



CONTACT

Jacquelyn Diaz  
Assistant to the  
General Manager  
510.600.4800  
Diaj@HaywardRec.org  
www.HaywardRec.org

## Hayward Area Recreation and Park District FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hayward Area Recreation and Park District Receives “Meet Me at the Park” Grant**  
*\$30,000 grant awarded by the National Recreation and Park Association  
and The Walt Disney Company will support Mia’s Dream Come True playground*

**HAYWARD, CA, August 14, 2019** – The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.) has been selected to receive a \$30,000 grant from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and The Walt Disney Company as part of the effort to increase access to local play spaces. The investment supports NRPA and Disney’s combined goal of providing one million kids and families with greater access to play.

As part of the national Meet Me at the Park Play Spaces grant program, park and recreation agencies across the country were invited to share their best ideas on increasing access to play spaces for children and families in their communities. Agencies with the most innovative and impactful project ideas were chosen to receive \$30,000 grants to build their projects. H.A.R.D. was one of only 27 grant recipients in the nation.

H.A.R.D. will use the \$30,000 grant at one of the community’s most innovative projects, Mia’s Dream Come True Playground, which is a one-acre park in Hayward. The playground is designed to be fully accessible to all abilities and will have play equipment and interactive elements that are specific to Hayward and the Bay Area. The grant will fund specialized active elements such as a spray fog mist in the “San Francisco Bay Zone” of the playground.

“The H.A.R.D. Board of Directors are thrilled to be a recipient of the grant funded by NRPA and The Disney Company,” stated Rick Hatcher, board president. “The Vasquez family introduced the concept of an “ultra-inclusive” play concept on behalf of their daughter Mia in 2016. When we applied for the grant, we knew it would help make this dream a reality for the community.”

“NRPA is proud to collaborate with The Walt Disney Company to help more children and families experience the benefits of play,” said Kelly May, NRPA vice president of programs. “By increasing access to play spaces, this program will also provide unique activities tailored to local community that support healthy lifestyles.”

For more information about the Mia’s Dream playground project, please visit [www.haywardrec.org](http://www.haywardrec.org). To learn more about Meet Me at the Park, visit [www.nrpa.org/meetmeatthepark](http://www.nrpa.org/meetmeatthepark).

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Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs since 1944



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**The National Recreation and Park Association** is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all Americans have access to parks and recreation for health, conservation and social equity. Through its network of over 60,000 recreation and park professionals and advocates, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For information, visit [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org) For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit [www.parksandrecreation.org](http://www.parksandrecreation.org)