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## **Residents Partner with City to Make San Pablo Park Safer for Families**

*Community to gather Saturday for ribbon-cutting celebration*

### **WHAT:**

Community advocates and the City of San Pablo are celebrating the completion of a major renovation project at Davis Park, a park that was plagued by crime, graffiti, and unsafe conditions until local parents joined forces with the City of San Pablo to improve it. The park renovation includes new police surveillance cameras, water fountains, lighting, picnic tables, BBQ grills, waste and recycling receptacles, and new tot-friendly bathrooms. The celebration features a ribbon cutting, face painting, arts and crafts, a bike rodeo, performances, and free lunch for the first 150 participants.

### **WHY:**

The project originated when First 5 Contra Costa's West County Regional Group, a group of parent advocates who live in Richmond and San Pablo, evaluated every park in San Pablo. Davis Park was among the lowest rated for safety issues, old bathrooms, and lacking amenities like picnic tables and functional water fountains. After the parents presented their findings and recommendations to the San Pablo City, council members allocated \$550,000 from the city budget for improvements.

To deter crime, the parents have sponsored park clean-ups and community meetings with police. First 5 Contra Costa will also be sponsoring free sports classes and other children's activities to increase park use and children's access to physical activity programs. More than half of San Pablo's children struggle with obesity – the highest rate of childhood obesity in Contra Costa County.

### **WHEN/WHERE:**

**Saturday, March 10, 2018**

**11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

*(ribbon cutting at 11:30 a.m.)*

Davis Park, 1661 Folsom Avenue, San Pablo

**WHO:**

Speakers include parent advocates, local residents, and San Pablo city staff and officials.

**MORE:**

The City of San Pablo funded the Davis Park project in response to the San Pablo Parks Assessment the West County Regional Group, First 5 Contra Costa and Healthy & Active Before 5 conducted. Earlier this year, San Pablo received a Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health prize, one of only eight cities in the nation recognized for prioritizing health through creative partnerships, especially for residents facing the greatest barriers to good health.

Physical outdoor play is important for children's health and development. First 5 Contra Costa and the three parent advocacy groups it sponsors have partnered with city officials to refurbish eight neglected parks in low-income communities throughout the county. Learn more: [www.first5coco.org](http://www.first5coco.org).

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