

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

For Immediate Release

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***Opening for New Memories
The Return of Happy Hollow Park & Zoo
Saturday, March 20, 2010***

San José, CA – When are you opening?” the question that has been asked every day since the gates closed last year for the Happy Hollow Park & Zoo Bond project. After 20 months of “green and whimsical” renovation, Mayor Chuck Reed and San Jose City Council invite the community to join them at the Happy Hollow Park & Zoo Grand Re-Opening on **Saturday, March 20, 2010!** The opening ceremonies will take place at **9:30 a.m.** in the new Entry Plaza, with the gates opening at **10:00 a.m.**

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo closed its gates after 46 years on July 9, 2008 to undertake a \$72 million renovation of its existing Zoo and ride areas, as well as a four-acre expansion. With two more rides, 11 more exhibits, a new upper Zoo area, an Education complex, expanded Contact Area and new play areas totaling 12,800 sq. feet - visitors will have a new experience in store for them as they walk through the gates to this beloved South Bay institution. The renovation was also built to meet the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification and will serve as a model of sustainability for similar facilities.

“It’s great to see Happy Hollow re-opening its doors to the community,” proclaimed Mayor Reed. “The park features a number of improvements that will captivate children and help San José meet its Green Vision goals. I can’t wait to take my grandson for a ride on Danny the Dragon!”

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Some of Happy Hollow's new green components include; seven green (growing) roofs, radiant flooring to cool and heat buildings, hay bale construction in the Education Center, the use of recycled water for non-potable functions throughout facility, on-site storm water management systems and the incorporation of sustainable materials throughout the project.

The Happy Hollow that millions of Northern Californians grew up with isn't totally gone. "When creating the vision for what the new Happy Hollow was going to be, the community made it very clear that there were some components they couldn't live without," explains Suzanne Wolf, General Manager. "The familiar sights of the Crooked House and the Meadow, the lower Zoo, the Mini Put-Putt cars and the Granny Bug Rides will still be here. Oh - and of course the Danny the Dragon ride will be part of the new Happy Hollow experience, he'll just be "greener" as he has been converted from gas to electric powered."

What's New at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo:

Education Center - The greenest of all the new buildings and built out of hay bales, the Learning L.O.D.G.E. (Learn, Observe, Discover, Go Explore!) will be the center of educational activity for the new facility.

Doc's Critter Care, a new animal hospital featuring indoor and outdoor quarantine, surgery and radiology facilities.

Giggle Grove – the new rides area featuring the Kiddie Swings, Frog Hopper, and returning ride favorites, the Granny Bugs and the Mini Putts.

Family Rides - Keep-Around-Carousel features endangered species characters, Pacific Fruit Express Family Roller Coaster, and an "Extreme Make-Over" of the beloved Danny the Dragon Ride.

"Double H" Ranch Exhibit - includes expansive animal contact area with an additional play areas for children. The area features the Animal Barn, which will offer close contact with domestic species.

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Lemur Woods Exhibit – featuring endangered lemurs with a parallel play area for children to hop, jump and move like a lemur!

Redwood Lookout play area is perfect for multiple age groups with an area for toddlers, a sitting area for parents and then a larger play structure for older children. Built to model a Ranger lookout station, the giant play structure is nestled in the redwoods with slides, ropes and climbing areas.

Entry Plaza will be the home to the whimsical public art created by internationally known artist Tom Otterness.

Grand Re-Opening – The Return of Happy Hollow Park & Zoo

Saturday, March 20, 2010

9:30 a.m. - Ribbon cutting ceremony in the Entry Plaza

Mayor Chuck Reed, City Council Members, Happy Hollow Foundation and Supporters will be present to welcome guests back to Happy Hollow.

10: 00 a.m. – The gates to Happy Hollow Park & Zoo re-open!

Advance sale tickets are available online at **www.hhpz.org**

Press tours and more information are available by calling Vanessa Rogier (408)-794-6404.

Photos are available upon request.

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Happy Hollow Park & Zoo in San Jose has been a part of Bay Area families since it opened its' gates in 1961. It's a unique combination of family rides, amusements, a Puppet Theater, play areas and an accredited Zoo with over 140 animals, from endangered lemurs to miniature horses. Year round classes are offered for ages 12 months to adults as well as special events for all seasons. Happy Hollow Park & Zoo offers yearly Memberships for families and individuals. More information can be found on their website at www.hhpz.org or by calling 408-794-6400. Happy Hollow Park & Zoo Kelley Park 1300 Senter Road San José, Ca 95112