



News from the Helotes Heritage Association

Dear Readers,

The inaugural work session on the Parrigin playground went very well yesterday. Mr. Bruce Wilson, a volunteer with Government Canyon State Natural Area, helped organize our efforts and direct our actions so that we don't inadvertently damage the site.

Our immediate need is to clear the site of ragweed to gain access to the site trees and bushes. We have a local Boy Scout who is to perform a tree survey on November 10 and 17 as part of his Eagle Scout Project. As we learned yesterday, due to the heavy rains this past summer, the ragweed is immense. We therefore desperately need as many volunteers as possible to clear the ragweed from 9 am to noon this Saturday (November 3). Loppers work very well. Please try to help out for 1 to 3 hours to clear the site and prepare it for the tree survey.

Once the site has been cleared, we will start laying out a small perimeter trail inside the park boundary. We estimate that we will be able to fit a 1/3-mile trail into the park. This will allow immediate usage of the park as a safe off-the-road opportunity for walking/jogging. The trail will be a key component to the park once the playsets are installed to allow parents to get a little exercise while their children safely play in the park interior.

The next task for the park after the site preparation and trail construction will be installation of a fence, especially along FM1560 and Parrigin, to keep toddlers and small children from wandering into traffic. Soon thereafter will be installation of parking and an entrance. After these features are installed, we will put in the playsets. It is our hope to have two play areas, one for toddlers up to five years old and a second one for 5-12 years old.

To repeat earlier discussions, this is to be strictly a day park. There will be no access after dark and no lighting. Please contact the City Secretary of Helotes at 695-8877 or Ron Green, Chair of the Parks and Open Space Committee, at 316-9242 with questions.

We hope to see many of you on Saturday morning to help with this important project. The kids of Helotes need a safe place to play.

Sincerely,
Ron Green, President
Helotes Heritage Association