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Hayward Area Recreation and Park District FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RUUS PLAYGROUND AREA TO BE NAMED “MIA’S DREAM COME TRUE”



Future All Abilities Play Area will be accessible to all children

Hayward, CA (January 19, 2016) – The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.) is pleased to announce that Hayward’s Ruus Park playground area will be named “Mia’s Dream Come True” in honor of 7 year old Mia Vasquez of Hayward.

The Board of Directors unanimously voted at its board meeting on Monday, January 11th to name the play area in Mia’s name which was requested on her behalf by Make-A-Wish® Greater Bay Area. Since 1984 they have granted over 7,000 wishes to children with life threatening illnesses who live in the Bay Area. Make-A-Wish Program Director Beth Nolan, stated, “We are thrilled to help H.A.R.D. create an inclusive playground so every child can enjoy “Mia’s Dream Come True.” Everyone who plays there will also get to experience the *power of a wish.*”

Mia’s life-threatening condition makes it difficult for her to access traditional playgrounds which requires her parents to visit All Abilities Play Areas in Concord and Palo Alto. The redesign of the new Ruus playground will feature equipment and materials accessible to children with disabilities.

The ability for Mia and other special needs children to be able to play at a park featuring an all-inclusive play area is an invaluable community benefit. Board of Directors President Minane Jameson stated, “We are grateful to Mia’s family for making us aware of this type of park that will include all children, but more importantly will provide a play area that will bring them outdoor enjoyment without obstacles or challenges.”

The next steps for the redesign of the existing Ruus Park playground will be for the District to secure a bid for conceptual design as well as create a funding and fundraising plan.

For additional information about the project, please call (510) 881-6716 or email parkdept@haywardrec.org

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