



The Tatum's Garden Foundation
40 Clark Street, Suite H
Salinas, CA 93901
831-998-7113
www.tatumsgarden.org

In early 2016, The Tatum's Garden Foundation began working with the County of Monterey to pursue the desire to create a fully accessible and inclusive playground within Toro County Park. That process proceeded with help from an Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Parks Commission, and the Quail Meadows Use Area was decided upon as the site for this future playground. In December 2016, we approached The Monterey County Board of Supervisors with a request for consent to begin work on this project, and they voted to approve our desire to move forward with planning and design. Since then, in the first half of 2017, our Foundation has begun building Committees of leaders from our community to manage every aspect of the upcoming project, and generated a great amount of public interest.

TGF has reengaged with Leathers and Associates, the playground design firm which led the design and build process for Tatum's Garden in Salinas. Leathers has over forty-five years of experience building playgrounds, zoos, science centers and community gathering places. Leathers continues to be a leader in custom-designed community-built playgrounds, with over 3,200 custom projects in the US and seven additional countries. Leathers builds their products to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards and are nationally certified with the National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI). All products meet or exceed ADA standards. This project will follow the highly successful Tatum's Garden model of community-designed, community-funded and community-built. TGF will secure community funding. Community members led by TGF and Leathers will construct the project. The community aspect is vital to the success of the project as it creates ownership and stewardship by those that helped create it.

Just a few weeks ago, from May 17-18, 2017, the playground design specialists from Leathers came to the Central Coast to run our Community Design Days. We toured them through local elementary schools spread throughout Monterey County, where Design Brainstorming sessions were held directly with our community's children, asking them what they would want to see in their "dream playground." These children provided amazing and creative ideas, and we also received over 1500 hand-drawn pictures of design ideas, submitted from children all over the County. This invaluable community-driven input guided the design team towards our initial Preliminary Design, which was revealed privately to our Board on Friday, May 19th. Since that time, we have worked closely with the team at Leathers to hone and refine that Preliminary Design, in order to present our Design Concept and Renderings to the Parks Commission, and the Board of Supervisors. We seek approval of the proposed Concept, so that we can move forward with our fundraising efforts, alongside necessary engineering, site planning and final Design and Working Drawings, in conjunction with the Staff of Monterey County Parks Department, and feedback from the Board of Supervisors and Parks Commission, ultimately resulting in applying for needed building permits and the goal of building the playground in the summer of 2018.

The following includes our proposed plan for renovating the Quail Meadows area in Toro County Park. Included are our Schematic Design Concept and Renderings of the new fully inclusive and accessible playground, proposed to be called "Tatum's Treehouse," and pictures and brief descriptions of some of the specific components and concepts within the Rendering, as well as descriptions of our intentions with regards to renovating the existing infrastructure at Quail Meadows. The overall aesthetic design will fit in with the rural character of Toro Park. Upkeep and maintenance of the playground would be the responsibility of the County of Monterey. TGF will seed a maintenance fund that the County will be able to use to care for and maintain the playground. TGF is requesting that once the design is approved, the County of Monterey Parks Department and Resource Management Agency would work cooperatively with TGF to help establish and construct this exciting project.