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Print Date: Thursday, May 10, 2007

Last modified: Tuesday, May 8, 2007 4:10 PM PDT

Promontory Park is ready to open

By: Cheri March

For the first time in decades, El Dorado Hills has a new community park. The first phase of Promontory Community Park will officially open Saturday.

Phase 1 features a playground structure, a synthetic turf, multi-use field, two baseball fields, and tennis and bocce ball courts.

Ribbon cutting is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. followed by refreshments, said Community Services District Recreation Supervisor Mike Cottrell. A DJ from Creative Sounds Entertainment will provide the music.

Planned since 1997, Promontory Park has had a contentious past. Some Promontory residents have said they were promised a child-oriented park as opposed what was built-a park of athletic facilities they say are geared towards older youth and adults.

EDH's Community Services District and residents are still in talks about planned subsequent phases.

More recently, nearby residents took issue with glare caused by the park's high-tech sports field lighting. But Cottrell said the lights have been checked and okayed.

"Everything has been completed and approved and has fallen into place within the past week," he said.

Sports events, including youth soccer and football and adult and senior softball and tennis, are scheduled to break in the fields Saturday. Instructors will also be on hand to guide visitors interested in trying something new.

"We'll have tennis and bocce ball instructors out there," Cottrell said. "These are the only (public) Bocce courts in the area, including Folsom."

Bocce, which has roots in the Roman Empire, is played in Europe and has recently gained popularity in the U.S. Teams of up to four players try to roll or throw bocce balls as close as possible to a smaller ball, called the pallino.

For more information about bocce classes and other park events check CSD's Summer 2007 Recreation Guide, available at www.edhcsd.org.

Promontory Community Park Grand Opening

Where: Alexandra Way off Sophia Parkway in the Promontory

When: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

on Saturday,

May 12

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