

News Release



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Rescue Rally and Victory Celebration Set for Henry W. Coe State Park

Donors and Supporters to Hand Over Really Big Check

The Coe Park Preservation Fund (CPPF) announced today that it is ready to hand over the first big check to keep Henry W. Coe State Park open for the next three years.

“It is time to rally and support this victory,” said Ann Briggs, President and Board Chair of the Coe Park Preservation Fund. “We would like all who have contributed and who care about this magnificent place to turn-out to celebrate how they found a way to make a difference.” (*Ann Briggs can be contacted at 650-324-1455 or 650-283-4859 for comments from the CPPF.*)

At 11 a.m. on May 25, a gathering expected to rally more than 100 park supporters, led by Dan McCranie and the CPPF, will present State Parks’ Director Ruth Coleman with a big check to keep the park open. The public is invited to bring a picnic lunch and join the gathering for cake at the visitor center, and then celebrate the fundraising success by taking a stroll or a ride to enjoy the wildflowers, panoramas, and peace of this place. The visitor center is located at 9200 East Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, at the top of the hill at the end of the road.

“We are making a statement that no-one has ever made in a State Park before,” said J. Daniel McCranie, a major donor of the CPPF funds that will keep the park open for the next three years. “This park is one of the treasures of our State Park system and it would be unacceptable to do anything but step to the plate to keep it open and enjoyed by the many thousands of visitors who love its rugged beauty.”

“The passion I see in Dan McCranie and the members of the board of the CPPF is just off the charts,” said Coleman. “We are thankful they have stepped forward and we invite all who love this park to join us for a day of thanks and celebration that the gate at this park will remain open.”

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State Parks and the Coe Park Preservation Fund, the private citizens' group from San Jose, Silicon Valley, and the Bay Area that formed to help the park, agreed that the CPPF will donate funds for the operation of the park to keep it open and operating from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015. In the agreement, all operations and maintenance of Coe State Park will be performed by State Parks' staff.

A major donor for the Coe Park Preservation Fund is J. Daniel McCranie, currently the chair of the board of directors of ON Semiconductor Corporation. McCranie has nearly 40 years of operating experience in technology-related industries, including being the Board Director for Cypress Semiconductor Corporation and Board Director of Freescale Semiconductor.

"Henry W. Coe State Park is a local treasure, a beautiful, wild place that's readily available to all of us in Silicon Valley and welcomes visitors from around the state, the country, and the world," said McCranie. "We need this park to remain open, particularly during these stress-filled days. All of us at the Coe Park Preservation Fund are both grateful and excited that Director Coleman has embraced this creative remedy to the current State Park budget issues."

"These citizens represent the best of California and should inspire us all," said Coleman. "We at State Parks are exceedingly grateful for this assistance and look forward to continuing our mission to preserve these special places forever."

The terms of the agreement include the parties' agreement that CPPF will provide funding to State Parks for two full-time permanent State Park Peace Officers (two Rangers), one full-time permanent Park Maintenance Worker I, and two full-time seasonal Park Aides to be assigned to perform duties at Coe State Park from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015. Outside of providing this funding, the CPPF will have no administrative responsibility to operate Coe State Park. State Parks will ensure that this funding will be used only to support Coe State Park and will ensure that revenue collected at Coe State Park is returned to Coe State Park for its operation and maintenance.

What you can do to help!

If you would like to help support this huge, remote, and magnificent State Park, visit the Coe Park Preservation Fund website at www.coeparkfund.org.

About Henry W. Coe State Park

Henry W. Coe State Park is the largest State Park in Northern California with over 87,000 acres of wild open space. There is year-round enjoyment for hikers, mountain bikers, backpackers, equestrians, picnickers, and those seeking the quiet escape that only nature can provide. Coe Park is the *wilderness next door* for more than six million people in the San Francisco Bay Area. The park is located in the Diablo Range, south of Mount Hamilton. It is a

place of rugged hills that sometimes plunge nearly a quarter of a mile from the ridge tops to the canyons floors.

About the Coe Park Preservation Fund (CPPF)

The *Coe Park Preservation Fund* brings together corporations, foundations, and individuals dedicated to preserving Henry W. Coe State Park and ensuring that it remains open and accessible to all in perpetuity. To fulfill its mission, it has successfully obtained sponsorships from corporations, conservation-minded foundations and concerned individuals ensuring that the basic financial needs of Henry W. Coe State Park — park staff salaries and basic maintenance — will be supported for a minimum of three years. Now, its objective is to create an endowment fund to ensure that Henry W. Coe State Park can be kept open in perpetuity — immune to future economic fluctuations and with continuous public access guaranteed.

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