



**CITY OF LODI
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

AGENDA TITLE: Lodi Lake Nature Area Docents – 25 Years on the Trail

MEETING DATE: December 21, 2011

PREPARED BY: Steve Dutra, Park Superintendent

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Mayor Mounce to present a certificate of recognition to the Lodi Lake Nature Area Docents for 25 years of service.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Lodi Lake Nature Area docents will celebrate their 25th tour season beginning January 2012. Fifteen docents continue to lead nature tours for 1,500 students per year. Approximately 50 individuals have gone through the docent training over the years, with many still in the program for over a decade.

In 1986, Dave Mende, a Lodi Unified Science Specialist, and Ron Williamson, the City of Lodi Parks and Recreation Director, were awarded a State of California license plate grant to help develop a curriculum and docent program, interpreting the 58-acre Lodi Lake Nature Area. The Nature Area had been deeded to the City in 1972 and used for various educational endeavors but never with a volunteer program to assist teachers interpret the area.

Jay and Kathy Bell came on board with Lodi Unified School District in 1986 to write the new curriculum, train the first class of volunteers, and to coordinate tours with local schools. The Parks Division oversees the program with Steve Dutra, Park Superintendent, as the acting staff liaison. Kathy Grant, Docent Coordinator, provides hands-on assistance with scheduling tours, facilitating monthly docent meetings, tracking numbers of participants and fostering relationships with teachers, and other docent programs. Dan White, Program Coordinator, provides assistance with many facets of the program. Jay Bell remains involved as an advisor and to provide new docent training. Kathy Bell continues to work as an on-call artist and designer of the Discovery Centers various displays. The docents meet monthly and host educational speakers.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not applicable.

FUNDING AVAILABLE: Not applicable.


James M. Rodems
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director

cc: City Attorney

APPROVED: 
Konradt Bartlam, City Manager