



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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NEW CONCESSIONS/BATHROOMS FOR POLO GROUNDS

Fulfilling a promise to the community, the County of Santa Cruz on Wednesday broke ground on a new restroom and concessions facility at Polo Grounds County Park.

One of the most heavily used facilities in the County's expansive network of parks, historic facilities and open spaces, the 62-acre Polo Grounds is a destination for youth athletics, joggers, dog walkers, bicyclists and more. The project will include a snack counter, new water fountains and a bottle-filler, and will replace portable toilets. It is expected to be operational this summer.

"Years ago, when we created a park that served so many different members of our community, we left out one important piece of the puzzle. Now, through the efforts of County staff and our partners, we have finally achieved our common goal," Supervisor Zach Friend said.

Led by the County, project partnership includes the Cabrillo Host Lions Club and contractor J. Johnson & Company. The Lions continue to raise money for the project through GoGoPolo.org. Donations of \$75 receive an engraved 4"-by-8" paver on the apron of the concessions building, while donations of \$150 receive an engraved 12"-by-12" paver.

Permanent restrooms were part of the original plans for Polo Grounds, but were never built. The improvements are another step forward for the County's Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, which opened three new parks in the last 11 months. And in June 2014, 76 percent of local voters approved a modest parcel tax to support parks operations.



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“These are some of the basic services that we provide, and this project is a symbol that we are ready and able to meet the expectations of the community after they voted overwhelmingly for additional parks funding under Measure F. I’d like to thank Supervisor Friend and the rest of the Board of Supervisors for allocating the money for this project,” Santa Cruz County Parks Director Jeff Gaffney said.

“It’s an honor to be able to help the community bring this project to fruition. Polo Grounds is a beautiful and much-loved park, and the Lions and I were more than happy to do our part to fulfill the community’s original vision,” said Jay Johnson, owner of J. Johnson & Company.

In addition to the groundbreaking, Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks also gratefully accepted a check for \$2,200 from Tina and Russ Coillot, owners of Fleet Feet Sports Aptos/Monterey. The proceeds from Fleet Feet’s annual Shamrock Run are being donated to benefit Santa Cruz County parks.

The donation is unrelated to the groundbreaking.