



CITY OF DUBLIN

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PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF DUBLIN TO CELEBRATE THE GRAND OPENING OF DON BIDDLE COMMUNITY PARK

DUBLIN, Calif., September 9, 2022 – Join the City of Dublin on Saturday, September 24, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., for the Grand Opening of Don Biddle Community Park (6100 Horizon Parkway). The new 30-acre park is named for Donald C. Biddle, who passed away in February 2018, while serving as Vice Mayor of the City of Dublin.

Grand Opening Events

10:00 to 11:00 a.m. - Dedication; National Anthem featuring the 191st Army Band; speeches; unveiling of art; and ribbon-cutting ceremony

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Live music; sports demonstrations; inflatables, games and activities; Community Garden demonstrations with master gardeners; face painting; train tours of the park

Don Biddle Community Park features tennis courts; basketball courts; two playgrounds; a community garden and orchard; a garden shed; large event lawn; shade structures; an outdoor classroom; restrooms; and veterans art.

The new park is centrally located in Dublin and is adjacent to the Boulevard development. During the grand opening event, community members can also enjoy a trolley ride through the Boulevard neighborhoods.

History

Don Biddle and his wife Donnamarie moved to Dublin in 1974, where Don began a long and distinguished career, giving more than 40 years of public service to the Dublin community. Along with his nine years on the Dublin City Council, Don was on the Dublin Planning Commission, served as a Dublin Unified School Board Trustee, and served on the board or was a member of the Tri-Valley YMCA, Dublin Sister City Association, Dublin Rotary, Dublin Historic Preservation Association, Dublin Integrity in Action, Dublin Partners in Education, and others. He was named the 2005 Dublin "Citizen of the Year" for his contributions to the community.

Don spent 31 years in the engineering and construction industry, and was also a veteran, having served as a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The land upon which Don Biddle Community Park was built

was once home to a portion of Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, also known as Camp Parks. Through the years, Camp Parks has served as the temporary home to members of nearly all branches of the military, beginning in 1942 with Navy Seabees during World War II and the Air Force in 1951. It became a standby Army base from 1959 to 1973; a training facility for the U.S. Coast Guard and Navy in the mid-1960s; and, from 1980 to today, an Army base for training reserve forces. Because of this rich military history, the public art selected for Don Biddle Community Park will feature four larger-than-life statues of members of the military, representing four different branches and four different theaters of war (World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and the Gulf War), created by artist Steven Whyte. Mr. Whyte also created a bust of Don Biddle, which will be unveiled at the grand opening celebration.

“Don Biddle was a man of integrity, always wanting to ensure only the best for the residents of Dublin,” said Mayor Melissa Hernandez. “He left us too soon. Dedicating this park in his name allows us to honor his legacy.”

For more information, please contact parksandcommunityservices@dublin.ca.gov.

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