

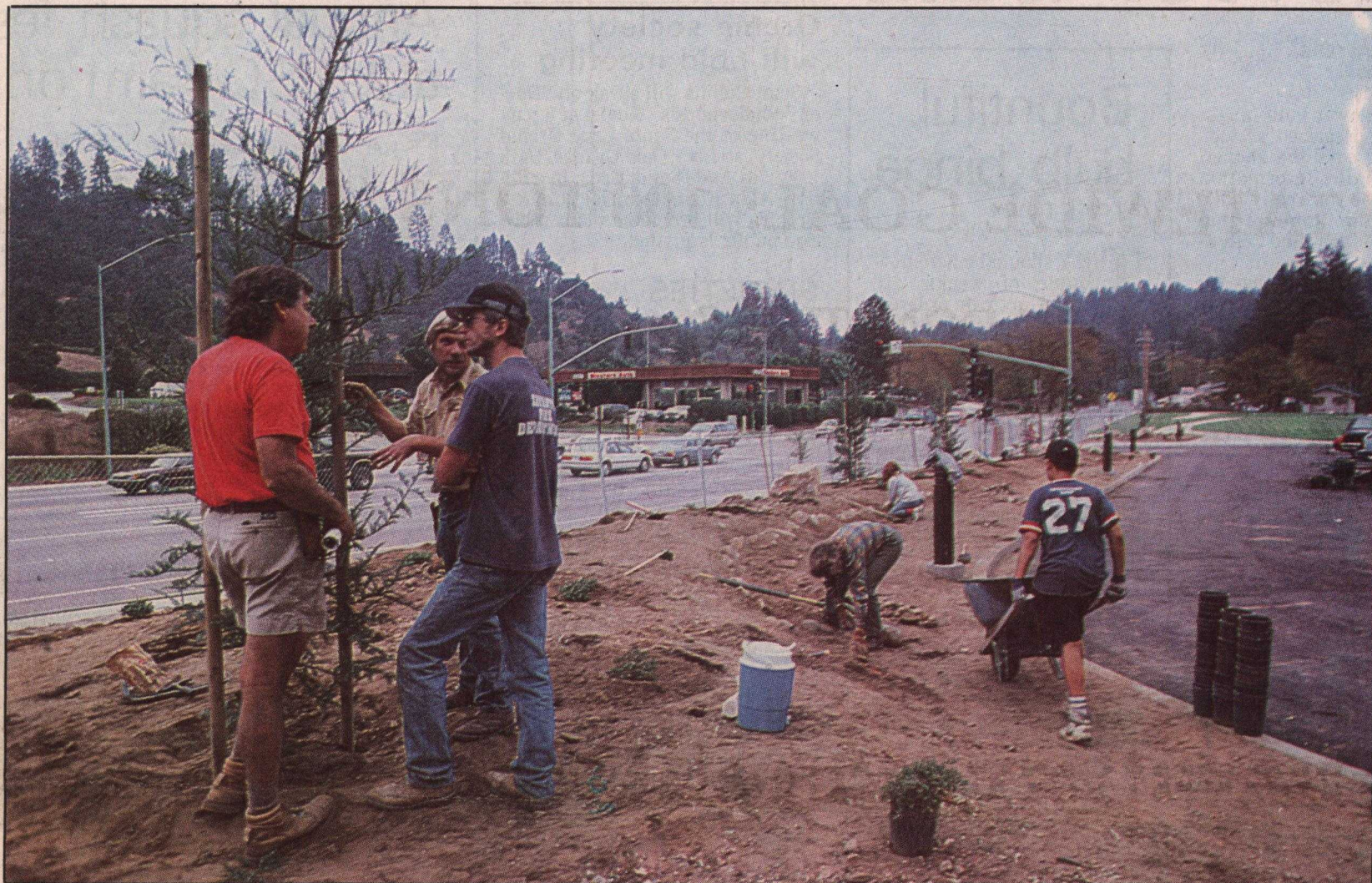
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Felton

The Hollyleaf cherry dots the landscape at the new Felton Commons park.



# Blending with nature



Dan Coyro/Sentinel photos

Landscaper David Broce, in red, and volunteers work to plant trees and shrubs in Felton Commons park.

## Native plants used in Felton Commons park

By DAVE BROCKMANN  
Sentinel staff writer

**F**OR DAVE BROCE, a certified arborist, horticultural consultant and landscape contractor, the planting of native plants in the new Felton Commons park was only natural.

"We wanted to use as many native plants as possible," he said. "The plants adapt well with the area, require less maintenance and most are drought-tolerant. They blend in with the surroundings better, especially in this more nature-type area."

The new community park is next to the historic Covered Bridge in Felton off Graham Hill Road and the landscape design of 45 trees and 127 shrubs reflects the natural setting.

"The plants selected were either drought-tolerant or riparian species (wetlands)," Broce said, a good choice considering the San Lorenzo River forms the other boundary of the triangular park.

Broce, landscape chairman for the Felton Commons volunteers, and a host of others began planting trees and shrubs last weekend. Another work day is planned this Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon, and Broce is confident the final phase of planting will be completed on a third work day on Nov. 7.

The tree species selected include Redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, White Alder, *Platanus racemosa*, California Sycamore, Black Oak, *Quercus kelloggii*, and Madrone, *Arbutus menziesii*. The *Sequoia sempervirens*, for example, is native to parts of the West coast and ranges from Oregon to Monterey

County; it's one of the West's most famous native trees. It's a fine tree for landscaping, fast growing, and always has that woody smell. In contrast, the Black Oak is native to mountains, has a moderate growth rate, and boasts colorful leaves of pink and dusty rose that turn to yellow or yellow orange in the fall.

Among the shrubs selected for Felton Commons are Hollyleaf cherry, *Prunus ilicifolia*, California Holly grape, *Mahonia pinnata*, and Dwarf Coyote Brush, *Baccharis pilularis*, var. "Twin Peaks," all natives to the coastal mountains.

Broce credits the spirit of the volunteer effort working hand-in-hand with Ben Angove, director of Santa Cruz County Parks and Open Space Department, for the success in the completion of the park.

Broce pointed out arborists like Nigel Belton of Arbor Art, Glenn Berry from Pro Care, Dude Williams of Williams Tree Service and Steve Liebenberg from L and M Tree Service volunteered their services for safety pruning and unsafe tree removal.

"A lot of people wanted to put something into the community and we've had over 100 volunteers to far," Broce said. "We have received \$30,000 in labor, materials and cash contributions for the construction of the park in addition to amenities such as children's play equipment, park benches and picnic tables."

To contribute to the park project, write Felton Commons Volunteers, P.O. Box 6, Felton 95018. For information, call 335-2531.



The California grape is one of the shrubs planted in the park.

