

# Treasure Cove at Jade Street Park

## A Universally Accessible Playground

*Temple Beth El* is centered on our spiritual growth and sense of community. Judaism has a commitment to social justice and equity. As we approach Passover, these central values of Judaism are manifested as the liberation of the Hebrews from slavery and the freedom of all people. Today, many people are limited in access by different abilities.

Every child deserves a place to play with their friends and families, regardless of the child's physical, cognitive, or sensory abilities. However, for the one in ten children with a disability, many are unable to play at a typical playground depriving them of a birthright of childhood. *Treasure Cove at Jade Street Park* is a universally accessible playground, designed for children of all abilities, to foster compassion, acceptance, connectedness, and joy. By joining with this project, we at *Temple Beth El* can extend the values of equity in access and freedom to play to the children of our broader community.

On **October 28, 2023**, **Rabbi Paula Marcus, Bonnie Morr**, and **Rosemary Lévy Zumwalt** attended the design reveal for *Treasure Cove at Jade Street Park* as representatives of *Senior Connections* and of the *Social Justice Committee* of *Temple Beth El*. We met **Dan Haifley**, campaign volunteer, as well as **Tricia Wiltshire**, campaign manager for *County Park Friends*, which is conducting the fundraising effort for *Treasure Cove at Jade Street Park* universally accessible playground. Dan Haifley had contacted Rabbi Paula to assess the interest of *Temple Beth El* to support the fund-raising efforts.

At the event, we learned the plans to design, fundraise, and build *Treasure Cove* are the result of a public-private partnership between the *City of Capitola* and the non-profit *County Park Friends*, which is raising a million dollars of private funding. To date, nearly \$400,000 has been raised including a challenge grant from the *Monterey Peninsula Foundation* which will match 1:1 every dollar raised up to \$250,000. The intent of *County Park Friends* is to raise the remaining \$600,000 in 2024 with the support of the local community including service groups, organizations, and private donors. The city has already allocated \$475,000 for the project. The entire project is estimated to cost \$1.82 million.

*Treasure Cove at Jade Street Park* was inspired by the success of *LEO's Haven* universally accessible playground at *Chanticleer Park* in *Live Oak*. These two facilities, as well as a planned, inclusive playground at *Ramsay Park* in *Watsonville*, will help fill the great demand

for universally accessible playgrounds by our area's large population of children with disabilities and their families. These playgrounds will also provide a space where everyone can play, form new friendships, and develop community ties of belonging. More information and a link to donate funds can be found at [countyparkfriends.org/jadestpark](https://countyparkfriends.org/jadestpark).

During our Seder, we are told that a central observance of Passover is that each one of us sees ourselves as if we personally left Egypt. Contributing to *Jade Street Park at Treasure Cove* helps us fulfill this mitzvah as agents of liberation for all. Nobody will be left behind.

Please send your generous contribution to *County Park Friends* (with *TBE/Treasure Cove* in the memo), 870 17th Avenue, Suite 2, Santa Cruz 95062. Or you may donate online at the the secure donation link: [countyparkfriends.org/jadestpark](https://countyparkfriends.org/jadestpark)

Submitted by

**Rabbi Paula Marcus, Bonnie Morr and Rosemary Lévy Zumwalt**