

CITY OF EL CENTRO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The City of El Centro invites the community to a Leash-Cutting Ceremony at Bark Park

El Centro, Ca. — April 12, 2024 — The City of El Centro is thrilled to announce the Leash-Cutting Ceremony of its newest community asset, Bark Park, at 9 a.m., April 20. Located at 670 Park Avenue, this innovative dog park promises to be a haven for both canines and their owners, fostering a sense of community and providing a safe, enjoyable space for pets to play and socialize. The tail-wagging community can rejoice with a park where dogs can have a paw-sitive experience.

The total cost of the project is \$1,191,565. Phil and Elise Heald graciously donated \$500,000, with Measure P covering the remaining balance of \$696,565. In recognition of their generous support, a plaque commemorating the philanthropic spirit of Phil and Elise Heald, the park’s largest donor, will adorn the park, highlighting their family’s legacy and invaluable contribution to this initiative.

“We are happy to open this park to our furry friends,” said El Centro Mayor Sylvia Marroquin. “We strive to be inclusive of everyone, and that includes our beloved pets. We can’t wait to see the joy this park brings to our community.”

The dog park is a safe haven for our four-legged companions, with separate areas for small and large dogs. It boasts a range of amenities, including picnic tables, shade structures, a trail area, outdoor lighting, landscaping, parking, and a water feature for large dogs. The restroom is the Portland Loo, a type of single-occupancy public restroom designed to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all and deter illicit activity.

Bark Park is the result of a collaborative effort between the City of El Centro and community stakeholders. It reflects a shared vision for creating inclusive spaces that promote health, wellness, and recreation for all residents.

The dog park will be open Monday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., providing ample opportunities for dogs and their owners to enjoy the facilities year-round. Due to the loud music and expected crowd, the City is asking residents not to bring their pets until 11 a.m. after the event.

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