

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 2, 2011

**San Mateo County Parks to Re-Open Flood Park on Saturday, November 12, 2011**

**MENLO PARK, Calif.** – Following a 13-month closure, Flood County Park will re-open November 12 at noon with a ribbon cutting and fun activities for the entire family.

The 21-acre park has been closed since fall 2010 to allow the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to repair and replace water supply pipelines. As that work nears completion, San Mateo County Parks has worked with the SFPUC to prepare the park for a grand re-opening.

Park amenities include drop-in picnic areas, seven picnic areas that can be reserved and a picnic shelter for families or groups to dine. The park also includes an expansive lawn area, a large play structure, a sand play area, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts and tennis courts. Flood Park also includes accessible facilities and play areas that accommodate wheelchairs.

The park's petanque court and baseball diamond will not be available when the park reopens due to remaining SFPUC work, but the rest of the facilities will be open.

No park entry fee will be charged for re-opening celebration attendees.

The noon opening celebration will be led by San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson and Assembly Member Rich Gordon with a ceremonial ribbon cutting. At 12:30 p.m., the Friends of Flood Park will host organized activities for the entire family.

Planned activities will be available up to 3 p.m. and will include gourmet food trucks offering lunch for purchase, live music, face painting and a scavenger hunt highlighting the park's history and plant and animal life.

The re-opening is a time to celebrate but County Parks faces ongoing funding shortfalls.

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Staffing, structural and ground maintenance, water, electricity, and refuse are costs related to the operation of each park in the 15-park system. The annual cost to operate Flood is approximately \$374,201, of which approximately \$169,000 is received in revenue from fees from the 75,000 annual visitors. The net cost to operate Flood Park for the last full year it was open was \$205,000.

At its June 22, 2011 meeting, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors allocated funding to support the operation of Flood Park for six months after it reopens. The County continues to work diligently to find the funding to keep the park open and has ongoing discussions with the City of Menlo Park to potentially operate the park.

Friends of Flood Park, a new park support organization, is partnering with the County to assist in preparing for the re-opening and to identify ways it can support the Park in the long-term. To date, hundreds of volunteers with the Friends of Flood have helped paint, prune trees and bushes, and polish the play structure. Volunteer opportunities to help prepare the park for re-opening are available. If interested, contact the Friends of Flood Park at [www.friendsofflood.org](http://www.friendsofflood.org)

Details:

**Who:** San Mateo County officials, Friends of Flood Park, park lovers and members of the community interested in celebrating the re-opening of Flood Park.

**Where:** Flood Park, 215 Bay Road, Menlo Park, between Glenwood Drive and Del Norte Avenue.

**When:** Noon, Saturday, November 12

For more information about the event, visit [www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/portal/site/parks/](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/portal/site/parks/)

For information about the Friends of Flood Park, visit [www.friendsofflood.org](http://www.friendsofflood.org)

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