



News Release

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

For Immediate Release:

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A Full Circle Back to the Congo
E-Waste Recycling Benefits Wildlife
Happy Hollow Park & Zoo Hosts Free E-Waste Recycling Event

San José, California ---- What do you do with an unwanted television, an old stereo, or a VCR? Used electronic devices, known as e-waste, are increasingly becoming a larger part of our waste. After the passing of SB-20 in 2005, which bans the disposal of electronics into landfills, people are asking the question, “Where do I get rid of my old computer?” San Jose’s Happy Hollow Park & Zoo has an answer – a **free** one day e-waste recycling event on **Saturday, October 20th**, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the parking lot behind the History Park in Kelley Park.

“Protection of our local environment is a driving factor to host this event. However, many people don’t realize that most electronics contain Columbite-tantalite, a mineral mined in the forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Congo is home to an amazing array of endangered species like lowland gorillas,” explains Vanessa Rogier, Happy Hollow Program Coordinator. “Columbite-tantalite mining, in addition to causing ecological damage (forest clearance, stream pollution, erosion, firewood cutting and other problems), also destroys habitat and increases traffic in the illegal animal trade as well as bushmeat hunting.” According to the United Nations, in the past five years the eastern lowland gorilla population in the Congo has declined 90 percent (a 2005 figure).

“We want to collect your old televisions, computers and printers and have them recycled,” says Rogier. “100% of the funds earned from the recycle event will be sent to our conservation partner in the Congo, WildlifeDirect. This program is making a full circle, giving back to where

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the minerals were mined, the Congo!” WildlifeDirect works to protect the remarkable wildlife of the area, including Mountain Gorillas, okapi, elephants and hippos.

Electronic waste can be toxic and add up to a big pollution threat with lead and mercury, as well as other heavy metals, found in every unit. It’s important to people’s health as well as the environment to keep e-waste out of landfills and incinerators. One 17” monitor may contain up to four pounds of lead embedded in the glass tube and when discarded carelessly, the glass can break and lead can leach into the ground as well as the watershed.

All electronics dropped off for the Happy Hollow recycling event will be collected that day by ASL, a state authorized e-waste recycler. Drop off is free and participants can receive a Happy Hollow admission pass when they bring in a monitor or television. Items can be dropped off at the collection site in the parking lot behind the History Park, located at the end of Phelan Ave. off Senter Road in San Jose.

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

Computers, Monitors, CPUs, Televisions, Fax Machines, Radios, DVD/VCR Players, Speakers, Cell Phones, Zip Drives, Lab Equipment, Printers, Microwaves, Shredders, Power supplies, Cables/Cords, Telephones/Cell Phones and Stereos.

NOTE: NO kitchen appliances, fluids, copiers, ink or toner cartridges and batteries.

For more information, call Vanessa Rogier, Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, 408-277-3065.

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