



September 24, 2008

Volunteers Can Help Make a Difference in County Parks *Entry Fee Waived Saturday on National Public Lands Day*

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – Visitors to San Mateo County parks this Saturday can experience the beauty of redwoods, ocean views and wildlife for free in celebration of National Public Lands Day, which promotes volunteerism and caring for the environment.

The County is waiving the normal \$5 entry fee all day Saturday, September 27, to help encourage residents to experience the beauty of the parks. The County is also hosting two special events where individuals, families and service groups can pitch in to enhance the parks and work side-by-side with rangers.

At Junipero Serra Park in San Bruno, volunteers are needed to work with rangers to paint restrooms and picnic shelters, remove eucalyptus debris and install relocated picnic sites, among other projects.

At Huddart Park near Woodside, volunteers will work with rangers and community partners to repair a half-mile section of Skyline Trail.

“We hope people are willing to give a little of their time to help the parks that have provided so many people so much enjoyment over the years,” said Parks Director David Holland. “By making the parks free on National Public Lands Day, a growing number of people can become aware of these wonderful resources and also of volunteer opportunities.”

Parks that are free to visit on Saturday are: Coyote Point Recreation Area, Flood, Huddart, Junipero Serra, Memorial, Sam McDonald, San Bruno Mountain, San Pedro Valley and Wunderlich.

Participation in National Public Lands Day has grown to 110,000 volunteers at 1,300 sites across the United States from its beginning in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers.

To volunteer at Junipero Serra Park, contact Ranger Al Zuker at (650) 589-5708 or at azuker@co.sanmateo.ca.us or Cecily Harris at (650) 363-4027 or charris@co.sanmateo.ca.us. Volunteers will gather at the park entrance at 8:30 a.m. and work until 12:30 p.m. Registration is required.

To volunteer at Huddart Park, contact Steve Bacosa, outreach specialist at REI in San Carlos, at sbacosa@rei.com. You may also contact Cecily Harris of the Parks Department at (650) 363-4027 or email charris@co.sanmateo.ca.us. Volunteers will meet at Sequoia Day Camp, located through

the gatehouse on Kings Mountain Road, between 8 and 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided and trail work will end at about 1 p.m.

Overall, the Parks Department operates 17 separate parks in a wide variety of natural settings including a coastside marine reserve, a bayside recreational area, coastal mountain woodland areas, and urban sites. More information can be found on the County's web site, www.co.sanmateo.ca.us, by clicking on "Parks Department."

For more information about Public Lands Day, contact:

David L. Moore
Parks Superintendent
(650) 363-1906

Or

Cecily Harris
Financial Services Manager
(650) 363-4027