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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Open Space Authority Grants Funds to City of Santa Clara  
For Urban Open Space and Community Garden near San Tomas Aquinas Creek Trail**

**San Jose, CA – June 21, 2016:** The Open Space Authority Board of Directors has approved allocation of \$425,000 from its 20% Funding Program to the City of Santa Clara towards development of a 3-acre city park on land adjacent to the trailhead for the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail. The park will serve as a buffer between the busy San Tomas Expressway corridor and the trailhead, as well as enhance outdoor education and recreation opportunities in this park poor, heavily urbanized area.

“We are excited to partner with the City of Santa Clara on this project, and to create an opportunity for the public to enjoy hands-on outdoor education and recreation through the park’s community garden, open space and native California vegetation,” said Matt Freeman, Assistant General Manager for the Authority.

Funds contributed by the Open Space Authority will be used to build a community garden, benches, a picnic area, and to plant native California plant species, on up to 1-acre of the park. The City will build restrooms, a parking area, playground and outdoor gathering space on 2-acres. The City of Santa Clara estimates the cost for the entire project at \$3,086,000 and construction will take place from February 2017 through June 2017.

“This project accomplishes numerous important goals, including providing parks and open space facilities that are readily accessible and provide connections to multiple destinations,” said James Teixeira, Santa Clara’s Director of Parks and Recreation. “In addition, we want to continue increasing the parks to people ratio in the City of Santa Clara.”

In 2000, the Open Space Authority allocated \$55,000 to the City of Santa Clara for the first phase of the San Tomas Aquino/Saratoga Creek Trail, through its 20% Funding Program. The 7.6-mile trail offers hiking, jogging and cycling opportunities and provides an alternate transportation route for residents and workers.

Since 1998, the Authority has granted \$8.05 million through its 20% Funding Program to the cities of San Jose, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Campbell, Morgan Hill and unincorporated Santa Clara County. The program provides people living in dense, urban environments with the many health and other benefits of open space land and trails.

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*The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority conserves the natural environment, supports agriculture, and connects people to nature, by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations. Visit [openspaceauthority.org](http://openspaceauthority.org) or call 408-224-7476.*



