



## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### Overview

The City of Santa Clara offers a wide range of community services through Santa Clara City Library, parks and recreational facilities, and in partnership with community organizations and non-profits. The Santa Clara City Library is a dynamic community hub that provides access to information, literacy resources, educational programming, and civic engagement opportunities for the Santa Clara community. Through its three branches at Central Park Library, Northside Branch Library, and Mission Branch Library and the Bookmobile, Santa Clara City Library delivers high quality, efficient services in collections, technology and information access, literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL), programming, community partnerships, and facilities. The City's Parks and Recreation Department provides planning, development, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of the City's twenty-seven (27) neighborhood parks, thirteen (13) mini parks, two (2) community parks, three (3) open space sites, ten (10) recreation buildings, four (4) trails, eleven (11) joint use facilities, and eleven (11) bodies of water at five sites. Facilities include community centers, neighborhood park buildings, community gardens, playgrounds, pools, restrooms, picnic areas, turf, trees, vegetation, athletic fields, and joint use facilities. The Department also assists the public with facility rentals, community services, cultural programs, special events, enhanced natural environments, fitness and wellness programs, as well as sports and aquatics opportunities.

Additionally, the City partners with community organizations and non-profits like Triton Museum of Art to provide the Santa Clara community with services such as free public access to art exhibitions and educational programs.

### Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

- Support the League of California Cities and National League of Cities positions on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

With the goal of enhancing community sports and its recreational and arts assets, the City:

- Supports legislation and efforts that provide direct funding to cities based on needs, regardless of cities' income level, for community services including staffing, infrastructure, and materials.



- Supports collaborative efforts between local water districts and local jurisdictions to address carbon sequestration and water retention to directly benefit parks and city facilities.
- Supports legislation and funding that promotes increased access to parks, open space, and outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Supports efforts to restore the nature environment specially through parks: revegetation, reforestation, and urban forestry programs.
- Supports efforts and funding to promote the usage of reclaimed or recycled water, and reduce the amount of potable water used, in parks and other municipal outdoor applications.
- Supports funding for accessibility improvements that support developmentally based play for all ages and abilities.
- Supports funding and efforts that enhance programs that serve low-income seniors, including providing access to nutritional meals.
- Supports funding to expand neighborhood associations and efforts to facilitate and promote neighborhood beautification projects.
- Supports funding and efforts to provide resource and recreational services for unhoused individuals, as well as resources for training staff who come in contact with vulnerable populations.
- Supports California Library Association's positions on priority legislation that benefits Santa Clara.
- Supports funding and efforts to promote early literacy, family literacy, and life-long learning.
- Supports legislation that promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion-related staffing, collections, and programming.
- Supports funding and efforts to maintain or increase afterschool or school break-related enrichment activities for students.
- Supports legislation, funding, and resources to offer wraparound services to vulnerable populations.
- Supports funding and efforts to provide programs and services that encourage sustainable practices in the community.
- Supports funding, additional resources, and additional staffing to provide outreach and mental health resources to communities that currently lack adequate access to these services.
- Supports state and federal funding and resources to provide free meals and accompanying education opportunities to students.
- Supports state and federal funding and resources to create a more informed, engaged, and welcoming experience for immigrants.