

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Agreement with Sonoma County provides reprieve for Annadel State Park

An operating agreement with Sonoma County will give Annadel State Park a reprieve from closure. With final approval from California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman, Sonoma County's Regional Parks took over operation of the popular park, July 1.

"We welcome the partnership with the county and all the donors who will help preserve this ecological and recreational treasure for future generations," said Director Coleman.

"This agreement is only possible because of an overwhelming show of local support and the leadership of our Board of Supervisors," said Caryl Hart, director of Sonoma County Regional Parks. "Our community knows the value of this park and gave generously to keep it open and protected for another year. We're looking forward to managing the park and working with the state on a long-term solution that will help Annadel thrive."

Sonoma County Regional Parks will take over day-to-day operation of the park for the next year. Supporters of Annadel State Park raised more than \$200,000 to fund operating costs including \$100,000 from Santa Rosa philanthropist Henry Trione.

"Saving Annadel is truly a community triumph," said Shirlee Zane, chair of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. "Preserving Annadel for public use is a crowning achievement that occurred because the private and public sectors worked together. The incredible generosity shown by local donors to supplement the state funds will ensure our families can continue to enjoy one of Sonoma County's most beautiful places."

With more than 5,000 acres and 35 miles of trail to explore, Annadel State Park is popular with hikers, runners, cyclists and equestrians. Located just east of Santa Rosa, more than 143,000 visitors came to the park in 2010/2011. Popular activities include fishing in Lake Illisanjo and wildflower viewing in season.

"Our community cherishes Annadel, and clearly today's actions show our collective commitment," said Sonoma County Supervisor Valerie Brown, whose 1st District includes

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Annadel. "This park is a regional treasure, and it brings invaluable assets to our quality of life. I send my personal thanks to everyone who has contributed in preserving access to Annadel for another year."

"Annadel State Park is a wonderful natural resource enjoyed by many," said Acting Sector Superintendent Vince Anibale. "It has been great to see our surrounding communities rally support with the help of Sonoma County Regional Parks to keep Annadel State Park open for the future."