

All Children Thrive: Local Action, Statewide Results

Creating Safe Spaces for Play and Connection

THE CHALLENGE

Too many families lack access to safe parks

Parks and other public spaces are essential for children's health, community connection, and climate resilience.¹ Yet 22% of all Californians, including 42% of low-income residents,² do not have a park within a half-mile of their home.² Unequal local investments leave low-income families and children of color with fewer, smaller, and less safe parks.³ The result: too many California youth have limited opportunities to play, exercise, and gather safely, contributing to higher risks of stress and community violence.



We believe that a zip code should not determine a person's access to a beautiful, safe, and healthy park.

*Kassandra Delgado, Modesto Park Youth Committee 2023
(Modesto ACT)*

OUR APPROACH

Engaging youth and residents to create safer, more inclusive parks

All Children Thrive (ACT) projects bring together youth and adults to advocate for parks that are accessible, inclusive, and safe. Three ACT communities have successfully advanced policies and funding for new and improved public spaces, ensuring ongoing investment and maintenance. These efforts expand opportunities for children and families to play, connect, and thrive.

OUR IMPACT

ACT has helped secure park investments in under-resourced neighborhoods

- **Modesto:** ACT youth leaders helped to pass *Measure H*, securing **\$10 million annually** for park improvements in under-resourced neighborhoods. They also helped secure passage of a resolution establishing a **Parks Master Plan** to guide ongoing investments.
- **Boyle Heights:** Successfully advocated for a **Community Plan Update** that included environmental justice protections and **\$4.9 million** for Hollenbeck Park improvements.
- **Santa Ana:** ACT partners are working with city officials to improve **park safety**, with a new Community Engagement and Implementation Committee planned to guide **park upgrades** and ensure resident priorities are met.



1. <https://www.tpl.org/parks-address-climate-change-report>
 2. <https://parkaccess.org/state/california>
 3. <https://www.tpl.org/resource/crossroads-podcast-park-justice>