



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: November 22, 2016

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: December 1, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Marlene Finley, Parks Director

SUBJECT: Director's Report

BUSINESS SERVICES

Parks Performance Presentation

On September 15, the Parks Department presented our performance achievements in a meeting with the County Manager, Assistant County Manager, Deputy County Managers and the County Budget Director. The same report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their November 1 meeting in Board Chambers.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Stewardship Corps Events have Begun!

Staff hosted three events this fall with several more slated for this winter. Visit the Parks webpage and look under "Events" for these fun drop-in volunteer opportunities. To support these volunteer efforts, we have an SCA Volunteer Coordinator Intern Jana Ng.. In November we said goodbye to our SCA GIS Intern Hannah Ormshaw, who was recently hired as an Assistant Ecologist with the Alameda Resource Conservation District.

San Bruno Mountain and the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly

Creekside Science was recently awarded a grant to begin the reintroduction process for the threatened Bay Checkerspot butterfly on San Bruno Mountain – we'll keep you updated on this collaborative effort to have this butterfly make its way back to the Mountain in 2017.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Coyote Point Recreation Area

The O.W.L. (sea level rise viewing units) have been a popular destination for special group site visits and media.

Park Rangers continue to remove hazardous trees and limbs along the Knoll pathway.

Crystal Springs Trail

SFPUC completed their Black Acacia tree removal project along the south end of the trail and the trail re-opened. SFPUC is also paving the San Andreas part of the trail.

Park Rangers removed hazardous trees.

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

The Ralston Bike Path Fence Project has been completed. A quarter mile stretch of fencing was replaced and moved over two feet to increase cyclist safety along the trail. Contractor also installed fencing to create a storage yard for the Bicycle Sunday Event to house the signs, a porta potty and a storage shed for staff to use as a staging area.

Huddart Park

The Kings Mountain Road Vegetation Management and Hazardous Tree Removal Project on November 9 and 10 was successful. Nearly 50 people and several agencies collaborated to remove over 200 dead and dying trees, starting from Entrance Way on the bottom of the Kings Mountain Road and ending nearly to Skyline Boulevard south of Highway 92.

PG&E has completed vegetation management and regrading and rocking of Richards Road from Toyon Camping Area to the Meadow approximately two-miles in length. All the labor and material was supplied from PG&E. This second portion of a two-phase project, this completes a two-year joint effort to create a defensible fuel break spanning from Skyline Boulevard to Greer Road for a total length of five miles. Park staff and PG&E not only reduced fire fuel loads and hazardous trees but also regraded roads and rocked them with several hundred tons of rock, reestablished drainage features along the whole length of the road and created four turnaround areas for fire apparatus and equipment.

Wunderlich Park

A new ADA drinking fountain and water bottle filling station were installed

A parks contractor removed nearly a dozen large hazardous eucalyptus trees between the arena and Highway 84.

Friendship Park

Park staff continues to help weed, clean the park and haul the green waste composting from the volunteers.

Memorial Park Complex

Staff hosted the public for a well-attended San Mateo County Take A Hike that included a hike of the Mt. Ellen and Pomponio Canyon Trails.

The Outdoor Afro community hiking group joined staff for a hike and tour of the Sam McDonald Park including a three-mile hike to Sam McDonald's original residence.

Sequoia Campground is closed for the winter. The smaller Azalea campground remains open throughout the winter. Rangers completed seasonal tree maintenance and landscaping work in the recently closed Sequoia campground, as well as drainage maintenance and storm damage work in Pescadero Creek Park and Sam McDonald Park.

Staff hosted a movie night at Memorial Park's newly renovated amphitheater and invited the local Pescadero community. We had a successful turnout of 150 people.

San Pedro Valley

The Visitor Center has been updated using Measure A funds. New displays, energy efficient lighting and A/V system will be completed in time for the December 4 Volunteer Recognition Event

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

Park staff completed a new storage shed and ranger office at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

Junipero Serra Park

On October 4 and 6, a group of 27 students from the College of San Mateo volunteered at the Park assisting rangers in the removal of an old split rail fence, brushing back vegetation in islands and cleaning up eucalyptus leaves from the picnic areas.

San Bruno Mountain

San Bruno Mountain was popular for running events in October. The groups averaged from 75 to 100 per race.

On October 25, staff worked with two CALFire engine crews and two California Department of Corrections (CDC) crews installing 60 biodegradable straw wattles to prevent erosion control on the road that was cut by the bulldozer during the September 7, 2016 Juncus Ravine fire.

Maintenance

Maintenance staff fixed a water leak at the Memorial Volunteer Fire Station.

Work has begun on the Quarry Park maintenance area and storage units. Maintenance staff worked on the Kings Mountain tree removal project for three days.

COYOTE POINT MARINA

New Marina Ranger II

Marina Ranger II Barry Chandler recently transferred to Park District VII where he will be working at both Junipero Serra Park and San Bruno Mountain. Barry's replacement is recently hired Park Ranger II Jacob George, who began working at the Marina on Tuesday, October 11. Ranger George previously worked as a Park Aide in District II.

Fatality at Coyote Point

A body was found floating near the breakwater of the Coyote Point Marina on Sunday October 23. The victim, 91 year old Matthaus Hense, was a resident of San Mateo. It was reported that Hense had taken Uber to the Coyote Point Recreational around 7:00 pm on Saturday October 22; his family reported him missing later that evening. The Coroner's office reported that the cause of death was drowning.

Dredging

Permitting has started with the Federal and State regulatory agencies for a 10-year period authorizing up to 300,000 cubic yards to be removed. Silt is accumulating within the Marina at a rate of ½ foot a year. Marina staff, Park Superintendent Scott Lombardi and Parks Senior Planner Sam Herzberg met again with TranSystem Engineering to review and discuss priority dredging areas including the approach channel, entrance channel, and Dock 29 areas. At design depths, an estimated 36,800 cubic yards of material could be removed at a cost of approximately \$736,000 at current construction rates. Available funding is being reviewed by staff to determine the quantity of material the Marina can afford to remove during this next episode of dredging.

Electrical Service and Maintenance

MDD Enterprises, a local electrical contractor, was recently hired to upgrade and service electrical systems in the Marina. MDD recently finished an electrical inspection of Dock 25 and has grounded (bonded) all 12 of the Marina's aluminum gangways leading down to the docks. MDD has also completed service work on Dock 10 and the pump out dock and are now grounding steel utility boxes and covers located in the middle berm parking area of the Marina.

PROGRAMS

Park Shuttle Outreach Activities

Community Programs staff have reached out through meetings, special events, and presentations to inform community members about the new Park Shuttle. Groups contacted thus far include: East Palo Alto Library, Redwood City Kiwanis Farmers Market, Facebook Farmers Market, Veterans Memorial Senior Center, Kiwanis of Menlo Park, Redwood City Library, East Palo Alto YMCA, Toyota Family Learning Center, Redwood City Girl Scouts, City of Redwood City Events on the Square, Siena Youth Center, North Fair Oaks Community Council, City of Menlo Park City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission, Indigo Leasing, San Mateo County Credit Union, North Fair Oaks Community Center, and Fair Oaks Health Center. In addition, presentations to additional community organizations and service are scheduled for early 2017.

Shuttle Tracking Site Updated

Soon after the Park Shuttle service began, the website for shuttle riders to use to track the shuttle in route was changed. Website links have been updated, new brochures are being printed, and the Park Shuttle stop signs will be revised.

Reimagine Flood Park EIR Process Begins

Rincon Consultants, Inc. will conduct the environmental assessment and provide a Program Environmental Impact Report on the Preferred Alternative Landscape Plan for Flood Park. Letters were mailed to park neighbors in Menlo Park and Atherton and emails were sent to those requesting park updates notifying about the selection of Rincon on November 14. The communication also included information about the opportunity for public review of and comment on the Notice of Preparation (November 17 to December 16) and the first public meeting in Menlo Park on December 6, 2016 at 7 p.m. at 700 Alma Street.

PROJECTS

Pescadero Creek Park Old Haul Road Studies

San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) is working with the County on a topographic map, geotechnical study and site plans to repair the dark gulch creek crossing. The Board of Supervisors approved an agreement and funding to work with RCD on this project. County Park staff are working with the RCD on a geotechnical study to evaluate the best way to replace or repair the Dark Gulch Crossing.

Coyote Point Recreation Area - Fire Pump

Park staff has coordinated with PG&E regarding the boundaries of their utility easement to determine if a fire pump can be placed adjacent to their lines. A request for larger water service has been approved from CalWater for an eight-inch line to the Coyote Point Recreation Area at its southern entrance to improve fire suppression capability. This is particularly timely as CuriOdyssey is about to initiate a major remodel.

Coyote Point Eastern Promenade

On December 1, the California Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors awarded a \$350,000 grant to San Mateo County for public access improvements that are a part of this project. This is the first grant awarded and could help leverage additional state grant awards and private philanthropy. On November 15, a site visit was held with the California Natural Resources Agency for a possible \$450,000 grant for the bioretention areas, native plants and irrigation. A decision will be made during spring 2017. In addition, the Smart Family Foundation donated \$300,000 to the project.

Complete the Gap Trail Planning Project

On November 1, the Board of Supervisors awarded a contract to Bellecci & Associates to complete the planning, design and permitting phase of this trail segment. This trail planning project will help “complete the gap” between the currently under-construction Crystal Springs Dam Trail and the completed Crystal Springs Regional Trail South of Dam trail segment. The planning phase is being underwritten by a San Mateo County

Transportation Authority grant matched by San Mateo County funds. The planning phase work which should be completed by April 30, 2018.

San Mateo County Honor Camp Alternative Re-Use Feasibility Study

During October, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released to identify a firm to prepare a feasibility study to inform the County of viable recreational or educational re-uses of the property that complement the management of the surrounding park property. The Feasibility Study will be completed in Spring 2017.

Loma Mar Property

Geotechnical testing above and below the Loma Mar Water Mutual Water Tanks took place October 27, 2016. The survey of the entire property boundaries has been completed.

Quarry Park Master Plan

The Department is beginning to work on the Master Plan for Quarry/Wicklows and Mirada park properties. A Request for Proposals was circulated to County Park on-call contractors. A site visit is scheduled for November 10, 2016 and proposals are due November 30, 2016.

Sanchez Adobe Improvements

A second round of ground penetrating radar has been completed at the Sanchez Adobe to help guide the location of future improvements.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Feasibility Study for section of Bay Trail

The Office of Sustainability, County Parks, and a grant consultant hired through the County Manager's Office collaborated on a CalTrans Sustainable Transportation Planning grant application for a Feasibility Study to address the four-mile Bay Trail gap around the San Francisco International Airport. If approved, work on the two year Feasibility Study would begin in the summer of 2017.

Granada Community Services District (GCSD) Median Improvement

A subcommittee of the GCSD Park Advisory Committee met to review the proposals for conceptual designs for two of the El Granada medians. The GCSD Board will consider the Committee's recommendation at their December 15, 2016 meeting.

Rediscovering America/Portola Expedition Trail

The Core Planning Committee met with the National Park Service Rivers Trail and Conservation facilitator on October 20, 2016 to begin develop a Draft Work Plan which will be shared with the larger Trail Committee in December 2016.

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Improvements to Its Hetch Hetchy Water Pipeline in Junipero Serra County Park

Park staff met with SFPUC staff to initiate the review of the project October 18, 2016. SFPUC is doing geotechnical testing at this time. A meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2016 to continue the discussion to address County Park concerns. An Encroachment Permit will be needed for the work to proceed.

San Mateo General Plan Conformity at the Coyote Point Recreation Area

A meeting was held October 4, 2016 with stakeholders involved with the CuriOdyssey, Rifle Range, Humane Society and Eastern Promenade projects at Coyote Point. Real Property collected project descriptions and will request General Plan conformity from the City of San Mateo for all of these projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We're Celebrating Volunteers on December 4

San Mateo County Parks will celebrate volunteers on Sunday, December 4, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the San Pedro Valley County Park Visitor Center. Park Commissioners are invited to attend and be included in the recognition that volunteers make to San Mateo County Parks.