

A onetime tangle of weeds now a La Selva Beach park

Triangle Park dedication set

By KEITH MURAOKA

Sentinel Staff Writer

LA SELVA BEACH — For as long as locals could remember, the triangle-shaped parcel in the center of the community was simply dirt and weeds. Now, thanks to the La Selva Beach Recreation District, the lot will be known as Triangle Park.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday. Residents are invited to have picnics and enjoy the new park on Playa Boulevard. Residents will also participate in the placement of nametags on plants, which was part of the Adopt A Plant Program.

According to recreation district board member Patty Smith, the latter program involved more than 60 individuals and three businesses. Total donations were more than \$2,000 that went toward additional landscaping.

"When I came onto the board I felt, if nothing else, something had to be done about the lot," said Smith. "It had always been kind of an eyesore. At least, I hoped we could throw some grass seed down so the kids wouldn't have to play in dirt and weeds."

The recreation board — with the help of others, ended up doing a lot more.



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Teacher Judy Leguillon helps children with planting

The park not only features a large grass area, but an enticing paved sidewalk that curves around the perimeter, planter boxes, benches, a drinking fountain and a fire ring surrounded by benches.

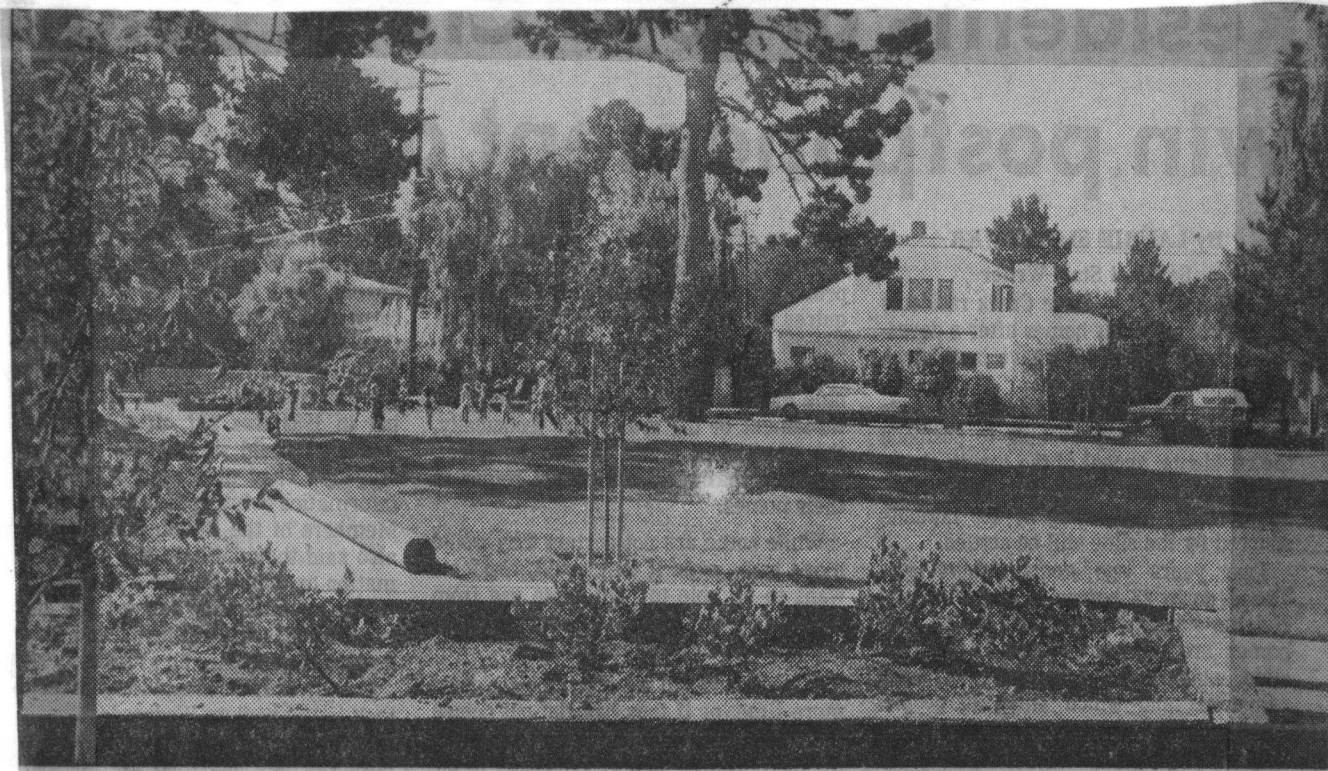
Recreation district directors had been saving money since 1976, with funds tucked away from two state park bond acts, for the purpose of Triangle Park, said Smith. They utilized participants in a summer youth employment program to do much of the heavy ground clearing and hired contractors to do some work. When they ran out of funds, though, volunteers pitched in — rolling sod and raising money through the plant program. Children at nearby Secret Garden Pre-School even pitched in planting a flower box.

The recreation district, which is a

special district under the county, is headed by chairwoman Linda Bourgaize. Other board members include Don Devereux, John Garner, Jan Stanger and Smith.

Every Fourth of July the weeds on the lot used to be mowed and residents gathered for games and a bake sale. Then, each December, the weeds were mowed again so volunteer firefighters could place their Christmas display. Weeds won't have to be mowed again.

State Senator Henry Mello, D-Watsonville; Assemblyman Sam Farr, D-Carmel Valley; and Second (Aptos-Capitola) District Supervisor Robley Levy will participate in Saturday's ribbon-cutting ceremony. There will be free helium balloons for children.



La Selva Beach Recreation District's new Triangle Park.

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