



# Har Gilo

## A SAFE PLACE TO PLAY

Walk or drive past any outdoor playground, and you're bound to see big smiles and hear loud squeals of joy and laughter. Outdoor play areas are where the magic happens for kids, whether it's mastering the monkey bars or racing up a climbing wall. Children have so much available to them in terms of technology, but they can not replace the social, physical, and emotional benefits of outdoor play at a safe playground.

The Gush Etzion community of Har Gilo started as the site for a field school, run by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI). Later, SPNI also added an education and information center about ostriches and plants of the Land of Israel in Har Gilo. The first 68 homes were constructed in 1968, for employees of the school as well as for soldiers permanently stationed in the region. Har Gilo's founding pioneers were secular Jewish Zionists, but over the years, many religious families joined the community, creating a tapestry that represents the Jewish people—secular and religious, young and old - all woven together in rich and beautiful harmony. The most predominant uniting thread is their strong dedication to creating a rich communal life for themselves and their children in the heart of Judea.

Today, 450 families live in Har Gilo, including 850 children and teens. The community has grown tremendously in recent years, and the residents are thrilled with the growth and hope it continues! But with such rapid growth comes the need for spaces dedicated to communal needs. There are very few parks and playgrounds in Har Gilo, and the existing facilities are old and need significant repair. One playground has a surface that fails to meet code and requires replacement, a second playground does not have a set of swings, and a third sparsely equipped playground needs an additional play structure. During the summer months, when the blistering Mediterranean sun beats down until late afternoon, it is impossible to play outdoors without proper shade. Shade structures are vital additions to every playground in Israel, enabling families to enjoy outdoor playtime year-round.

**Har Gilo needs to renovate local playgrounds for their growing community, creating safe spaces for children to play and parents to socialize. They need your help to fund improvements to renovate their existing playgrounds and to install new playground equipment. Your support for this project will have an immense impact on the pioneering families of Har Gilo, as they continue to develop rich community bonds while fulfilling their dream of rebuilding Biblical Judea.**

# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Founded:** 1968
- ☆ **Location:** Gush Etzion region, Judea
- ☆ **Origin of Name:** in English, "Mountain of Gilo"
- ☆ **Biblical Significance:** Biblical Gilo, listed in Judah's territory (Joshua 15) and birthplace of King David's renegade advisor Achitofel (2 Samuel 15:12)
- ☆ **Strategic Significance:** Located 923 meters above sea level, near Jerusalem, it was a military stronghold since Ottoman times
- ☆ **Population:** 450 families, including 500 children and 350 teenagers



*You can help build Har Gilo stronger for future generations as it strategically sits between Jerusalem and Bethlehem*



*The growing community of Har Gilo desperately needs your help to provide better playgrounds for their children*

## HAR GILO PARKS RENOVATION

### PROJECT BUDGET

Two Playground Shade Structures (\$18,980 each) .....	\$37,960
Playground Equipment .....	8,920
Playground Resurfacing .....	8,540
<b>TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED .....</b>	<b>\$55,420</b>

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