

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: November 19, 2015

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: December 3, 2015

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Carla Schoof, Community Programs Specialist
SUBJECT: Report on Volunteer and Community Programs

RECOMMENDATION

Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND

Volunteer and Community Program updates and items of interest to the Commission.

DISCUSSION:

Volunteer Activities

The following groups volunteered their time in San Mateo County Parks since the last report to the Commission:

- The San Mateo County Horsemen's Association worked with rangers in Edgewood Park to cut back shrubs, pick up litter, installed rails for 35-feet of retaining wall, and lay down 2 tons of rock on the Clarkia Trail.
- A Boy Scout group installed a trail sign and improved the Mt. Ellen Nature Trail in Memorial County Park.
- Thirty-one biology students from the College of San Mateo cleared brush at the De Anza playground area in Junipero Serra Park.
- Volunteers from the Trail Center, Ridge Trail and REI improved a connecting trail between Huddart Park and the Ridge Trail in Woodside. More than 50 volunteers improved the trail tread, installed water diversion features and removed overgrowth. Volunteers were treated to Chipotle burritos during the lunch break.
- Fifty-one members of the Presbyterian Church of Burlingame spread fibar at the Magic Mountain Playground and wood chips on the parking lot island at Coyote Point Park.

Upcoming Volunteer Events

Saturday, December 5: Trail Center Work Day, Huddart Park: Volunteers will address erosion, tread damage, uneven surfaces and drainage needs of the heavily traveled Chaparral Trail.

Saturday, December 5: Volunteer Recognition Event, Wunderlich Park, 3:30 – 5:30: San Mateo County Parks will celebrate the wonderful contributions volunteers make to parks. To kick off the event, volunteers with the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks will host a tour of the historic Folger Stable and Carriage Room. Our celebration then moves to the Carriage House for refreshments and volunteer recognition.

Saturday, January 9 and February 6, Trail Center Work Day, Junipero Serra Park, Quail Loop Trail improvements.

Community Engagement Activities

BioBlitz at San Pedro Valley Park, September 26: Park staff, Friends of San Pedro Valley Park, California Academy of Sciences, California Native Plant Society, and the Sequoia Audubon Society welcomed 45 visitors to the park for a day of discovery and photo taking. Overall, the group posted 711 observations with 209 species identified.

Movie Night at Coyote Point: Saturday, October 17, proved to be the perfect evening to host a pre Halloween movie at Coyote Point. A beautiful sunset set the stage for the more than 100 movie goers in the park. For those who didn't bring a picnic dinner, Cheese Gone Wild food truck was on hand to serve gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches. This was the final movie event of 2015.

Reimagine Flood Park Community Presentations: Park staff provided presentations on the Flood Park redesign project to the Park and Recreation Commission of Menlo Park and the City Council on October 27 and November 17, respectfully. Two more meetings will be held to invite the community to view the close-to-final park design before it moves to the San Mateo County Park and Recreation Commission.

Take A Hike Completes 2015 Season at Junipero Serra Park, November 7: Close to 40 people joined park staff and Dr. Eshwar Kapur from Kaiser Permanente for the final hike of this season. Park rangers Ryan Lundgaard and Katherine Wright led the group on a 2-mile hike along the Quail loop Trail where visitors caught views of the San Francisco Bay and the San Francisco Airport. Take A Hike will resume in March 2016.

Upcoming Community Activities

- Steelhead Trout Family Nature Hike, December 5, 10 a.m. to noon, Memorial Park
- Reimagine Flood Park, December 9, 7 p.m., Arrillaga Center, Menlo Park and December 16, 7 p.m., Fair Oaks Community Center.

Communications

Print and Electronic Media Outreach: The Department used a variety of vehicles to inform the public about park services and events in October.

- Press Releases:
 - Coyote Point Eastern Promenade Community Meeting, October 14

- Facebook:
 - Movie in the Park at Coyote Point, October 6
 - Eastern Promenade Project, Coyote Point, October 14
 - Reminder – Movie Night in the Park at Coyote Point, October 15
 - PG&E Work Limits Trail Access in Edgewood Park, October 19
 - BioBlitz at San Pedro Valley Park photos, October 20
 - Reservation System unavailable during system transition, October 21
 - Take A Hike, Nov. 7 at Junipero Serra Park, October 22
 - Fungus and Lichen Nature Hike on Nov. 14 at Huddart Park, October 27
 - Shared Bay Area Open Space Council Post about San Mateo County Parks, October 28
 - Take A Hike, Junipero Serra Reminder, November 5
 - Werder Playground Closure at Huddart Park, November 5
 - Throw Back Thursday, game cam photo, November 5
 - Sunset Tide Pooling, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, November 6
 - Throw Back Thursday, Julia Bott retires, November 19

- Twitter:
 - Parks Foundation Names Michele Beasley new ED, September 29
 - Coyote Point Park Promenade Community Meeting, October 14
 - PG&E Work in Edgewood Park Limits Trail Access, October 19
 - On-Line Reservation Service Down, October 22
 - Re-tweet: Open Space Council Loves San Mateo County Parks, October 27
 - Werder Playground Closed for Remodel, November 5
 - Devil's Slide Trail Parking Advisory, November 18
 - San Andreas Segment, Crystal Springs Trail Advisory, November 18