

**County of Santa Clara**  
**Office of the County Executive**  
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95110  
(408) 299-5119  
www.sccgov.org



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 15, 2008

**Contact:**

Gwendolyn Mitchell/Lingxia Meng  
Office of Public Affairs  
(408) 299-5119

Heidi McFarland  
Parks and Recreation  
(408) 355-2254

**County of Santa Clara Proclaims April 2008 as  
“National Volunteer Month”**

*Residents Encouraged to Volunteer at County Parks*

SAN JOSE, CALIF.— The County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors proclaimed April 2008 as the “National Volunteer Month” to commend Santa Clara County volunteers for making a difference in their community. Volunteers contribute a significant amount of time at many county departments including Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center, Parks and Recreation, Sheriff’s Office, Registrar of Voters and Fire Department. They also serve in an advisory capacity on 40 different county boards and commissions.

“Volunteers are a great asset to the county,” said Supervisor Pete McHugh, Chair of the Board of Supervisors. “We commend all the County’s volunteers that work with county agencies as well as those who volunteer with area hospitals and community-based organizations for their commitment to improving the quality of life in our valley.”

The county Parks and Recreation Department has the largest number of volunteers among all county departments. Approximately 2,500 volunteers contribute over 38,500 hours of work annually at the county’s 28 parks. These parks encompass nearly 45,000 acres of land.

- more -

## County Proclaims April 2008 as "National Volunteer Month," page 2

"Volunteers do it all! From patrolling trails & leading hikes, to teaching children how to fish," said Heidi McFarland, Parks Volunteer Coordinator.

"We had the pleasure to recognize more than 150 volunteers at the 13th Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet last week for the huge amount of time they have contributed to our parks," said Lisa Killough, Parks and Recreation Director. "For individuals who want to contribute their time while enjoying nature, we could certainly use you."

Park volunteers range from young children to seniors in their 90s. Their involvement at county parks also includes the following:

helping with traffic control at busy parks on holidays and for special events;

teaching children to fish and respect the watershed environment;

leading hikes and interpretive programs as part of the Docent Program;

monitoring the Campgrounds and other sites as part of the Camp/Site Host Program;

trail building and repair projects, and adopting trails to help with routine maintenance and litter;

constructing trailhead signs, split rail fences, bat boxes through Eagle Scout and

Individualized/Corporate Team Building projects;

helping with Resource Management such as building and monitoring bird nesting boxes,

invasive removal, planting and caring for native trees and plants; and

serving as political activists and community leaders through Friends of Parks Program.

"Currently, we would love to have more Trail Crew Leads, Trail Watch Bike Patrollers and Docents," added McFarland.

Volunteers also assist at several annual events including Festival in the Park, Fantasy of Lights, Vasona Vibrations and Movie Nights, Easter at Hellyer Park and No Rooz at Vasona Park.

Upcoming events include Earth Day on April 19<sup>th</sup>, National River Cleanup day on May 17<sup>th</sup>,

- more -

**County Proclaims April 2008 as “National Volunteer Month,” page 3**

National Trail Day on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and Festival in the Park on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. For more information on Parks events and to register as a Parks volunteer, go to [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org), and click on “Volunteer Here” under “Quick Clicks.”

Other volunteer opportunities at county departments are listed online at: [www.sccgov.org](http://www.sccgov.org), under “County Connection.”

# # #