

Contact: Juddy Montenegro
Public Information
Phone: (562) 904-1895
Fax: (562) 923-6388
jmontenegro@downeyca.org

City of Downey
11111 Brookshire Ave
Downey, CA 90241
www.downeyca.org

CITY OF DOWNEY



PRESS RELEASE

City Awarded Competitive Grant for Wilderness Park

Grant will help restore the park's two ponds and wetland habitat

Downey, CA, April 2, 2014: The City of Downey has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation for the restoration of Wilderness Park's two ponds, as well as surrounding wetland habitat. Wilderness Park was one of sixteen local projects selected for funding under the Habitat Conservation Fund Program.

"This grant will allow us the opportunity to make much needed improvements at Wilderness Park and we are excited to get this project started. Thank you to our Downey team for making this happen," said Mayor Fernando Vasquez.

Specifically, the Wilderness Park project will consist of restoring wetland habitat at the ponds by removing the existing eroded turf and concrete shoreline, and replacing it with a naturalized hardened shoreline. Each pond will have two areas planted with wetlands appropriate, native vegetation. The project will also include the installation of a new lake aeration system, which will improve the ponds' water circulation and water quality.

Mayor Pro Tem Luis Marquez commented, "We are very excited to have received such great news, especially because our residents will be able to benefit from these enhancements at Wilderness Park. We continue to meet our goal of making park improvements happen in our City."

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