



## **City of Milpitas**

455 E. Calaveras Blvd. Milpitas, CA 95035

Contact:

Charmaine Angelo, Public Information Officer

[cangelo@milpitas.gov](mailto:cangelo@milpitas.gov)

408-906-9603

### **Milpitas names Park after Filipino-American Farmworkers who led the 1965 Delano Grape Strike**

Milpitas, CA – April 20, 2023 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On April 18, the Milpitas City Council unanimously approved a recommendation to name a 4-acre park located in the Milpitas Metro Specific Plan area, the Delano Manongs Park. The Delano Manongs represent a courageous group of Filipino farmworkers who revolutionized the working conditions and wages of American laborers. The movement was known as the Delano Grape Strike of 1965, which was led by community leader and labor organizer Larry Itliong. It lasted for five years and involved 1,500 Filipino-American agricultural workers or ‘manongs’ (an Ilocano term that means older brother or uncle) going on a labor strike. This set the stage for the boycott that would lead civil American labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez and thousands of farmworker families to create the nation’s pioneering agricultural labor union, the United Farm Workers.

The Delano Manongs Park is directly north of the newly constructed Mabel Mattos elementary school along McCandless Drive. It includes joint-use park areas for the City and the elementary school, sports field, picnic areas, all-inclusive play structures, dog park, walking trails, and restrooms. This project was a collaboration in part between the City of Milpitas and the Milpitas Unified School District and was funded in part through a grant from the Santa Clara County All Inclusive Playground Grant Program. The Park will also include a new pedestrian bridge over the Penitencia East Channel and a potable water well required to meet the increase in water demands due to growth in the Metro Specific Plan Area.

“I am deeply honored to help lead a City that recognizes the historic role of American heroes like the Delano Manongs,” said Acting City Manager Ashwini Kantak. “I would like to commend the team from our Recreation & Community Services and Engineering Services departments for their leadership in planning and delivering this beautiful new park for Milpitas residents.”

“This is an unbelievably historic event in Milpitas. It is only fitting that we designate this space to memorialize a great example of what it means to stand up for what is right and coming together to enable change,” said Mayor Carmen Montano.

Mayor Carmen Montano and Vice Mayor Evelyn Chua moved forward with a recommendation to Council to name the new park at the naming subcommittee meeting held on March 2, 2023. The City Council voted 5-0 for the name change.

“I look forward to watching future generations gather and learn about the importance and legacy of the Delano Manongs I am excited that this green space will enhance the lives and well-being of residents in numerous ways. It is a great facility that will create a sense of community,” said Vice Mayor Evelyn Chua.

In June, a soft opening is planned to mark a site that will serve as a historical reminder of the Delano Manongs’ outstanding contributions. The Delano Manongs Park dedication and grand opening is scheduled in the Fall of 2023.

###

#### About the City of Milpitas

Located at the southern end of San Francisco Bay, Milpitas is a progressive community that is an integral part of Silicon Valley. A full-service city with water utility, sewer utility, police and fire services, Milpitas is a flourishing community with a very diverse and inclusive resident population of over 80,000. Often referred to as the Crossroads of Silicon Valley, the City is situated between major thoroughfares in the Bay Area and considered a highly desirable location for world-class technology companies seeking to build a central base of operations. With the addition of the new Milpitas Transit Center offering BART, light rail, and bus service, and multiple new mixed-use development projects, along with a host of new City Plans and Programs in support of an inspiring and sustainable future, the City is at the forefront of building the next generation economy. For more information, visit: [www.milpitas.gov](http://www.milpitas.gov)