



*PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES*

**Steve Bilodeau (left), Lance Taylor (right) and other volunteers dig into a compost pile to spread around the garden.**

***By Jim Knowles***

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A couple hundred people came down to San Lorenzo Community Park in Saturday – to work.

But it was a fun kind of work as neighbors cleaned up litter, tended the garden and made the park a nicer place to play.

“I’ve been coming to this park since I was a kid,” said Mary Nunez who came with her daughter, Ruby, and her husband, Jason. “We all like the park and we want it to improve.”

The big park (also known as The Duck Pond), includes softball diamonds where Nunez’s daughter plays. The acres of parkland stretch from the San Lorenzo neighborhood out to the marshlands by the bay.

Meanwhile, Ruby Nunez painted a tile, one of hundreds that will be fired in a kiln to make a permanent image and then the tiles will be mounted on the walls in the entrance to the community center at the park. So everybody who makes a tile can have their own painting or message on permanent display.

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District operates two kilns in its ceramics program where the tiles made by the kids in San Lorenzo will be fired.

The Sulphur Creek Nature Center – another HARD program on D Street in Hayward – displayed some of their critters, including a tarantula. The nature center offers classes and programs in wildlife education, activities for kids and the whole family.

HARD is working on a new master plan for the park and is asking for public comments for ideas. They held a public meeting yesterday (Wednesday) at the park's community center and more meetings will be coming up.

The dog runs will be fixed up on a later weekend, said Brenda Carr, an advocate with the San Lorenzo Neighborhood Community Forum.

The community group co-sponsored the cleanup day at the park, along with HARD, the San Lorenzo Homeowners Association and the Church of Latter Day Saints.

“So we’re all working together as a group,” Carr said.