releases, and other public relations opportunities. Above qualification criteria will be self-reported by completing an application to describe alignment to best practices, and provide additional facts to be used in public relations.
- 
**4. Participate in a Research Network**  
 Provide a primary point of contact for future data collection and/or research initiatives such as surveys, focus groups, and/or observations. Data will be utilized as an educational resource for other communities and to fuel ongoing research.

# Me2® - 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design<sup>SM</sup>

## PLAYCORE NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE



Qualifying as a National Demonstration Site communicates to others that your project planning through implementation has followed best practice guidelines. Additional benefits can be tailored to support your individual project and to promote your leadership nationally for others to replicate.

### **Local Recognition**

Receive a complimentary National Demonstration Site sign that can be installed onsite for visitors to learn more about the Me2 inclusion initiative, and promote your adherence to best practices. Once your project is registered and has qualified, you will receive the National Demonstration Site seal digitally for usage in outbound marketing, fundraising, website, letterhead, etc. This tool can be utilized to communicate and promote the quality and purpose of your project to stakeholders.

### **National Recognition**

Through the National Demonstration Site program, your leadership will be shared through public relations opportunities. Receive national press through PlayCore's Center for Professional Development. To advocate for and build this network, PlayCore will provide a variety of educational resources and highlight case studies to be presented at internationally accredited professional development sessions, and in educational materials, web promotions, national press, collateral, and more. Sharing your story will help others advocate and replicate.

### **Inclusion Advocacy**

Implementing best practices brings a variety of benefits to your local community. You can also stay engaged with a network of communities championing for inclusive play environments by participating in future research that will help inform and improve health across a variety of communities!



Interested in learning more about how your community can participate in a national movement for promoting inclusion? Contact us to learn more or to apply today!

# NatureGrounds®

## Become a PlayCore NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

*Join our national initiative to build a network of communities promoting highest use of playground environments through integration of the built environment and the living landscape.*

### Guidelines



#### 1. Engage the Community in Planning, Implementation, and Sustainability

Ascertain the goal of your project and undergo a carefully considered step-by-step process to ensure your play space meets the desired outcome for usage. This process may include master planning, partnerships, design workshops, and strategies to implement built and natural elements that promote usage.



#### 2. Implement Design Best Practices that Integrate Nature and the Living Landscape

- Define play settings that maximize active, social, and sensory play along a developmental continuum while locating the play area in relation to natural site features and functional surroundings.
- Utilize tools designed to apply planting pocket criteria and plant location rules in relation to equipment.
- Evaluate naturalization to preserve existing landscape features, select natural plant materials, and integrate a phased planting plan, utilizing rendering tools and the NatureGrounds searchable plant database.
- Identify programs and processes that inform design and maximize usage.



#### 3. Participate in Local Recognition and National Press Opportunities

Submit photos after the installation is complete to validate implementation of best practices, and to provide visuals that can be shared through web reporting, press releases, and other public relations opportunities. Above qualification criteria will be self-reported by completing an application to describe alignment to best practices, and provide additional facts to be used in public relations.



#### 4. Participate in a Research Network

Provide a primary point of contact for future data collection and/or research initiatives such as surveys, focus groups, and/or observations. Data will be utilized as an educational resource for other communities and to fuel ongoing research.

# NatureGrounds®

## PLAYCORE NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

### Benefits

Qualifying as a National Demonstration Site communicates to others that your project planning through implementation has followed best practice guidelines. Additional benefits can be tailored to support your individual project and to promote your leadership nationally for others to replicate.

#### Local Recognition

Receive a complimentary National Demonstration Site sign that can be installed onsite for visitors to learn more about the NatureGrounds initiative, and promote your adherence to best practices. Once your project is registered and has qualified, you will receive the National Demonstration Site seal digitally for usage in outbound marketing, fundraising, website, letterhead, etc. This tool can be utilized to communicate and promote the quality and purpose of your project to stakeholders.

#### National Recognition

Through the National Demonstration Site program, your leadership will be shared through public relations opportunities. Receive national press through PlayCore's Center for Professional Development. To advocate for and build this network, PlayCore will provide a variety of educational resources and highlight case studies to be presented at internationally accredited professional development sessions, and in educational materials, web promotions, national press, collateral, and more. Sharing your story will help others advocate and replicate.

#### Nature Advocacy

Implementing best practices brings a variety of benefits to your local community. You can also stay engaged with a network of communities championing for nature and play by participating in future research that will help inform and improve health across a variety of communities!

### Contact Us

Interested in learning more about how your community can participate in a national movement for promoting nature and play? Contact us to learn more or to apply today!

# Outdoor Adult Fitness Parks™

## Become a PlayCore

### NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

Join our national initiative to build a network of communities promoting health through Outdoor Adult Fitness Park best practices



Building communities through play™

Outdoor Adult Fitness Park National Demonstration Sites exemplify best practices as outlined in the guidebook, *Outdoor Adult Fitness Parks: Best Practices for Promoting Community Health by Increasing Physical Activity*.

## Qualifications

- 
**1. Registration & National Recognition**  
 Register your project in a National Registry by entering demographic data and site specific variables for tracking, trending, and sharing outcomes. Your leadership will be shared through the online database, presented at Internationally Accredited Professional Development sessions, and featured in local and national news outlets in order to inspire and educate other communities.
- 
**2. Design Alignment to Health Benefits and Total Body Fitness**  
 Ensure your Outdoor Adult Fitness Park meets the criteria of a complete, well-rounded fitness routine through product selection and design for defined benefits of (1) aerobic, (2) core, (3) strength, and (4) flexibility/balance. Design considerations such as typology, user groups, location and context, and amenities are also well-defined for engaging the community in meaningful ways.
- 
**3. Community Engagement for Planning & Continuous Improvement**  
 Share how you engage the community during the planning and implementation process and document examples of community meetings, fundraising initiatives, and sustainability as examples for other communities to replicate. Community engagement efforts will be described in the registration process and validated in the post-installation assessment submission.
- 
**4. Promotion of Usage through Programs & Marketing**  
 Describe how the community actively markets and/or programs the Outdoor Adult Fitness Park to maximize usage. Initiatives may include web promotions, onsite fitness classes, and/or special events to target users and promote community health.
- 
**5. Photo Assessment Post Installation**  
 Submit a photo assessment after the installation is complete to validate implementation of best practices. Above qualification criteria will be self-reported through a checklist process to describe alignment to best practices and to submit example photos that can be shared across the database network.
- 
**6. Research Network for Data Collection and Reporting**  
 Provide a primary point of contact for future data collection and/or research initiatives such as surveys, focus groups, and/or observations. Data will be utilized to further populate the database as an educational resource for other communities and to fuel ongoing research.



# Outdoor Adult Fitness Parks™

## PLAYCORE NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

### Benefits

Qualifying as a National Demonstration Site communicates to others that your project planning through implementation has followed best practice guidelines. Additional benefits can be tailored to support your individual project and to promote your leadership nationally for others to replicate.

#### **Designation Sign**

Receive a complimentary 'National Demonstration Site' sign that can be installed onsite for visitors to learn more about the Outdoor Adult Fitness Park initiative.

#### **National Registry**

Record your project on a National Registrar as a best practice site and promote your leadership locally and nationally through the Fitness Park map at [www.playcore.com/fitness](http://www.playcore.com/fitness)

#### **Seal for Promotions**

Once your project is registered and has qualified, you will receive the 'National Demonstration Site' seal digitally for usage in outbound marketing, fundraising, letterhead, etc. This tool can be utilized to communicate and promote the quality and purpose of your project to a variety of stakeholders.

#### **Recognition Letters and Certificates**

After submission of the post installation photo assessment, a recognition letter and certificate will be sent to the local Mayor and Parks/Recreation Director (or appropriate community contact) which can also be used in a ribbon cutting ceremony or local press.

#### **National Press to Promote Your Leadership**

Receive national press through PlayCore's Center for Professional Development. To advocate for and build this network, PlayCore will provide a variety of educational resources and highlight case studies through continuing education sessions, case study educational materials, web promotions, national press, collateral, and more. Sharing your story will help others advocate and replicate.

#### **Advocate for Health**

Implementing best practices brings a variety of benefits to your local community. You can also stay engaged with a network of communities championing for health through fitness by participating in future research that will help inform and improve health across a variety of communities!

### Contact Us

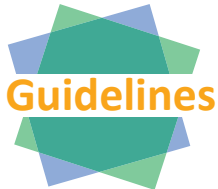
Interested in learning more about how your community can participate in a national movement for promoting community health? Contact us to learn more or to get moving today!



# Play On!® - Promoting Physical Activity & Fitness Through Active Play

## Become a PlayCore NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

*Join our national initiative to build a network of communities promoting physical activity through well-designed outdoor play and learning environments.*



### 1. Engage the Community in Planning, Implementation, and Sustainability

Ascertain the goal of your project and undergo a carefully considered step-by-step process to ensure your play space meets the desired outcome. This process may include master planning, partnerships, design workshops, and fundraising strategies that demonstrate strategic considerations to specifically promote physical activity.



### 2. Implement Design Considerations and Programming that Promotes Physical Activity

- Create play environments that implement evidence-based design considerations for increasing physical activity such as offering variety, continuum of skills, naturalization, loose parts, and/or configuration for active play.
- Address the six key elements of play by incorporating balancing, brachiating/bilateral upper body activities, climbing, swinging, sliding, and spinning activities into the play space.
- Consider usage of programming, such as the Play On! program of to help promote physical fitness and fun through the use of creative playground learning activities.



### 3. Participate in Local Recognition and National Press Opportunities

Submit photos, renderings, and/or drawings to validate implementation of best practices, and to provide visuals that can be shared through web reporting, press releases, and other public relations opportunities. Above qualification criteria will be self-reported by completing an application to describe alignment to best practices, and provide additional facts to be used in public relations.



### 4. Participate in a Research Network

Provide a primary point of contact for future data collection and/or research initiatives such as surveys, focus groups, and/or observations. Data will be utilized as an educational resource for other communities and to fuel ongoing research.

# Play On!® - Promoting Physical Activity & Fitness Through Active Play

## PLAYCORE NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

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### Benefits

Qualifying as a National Demonstration Site communicates to others that your project planning through implementation has followed best practice guidelines. Additional benefits can be tailored to support your individual project and to promote your leadership nationally for others to replicate.



#### Local Recognition

Receive a complimentary National Demonstration Site sign that can be installed onsite for visitors to learn more about the Play On! initiative, and promote your adherence to best practices.

Once your project is registered and has qualified, you will receive the National Demonstration Site seal digitally for usage in outbound marketing, fundraising, website, letterhead, etc. This tool can be utilized to communicate and promote the quality and purpose of your project to stakeholders.



#### National Recognition

Through the National Demonstration Site program, your leadership will be shared through public relations opportunities. Receive national press through PlayCore's Center for Professional Development. To advocate for and build this network, PlayCore will provide a variety of educational resources and highlight case studies to be presented at internationally accredited professional development sessions, and in educational materials, web promotions, national press, collateral, and more. Sharing your story will help others advocate and replicate.



#### Physical Activity Advocacy

Implementing best practices brings a variety of benefits to your local community. You can also stay engaged with a network of communities championing for play and learning environments that promote physical activity and fitness through design considerations and programming by participating in future research or data collection that will help inform and improve health across a variety of communities!



### Contact Us

Interested in learning more about how your community can participate in a national movement for promoting physical activity? Contact us to learn more or to apply today!