

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 30, 2003

Contact: John Crossman  
(707) 938-1519

## **Plan for Improving Sugarloaf Ridge State Park Starts; Public Input Invited**

SONOMA –California State Parks is developing a General Plan for Sugarloaf Ridge State Park that will form the blueprint for expanding and improving the park’s amenities. A planning kickoff meeting to gather community input will be held on Tuesday, February 4, from 6:30 pm -8:30 pm at the Kenwood Fire Station (9045 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood).

Your participation will help ensure that the new plan reflects the community’s ideas and suggestions for park improvements and habitat protection. At the meeting there will be a presentation about the park’s existing condition and opportunities for community members to share their experiences, ideas and suggestions for the park’s future. Topics may include discussion of the visitor experience, the condition of natural and cultural resources and the location and adequacy of facilities.

The meeting will also serve as a scoping meeting for the Environmental Impact Report that will be prepared along with the General Plan. The agency will be asking for public input on the range of environmental issues and topics to be addressed.

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park offers a range of recreational activities, including hiking, camping, mountain biking, equestrian use, picnicking, wildlife and wildflower viewing, and stargazing at the Robert Ferguson Observatory. In addition to the observatory, recreational areas feature extensive multi-use trails, a family campground, a large group campground and visitor center.

“The park provides statewide recreation as well as a near wilderness experience in the Sonoma Valley. It offers local residents the opportunity to get away from it all without going very far,” said John Crossman, Chief Ranger for Silverado District based in the city of Sonoma.

In recent years, the population of Sonoma Valley’s cities and towns have grown rapidly, that with increases in regional tourism have brought with it more traffic on Highway 12 and increased use of local parks and recreation facilities.

Urban development and vineyard expansions into the valley are pressing upon wildlands of the hillsides. Within this evolving context, the general planning process is an important opportunity for the community to help plan for the wise use of this state park.

Acquisitions in cooperation with Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District provide the community a great opportunity to plan for an expanded park with improved facilities and special features to preserve wildlife habitats. The general plan process will also consider cooperative management strategies for California State Parks and Sonoma County Regional Parks to explore opportunities for park connections, shared facilities, and future planning.

If you cannot attend the workshop and want to share your ideas about the general plan, written comments may be sent to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Silverado District, 19310 Sonoma Highway, Suite A, Sonoma, CA 95476. A survey is also available online at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) (go to "Related Links", click on "General Plans", go to "Related Links" again and click on "General Plans in Progress" and "Sugarloaf Ridge State Park"). For more information about the Sugarloaf Park general planning process, call (707) 938-1519.

###