

Cameron Park: Kiwanis Adopt-A-Park Project

On Saturday, January 25th the Kiwanis Club of West Covina participated in our first of many Adopt-A-Park days for the City of West Covina. Cameron Park, directly across the street from West Covina High School is the park we adopted and each month our club members along with help from the Key Club of West Covina and the Builder's Club of San Jose Charter School will spend a few hours cleaning up the park. On Saturday we had about 30 volunteers raking leaves, grooming the playground sand and picking up litter. At the end of our tour the park looked just great.



Deputy City Manager, Chris Freeland speaks to the

Our morning started with Deputy City Manager Christ Freeland speaking to the crew about the project and how important it is to keep the parks clean and tidy. Obviously the city can do only so much so they rely on volunteers to give them a hand. Heather Sayers, the Community Services Coordinator also spoke about the do's and don'ts while working in the park. Once they spoke to us, Ken Manning, our President broke us up into groups with some of us policing the field picking up litter, some groomed the playground equipment sifting out leaves, rocks, etc. and making the sand into a large "Zen" Garden. It was certainly peaceful. We also swept the walkways and made the area a little safer. When our groups finished we all met under some large Oak Trees and raked and picked up leaves from the grass and planter areas.



Students picking up trash

Five members of the West Covina Kiwanis Club attended this first event and they were Ken Manning, Pat Silva, Mary Saenz, Mike Nutt and Brad Manning. Ken's wife Sue also helped.

Most of the Key Clubbers came from West Covina High School and they included Darren Benton, Viola Chow, Andy Kwan, Kyle Chang, Chris Barrios, Mark Garcia, Monica Quilatan, Corrin Tan, Mimi Hoang, Casey Kwan, Alice Long, Oliver Lam, Amaya Caballero, Demi Tran, and Jocelyn Nguyen. This was a great turnout considering a lot of their

members were taking the SAT test that morning and couldn't make it. Their President, Katherine Tong who was taking her SAT's stated that the students very much enjoyed the day and they will be back again next month. She was really excited about the turnout given the conflict with testing.

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The Builder's Club of San Jose Charter Academy had 5 members and their advisor Pat Silva. They were Kaity Venegas, Jordan Sanchez, Christopher Ehrenberger, and Naomi Vong. They were great workers and we were glad they were there to support their city and their school.

Although this was a West Covina event, we did have some members from the Baldwin Park and Sierra Vista High School Key Clubs there to support us. Baldwin Park had Augustine Pimentel, Andy Funez, and Brianna Reyes. Sierra Vista members there were Jason Terrazas, Cynthia Cheng and Marjorie Llanera. It was great having these students there to support their West Covina brothers and sisters. These students took on the task of grooming the playground area and they did a great job.



Students bagging up leaves

With only 2 hours of work behind us, the park looked great and the city rewarded the students with a Taco Lunch. Chris and Heidi bought tacos, burritos and chips along with water for the volunteers. Everyone had a good time volunteering for the city and we are proud of all the work they did. Chris Freeland and Heather Sayers also expressed their gratitude for a job well done.



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Ken once again telling Sue what to do.



Grooming the Playground Area into a large Zen Garden



Mary Saenz helping pick up leaves



"Ummmmm"



Things are picking up!



Getting ready for the first swinger of the day

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Pat Silva along with her Builder's Club Members



Pat Silva helping pick up trash



On the lookout for trash



1 Pat and Mike looking cute for the camera



After cleaning the park, the volunteers break for lunch.



The best time of the Day, Thanks Chris!