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## Affordable housing money funds play structure upgrade

*Special to The Enterprise*

Two years ago, a state program was resurrected that gives money to cities and counties for parks when affordable housing communities were built in their area.

Since then, more than \$20 million has gone into parks across the state. Davis has received \$196,250 from the construction of the New Harmony complex on Cowell Boulevard in South Davis.

Thanks to developments by Mutual Housing California (the new moniker for Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing), the Rainbow City play structure in Davis' Community Park is getting an upgrade. The popular wooden structure was built by volunteers two decades ago and needs some TLC. It also does not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

"This is smart policy on the part of the state, definitely a win-win," said Rachel Iskow, Mutual Housing executive director. "It creates incentives to build affordable housing by rewarding community resources for amenities such as park to local areas that have housing for all income levels in their neighborhoods."

"Davis applauds California for recognizing the importance of integrating new

housing with an entire community," Davis Mayor Joe Krovoza said. "New Harmony will provide access to affordable housing for families, seniors and persons with disabilities, while the associated grant will renew Rainbow City as a beloved community asset. Thus, both housing and community are concurrently advanced."

The rebuilding process also involves community input and feedback. City officials hope to have the structure completed in 2014. Any grant money left over also will go to Community Park. New Harmony is expected to open in February. Applications currently are being accepted; call 530-758-2889 for information.

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops and operates rental housing for modest-income households. The communities have 2,750 residents. For more information, visit [www.mutualhousing.com](http://www.mutualhousing.com).



**Rainbow City play structure will be upgraded with money from the building of New Harmony.**