

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

2017-2018 Measure Q Urban Open Space Grant Program

1/12/2018 deadline

City of San Jose Guadalupe Oak Grove Park Outdoor Classroom

\$ 30,000.00 Requested
\$ 39,903 Total Project Cost

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EIN 94-6000419

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).

Guadalupe Oak Grove Park
5982 Thorntree Drive
San Jose CA 95002

4. Project Location: Neighborhood

If unknown, please enter "N/A."

37 14'11 N, 121 49'31 W

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.

N/A

7. Project Abstract

(Brief, 3-4 sentences)

The Guadalupe Oak Grove Park outdoor classroom will enhance the undeveloped park land by promoting educational enrichment activities and nature-based outdoor play which will encourage a deeper connection between our community and parks. This space will provide opportunities to spend time in nature while also promoting partnerships with environmental organizations, spread nature preservation awareness, increase community participation, and inspire families to spend time outdoors.

Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support (10 points)

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.

With goals of promoting stronger connections between the community and parks, collaborations with local partners and engagement with the community will further advance these goals. Current nature-based programs, coordinated and facilitated at Almaden Lake Park, have continued to show highly successful and increasing participation, year by year. So much so, that these nature-based programs have continued to reach maximum capacity with an increasing amount of positive feedback from parents. The community has also expressed interest in similar types of programs to be offered.

The outdoor classroom will garner more active participation from potential field trips from neighborhood schools and libraries as well as more continued collaborations from community centers and local agencies such as the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council. This project will help foster an all-encompassing effort from multiple organizations with goals of spreading environmental awareness, community engagement, and healthy living. With the Guadalupe Oak Grove Park's prime location in the center of the neighborhood, the outdoor classroom will attract more visiting park patrons by providing family-friendly amenities that also educate the public about the park's unique and natural ecosystems. Overall, this project will be a staple feature to highlight and decorate the already alluring features that the Guadalupe Oak Grove Park has to offer.

Project Planning (20 points)

9. Describe the proposed project

The proposed project is to construct an outdoor classroom for park patrons that will serve as a space for environmental education programs and nature-based outdoor play. The size of the outdoor education area is planned to be 1,600 square feet of interactive outdoor seating and table space to facilitate a multitude of holistic activities and programs and will accommodate 20-30 students. This space would invite families to spend time in nature while also encouraging them to learn about the five different ecosystems within the park and the various wildlife at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park. Proposed new park signage will highlight the ecosystems and wildlife present in the park. The area would also promote partnerships with other agencies and organizations to help enhance environmental education for the community. The proposed location for the placement of the natural seating area is within the proximity of the public parking lot and restrooms for ease of access. It is also in the center of the park with a 360-degree view of the park's scenic hills and open space. This area is a convenient location as it provides natural shading through the existing trees in the park which makes it an ideal location for this project. CEQA applications are in progress for the added amenities.

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."

PRNS will outreach to community groups to provide them information about the outdoor classroom space. Discussions with community groups have shown an interest in the space. The Almaden Library is interested in having nature related story times for preschoolers at the site. The Almaden Community Center and Willow Glen Community Center, which are operated by PRNS have given letters of support to the project. And both centers are interested in using the area for local field trips and as a convenient park to walk too. We will outreach to local community groups and organizations to promote their free use of space. A common calendar of all the outdoor space programming groups' will be posted at the park and shared on social media. Any open time slots of the space not used by community groups will be made available to the community for their use. The outdoor classroom would be a great space for picnics and play dates for children. PRNS will conduct scheduled program evaluations to collect customer and community feedback. This feedback will be used to make future programming space changes or improvements.

The proposed amenity will be maintained by the current park staff in an ongoing basis. The park maintenance district in the area has a personal budget of \$2,006,789 and a non-personal budget of \$1,128,448 to support the ongoing maintenance of the proposed amenity. The park staff currently maintains Guadalupe Oak Grove Park as a whole and this amenity will be added the scheduled maintenance of the park. Park volunteers can be recruited to help preserve the area, which will provide additional maintenance with keeping the area free of blight, weeding and painting if needed.

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.

The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department has already determined the location in the park where the outdoor classroom will be constructed. If the Measure Q funding is awarded to the City, we will then work with an exhibit builder employed by PRNS. Once the design is complete, the next step would be to recruit volunteers to do some of the basic work for the project. We plan on using the departments Capital Improvement Team to do most of the construction work for the outdoor classroom.

The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department has recently updated the CEQA (State of Exemption) that was done back on October 25, 2017 for the Guadalupe Oak Grove Park. The previous CEQA was for the Vegetation Management Plan for the park and the new one is for an outdoor classroom with seating for 20+ participants.

The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department is ready to move forward with the project this summer and, if funded, will have it completed by fall 2018.

Project Budget (15 points)

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.

5,000	Grant request: Personnel
	Grant request: Contracted Services
25,0000	Grant request: Supplies/Materials
0	Grant request: Other Direct Costs
0	Grant request: Indirect Costs
30,000	TOTAL GRANT REQUEST
9,903.26	TOTAL MATCHING FUNDS
39,903.26	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (grant request + matching funds)
33%	PERCENT MATCH (matching funds / grant request)
334,806.52	TOTAL

Project Goals (15 points)

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

Living in the heart of the Silicon Valley, technology continues to emerge and expand around us. Day by day, technology becomes increasingly prevalent in our daily lives through entertainment and necessity. Newer generations are growing up with an emphasis on technology and less awareness regarding environmental conservation, preservation, and education. We aim to inspire the public to be more environmentally-conscious and to respect the natural world that surrounds their homes and communities. Environmental education will spread awareness about nature conservation and preservation in the community. Guadalupe Oak Grove Park is a natural gem of open space that harbors a multitude of ecosystems, which makes it a prime location for educating the community about the environment. Although the ecosystems are a part of the park's attractions, due to its heavy natural setting, it lacks a proper learning space and sufficient storage for potential program needs. The park also lacks seating areas in a convenient location within the park for proper recreation programming. The proposal is to construct a natural outdoor classroom to be used for nature-based recreation programming for the public.

Not only does nature-based learning and play help further environmental education, but it also supports multiple developmental gains such as intellectual, social, emotional, and cognitive skills in youth. Through everyday exposure to natural settings, this increases youths' abilities to focus, socialize, express emotions, problem solve, enhance creativity, reduce stress, and to engage all their senses. With the increasing epidemic of childhood obesity, nature-based play also promotes a healthier lifestyle by providing a safe space for the community to be more physically active outdoors. For schools located in underserved communities, having an opportunity to engage in these types of unique and creative enrichment activities tend to be deprioritized to other academic subjects but its importance should not be ignored as engagement in nature can have positive impacts on youth including their academic performances. The outdoor classroom would provide more opportunities for affordable field trips that neighboring schools and programs can visit.

Through the addition of the proposed amenities to Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, we will be able to attract more park patrons to visit the park and experience and appreciate the many amenities it has to offer.

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.

The nature based outdoor classroom will be used for programs and educational activities that will spread awareness regarding environmental and social benefits for the community. Through partnerships, we can provide the public with a nature-based learning environment and motivate them to explore the world around them. The project intends to deliver its goals through establishing 10 stakeholder partners, with approximately 25 stakeholder members engaged in the process within the first two years, post-construction. Along with our partners, our goal is to schedule at least 10 structured activities within the first year, during the spring and summer seasons, engaging approximately 200 active participants. We aim to focus on engaging stakeholder members from preschools, schools, libraries, community center boy/girls scout troops and churches in the area. In addition, using social media and community-building websites, such as NextDoor, we intend to share bi-weekly posts highlighting healthy outdoor activities to engage 400 new unduplicated community members. Our goals for this project also extends to promoting unstructured play and activities within this proposed outdoor classroom, for use by the public. We would like to see an increase in park visitations at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park with park visitors leisurely utilizing the proposed space. This will encourage appreciation for nature and increase support for our parks.

Impact (15 points)

16. Describe the lasting impact of the project.

This project will help preserve the park's ecosystems for future generations and encourage the community to learn how unique the park is and all the benefits of conservation. The outside classroom area will be a family-friendly place that will strengthen and enhance environmental education for families of all backgrounds. This will help communities understand the importance of environment preservation, educational programs, community involvement, and healthy development for children. The park site has a few special attractions that are unique to the site. One of the unique features is the flourishing Blue Oak Trees growing on the valley floor. This is the second known location in California of Blue Oaks growing on the valley floor. Most Blue Oaks grow only on steep slopes. These Blue Oaks are also reproducing the next generation of trees which is rarely seen. Most Blue Oak grow very slowly and reproduce vary infrequently. The trees are thought to be a hybrid variety that could be appreciated at this site. These Blue Oak trees are true gems to be admired and protected for the future. The other unique features are the mortars and pestles present in the park thought to be from the Ohlone Indians and the tribes processing of acorns. These features as well as the five habitats present on the park are very conducive to the creation of an educational space. The community and community groups can use the space to learn why the park is so special to the bay area. This project will also allow us to create lasting partnerships with multiple agencies to collectively spread awareness on environmental issues. These partnerships will further expand environmental programs and help educate our community, aiming to allow even more families to gain a deep-rooted awareness of nature. These potentially successful partnerships can be a foundation for further developments within the community, in the future. Through numerous studies of the benefits of interacting with nature, the increasing epidemics of obesity, depression, and anxiety will potentially decrease with the

prolonged encouragement of the community's engagement with parks. With the proposal's support of nature-based outdoor play, the cognitive, intellectual, and social skills that youth will develop and enhance will have a positive impact on future generations. As technology continues to increase and inhabit our lives, our investment in parks and open space will become more crucial to our community's holistic well-being. With the many obstacles that families face with having limited opportunities to engage in nature, this may threaten populations with the increased prevalence of obesity as well as other serious health threats including heart disease, diabetes, psychological and social problems. Now is the time to focus our investments towards the stability of our parks while gaining community support to ensure long-term sustainability of our parks for future generations.

Leadership & Innovation (10 points)

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.

Given the unique features of the park, from special Blue Oak Trees to Ohlone Indian history, this proposal gives the City of San Jose's Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Department a broader opportunity to share these special treasures with the community. PRNS plans to work with partners from libraries, community centers, schools, boy/girl scouts, and other community groups to give all an opportunity to increase environmental literacy programs at the park. Many groups are interested in this opportunity from leading classes at the park to taking walking field trips from local schools to the park, since this will be the only outdoor classroom in the Almaden area.

Currently, PRNS will begin to engage the community on a park vegetation management plan in February 2018. The plan will ask for community groups and volunteers to be the leads in the vegetation management plan. Having an outdoor classroom space will potentially increase the capacity of the community and volunteers to become better environmental stewards. The volunteers that come forward in the vegetation management plan will then have additional work space to share their talents and passion about the park to others to ensure the park is in good shape for the long run.

Organizational Capacity (15 points)

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.

The City of San José was founded on November 29, 1777, as El Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe, San José was California's first civilian settlement.

The mission of the City of San José is to provide quality public services, facilities and opportunities that create, sustain and enhance a safe, livable and vibrant community for its diverse residents, businesses and visitors.

The mission of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) is to build healthy communities through people, parks and programs. PRNS provides a diverse variety of programs that impact the lives of children, youth, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities throughout the City. PRNS strives to build community through fun, and make and activate quality places in San Jose where people want to live, work, play and learn.

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.

The City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services has been developing and implementing successful capital improvements projects for many years. The Department oversees approximately 3,486 acres of land, with more than 2,000 acres developed as parks, trails and community centers. The inventory of facilities includes public golf courses, hub service community centers, satellite community centers, regional parks, community and neighborhood parks, restrooms, swimming pools, tennis courts, dog parks, skate parks and more.

The Department divides the large park system into smaller geographic districts for centralized management and maintenance. The proposed project is within Park District 1 in south San Jose based out of Almaden Lake Regional Park. The park district is comprised of over 37 parks and trails. The staff actively maintains the parks and trails to ensure the community has safe and engaging public spaces. Staff has successfully engaged the community for additional volunteer support to beautify parks, as well as, additional park programming for the community to enjoy. The district has over \$2,006,789 in personal budget and over \$1,384,496 in non-personal budget to support its ongoing operations.

In addition, the Department's Capital Team actively manages numerous projects ranging from rehabilitation and repairs to the existing inventory of facilities to strategic planning studies and the design and construction of new parks and recreational facilities. Other parts of the work plan include land acquisition, feasibility studies, master plans, concept designs, and oversight of project implementation for the major and minor capital projects. The Capital Team has implemented outdoor classrooms projects at various city parks like Emma Prusch Park, Alum Rock Park, Plata Arroyo Park and at Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. The classrooms range from a large concrete amphitheatre to parks areas with benches.

The Capital Improvement Program also has a long-term capital investment plan that supports the department's overall work plan, which includes grants and partnerships too.

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

Park District 1 offers a variety of programs and special events. Our team has over 5 years of experience and has an abundance of experience in coordinating and implementing successful outdoor programs and events.

The following staff will lead the efforts to activate the space and engage community gaps.

Dan Greeley has over 20 years of experience managing various public facilities for PRNS and is currently the Park Facility Supervisor for Park District 1. Dan has also managed Happy Hollow Park and Zoo with 450,000+/- guests per year. He has overseen small and large capital projects up to \$20 million in construction budget. Maxine Magahiz has over 10 years of experience coordinating community-based programs. She is the Recreation Program Specialist for Park District 1 and currently leads the recreation team at Almaden Lake Park. Maxine has coordinated programs for youth, adults, and special-needs. She delivers nature-based programming throughout the parks in San Jose with an emphasis in outdoor play and hands-on learning.

Adriel Castro is a Senior Maintenance Worker and has over 13 years of experience managing maintenance of public parks and trails. His experience has been supervising the maintenance team in Park District 1 including Guadalupe Oak Grove Park.

Angie Martinez is the Park Ranger lead at Park District 1, she has over 20 years of experience with knowledge about the wildlife and history of our parks.

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."

A new outdoor classroom area within our community would provide essential open space elements to these sensitive populations. The disadvantaged schools in the area primarily focus on teaching subjects such as English and math. This project will provide children in underserved communities to learn and engage in positive experiences outdoors with nature. It will allow them to explore open space and participate in projects which usually will not happen in school. A nature-based program will educate park-poor neighborhoods and build their confidence to make a difference in their parks. They will acquire strong social skills to explore, learn, and grow in a safe outdoor area. The community will gain knowledge about the benefits of open space and nature preservation. Disadvantaged communities which do not always have sufficient resources such as environmental education, hands-on programming, and the opportunity for cooperative learning. Having this recreation area, we will give them the opportunity to visit an educational open space to foster their learning and deeper connection to nature. Through hands-on learning, direct experiences, and group activities, youth can learn and make a difference in the conservation of open space. They will have easy access to parks and environmental education, which will inspire their curiosity to protect and form connections in a safe environment.

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."

By providing a natural recreation area to the public, this will allow families and children to engage and bond with their community. This environmental space will encourage community building by providing free-access to families and teaching them about the importance of preserving nature and open space. Parks are known to help strengthen communities and this is a way to teach future generations about protecting our natural habitats and local parks. Creating collaborative partnerships will help residents appreciate our vision and the community efforts who helped make this project possible. One of the best parts

about providing more natural recreation areas to the public is that it is an affordable, fun, and positive pastime for residents to be engaged in. Increased natural recreational areas within the city will only help beautify and create visually pleasing sites for residents and passersby. As communities are becoming more environmentally conscious, it is more important than ever for urban areas to invest and create more natural recreation areas for residents. Increased greenery and environmentally positive programs will ultimately benefit resident's perspective on their area of living.

We plan to work with and engage two underserved areas in San Jose. We have natural connections to the Hoffman Via Monte neighborhood that is pocket neighborhood that is underserved in San Jose. We frequently work with the Work2Future program and Crime Prevention program through the City.

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."

N/A

C. Work Plan

C.1. Project Work Plan

Task Number	Activities	Timeframe	Outcome/Deliverables
1	Meet with the exhibit builder on city's concept design.	Fall 2018	Will have a final design for the outdoor classroom.
2	Recruit volunteers	Fall 2018	Have enough volunteers to do the basic work on the project.
3	Construct the outdoor classroom.	Spring 2019	Will have an outdoor classroom that will be used for environmental education programs and nature-based outdoor play.
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D. Documents Upload

Documents Requested *	Required?	Attached Documents *
Financial statements	✓	Financials (FY 16-17) Financials (FY 17-18)
Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body download template	✓	Resolution

Project Budget download template	✓	Guadalupe OG (Project Budget)
Acknowledgment Form download template	✓	Acknowledgement letter
Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement download template		
Land Tenure Form download template		Guadalupe OG Grant Deed
CEQA Compliance Certification Form download template		CEQA Form (Guadalupe OG)
Letters of Support		Guadalupe OG (Support letter 1)
		Guadalupe OG (Support letter 2)
		Guadalupe OG (Support letter 3)
Letters from Project Partners		
Maps		Guadalupe OG (Map 1)
		Guadalupe OG (Map 2)
Other		

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