



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 18, 2015**

**ANTIOCH PARK GETS A MAKE-OVER, THANKS TO LOCAL PARENTS GROUP**  
*Ribbon-Cutting Planned for New Playground Located in  
One of Antioch's Most Challenged Neighborhoods*

**WHAT:**

An Antioch neighborhood known for drugs, crime and violence (Sycamore) is getting a brand new playground, thanks to a grassroots group of parents who partnered with the City of Antioch to improve Contra Loma Estates Park. The parent advocates and representatives from the City, including Mayor Harper and City Council members, will unveil the new park at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony and community celebration this Saturday.

The drive for the new playground began with the East County Regional Group, a parent advocacy group sponsored by First 5 Contra Costa, who first conducted in-depth rating assessments of every park in Antioch. Their findings revealed that parks located in the city's lower-income communities were plagued by crime, graffiti or unsafe conditions that rendered these parks unusable by families, compared to the city's newer neighborhoods.

The culmination of high crime and child poverty rates, along with its very low park rating, led the parents to select Contra Loma Estates as the park most in need of rehabilitation. They took their findings to the Antioch City Council, who given their ongoing efforts to improve safety in the Sycamore neighborhood, allocated \$250,000 to renovate the park. The parents group worked with City staff to design the new play structure and will be partnering with the Antioch Police Department to address residents' safety issues.

The renovated Contra Loma Estates Park includes:

- A brand new play structure for toddlers and school-age children
- Play structures designed for children of all abilities, such as children in wheel chairs or with other special needs
- A foam floor which replaces sand that often contained needles, used condoms and glass

**WHEN:**

**Saturday, November 21, 2015**

**10:00 a.m. to noon**

*Rain or Shine*

**WHERE:**

Contra Loma Estates Park  
2395 Manzanita Way (at Mahogany), Antioch

**VISUALS/ACTIVITIES:**

- Children and families enjoying the new playground and participating in races and arts and crafts
- A ribbon-cutting scheduled for 10:15-10:45am
- Speakers including:
  - Mayor Harper (invited)
  - Volunteer parents of the East County Regional Group
  - Representatives from First 5 Contra Costa

**WHY:**

Physical outdoor play is important for children's health and development, but not all children in Antioch have access to safe, usable parks and playgrounds. Crime, vandalism, and unsafe conditions have prevented families from enjoying Contra Loma Estates Park – until now. This is the first victory for this grassroots group of parents, who aim to increase children's access to outdoor play by improving one East County park at a time.

**CONTACT:**

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**BACKGROUND:**

First 5 Contra Costa helps young children start school healthy, nurtured and ready to learn by investing in programs and activities focused on children during their first five years, the most important time in children's development. Since 2000, First 5 Contra Costa has invested more than \$120 million in Proposition 10 tobacco tax funds to help Contra Costa's children get the best possible start in life. First 5 supports three Regional Groups of parents dedicated to making their communities healthier and safer for families. Learn more: [www.first5coco.org](http://www.first5coco.org).

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