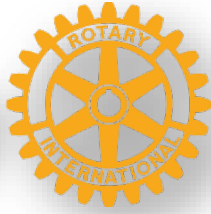


Rotary



Peace Parks and Peace Gardens are areas that exist around the world and are designated to promote peace, cooperation, and often serve as memorials or reminders of past conflicts.

They can be formal transboundary conservation areas, stand-alone parks with a dedicated focus on peace, or spaces where events and activities related to peace are organized.

Some peace parks are located on sites of historical significance, such as where peace treaties were signed or where atrocities of war occurred.

Rotary promotes peace through various initiatives, including encouraging conversations to foster understanding, training leaders for conflict prevention and mediation, and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships.

This Rotary Community Peace Park is the result of an idea first posed by Wulff Reinhold in 2010, when he was the president of the Rotary Club of Rohnert Park-Cotati. Club members enthusiastically endorsed the idea, but finding an appropriate space within the community became an early challenge.

In 2016, when Wulff became governor of Rotary District 5130, his wife Paula, also a Rotarian, made it a goal to ensure that his earlier idea of a peace park idea become a reality.

In a serendipitous opportunity, the City of Rohnert Park offered this space for a landscape renovation. Partnering with the Rotary Club of Rancho Cotati, members designed, prepared, and installed various hardscape and landscape features, including planting over 400 water-saving, sensory, and pollinator plants.

A Peace Pole, stating “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in 8 languages and braille, was installed, as was a commissioned art peace which will eventually be covered with the artwork of 240 tiles depicting local schoolchildren’s idea of peace.

Throughout the park are peace-related quotes and sayings from notable personalities. Look and learn.

The park includes a number of special trees. In the southeast corner is a Hibakujumoku (被爆樹木), also known as a Hiroshima Survivor Tree. The Asper tree was germinated from seeds of trees that survived the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. As universal symbols of peace, there are also 3 olive trees planted in the park. One of these was sponsored by a local home lender (Stearns Home Loans, now Kind Lending) in honor and remembrance of the victims and survivors of the 2017 Wildfires, as well as recognizing Family, Friends and Community as the lasting foundation of peace.

We fully recognize that true peace starts within. There is a Chinese Proverb which states: “If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.”

Enjoy the peace and serenity this park offers. Explore the various encouragements and ideas of peace. Experience the power that peace can have in a community.

<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/promoting-peace>

<https://positivepeace.org/what-is-positive-peace>

<https://www.un.org/en/actnow/ten-actions-peaceful-world>