



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 3, 2018

**Contact:**

Steve McHarris, Deputy City Manager  
City of Milpitas  
[smcharris@ci.milpitas.ca.gov](mailto:smcharris@ci.milpitas.ca.gov)  
(408) 586-3059

## **Milpitas Installs “Eagle Cam”**

### ***Public can now watch streaming video of eagles nesting near Curtner Elementary School***

***Milpitas, Calif.*** --- In the heart of a bustling Silicon Valley city, a pair of bald eagles have taken up residence in a redwood tree right by an active elementary school, successfully raising their chicks despite their nest’s location above busy city neighborhoods.

The City of Milpitas has now installed a video camera on a utility pole near Curtner Elementary School that enables the public to safely observe the nesting eagle family online without disturbing them. To view the eagles at any time, you can go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6lyMBzD19I>.

“The eagles first appeared at this location in 2017 and came back again this winter,” said Councilmember Bob Nuñez. “It’s very exciting for both the school children and our entire community, so we wanted to find a way to share this wildlife experience with everyone without causing any risk of disturbance to the eagles themselves.”

Bald eagles are a federally protected species, and it is a federal offense to harass or disturb the national bird, which carries a penalty of up to \$20,000 and one year in jail.

The video camera was placed high on a nearby City-owned utility pole to provide a good view of the eagles, the nest, and the activity of the eagle chicks as they grow and learn to fly. This year the nesting pair hatched two chicks, although recently one was slightly injured while learning to fly. The young eagle had a bruised wing and was tended by the Lindsey Wildlife Experience in Walnut Creek.

The “eagle cam” is a custom-built, fixed device that provides 30x optical zoom with high resolution sensor and Pan-Tilt-Zoom- Focus capability to reasonably render a clear view of the nest without bothering the eagles themselves while it streams on the [Milpitas YouTube channel](#). You can also find a link to the live streaming on the [City’s website](#).

*[more]*

“We’ve learned from wildlife experts that bald eagles will return to nest in the same place year after year, so we’re hoping that our eagle cam will be in service for community education and enjoyment for a long time,” said McHarris.

The nest near Redwood Avenue in Milpitas is about a mile and a half from the marshes on the edge of San Francisco Bay, which is a convenient and attractive feeding ground for the bald eagles and other wildlife. The UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group monitors the nest and is advising the City of Milpitas regarding the eagles. More information about the SCPBRG can be found here: <https://www2.ucsc.edu/scpbrg/index.htm>.

###

**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. As a full-service city of 389 full-time employees with water utility, sewer utility, police and fire services, Milpitas serves a diverse population of nearly 80,000. The city has an annual \$191 million operating budget and a \$315 million capital improvements budget.

Milpitas is the eighth-fastest growing city in the United States according to the US Census, and the second-fastest in California. It has the third highest job growth among the 515 qualifying cities rated by Wallet Hub. The homeownership rate is close to 70%, and the Milpitas housing market remains relatively affordable in Santa Clara County. Milpitas is often called the "Crossroads of Silicon Valley" with most of its 14 square miles situated between two major freeways (I-880 and I-680), Route 237, and a County expressway. In June 2018, Livability Magazine ranked Milpitas fifth by out of more than 2,000 American cities for “[Best Cities for STEM Workers](#).”

More information at: <http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/>