

San Joaquin County Historical Museum

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News Release

Lodi Lions Club to rehabilitate Sunshine Trail exhibition at San Joaquin County Historical Museum

The Lodi Lions Club recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to rehabilitate the San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum's Sunshine Trail exhibition of native plants, museum officials announced recently.

“ We are thrilled that the Lions Club has chosen the Sunshine Trail as their community service project for 2008,” said David Stuart, executive director of the San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum. “This unique exhibition of native plants and life zones provides an important context in which to appreciate the history of San Joaquin County. And it will continue to provide a wonderful experience to thousands of museum visitors each year. In these tight economic times we rely on community support like this to keep the museum thriving.”

The Sunshine Trail is the museum's 1.2-acre living exhibition of California's native trees and plants. The exhibition was originally designed by landscaper Mike Schneider and was championed by the Lodi Soroptimist Club. The loop trail showcases different plant zones from the coast Redwoods through the Coastal Range, valley, foothills and finally the Sierra Nevada.

The trail was designed with sound and fragrance in mind so the visually impaired as well as sighted visitors could experience it.

Ground was broken on the Sunshine Trail in 1977, and the project was completed by 1983. About 150 trees were planted for the trail. After 25 years, the overgrown trees need treatment and cast excessive shade over under story plants. The museum staff maintains the trail, however, work on the mature trees now require professional tree expertise and equipment.

The Lions Club grant and 100 volunteer hours of labor will rehabilitate much of the trail for the enjoyment of museum visitors. Work on the trees should begin in April. This phase of rehabilitation is targeted for completion in July.

Mike Schneider, the original designer of the trail, will once again donate his expertise in the project. Also, Tree Lodi, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving urban forests, has partnered with the Historical Society and will assist in the project.

The San Joaquin County Historical Museum is located north of Stockton in Micke Grove Park just south of Armstrong Road. The museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adult admission is \$2, and children age 6 to 12 are \$1. Admission for seniors 60 years and over is \$1. For more information, contact the museum at 953-3460 or 331-2055.