



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

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CHANTICLEER/LEO'S HAVEN CONTRACT AWARDED

Fulfilling a promise to the community, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a \$3.5 million contract to build Phase I of Chanticleer Park and LEO's Haven playground.

Under terms of the contract, Watsonville-based Granite Construction Company will construct an inclusive playground for children of all abilities, restrooms, paved parking area with security lighting, community garden, picnic area, dog park, pathways and landscaping. The public-private partnership includes a community-led fundraising effort of close to \$2 million and support from Measure G, a half-cent sales tax in the unincorporated area approved in November 2018 by two-thirds of County voters.

"We worked hard to make this day a reality," Supervisor John Leopold said. "Despite the obstacles before us, the County and community worked together with incredible focus and purpose. In particular, Patricia Potts and Mariah Roberts are to be commended for their dedication to create a park that will delight all of our residents."

Formerly a wheat farm, the 4.5-acre site was once owned by the County's Redevelopment Agency but faced an uncertain future after the dissolution of redevelopment agencies statewide in 2012. In 2015, the Santa Cruz Playground Project and Chanticleer Park Neighbors Association teamed up to create a vision of a community-serving park and LEO's Haven, a playground for children of all abilities.

"This project is a testament to our community's ability to collaborate for the greater good," said Mariah Roberts, director of the Chanticleer Park Neighbors Association and vice president of Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks. "People from every corner of Santa Cruz County – businesses, public agencies, individuals and groups, have helped build this place. It is created by all of us, designed for all of us, and will serve the community for generations to come."



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LEO's Haven was inspired by the children of Watsonville parents Patricia and Robert Potts, Lauren, Evelyn and Oliver. Oliver uses a wheelchair and finds typically-designed playgrounds inaccessible.

"Every child deserves the right to play at a playground with their friends and family. Santa Cruz County has truly stepped up and affirmed we are a community that supports creating places where everyone can belong," said Patricia Potts, who also serves as treasurer of Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks.

"We made a commitment to our residents who supported Measure G that this project would get underway as soon as possible," Santa Cruz County Parks Director Jeff Gaffney said. "We are happy to team up with a local partner in Granite Construction to make the first phase of this project a reality. We have reached a milestone in our journey – Chanticleer Park and LEO's Haven are going to be built."

Los Angeles-based Shane's Inspiration designed LEO's Haven and will work with Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks in implementing educational programming that unites children of all abilities once Chanticleer Park is fully developed.

"LEO'S Haven is a shining example of what Margaret Mead stated so eloquently many years ago: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has,'" said Brad Thornton, Vice President of Global Development for Shane's Inspiration.

Residents who wish to purchase a personalized plaque on a bench, picnic table, or tree at Chanticleer Park may still do so through the Chanticleer Park Legacy Program. Visit <http://scparks.com/Home/Parks/ChanticleerParkLegacyProgram.aspx> for more information.

Phase I of Chanticleer Park and LEO's Haven is expected to be completed by winter 2019-20.