

# County opens park for disabled people

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LIVE OAK — The Santa Cruz Gardens neighborhood has a new park accessible to those with disabilities.

The three-acre Winkle Farm Park on Winkle Avenue, north of Soquel Drive off Sequoia Drive, opened in December. The park is named after Henry Winkle, who once farmed there.

It is the first county park that meets requirements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires play equipment accessible to disabled people.

Those with disabilities can easily reach the sand area via a ramp, noted park planner Gary Carlson.

Rubber matting has been placed under playground equipment so the disabled can reach the equipment and won't be hurt if they fall, said Carlson.

Specially designed picnic tables have been installed so those in wheelchairs can use them, he added.

"It's a nice start," said Carlson. "It is our first one and we've learned a few things that we will use in our next two parks — Willowbrook Park in Soquel and Twin Lakes Park on Seventh Avenue across from Harbor Cafe."

The park includes a picnic area, horseshoe pit, and children's play area with slide, tire swing, climbing bars, and spring-mounted animals.

This is the first phase of the 6-acre park. Eventually, the county plans to add an additional play area, rest room, basketball court, fitness course, and more picnic facilities.

So far, the county has spent about \$450,000, which included buying the land, said Carlson. The money came from state parks bond grants, park dedication fees paid by developers, and Live Oak traffic improvement funds from the county Public Works Department.

Ed Porter Earth Moving, a general contractor, built the park. It was designed by Singer & Hodges Inc., landscape architects.



Winkle Farm Park in Santa Cruz Gardens meets the federal rules for disabled access

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