



ISLA VISTA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
961 Embarcadero Del Mar, Isla Vista, CA 93117
www.ivparks.org | (805) 968 – 2017

02/24/2022

To: Press & Media Outlets

From: Isla Vista Recreation & Park District

PRESS RELEASE: Children's Park Block Party - A Community Celebration of IVRPD's \$4.2 Million Grant Award

Isla Vista, CA - On Saturday, February 26th, 2022, from 12pm-3pm, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District (IVRPD) will host a neighborhood block party at Children's Park (810 Camino Del Sur, Isla Vista) to celebrate the award of 4.2 million dollars in California State grant funding for a full renovation of Children's Park.

This free, one-day outdoor event will feature live music, free food, games, along with appearances by special guests Representative Salud Carbajal, California State Senator Monique Limón, Director of California State Parks, Armando Quintero, Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann, and Second District Supervisor Gregg Hart. The purpose of this event is to celebrate the people of Isla Vista who helped make this grant award possible.

"Children's Park is the heart of Isla Vista's multigenerational household community. These park improvements will be the center piece of treasured memories for friends and neighbors in the years to come," said Second District Supervisor Gregg Hart.

"As an advocate for parks, trails, and open-spaces, I am thrilled to celebrate this grant with the community in IV," said Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann. Adding, "I have seen the plan for the park, and so much of it came from the community, especially the Latinx families who live in IV. This project is exciting for the health, well-being, and sense of belonging for the residents of IV and it will feel great to celebrate the project kick-off together! This park will be a premier community park in our County."

"Since 1995, Children's Park has been the hub of IVRPD's youth programming," said Chair of the Board of Directors for IVRPD, Pegeen Soutar. "As a serving Board member of 18 years, I think it's fantastic that kids and families will be able to enjoy their park more than ever before, and I am honored to partake in this historic event."

"This is a tremendous honor for our District and for the people of Isla Vista," said IVRPD General Kimberly Kiefer. "We extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of the community members who participated in the planning meetings. The driving force behind winning this incredible grant was the community, this marks a new chapter for the often-overlooked long term residents and students who call Children's Park an extension of their backyard."

On December 8th, 2021, California State Parks awarded \$548.3 million in grant funding to more than 100 communities to advance Governor Newsom's "Outdoors for All" initiative to enable all Californians, regardless of zip code or income, to access parks and open space. Isla Vista Recreation and Park District is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded 4.2 million dollars in grant funding to complete the Children's Park Renovation Project. IVRPD was among 112 finalists selected from a pool of 468 California agencies that applied to the competitive Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program. The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program – also referred to as the "SPP Grant" – marks the single-largest investment in California State history in expanding access to parks in underserved communities like Isla Vista, and IVRPD is honored to be the recipient of this historic occasion.

IVRPD selected Children's Park based on the grant criteria to improve the health and quality of life for intergenerational families living in Isla Vista whom for years have not been fully represented in community planning processes as such. Between October 2020 - March 2021, 5 community planning meetings, offered in both English and Spanish, were hosted



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in-person and via Zoom. IVRPD gathered feedback on park amenities, design features, and themes. IVRPD, through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, awarded and further partnered with Pacific Coast Land Design (PCLD) to develop a concept-level site plan for the grant application. A final conceptual site plan based on community input was presented to the Isla Vista Recreation & Park District Board of Directors for approval on March 4th, 2021.

Improvements include two nature-themed playgrounds, ADA-accessible pathways, an amphitheater for workshops and performances, a new standalone restroom, an educational demonstration garden, a renovated recreation building for expanding workshop programs and services for students and youth alike. The project will be completed and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening will take place by winter 2023/2024.

IVRPD wants to extend special thanks to partners in this grant including the St. George Youth and Teen Center and People's Self-Help Housing for their community engagement efforts, Sansum Diabetes Research Institute for their future stewardship of the educational demonstration garden, Pacific Coast Land Design for their design and community meeting expertise, and the people of Isla Vista who helped make this project possible. IVRPD also extends a sincere thank you to Director Armando Quintero of California State Parks, Santa Barbara County Transportation and Real Property, and the Third District Supervisor's Office, Joan Hartmann, and Gina Fischer.

The Children's Park Block Party begins at 12pm and will provide guests an opportunity to learn about the grant application process, explore aspects of the new park design, and celebrate the project with fellow community members. A special guest speaker program will begin at 1pm, Representative Salud Carbajal, California State Senator Monique Limón, Chair of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, Joan Hartmann, Second District Supervisor Gregg Hart, and IVRPD's General Manager, Kimberly Kiefer. The guest speaker program will conclude by 1:30pm.

For additional information or questions, please contact Nick Norman at nnorman@ivparks.org or dial (805) 350-8751.

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Key Facts

- Event Date: Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 12pm-3pm
- Location: Children's Park, 810 Camino Del Sur, Isla Vista CA 93117
- Free, one-day event, open to all ages
- Free food provided by El Pastorcito, Dave's Dogs, and Fernando's Churros while supplies last
- VIP Guest Speaker Program from 1pm-1:30pm
- Free food, live music, and games
- Informational kiosk with grant award details
- Mural artwork and selfie photo booth
- Archery Arcade and Rock Climbing Wall hosted UC Santa Barbara Recreation Department
- Face-painting and henna tattoos provided by Lucidity
- Mobile Library services provided by Goleta Valley Library's mobile book van
- Local agency informational tables



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Grant Award Details

- \$2.42 billion in requests - 468 project applications
- \$548.3 million in grants - 112 grant projects, IVRPD selected as finalist
- 4th and Final Round of SPP Grant
- Competitive Grant Application Process: April 2020 - March 2021

- 5 Community Planning Meetings: October 2020 - March 2021
- Final Concept Design Plan approved by Isla Vista Board of Directors March 4th, 2021
- Grant application submitted on March 12th, 2021
- Awards Announced December 8th, 2021: see full list of award recipients at www.parks.ca.gov/spp
- \$4,205,653 million dollars awarded to IVRPD for Children’s Park Renovation Project
- Jan - Dec. 2022: Project Planning Phase
- Spring 2023: Construction Begins
- Winter 2023: Grand Opening

Key Partners and Agencies

- **St. George Youth and Teen Center** - the YMCA St. George Youth and Teen Center will support the Children’s Park Renovation Project by hosting future design workshops, ensuring youth voices are heard during the design phase.
- **Sansum Diabetes Research Institute** - The Sansum Diabetes Research Institute will utilize the new demonstration garden for their “Veggie IQ” program, supporting the health of the local Latino community through educational workshops about culinary medicine, science, and technology.
- **People’s Self-Help Housing** - People’s Self-Help Housing (PSHH) of Santa Barbara will provide volunteers to support community outreach and engagement efforts for future community planning meetings.
- **Santa Barbara County Transportation** - IVRPD will be partnering with Santa Barbara County Transportation to finalize an encroachment permit for park renovations within the County right of way, in addition to developing ADA accessible sidewalks and crosswalks surrounding Children’s Park.

About Isla Vista Recreation & Park District

Isla Vista Recreation & Park District (IVRPD) is an independent special district located in an unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County that serves approximately 27,000 people in the one-half square mile of Isla Vista near UC Santa Barbara. IVRPD’s mission statement is to enhance, improve, and protect the quality of life in the community through the maintenance and improvement of parks, and the organization and administration of recreation programs. IVRPD maintains 25 parks and roughly 55 acres of open space, much of which is environmentally sensitive habitat area for wildlife and native plant species. IVRPD was founded in 1972 and follows an organic maintenance policy.

About IVRPD General Manager, Kimberly Kiefer

Kimberly Kiefer was hired as the General Manager of the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District in February of 2020. Starting with the Youth Conservation Corps in Yosemite National Park, Kimberly has had over 28 years of experience working in the park and recreation industry, with a strong background in park operations, community engagement,



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environmental education, program administration and volunteer management. Kimberly served the community of San Francisco in various roles for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and for the City and County of San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. Kimberly focused on cultivating volunteer projects that met both the community and operational goals on trails and in neighborhood parks and open spaces. Kimberly is a 2nd Generation Santa Barbara resident that attended Santa Barbara City College and graduated from UCSB in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts in History, Immigration and Racial Theory with a minor in Women, Culture and Development.