



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **\$8.5 MILLION FOR POGO PARK #2**

*Richmond Wins \$8.5 Million State Park Grant to Develop Harbour-8 Park.*

**March 3, 2020:** Pogo Park partnered with the City of Richmond and The Conservation Fund to secure a highly competitive \$8.5 million Prop 68 parks grant to expand and improve Harbour-8 Park on the Richmond Greenway. The grant funds will make possible a new community center, a children's play area, two ziplines, a bbq/picnic area, and public art, as well as security cameras, lighting, and a restroom.

According to the State's website, the Prop 68 park grants are "the largest investment in grant funding history targeted for underserved communities."

Pogo Park's Harbour-8 Expansion Project will create an improved park and playground for children to play. The Project will also create jobs and training opportunities for 150 community residents living in one of Richmond's most under-resourced communities.

Neighborhood residents and local organizations in Richmond were particularly buoyed by news of the Harbour-8 Park Expansion grant and believe it will create ripples of opportunity and hope in the community.

"This State investment in Pogo Park is an investment not only in the economic development of our parks and surrounding neighborhoods, but it's an investment in jobs, an investment in health and wellness, and an investment in the social fabric that we need to strengthen, and thrive in the city of Richmond," said Doris Mason, President of the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council.

The process was highly competitive: the State received 478 applications for the \$254.9 million in grant funds available. Pogo Park's "Harbour-8 Park Expansion Project" is 1 of only 62 winners and 1 of 9 to receive the maximum available funding.

"The formula that Pogo Park has implemented has struck gold - the essence is that the parks are designed and then built by neighborhood residents who then take ownership of the parks once they are constructed which protects them from vandalism and the like," said Richmond's Mayor Tom Butt. "Our pioneering partnership with Pogo Park is the result of 'out of the box thinking' that has really gotten the State of California excited and become a state-wide model for park planning and construction."

This is the third successful Statewide Park Development grant application that Pogo Park prepared for the City of Richmond. The list of successful grant applications includes: Elm Playlot (\$1.94 million); Unity Park (\$5 million); Harbour-8 Expansion Project (\$8.5 million).

Altogether, the Pogo Park/City of Richmond partnership has brought \$16.17 million in capital funds into Richmond's one-square mile Iron Triangle neighborhood to improve the conditions of city parks.

Chris Kelly, State Director for The Conservation Fund states: "The State Parks' 2025 Park Vision calls for the expansion of park access for California's underserved communities and urban populations and this project, and the partnership that will make it come to life, embodies the ambitious goals reflected in that Vision. We're thrilled to be part of this transformational project and grateful for the opportunity to work with the City and nationally recognized community leaders like Pogo Park to make it happen."

Preliminary planning and design development for Harbour-8 Expansion Project will begin immediately. Completion date is June 2022.

***ABOUT POGO PARK:***

Founded in 2007, Pogo Park is an entrepreneurial, community-based, 501(c)3 nonprofit in Richmond, California that creates green and vibrant parks in Richmond's Iron Triangle neighborhood for children to play, grow, and thrive. Thirteen years ago, Pogo Park reclaimed Elm Playlot, a broken, neglected, and little-used city park in the heart of the Iron Triangle – and transformed it into a safe, green oasis for thousands of local children and their families.

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Artist: Maren Van Duyn | Scientific Art Studio



## HARBOUR-8 PARK EXPANSION PROJECT



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