



PRESS RELEASE



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SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA AND COMMUNITY DEDICATE NEW 5.5-ACRE PARK IN UNINCORPORATED COUNTY AREA

Grand Opening Celebrates 'Universal Access' and 'Environmentally
Conscientious' Designed Park –
State of the Art Park Replaces Blighted Parcel



Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina celebrates the grand opening of Avenue Park along with County Officials and members of the community.

facility Saturday, June 9, 2012.

The celebration included a western style barbeque, ribbon-cutting ceremony, "Know your Park Nature and Civic Art Bridge Walking Tours", "Concert in the Park", "Expression Session Skate Exhibition" and skate competition, face painting and free popcorn, snow cones and raffle prizes.

Los Angeles County, June 9, 2012 --
Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, along with the County's Community Development Commission (CDC), Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Avocado Heights community, celebrated the Grand Opening of Avenue Park, a 'universal access' and 'environmentally conscientious designed'

Molina was joined by local youths and families, community leaders, Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney, Community Development Commission Construction Manager



Supervisor Gloria Molina addresses the crowd.

Scott Stevenson, representatives from Shane's Inspiration, County Arts Commissioner Jesus Reyes and the park project architectural and construction team.

"This once abandoned lot with old structures that were regularly marked by graffiti, has been replaced by a beautiful first class and state-of-the-art park with unique amenities for the entire family. "I am proud of the local residents and team who were part of the vision, design and planning of Avenue Park," said Molina. Avenue Park offers full 'universal access' toddler and school-aged playgrounds, sustainable landscaping with beautiful native trees and plants, walkways and bridge decorated with a metal railing designed by artist Al Price -- tying in the park to the neighborhood's equestrian character.

Designed in partnership with Shane's Inspiration, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children with disabilities, the large, colorful playgrounds offer children of all ages, physical and imaginative play in a safe environment alongside their siblings and friends.

At the request of the community's youth, Avenue Park also includes a custom skate park designed with bowls, ledges, dragon rail, 'twinkies', embankments and an observation area where youth can enjoy skateboarding in a safe structure, and without endangering other park visitors.



Youth try out the new skate park

Community leader Don Moss said, "On behalf of the community of Avocado Heights, I want to share its heartfelt thanks to Supervisor Gloria Molina for the years of hard work necessary to acquire and develop the property for this unique and beautiful children's park we have today."

The site was carefully designed to promote water conservation, and the landscape utilizes a wide range of drought tolerant plant material containing both native and non-native species. To further enhance water conservation, Avenue Park is primarily irrigated with drip lines that apply small amounts of water slowly. This limits water loss to evaporation and promotes plant growth with a minimum amount of water. Water use is regulated with sophisticated, satellite linked, smart irrigation controllers.

Civic art is also part of Avenue Park – a project by Sculptor Al Price who found inspiration in the local history of the area. The custom artwork functions as a bridge railing that incorporates shapes and forms indigenous to Avocado Heights. The railing's repeating moiré effect suggests a sequence of floating horse hooves, indicative of the active equestrian community in the area. Visually, the sculptural railing appears to twist and turn as pedestrians walk across the bridge deck. The look of the bridge will evolve as light and shadow change over the course of the day.

Artist Al Price was selected through a competition from 45 artists to create a unique, custom and integrated artwork for Avenue Park. The artwork was commissioned by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission Civic Art Program in collaboration with the Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina and the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.

Avenue Park is the latest county park built in Molina's district, as part of her long-standing commitment to increasing green and recreational spaces in poor park communities and along the river corridors.

The project was made possible by Molina, Los Angeles County Community Development Commission (CDC) who oversaw its construction, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the design team of Katherine Spitz and Associates, Charles H. Strawter Designs, C.S. Legacy Construction and community members.

Located at 555 S. 4th Avenue, Avocado Heights, Avenue Park is open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. For more information, contact County Parks and Recreation, (626) 968-2666.