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Neighborhood Kicks Off their Annual “National Night Out” Event with Skatepark Opening

Youths Played an Important Role in Designing the Skatepark

San José --- Councilmember Forrest Williams, the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, and the Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services joined the Great Oaks/Edenvale neighborhood to celebrate their annual “National Night Out” event with the grand opening of a new skatepark yesterday in Great Oaks Park (Giusti Drive and Snow Drive).

The skatepark project resulted from a community-driven desire to provide a youth recreational facility within the Great Oaks Neighborhood. The skatepark is the fifth of ten priorities for the Edenvale/Great Oaks neighborhood because it serves as an exciting recreational area for the youths.

"I am thrilled that another key project has been completed in the Edenvale/Great Oaks community, and that the youths were heavily involved in this development process," said Councilmember Forrest Williams who represents the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood. "Through our collaboration, we have been able to bring many neighborhood priorities to fruition."

In Spring 2004, Edenvale/Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition (EGOPIC) in partnership with the City of San José Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services and San Jose Redevelopment Agency held meetings with local skateboarders to participate in the conceptual design of the skatepark. EGOPIC, residents and youth worked together to contribute and dedicate their time to provide their feedback.

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Design ideas for the skatepark derived from the collaborative meetings between the community and City and then incorporated into a professional skatepark design. The skatepark is a 9,200 square foot concrete skating surface featuring a combination of transitional ramps and street skating elements for skateboarders of all levels.

“We are proud of this neighborhood accomplishment. It puts us one step closer to completing our top ten priorities and more importantly, the kids have a safer place to gather and play.” said Tami Moore, President of the Edenvale/Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition.

After many community meetings during the project’s development, the City of San Jose and the Great Oaks neighborhood successfully completed one of their top priorities in time for a national event. Councilmember Forrest Williams and Edenvale/Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition joined the community to celebrate the opening of Great Oaks Park’s newest feature in conjunction with the annual “National Night Out” event.

“We continue to take great pride in successful San Jose Redevelopment Agency community partnerships.” said Harry Mavrogenes, Executive Director for San Jose Redevelopment Agency. “This project is a great example of the Agency’s commitment to community participation.”

The annual “National Night Out” event is in its 22nd year of involving residents, law enforcement agencies, and community organizations who join 10,000 communities throughout the United States, Canada and military bases worldwide to strengthen their neighborhoods.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Together the City and the Redevelopment Agency facilitate and oversee comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the City’s Downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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