

News Release



For Immediate Release

Date: June 4, 2014

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Mt. Tam State Park Will Celebrate Bootjack Campground and Trail Re-Opening On June 5th

California State Parks invites the public to a multi-agency event celebrating the re-opening of Bootjack Campground and Trail on Thursday June 5, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The event will be located at the Bootjack Parking Lot. The historic Bootjack Campground was originally established in the early 1920s by the Tamalpais Conservation Corps, and the Civilian Conservation Corps further refined the campground facilities in the 1930s. Showing substantial signs of overuse, the campground was closed by State Parks in 1969. The Bootjack Trail, connecting Muir Woods to the Mountain Theater on the slopes of Mount Tamalpais, is fully opened after being closed intermittently for more than two years. The trail was first closed in 2011 for repairs on bridges, retaining walls, and steps. The estimated six-month project was thrown off schedule when winter storms washed out parts of the trail.

Mount Tamalpais State Park and the Friends of Mt. Tam will partner with the Civilian Conservation Corps, the National Park Service, Marin Municipal Water District, and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to share some history of the Bootjack Trail and Campground, and to celebrate recent collaborative improvements to these iconic park facilities - improvements carried out by the California Conservation Corps, the Sonoma County Probation Camp's Supervised Adult Crew Program, and California State Park Trail Crews in partnership with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Using some of the same methods employed in the original construction of these sites 79 years ago, restoration included importing rocks from original Conservation Corps quarry sites, sediment reduction measures to protect salmonid bearing streams, and the use of "high lines" in order to lift and position half ton stones. The 1930s era stone was quarried by corps members for use in the rehabilitation of rock retaining walls. Corps members performed all of the campground restorative work, guided and supervised by State Park's Statewide Trail Crew. All was undertaken to comply with state historic preservation standards so that the trail and campground retain their historic character.

The reopened Bootjack Trail offers spectacular hiking alongside Redwood Creek for much of the way. A number of rustic wooden footbridges cross the creek, including the new one that replaces the bridge that was washed away in the storm. The redwoods of Muir Woods gradually give way to Douglas-fir, bay laurel, and tanoak as the trail wends upward. The climb up the steep slopes of Mount Tamalpais reveals beautiful vistas of the Bay Area and Pacific Ocean. Two of the Bootjack campsites meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards in an effort to eliminate barriers to camping for all park users. All sites are available on a first-come, first served basis.

The event will include a tour of Bootjack Campground and Day Use Area and an optional history hike on Bootjack Trail (ending at Muir Woods with a complimentary shuttle return to the Bootjack Parking Lot). Parking is free and there will be snacks and beverages hosted by Friends of Mt. Tam.

For more information, please contact Sector Superintendent William "Bill" Lutton at (415) 898-4362.

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