



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, February 25, 2020

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MCKINLEY PARK APPROVED FOR \$8.5 MILLION STATE GRANT State Announces Recipients of Prop. 68 Funding

STOCKTON, Calif. – It pays to dream big...especially for a community as deserving as the city of Stockton. Stockton received news today that an application for State funding to make improvements to McKinley Park has been approved, and the City will receive \$8.5 million in Proposition 68 funding – the maximum amount of funding available from the State for a single project.

“We are extremely excited,” said Community Services Director John Alita. “We had a good feeling about McKinley. The community members were very engaged, they had wonderful ideas about how to improve their park, and, at the end of the day, it was the community that really made the difference. Their enthusiasm and creativity won our hearts, and it clearly showed in the grant application.”

Prop. 68 grants are available to create new parks and new recreation opportunities in critically underserved communities. McKinley Park, which is located at 424 E. 9th Street, is a 22.3-acre park and the largest municipal park in South Stockton. The park is home to a Community Center, operated by the Stockton Police Youth Activities League which offers a boxing program and martial arts, and summer camps.

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McKinley Park has several amenities that are in disrepair, vandalized, or otherwise insufficient to meet the needs of the community. The pool was closed in 2017, due to vandalism, tennis and basketball courts are cracked from age and lack of maintenance, and the playing fields are not landscaped to accommodate soccer.

“At community meetings held last summer at the Community Center, Little Manilla, McKinley School, and outreach at the nearby Stockton Flea Market, children and parents asked for many things that are considered basic in other areas of the city,” continued Alita. “A safe place to play, walking paths without trip hazards, a place to cool off during Stockton’s notoriously hot summer days, open restrooms and working drinking fountains, were at the top of the list of needs.”

The project includes a renovation of the pool, the addition of futsal courts, new sports fields, new and expanded playground, renovated basketball courts, group picnic sites, and improved lighting and landscaping.

“When we got the call telling us that our application was approved, I can tell you it doesn’t get much better than this,” Alita said. “Being able to make such huge improvements for a community that is so deserving is really a wonderful feeling.”

This is the third round of funding since the passage of Prop. 68 in 2018. For this round, 478 applications were received by the State and only 62 were funded. In the coming weeks, City staff will attend a Grant Administration Workshop and complete an agreement with the state to finalize the list of improvements and the timeline.

For additional information about the City of Stockton and McKinley Park, please

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visit www.stocktonca.gov or call (209) 937-8827. Proposition 68 information is available at www.parks.ca.gov.

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