

Frequently Asked Questions

Flood County Park Reopening, November 12, 2011

Q: When is FloodCountyPark scheduled to reopen?

A: After being closed for the past 13 months, Flood Park will open on Saturday, November 12 at noon. No park entry fee will be charged for re-opening celebration attendees.

Q: Why was the Park closed?

A: The Park closed September 2010 in order to serve as a staging location for the work the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is conducting throughout the Peninsula as part of a water pipeline upgrade project.

By opening date, the PUC will have vacated the area it used during the past year with the exception of a small segment at the northeast side of the Park near the bleachers. That area is expected to be cleared by the end of December 2011.

Q: Will all facilities be available to the public upon the Park's opening?

A: The Petanque court and the baseball diamond will not be available to the public when the Park opens. The court is located in the area that will be used by the PUC in the short term. Some additional work on the baseball field is required before it is ready for use. This work should be completed by spring 2012.

Q: Will the Park remain open permanently?

A: At its June 22, 2011 meeting, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors allocated funding to support the operation of FloodPark for six months after it reopens. Since that meeting, the Board and County staff have considered several options to address the long-term status of the Park. The CountyManager and staff have approached the City of Menlo Park to determine if the City is interested in assuming management of the property. And, the County continues to explore sources of funding that could be used to maintain the operation of the Park on an ongoing basis.

Q: What is the status of discussions with the City of Menlo Park?

A: Both the County and the City of Menlo Park have been reviewing figures related to operational and maintenance costs as part of their discussions. These talks continue.

Q: How will the County proceed if discussions with Menlo Park are not successful?

A: County staff has been exploring various options, including possible sources of funding that would allow the Park to remain open beyond the six months of funding approved by the Board. No sources of funding have yet been identified and no long-term decision has been made.

Q: How can the community support Flood and other County parks?

A: Residents in the FloodPark neighborhood are partnering with San Mateo County Parks to help prepare the Park for the opening. On its first volunteer work day, The Friends of Floor Park brought in nearly 100 community members who trimmed trees, painted garbage bins, cleaned and polished the large play structure, and weeded. Two additional volunteer activities will be held, one on November 5 and another on the morning of the opening. For more information about this group, visit:www.FriendsofFlood.org

Volunteer involvement is integral to San Mateo County Parks. Volunteers patrol trails, educate visitors about the unique plant and animal life in parks, build and maintain trails, restore habitats and much more. More than 24,000 volunteer hours were donated in San Mateo County Parks last year. To volunteer, visit:www.SMCOParks.org or call (650) 599-1306.

Q: How large is Flood Park and what facilities are located there?

A: Flood Park is located at 215 Bay Road in Menlo Park and is 21-acres in size. It serves as a neighborhood park for area residents as well as a picnic site for small and large groups throughout the region. Many Park visitors use the picnic and barbeque areas for celebrations, including birthday parties and family reunions. The Park also features a large play structure, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, softball fields, and several volleyball courts. The Park includes accessible facilities and play areas that accommodate wheelchairs.

Q: How many people visit Flood Park annually?

A: For the last full year that the Park was open, 75,019 people visited. This included 235 baseball field reservations and 275 picnic reservations.

Q: What are the annual operating costs related to Flood Park?

A: Staffing, structural and ground maintenance, water, electricity, and refuse are costs related to the operation of each park. Approximately \$374,201 is budgeted for Flood Park. Approximately \$169,000 is received in revenue from fees. The net cost to operate FloodPark for the last full year it was open was \$205,000.

Q: How many parks does San Mateo County manage?

A: Currently, San Mateo County Parks include 15 parks, two historic sites, one regional trail and several local trails. The properties encompass more than 16,000 acres and extend as far north as San Bruno Mountain State and County Park in Brisbane, south to Pescadero Creek Park Complex in Loma Mar, west to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and to Coyote Point Recreation Area in San Mateo.

Q: Have any other parks been considered for either temporary or permanent closure?

A: Parks management staff have reviewed various closure scenarios, but no other County Parks are slated for closure at this time. Additional future budget reductions could lead to park closures.