Bright Neighborhoods

Founding statement | Community initiative | Working version 1.0

Our mission
Help working families and community members use existing parks and public gathering spaces after dark through appropriate lighting and reasonable evening access.

Why we are here

Winter darkness can end outdoor recreation before parents finish work. Existing parks can give children, adults and older people places to play, exercise, share interests and spend time with neighbors during the early evening.

Our first two objectives

1. Extend access where lights already exist. Seek an approved closing and lighting time of 9 p.m. at suitable parks that currently close earlier. Individual requests may differ: San Ramon seeks restoration to 10 p.m., with 9 p.m. or a trial as alternatives.

2. Support lighting where it is missing. Identify existing plans, deferred projects and feasible options; help local supporters advance selected projects through evaluation, approvals and funding.

Our focus

Begin with East Bay skateparks and selected nearby projects, including Davis. The broader mission includes sports courts, playgrounds and other public community gathering areas. Each location advances according to its needs, community input and the responsible agency's process.

How we work

Verify rules and plans; listen to park users and neighbors; connect with existing advocates; develop a specific request; gather support; and document agency responses, decisions and results. Work with staff first and follow the appropriate public process.

Our commitments

Use lighting only where and when needed, with appropriate glare control, timed shutoff and attention to environmental impacts. Consider accessibility, neighborhood concerns, installation costs and long-term maintenance. Distinguish observations from verified facts and proposals from approvals. Protect participants' contact information and obtain permission before claiming partnerships or endorsements.

Our starting structure

Bright Neighborhoods is an informal community initiative founded and coordinated by James Chen. This statement describes its working purpose; it does not establish incorporation, nonprofit status, government endorsement or committed funding. Our next milestone is a defined pilot request supported by local participants and a documented agency next step.