

# Active & Peaceful Gilroy

## SAN YSIDRO PARK & NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

August 2016



### Introduction

In the fall of 2015, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department (Public Health) recruited residents to participate in the **Active and Peaceful San Ysidro Project**, a resident-led action planning process focused on engaging resident leaders in developing their vision for an active and peaceful San Ysidro park and neighborhood.

### Why San Ysidro?

In 2013, Public Health received support and funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent chronic diseases and promote health equity.

One key goal of this funding was to **increase active and safe environments** in Gilroy through mobilization of residents and activation of parks in areas with **the highest rates of obesity, violence and crime**.

### Why Now?

Building on the efforts from the CDC funding period, Public Health obtained support from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to continue working with residents and community partners with the goals of increasing physical activity and building safe and peaceful neighborhoods in areas most impacted by inequitable conditions.

In consultation with the Stanford Prevention Research Center, residents utilized the **Discovery Tool to assess the park and neighborhood** by taking photos and making

statements on items and conditions that impact physical activity and safety. Residents focused on supports needed and existing barriers that contribute to an active and peaceful San Ysidro park and neighborhood.

### Why Health Inequities?

Public Health and its partners utilize a health equity approach to prevent chronic diseases and violence through place-based strategies. **Achieving health equity** means ensuring that all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives.

Data helps to tell the story of how health disparities that exist in the East Gilroy area result from social and economic inequities.

Below is 2015 data comparing East Gilroy with the City of Gilroy:

- *Median Household Income*  
East Gilroy - \$39,915  
City of Gilroy - \$78,842
- *Collisions*  
East Gilroy – 32 Vehicle-Pedestrian,  
49 Vehicle-Bicycle Injury Collisions  
City of Gilroy - 18 Vehicle-Pedestrian,  
16 Vehicle-Bicycle Injury Collisions
- *Average number of violent crimes within 1 mile*  
East Gilroy - 25.7  
City of Gilroy - 15.7
- *Overweight or obesity*  
65% - Gilroy residents  
54% - County overall

**This Action Plan reflects four themes and several solutions identified by San Ysidro residents:**

**1.) Sports and Activities 2.) Upgrader 3.) Drugs and Vandalism and 4.) Neglection.**

**1.) SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES:** There are limited facilitated activities and equipment for physical activity at San Ysidro Park, specifically for teenagers.

*"If there are more things to do at the park then more people from Gilroy will come to San Ysidro Park. "*

*"I really like the fact that they repainted the handball courts versus before when it looked all raggedy and dusty. After it was repainted it brought more peoples' attention and brought them more outside to play. And it's something good they did to bring the folks outside."*



*"I love these handball walls and a lot of people out here do too. There's a lot of kids out here that use handball to stay away from negative influences and do positive things with their life."*

*"The handball courts with the drawing, the mural are the paintings I enjoy. There needs to be more offered according to the culture because the majority of the culture is Hispanic, and Latino, and some Native American."*





*"I think it's great they have the rec. center. There still needs more stuff to be available to these kids so they have somewhere to go to have fun."*

*"I want a skate park, like Las Animas and all those other kids."*

*"I really like that they have basketball courts so it gives people something to be productive and to do some kind of sports and it brings people together to play sports."*



## **Resident Solutions**

- Football field (equipment for football rather than leagues)
- More facilitated activities
- Skate park-competitions
- Basketball courts (fix courts, replace nets)
- Something for kids to do in the sand (e.g. "crane scoop")
- Hopscotch
- Better grass on the soccer field
- Tennis courts

**2.) UPGRADER:** There are concerns about the park not being clean, and that equipment is worn out and needs replacing.



*"It will change the reputation of East Gilroy, we want to be known for a clean, safe park. Upgrades will change the mentality."*

*"We should put a window in the bathroom...so we can breath and the bathrooms have to be clean."*

*"The bathrooms are disgusting. They smell like pee. They need to fix the toilets. The soap is empty and they need new sinks."*

*"It makes me insecure this area of the park because when children come to use the bathroom there are many people drinking, smoking, and is a little uncomfortable."*

### Resident Solutions

- Clean parks
- Clean bathrooms/girls bathroom
- More artwork and color/paint-looks boring
- More lights
- More BBQ pits/bonfire/camping
- More benches/art on benches-more places to sit
- New playground with water features, sand pit
- New play equipment and more equipment, bigger, renovate
- Clean/new sand at the playground
- Something for all ages, not just little kids
- Need swings
- Water hydration station
- Group to take pride/care in the park
- Dog park
- Build a pool-keep it clean
- Underground tunnels (more places for hide and seek)
- Topiary



**3.) DRUGS AND VANDALISM:** There are concerns about drugs, violence, gang activity, vandalism and graffiti.

*"No one cares about the community, they do drugs in the bathroom when we go in there we see it...."*



*"You need to take off these trees because they hide their weed inside the bushes where nobody can see or find them."*

*"They need to not let gangs come around because there's a lot of bad stuff happening and shooting and a lot of drugs and so the kids can be safe when they come to the park."*

*"Sometimes people walk around with knives."*

*"This is the park where people usually come and park their vehicles. In this part people come and make their drug transactions. They are parked here and watch the cholos. There is no security to control that. They do it during the day and in front of people as if it were a normal business."*

*"I don't like this because it's tagging and it makes the park look ugly."*

*"Tagging should be removed immediately."*

**Resident Solutions**

- Have maintenance workers come on a regular basis and take care of the park
- Gilroy Police Department-get out of cars and talk to residents
- Cops that come into park
- Need for open doors at bathroom
- One bathroom only-need more
- Have security/surveillance cameras at the park
- Speak up— report suspicious activity, call on fights (over drugs)
- More security guards



**4.) NEGLIGENCE:** There are concerns that there is a lack of attention to this park. There is a lack of attention to traffic safety and a lack of response to calls for service.



*"Like I said, people drive crazy here and this is the shrine ... of one of the guys that died here. There's also others that have died here, all due to crazy driving."*



*"There is a crosswalk that is crazy when kids go to the school at the U gate-they should have a guy that guides the traffic."*



*"I don't like this street because there are no stop signs or street bumps and it causes deaths and accidents."*

*"...tables are occupied by people who do drugs. I came with my son and there were some young people with children and they were snorting cocaine in front of their children. I called the police and told them what was going on.....I waited an hour and then called a second time .....waited another 45 minutes and they never came. "*



*"What are they going to do about the pedophile on the bike in the park?"*

*"Here we are on Forest Street and Walnut ... for you to see where we live so we can fix the street or do something for the community."*

*"Murray and other streets around park are dangerous: people driving at extremely high speeds "drag racing."*



## **Resident Solutions**

- Stop sign to address safety concerns
- Cross walks
- Crossing guards
- Speed bumps-to slow down traffic in the neighborhood
- Wider streets
- New parking lot (maybe on unused land)

## Resident Leaders

- Anthony Arias
- Jose Arias
- Joseph Arias
- Isaiah Armenta
- Julissa Coria
- Baudillo Fernandez
- Hilda Garcia
- Mario Garcia
- Jennifer Hernandez
- Bianca Jimenez
- Edit Lopez
- Jessie Martinez
- Elijah Moore
- Genesis Moore
- Rita Moore
- Celia Perez
- Jose Ponce
- Jesse Quiñones
- Briana Sarmiento
- Marta Salcedo
- Christina Solano
- Jose Ulloa

## Project Partners

Most community improvement efforts take years of dedication, resources, and long-range vision. Multi-sector partners are critical to implementing strategies. There are many important partners supporting this effort, including:

- Stanford Prevention Research Center
- Gilroy Parks and Recreation Department and Police Department
- Gilroy Parks and Recreation Commission
- South County United for Health Leadership Team
- South County Youth Task Force
- Santa Clara County Probation Department – Neighborhood Services Unit
- Youth Alliance