

For Immediate Release
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Willow Glen Community Celebrates Opening of New, Expanded Willow Glen Branch Library *New Branch is More Than Double the Size of the Original*

SAN JOSE, Calif. — San José residents gathered Saturday to celebrate the opening of a 13,338 sq. ft. community library at 1157 Minnesota Ave, that more than doubles the size of the original library occupying the site from 1976 to 2006. Following the dedication ceremony that included remarks from city and library officials, residents were able to explore the library and enjoy free entertainment and activities for kids.

“With twice as much space as the old branch library, the new Willow Glen Branch Library will quickly become an important community gathering place for residents of all ages,” said Mayor Chuck Reed. “Thanks to our residents’ support, San José has been able to build new branch libraries throughout the city. I also want to commend the supporters of the Willow Glen Branch Library for their unprecedented generosity in donating to the San Jose Public Library Foundation to help outfit the new branch library.”

AT A GLANCE

- Building Size: 13,338 sq. ft.
- Computers: 27
- Seats: 84
- Group Study Area: 6 persons
- Quiet Study Area: 8 persons
- Storytelling Area: 25 persons
- Community Room: 50 persons
- Parking: 45 spaces

The expanded Willow Glen Branch Library blends into the residential community, surrounding a majestic oak on three sides with glass walls that infuse the space with natural light

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and make the tree an integral part of the building's design. The branch features an Internet café, living room with a fireplace, technology center, teen room, group and quiet study areas, a community room that will accommodate 50 persons, and ample space for more seating, collections and computers. On-site parking will accommodate 45 vehicles, in addition to nearby street parking.

"I grew up in Willow Glen and have many special memories of working on homework assignments, meeting friends and checking out books at the Willow Glen Library as a child," shared Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio. "The new remodeled library will offer the next generation a world to explore through books and technology and will be a gathering place for the community."

The new facility is the thirteenth library to be completed using funds from local bond measures approved in 2000 by San José voters. The Branch Library Bond Measure provides \$212 million over 10 years dedicated to the construction of six new and 14 expanded libraries in San Jose. At this stage, the Branch Bond Development Program is well advanced with 13 projects completed, and six others in various phases of design and construction.

Community donations towards the funding of furniture and equipment for an individual bond-constructed library reached an all-time high with more than \$300,000 raised to date for Willow Glen Branch Library. Like Edenvale and Joyce Ellington before it, the Willow Glen project is the recipient of a \$50,000 grant from AT&T, part of an overall pledge of \$200,000 to the San José Public Library Foundation branch fundraising campaign (www.sjplf.org/campaign.html) and the single largest corporate donation to date.

Wind in the Willows, a public artwork created by Bay Area artist David Ruth for the new Library, is a group of 54 art glass windows which vary in size from 6" to 27" square and are installed in an asymmetrical pattern across the west-facing wall of the new Library. Ruth's

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windows are intended to capture the feeling of light as it filters through tree branches, particularly through willow tree branches. Made of a durable borosilicate glass that is able to withstand the dramatic seasonal temperature changes, the artwork is also a functional filter for the often intense afternoon sunlight.

Willow Glen Branch Library is located at 1157 Minnesota Avenue in San José. Library hours are: Monday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Library services are available online 24 hours a day, everyday, at **www.sjlibrary.org**. For more information, call (408) 808-3045.

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