

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

## 2017-2018 Measure Q Urban Open Space Grant Program

1/12/2018 deadline

### El Toro Health Science Academy El Toro Health Science Academy Crossfit Nature Trail

**\$ 100,000.00** Requested  
\$ 100,000 Total Project Cost

Submitted: 1/12/2018 10:23:42 AM (Pacific)

#### Project Contact

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#### Additional Contacts

*none entered*

#### El Toro Health Science Academy

455 E. Main Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

#### Principal

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## B. Project Description

### Project Overview

#### 1. Grant Category (check all that apply)

- Environmental Stewardship and Restoration
- Parks, Trails, and Public Access
- Environmental Education
- Urban Agriculture / Food Systems

#### 2. What type of project is this (check all that apply)

- Capital improvement
- Planning
- Program

#### 3. Project Location: Address

*If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all addresses. If there is no street address, please describe the area(s).*

455 E. Main Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

#### 4. Project Location: Neighborhood

*If unknown, please enter "N/A."*

Central location in Morgan Hill, CA.

At the corner of Main Avenue and Calle Mazatan.

#### 5. Project Location: OSA District (check all that apply)

*A detailed map of the OSA Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <http://www.openspaceauthority.org/about/boardmap.html>.*

- OSA District 1
- OSA District 2

- ☐ OSA District 3
- ☐ OSA District 4
- ☐ OSA District 5
- ☐ OSA District 6
- ☐ OSA District 7

#### **6. Are there any project partners?**

*If there are project partners, please list each partner and describe their roles. Required - upload letter from each partner describing their role.*

None

#### **7. Project Abstract**

*(Brief, 3-4 sentences)*

This project will provide an area for the entire school community to experience physical fitness activities and outdoor educational experiences. The crossfit track will be a quarter mile loop with crossfit areas located at various locations for exercises using natural resources. The educational garden walk will house native plants, vegetation and fruits to the South Valley to educate the school body and the community at large. Our crossfit nature walk will be a one of a kind school asset.

### **Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support (10 points)**

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#### **8. Describe the community support and/or community engagement process.**

*When applicable, the application should include letters of support from local jurisdiction(s), particularly for capital improvement projects. Please submit letters using the Documents Upload tab.*

El Toro Health Science Academy has just begun its new venture as a focused academy within the Health Sciences. Our local stakeholders unanimously agreed to pursue this new journey. We have a School Site Council that helps determine projects, events and activities towards the focused academy. The council meets monthly and with a vote of 12-0 agreed to pursue grant opportunities for a Crossfit Nature Track. Then, our school district governing body of 7 board members will officially agree on Jan. 23rd to encourage the funding as well. This is an oversight group for the entire school district. Our staff and faculty will participate in using the area as a vital component of the focused academy. The students and families will be able to utilize the crossfit track outside school operating hours. The educational portion will allow classes to have a hands-on outdoor learning environment and for physical fitness. Our staff will schedule various educational workshops throughout the year for the Morgan Hill community. These workshops will cover native plants, how-to take care of these plants, and more. The signage along the trail will provide an educational tour in the garden area. El Toro's stakeholders are extremely excited to see this project come to fruition.

### **Project Planning (20 points)**

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#### **9. Describe the proposed project**

On the map provided, you will find the proposed project on the corner of our school property. The project will have minimal disruption to the natural habitat but will provide a wonderful opportunity for the entire school community as well as the central Morgan Hill community. The proposed project is to construct an elliptical quarter mile crossfit nature trail with a circular educational garden walk at one end. Spaced along the trail there will be crossfit area constructed with local natural resources to help people participate in healthy crossfit activities while experiencing their physical exercise. One may walk, jog or run along the 5 foot wide trail. The existing soil and grass will be dug out 6 inches in depth and replaced with 4 inches of base rock and 2 inches of chardonnay fines dust. These 6 inches will allow for a sturdy yet natural walking, jogging or running surface. For a portion of the grass area, there is an existing sprinkler system that will need to be located to avoid broken pipes and such. The dug out 6 inches will be gathered, relocated at a designated area on the trail and used to build a raised running berm. Therefore, no existing soil will need to be taken off site. The crossfit areas will use natural resources to encourage students to perform pushups, situps, step ups and more at various distances around the 1/4 mile trail. The circular walking garden will also have a few crossfit stations, but mostly will be constructed to build a native plant garden. These native plants will be inside constructed wooden raised planters. There will be trees planted around the track as well to provide shade and an opportunity to have an educational conversation. Each plant, shrub, grass and tree type will have signage that will label the scientific name, the common name and a description. We will need to provide a connection to the existing water source around the grass playground. Inside the nature walk, there will be a few tables and a seating area for the educational chats. This area will also provide local fruits and vegetables for students to taste, discover and share with their families. Finally, at the corner of Calle Mazatan and Central Avenue, we will construct a new corner with a new fencing, signage and entrance. Right now, there is just plain chain link fencing. This project will be accessible for all people as well. The areas that have a decline or incline, we will provide a level walk around so that all people no matter the ability will be able to experience the El Toro Health Science Academy Natural Crossfit Trail.

#### **10. What is the lifetime of this project?**

*For capital improvement projects, applicants must state how long the project would remain on the site AND demonstrate that*

they have appropriate permissions. Please submit the Land Tenure form and documentation using the Documents Upload tab.

- 5 Years (minimum for capital improvement projects)
- Other time period - explain:
- Perpetuity
- Not applicable

**11. Describe your plans for operating and maintaining the project over the next 10 years, and indicate your source of funds for ongoing management.**

*This question is required for all capital improvement projects. For planning and program projects, please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."*

Our school staff currently has a Teacher on Special Assignment and this project will be at the core of his/her job description. Student classrooms will share the responsibility of weed control, planting, and harvesting of areas around the crossfit trail. For example, a 5th grade class will be responsible for managing and maintaining the nature flower garden. The Morgan Hill Unified School District has a maintenance and facilities department. Within that department, they allocate staffing to mow grass areas, prune trees and shrubs and maintaining all landscape areas. These staff members will add this new area to their existing job duties. The source of funds that will provide maintenance is built within the general budget from the school district. The school site budget will allocate funds to purchase plants and materials for the planter areas. The Home and School Club will allocate volunteer work days to help maintain the beautification of the new crossfit trail.

**12. Describe the project's readiness for implementation.**

*Please include the status of any planning, design, or funding development necessary for project completion. This includes the status of CEQA compliance and any permits required for this project. REQUIRED: CEQA form, if applicable.*

Once the project has been funded by the Measure Q Urban Open Space Grant Program, we will launch the official start of the project by hiring a local architect to draw up plans and provide the required plans to submit to the Department of the State Architect in Sacramento. This process will take 4-6 weeks and once plans have been approved, we will commence constructing the El Toro Health Science Academy Crossfit Nature Trail. With any luck, we will be ready to open the trail before the end of the 2017-2018 school year. At the very least, we will have it ready for the opening of school in August 2018.

**Project Budget (15 points)**

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**13. Budget Summary**

*This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload Tab. Please note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically total all lines. This additional TOTAL will not be used.*

<input type="text" value="6000"/>	Grant request: Personnel
<input type="text" value="15,000"/>	Grant request: Contracted Services
<input type="text" value="60,500"/>	Grant request: Supplies/Materials
<input type="text" value="10,000"/>	Grant request: Other Direct Costs
<input type="text" value="8500"/>	Grant request: Indirect Costs
<input type="text" value="100,000"/>	TOTAL GRANT REQUEST
<input type="text" value="33,000"/>	TOTAL MATCHING FUNDS
<input type="text" value="133,000"/>	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (grant request + matching funds)
<input type="text" value="33%"/>	PERCENT MATCH (matching funds / grant request)
<input type="text" value="366,000.00"/>	<b>TOTAL</b>

**Project Goals (15 points)**

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**14. Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.**

For the past 10 years, our school has had a corner of our property that has been unused for no particular reason. Now, this project will give the previously unused area a purpose not only for the school but for the neighborhood community. In conjunction with the new purposeful transition to a Health Science Academy, this project will solve the issue of providing hands-on educational and purpose driven opportunities for the entire school community. The outdoor classroom area will enhance the physical education program of the school and provide a wonderful location for the earth, life and physical sciences. In addition, the nutritional talks of better eating habits will allow students to smell, feel, see and taste herbs, spices, fruits and vegetables. The local area houses various native plants as well which will connect to the rich history of Morgan Hill.

**15. Please list the project's goals (both social and environmental).**

*These should be specific, measurable goals (e.g. 600 people participating in educational programs). Please see Appendix E of the Grant Program Guidelines for a list of sample goals.*

1. The facility will now use an area once unused. Students, staff and faculty will be able to use the nature trail for physical fitness activities and exercise while providing an additional educational outdoor classroom. At this point most of the area is fenced off and is unused.
2. The nature garden walk and planter area will provide educational opportunities that will be unique for the school students and Morgan Hill Community.
3. The nature trail will provide an area for physical fitness and activity opportunities.
4. Our Crossfit Nature Trail will be available and accessible for the central Morgan Hill community after school operating hours.
5. The planning portion has brought together the school community for a project that will benefit all stakeholders.
6. There will trees, bushes, plants, grass and shrubs where there once was none.
7. The trail itself will help develop an area that has no purpose at the moment.
8. The construction of the project will involve local volunteers working hours to create a common goal.

## **Impact (15 points)**

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### **16. Describe the lasting impact of the project.**

Our school serves students ranging from ages 3 - 12, Pre-School to 5th grade. The students at these ages are extremely impressionable and this project will impact our school in a few ways. Students will have a location to run, walk or jog that is safe and fun. This will create a lifelong habit of physical activity which impacts the health of all students. The project will provide a safe and fun location for the neighborhood community exercise after school and the weekends as well as when school is out of session. This will impact the health of an entire neighborhood. Educationally, the impact of this project will be a one of a kind nature trail providing hands-on opportunities for students to experience our world in the safety of the school grounds. The environmental impact of this project will be measured by adding trees, plants, shrubs, fruits and vegetables that will create healthy air for us to breathe. Our school community will have an area to invite the Morgan Hill community for health talks, workshops and plantings which will impact the entire population.

## **Leadership & Innovation (10 points)**

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### **17. Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnership in the field of parks, open space, urban agriculture, land conservation, or environmental education.**

It is one thing to read about your environment, but it is another thing to actually feel your environment, to smell your environment, to hear, to taste and to see your environment with your own eyes. Suddenly, what you read in a stale textbook, becomes a real, tangible resource that excites the individual to learn more and more. In addition, the dual threat of a healthy physical fitness area shows that one can workout without going to a gym or take a class inside. The crossfit nature trail will enhance one's workout regime and encourage outside activity. These hands-on experiential opportunities will be create a unique environment for our school as well within the Health Science Focus Academy.

## **Organizational Capacity (15 points)**

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### **18. Briefly describe the organization.**

*Please include the year the organization was founded and its mission and goals. If the applicant is a Fiscal Sponsor, please describe both the APPLICANT and the SPONSORED ORGANIZATION.*

El Toro Elementary was named after a local geographical feature of the area, the 1,403 foot El Toro mountain to the west. The mountain is an important part of Morgan Hill's history; the well-known pioneer settler Martin Murphy, Sr. came to live near this mountain in 1844 and it was his granddaughter Diana who married Hiram Morgan Hill. El Toro Elementary School was formally opened in 1990 in portables, with Kindergarten through Third Grade classes. The school buildings were completed for the 1993-1994 school year and all classes were moved out of the portables. Today El Toro School has a full Transitional Kindergarten through Fifth Grade program. El Toro HSA has served students in the Morgan Hill Unified School District since 1991. The student and staff population reflect Silicon Valley's economic and ethnic diversity, including physical and social complexities. El Toro HSA encourages a family environment of supporting students with in grades TK-Fifth Grade and special learning challenges for the Pre-School ages. The school climate fosters awareness, acceptance and a growth-mindset, which help all students, staff and families grow in character. No matter the age, El Toro students are challenged to display their personal best in pursuit of lifelong goals, dreams and aspirations from their academic successes. El Toro Health Science Academy students receive an excellent education and are empowered to succeed in school.

### **19. Describe the organization's ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, staffing levels, financial resources, etc.**

*If applicant cannot otherwise demonstrate its capacity, expertise, and experience, please provide names and contact information of individuals knowledgeable about the organization's work.*

At the core of our new venture as a Health Science Academy, we re-purposed used facilities into a new location for state of the art Health Science Lab. That project took 10 areas, (a building and half) that were used once a week at most to a location

used all day, everyday for a new hands-on experiential lab. Again, this is a one of a kind lab for an elementary age school. The impact of this lab building will provide a site specific area for a lab experiments, activities, projects and more. Our school is reaping the benefits of this \$500,000 project and will for years to come. It would be wonderful to pair the lab with an outdoor location in the Crossfit Nature Trail.

**20. Briefly describe key staff members and volunteers' qualifications and experience relevant to the project.**

Our volunteer that will provide the digging and grading works at a local site construction company. His job and equipment is essentially what we are going to be doing for that aspect of the job. Before I was a teacher and eventually principal, I was employed by a structural/civil engineer company that worked on all kinds of construction projects. Our family volunteers currently schedule 3 workdays each year to help beautify our campus and work on small site projects. Our maintenance and operations department, well, that is what they do for all our schools.

**BONUS POINTS: Underserved Communities (10 points)**

**21. Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, or is located within a Deep Engagement Community (DEC).**

*A map of the DECs can be found under the Library tab of online at <http://www.openspaceauthority.org/urban>. This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."*

Our school is a Title 1 school and 45% of our student receives a free or reduced lunch. 58% of the families are Hispanic. This is a community of families that are socially disadvantaged and without this Crossfit Nature Trail, they would not be able to afford an area to physically exercise. Our families educational levels are generally high school graduate and some college. So, the community educational chats, talks and workshops will provide them these wonderful learning opportunities right within their school property. The trail will be accessible for people with all abilities which is unique that it will allow all to enjoy a nature walk, job or run.

**BONUS POINTS: Community Building (10 points)**

**22. Describe how this project actively encourages community building by engaging or accommodating local residents in novel and creative ways.**

*This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."*

Schools used to be at the core of community events and activities. This changed to the point that school properties are used only during school hours and as soon as school is over, the campus is vacant. This project will unite the community to have walking groups, garden groups, crossfit groups and much more. People can exercise on the very property their children attend school, Pride returns to the community, school returns to a safe location for families once again just by adding a Crossfit Nature Trail. The educational aspect will bring local experts to the location as well to share current and best practices for gardening, cultivating and harvesting.

**BONUS POINTS: Leverage Funding (5 points)**

**23. Describe how the project leverages funding with more than 25% match by grantee (cash or in-kind).**

*This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."*

This project will use the man hours to dig, excavate and create the new nature trail. Man hours will be used to create the walking garden, bringing in top soil, mulch, and compost for planting areas. Operating rental equipment for sprinkler system will be done by volunteers, connecting into existing water lines and constructing new sprinkler pipes, sprinklers, bubblers. Designers will be used to design signage for the new corner area, and signage for trees, plants, etc. Family volunteers will help construct the natural crossfit workout areas.

**C. Work Plan**

**C.1. Project Work Plan**

Task Number	Activities	Timeframe	Outcome/Deliverables
1	Architect to design plan for Crossfit Nature Trail	Feb. - Mar. 2018	Plans to submit to the Department of the State Architect for building and accessibility permits
2	Excavation / Grading	May 2018	Trail ready to build and construct
3	Trail construction, pack, and	June 2018	Finished Track and crossfit areas

	build berm, crossfit areas		
4	Corner entrance	June 2018	New accessible corner entrance on Calle Mazatan / Central
5	Sprinkler system	June 2018	Working water system to plant trees, planter areas and walking garden
6	Plant trees, shrubs, fruits, vegetables and grass	July 2018	Vegetation planted around trail
7	Construct planter areas for walking garden	July 2018	walking garden ready for educational purposes
8	Signage	Aug 2018	Educational
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20			

#### D. Documents Upload

Documents Requested *	Required?	Attached Documents *
Financial statements	✓	<a href="#">Financials</a>
Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body <a href="#">download template</a>	✓	<a href="#">Authorizing Resolution</a>
Project Budget <a href="#">download template</a>	✓	<a href="#">Proposed budget</a>
Acknowledgment Form <a href="#">download template</a>	✓	<a href="#">Acknowledgement Form</a>
Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement <a href="#">download template</a>		
Land Tenure Form <a href="#">download template</a>		
CEQA Compliance Certification Form <a href="#">download template</a>		
Letters of Support		
Letters from Project Partners		
Maps		<a href="#">Site map</a>
Other		

\* ZoomGrants™ is not responsible for the content of uploaded documents.

Application ID: 100511