

For Reference

Not to be taken from this room

WEEKEND OUTING

Central Park is a refuge, despite construction

By Curt Seeden
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The sounds of busy construction crews ripping apart the original footings from below the Huntington Central Library fail to disrupt the silence in the sprawling surrounding park.

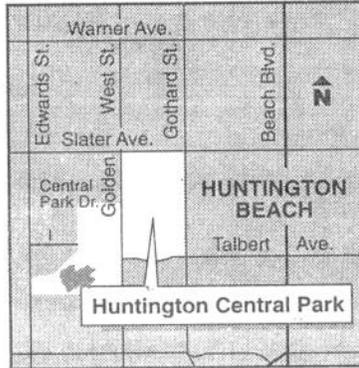
While Huntington Beach Library officials anxiously await completion of a new children's wing at the city's most famous — and largest — library, life goes on in the surrounding 300-plus acres known as Huntington Central Park.

At Golden West Street and Talbert Avenue, Huntington Central Park is amazingly serene, considering the presence of children's playgrounds, an amphitheater, flying-disk golf course, fitness course, and six miles of bicycle and walking trails.

And then there's the library with a flurry of construction work that is scheduled to conclude in fall 1993 with the addition of a children's wing, new auditorium, gift shop and additional parking spaces.

"We were running out of study space. We've got people sitting in aisles and on stairways," said Jan Halvorsen, library services manager. "We're at capacity."

An additional 250 parking



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spaces also will make the library more accessible.

"We wanted to have a whole new parking lot so people won't have to park and cross Talbert to get to the library," Halvorsen said.

In contrast, aside from an occasional jogger or bicyclist, a visitor to the surrounding park can glimpse 50 yards in any direction and not see a soul.

Huntington Central Park offers lakes for fishing, bird watching for nature lovers, picnic shelters for large group events, and a restaurant that serves omelets in the mornings and burgers, salads and soups in the afternoons.

There's also the Adventure Playground for children, open from mid-June to August, fea-



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Huntington Central Park has six miles of bicycle and walking trails.

turing rope swings, tree houses and a slide into mud.

For a different kind of experience, park visitors can tour the Shipley Nature Center, an 18-acre reserve with three-fourths of a mile of self-guided nature trails.

The Shipley Nature Center also features a visitor's center and nature museum where children can see live snakes and tortoises among other creatures.

"This is our busiest time of the year," said Dave Winkler, park naturalist. "We'll get four or five school buses per week-

day."

Nature center visitors can pick up pamphlets and take a tour on their own or make arrangements for group tours, given on weekdays only.

There are a few rules to follow: no motorized vehicles, alcoholic beverages, sound amplifying systems or unleashed dogs.

Huntington Central Library is at 7111 Talbert Ave., at the corner of Golden West. The library's phone number is 960-8847. To reach the park range at the Shipley Nature Center, call 960-8847.

HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648