



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Parks Department



DATE: November 27, 2017

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: December 7, 2017

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Jonathan Gervais, Parks Director

SUBJECT: Director's Report

BUSINESS SERVICES

As reported by Manjit Singh, Management Fellow

Upcoming deliverables to the County Manager's Office include the following:

- Capital & IT 5 Year Plan which will be part of the County Capital Improvement plan highlighting high priority projects with work commencing during Fiscal Year 2017-2019.
- Mid-Year Financials which will include Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Year-End projections of year end Fund Balance and Salaries & Benefits.

Highlights since last Commission Meeting:

- Signed new agreement with Contractor Compliance & Monitoring Inc. (CCMI) for an aggregate amount of \$25,000 over a 3 year term. CCMI will provide necessary support to the Parks Department with prevailing wage labor agreements and reporting to the California Department of Industrial Relations.
- On October 17th, 2017, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors authorized an amendment to the current agreement with Go Native for on-call professional vegetation management services. The amendment increased the current agreement by an additional \$250,000 to an aggregate amount not to exceed \$550,000.
- On November 7th, 2017, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors authorized an agreement with the San Mateo County Historical Association for the operation and maintenance of the County History Museum and the docent-led programs to keep the Woodside Store and Sanchez Adobe historical sites. The agreement is for a 2 year term for an aggregate amount of \$400,000.

- The Parks Department will be entering into agreement with the San Mateo County Parks Foundation for providing continued annual support for core programs by raising funds to benefit the parks and visitors.

Measure K:

- The Department is completing the purchase of a new Kubota debris blower along with necessary tools and equipment to maintain the Ralston Trail paving. The purchase of these necessary items was funded through Capital Projects Measure K funding.

DISTRICT I – NORTH COUNTY

Includes Coyote Point Park, Crystal Springs Trail/San Andreas Trail
As reported by Ty Kang, Ranger IV, Mario Nastari, Ranger III

Coyote Point Recreation Area

- An additional VenTek Pay Station unit was installed at the CuriOdyssey parking lot. This makes a total of three pay stations at Coyote Point Recreation Area.
- A group of 30 volunteers from Genentech cleaned the Magic Mountain Playground equipment.
- On October 21, 2017, the Michael J. Fox Foundation had a 5K Special Event at Coyote Point. There were approximately 400 participants.
- Over 500 riders enjoyed the CycloCross Bicycle Event on November 4th at the Upper Knoll course.
- 54 volunteers from the Kiwanis Club helped out with Broom removal in the Knoll area.
- 20 volunteers from Amgen, Inc. participated in beach clean-up in October.
- Staff refurbished the promenade swim ramp site to include wood benches; landscaping of the island; walls were re-painted, and additional wood fencing was installed.
- This is the 'End of Season' for most of our seasonal Park Aides/Extra Help staff. Thank you all for helping us make it through another busy summer season!

Crystal Springs Trail

- The San Andreas Trail will be closed on Wednesday, November 29th, due to main water line repair work (SFPUC).
- Some shoulder work was completed on south end of Sawyer Camp Trail.

- Two memorial benches have been installed on Sawyer Camp Trail-Jepson & 1.5 mile.
- Four damaged sections of barbed wire fencing have been repaired along the trail.
- The culvert inlets along the entire length of the trail have been checked and cleared.

DISTRICT II – SOUTH COUNTY

Includes Edgewood Park & Preserve, Flood Park, Friendship Park, Huddart Park, Wunderlich Park

As reported by Dinora Dunsmore-Bertoni, Ranger III

Edgewood Park and Nature Preserve

- Rangers led two separate hikes a night hike and a day hike.
- Staff cleaning/checking of culverts/ drainages/ trails in preparation for the rainy season.

Flood Park

- Replaced broken, worn out parts on playground structures.

Friendship Park

- The Parks Department co-hosted the Dias de los Muertos Celebration with San Mateo County Libraries and San Mateo Health Services. This was a fun family oriented, educational event to learn about the traditional culture of Dias de los Muertos! The event offered art projects, ranger-led story readings, and face painting. Special thanks to Ranger Katherine Wright and Park Aide Jodi Gunning for all your hard work!

Huddart Park

- There was a “Day of the Horse” event trail ride within Huddart Park. Staff also hosted a Parks table at the Town Hall for the community event. Visitors were able to look at and touch various animal skins and skulls, and many Junior Park Ranger stickers, stickers of different types of flowers in our parks, and Parks pencils were given out. It was a lovely day and our staff had a great time connecting with all the visitors!
- The Woodside Fire Department had a two day training session in Huddart Park for its new recruits.
- Hosted two trail runs.
- Staff has been cleaning and checking drainages, culverts, and trails in preparation for the rainy season.

- Staff worked with CDC crews on Archery Fire Road and Toyon Campground.
- The campground is now closed for the season.

Wunderlich Park

- Park aide Avery worked with a Volunteer group of 14 children from the Wildchild Freeschool, pulling broom, an invasive plant.
- Staff provided parking control for Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich speaker series event on November 12th. The topic for today's talk was "A Rough and Perilous Life: The Redwood Loggers of Woodside".
- The staff cut and sprayed eucalyptus sprouts in the rehab area near the horse riding arena. They also cleaned/checked drainages/culverts/trails in preparation for the rainy season.
- A newly cut section of the Alambique trail opened.

DISTRICT III – SOUTH COAST

Includes Memorial Park, Pescadero Creek Park, Sam McDonald Park
As reported by David Vasquez, Ranger IV

Memorial Park/ Pescadero Creek Park/Sam McDonald Park

- Parks staff conducted repairs on the Old Haul Road of Pescadero Creek Park which had considerable storm damage at the Harwood and Dark Gulch Humbolt creek crossings from last winter.
- New hitching rails were installed at Park Gulch Grove and Shaw Flat Trail of Pescadero Creek Park as donated by the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association, Bay Area Ridge Riders, Los Viajeros and SMCHA.
- Forest survey work was conducted with the Natural Resources Management Division of Parks in Pescadero Creek Park.
- Road maintenance was conducted on the Ridge Road of Sam McDonald Park which leads to the Jack Brooks Horse Camp.
- Contracted bore drilling was conducted on the Dark Gulch and Keystone Humbolt creek crossings as part of the repairs to the Old Haul Road of Pescadero Creek Park.
- The Parks Foundation enjoyed a luncheon and interactive hike at Sam McDonald Park and historical residence.
- The Student Conservation Association (SCA) had a workday at Sam McDonald Park and camped at the Choctaw Youth Group Campground.

DISTRICT IV – MID-COAST

Includes Devil's Slide, James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Mirada Surf, Moss Beach Playground, Pillar Point Bluff, Quarry Park, San Pedro Valley, Sanchez Adobe
As reported by Matt Del Carlo, Ranger IV

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve/Mirada/Quarry/Moss Beach Playground

- Over 30 volunteers completed a 360' section of split rail fencing along the bluffs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve which sustained some damage from last winter storms creating areas of concern. This effort will keep the public a safe distance from the edge. This project completed the first section of unprotected bluff access.
- Staff has been busy installing and furnishing the new shop/ corporation yard at Quarry Park. This will increase productivity by having a second facility located on the southern end of the district. This facility will be used to securely store equipment and tools for maintenance and project.
- Pillar Point bluffs will be closed for the upcoming Maverick's Surfing Challenge. No date has been set but the window is 11/1/17 to 2/28/18. All legal access points to the bluff will be staffed to increase public safety during the event. The bluffs are still unstable from last year's rains.
- An Eagle Scout repaired a long section of a concrete retaining wall. This project limits dirt and storm runoff from entering the play areas at Moss Beach Playground.
- Tour season is ramping up at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Staff will be shifted to cover tours and the upcoming seal season.

San Pedro Valley/Devils Slide/Sanchez Adobe

- The Eagle Scouts repaired a bad section of trail tread on Brooks Creek Trail. With twenty scouts repairing the trail to Department standards. This section had sloughing and exposed roots and trail users were getting pushed to the downhill edge. Future plans involve volunteer trail day, staff and other volunteer groups to address other sections.
- Staff have been working hard educating the public on the new ordinances taking effect shortly. Overall we have received positive feedback on our proactive approach with soft enforcement on this new property. Department of Fish and Wildlife have stepped up enforcement on their end too. Poaching and other illegal activities have been handled swiftly.

DISTRICT V - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

As reported by Kevin Scott, Ranger IV

Note: There are no Parks in District V, this is just our Maintenance Division.

- Completed the road connection to Alambique Trail in Wunderlich, and improved the road surface along Alambique from Crossroads to Skyline Boulevard.
- Working with Supervisor Horsley's office, the Parks Department installed two benches on Broadway Street in Princeton (HMB) for the coastal access project.
- Repaired uneven asphalt surface on Crystal Springs Trail, and at San Pedro Valley.
- Completed the Quarry Park maintenance yard (approximately 20x50 area). This was an ongoing project for making a Corporation yard for the Rangers to work out of for the mid-coast operations.
- The LED lighting upgrade at Huddart Park has been started, in restrooms and other facilities.

DISTRICT VI – COYOTE POINT MARINA

As reported by Mark Bettis, Harbormaster

Coyote Point Marina

New Harbormaster

- Mark Bettis has assumed the position of Harbormaster, as our long time Harbormaster Ed Hallett has now retired. Mark has a 100-ton Captain's license, and most recently was employed as captain of the Angel Island-Tiburon Ferry. He has worked as a SCUBA instructor and is also a certified sailing instructor. Mark worked in commercial solar energy for 15 years, and capped his solar career as Vice President of Sales for REC Solar, a national solar contractor. He brings 25 years of business management experience to Coyote Point coupled with a passion for sailing and all things nautical. He has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from UC Santa Barbara, and an MBA from San Francisco State University. Please join us in welcoming Mark to Coyote Point Marina!

Dredging Update

- The dredging project is nearing completion. The final primary dredging of the north side of Dock 29 is underway. Once this is complete the harbor will be surveyed and any necessary touch-up dredging will be performed. Some damage to the concrete floats in Dock 29 was identified, but the extent and cause of the damage has not yet been determined. An underwater inspection of the docks in the dredged areas will be performed once the dredging is complete, and any dock damage will be addressed with the contractor at that time.

DISTRICT VII

Includes Junipero Serra Park, San Bruno Mountain Park

As reported by Priscilla Alvarez, Ranger IV

Junipero Serra Park & San Bruno Mountain

- On September 24th, staff responded to a report of a vehicle off the side of Guadalupe Canyon at San Bruno Mountain. Driver had gone off the road earlier in the day and had been taken by ambulance to Seton Hospital. The car was towed the next day by a tow truck. Deputies were present when the vehicle was pulled out.
- On October 9 -13 Posted “High Fire Danger Signs” in both parks due to weather and bad air quality due to the Sonoma/Santa Rosa fires.
- October 15, Daly City Fire Department responded to San Bruno Mountain regarding a large wood fire in the barbecue grill. Group advised of High Fire Danger. Fire was extinguished by park staff.
- October 17 – 20, Maintenance rangers and park staff removed 20’ section of dry rotted foot bridge on the Bog Trail in San Bruno Mountain. New foot riggers were installed as well as the decking and rails for the bridge. This project was funded by Measure K funds.
- October 18-24 park staff began spreading base rock on the Bog Trail in San Bruno Mountain. This project has been ongoing as staff time allows – hope to be completed by end of December. This project was funded by Measure K funds.
- October 29, staff responded to a call from County Control Dispatchers of gunshots heard at San Bruno Mountain. Staff worked with Deputies but were unable to locate any signs of people/shots within the park.
- November 1, a park staff personal vehicle was broken into at Junipero Serra Park. The vehicle was parked in the Buckeye Parking Lot. Items stolen were an Apple laptop and personal gear. Deputies were called to take a report.
- November 5, park staff administered first aid to a female park visitor who was off trail and had been in the park for two days in San Bruno Mountain. A hiker reported hearing a female voice asking for help while hiking the Summit Loop Trail. The female had been under the influence of drugs and had been dropped off but could not give more information than that. Fire, medics and deputies responded. Female was transported to SF General Hospital. Female was conscious and breathing and able to walk when approached by park staff.
- November 7, park staff contacted San Mateo County Deputies regarding 2 sexual assaults that had occurred on October 22nd and November 5. A Track Flyer was put out by the Sheriff’s Department as well as a sketch of the white male. All the information was put out at all the trailheads and main entrances of San Bruno Mountain for visitors to be aware and report any suspicious activities to Detective Cang. The incidents happened on the Old Guadalupe Trail in the late afternoon around 4- 5 p.m. The male groped the two females in the buttocks and then stated he thought it was his girlfriend and then ran away. There were several TV news reporters in the park on November 8.

- November 9, six vehicles were broken into at San Bruno Mountain in the main parking lot. The vehicles belonged to a group of Terra Nova High School Students who were attending the Ropes Course. Deputies responded and took a report. Park staff assisted in taking a report and cleaning up the broken glass. Due to the cameras in the park we were able to assist on the timeline of when the cars were broken into. The cameras will be upgraded because they currently do not capture license plate numbers. The camera upgrades will be paid for by Measure K Funds.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM)

As reported by Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resources Manager

Staffing Updates

- The natural resource team is growing and evolving! In December and January we plan to bring on a staff arborist and extend an offer to a natural resource specialist. The arborist is a new position to our department while the specialist will be replacing our Natural Resource Ranger Michele Laskowski. Both positions will be full time permanent. We will be welcoming a new Stewardship Corps intern in early December to help run this wonderful volunteer program Tuesday – Saturday. Our former SCA Intern for Stewardship Corps, Jana Ng, has been offered a full-time position with the USDA and left the department earlier this fall. Ms. Ng is the third SCA Intern to go onto a full-time professional position after working with San Mateo County Parks!

Natural Resource Management Collaboration

- We continue to review and support work on our updated Watershed Protection Manual and prepare for applying for programmatic permits for routine maintenance in collaboration with DPW. The NRM program is collaborating with Office of Sustainability and DPW on the upcoming Sediment TMDL for the Pescadero-Butano Watershed that is pending public review. The NRM program is working with the Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network on an Asset Mapping project to facilitate stronger inter-agency collaboration and identify areas for resource sharing.

Species Management

- Data from our annual marbled murrelet surveys is being integrated into the Landscape Management Plan for the Santa Cruz Mountains population. This information will improve our understanding of the key nesting and flyway areas for this endangered species. The natural resource manager regularly attend Zone 6 meetings held once or twice a year. Funds for baseline endangered species mapping will be dedicated to improving mapping and management of the endangered San Mateo County thornmint. See the photo, a very diminutive plant that live only at Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve. Staff continues to work on the wildlife camera project and has collected the cameras at San Pedro Valley County Park and has redeployed them at Huddart County Park. Our contractor's cameras have trapped long-tailed weasels and burrowing owls at

Quarry County Park! We are excited to conduct follow up surveys for these species throughout the winter.

GIS Division

- Our GIS Technician II, John Schweisinger, is working to acquire the most recent data to support both natural resource management and parks operation’s needs. He has already created a Culvert Needs Assessment Project for rangers to verify conditions of culverts. Participated in the 2017 GIS Day and showcased County Open Space with Hiking Trails in 3D by creating a county-wide - Open Space - ArcGIS Online web map. Schweisinger has also processed high-resolution aerial imagery to update vegetation layers for NRM use. ISD’s GIS team has provided the updated 2017 LiDAR data and he has begun to update trail and road networks within County Parks. He has been busy conducting historical research to generate Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMP) for individual parks. Mapped on and off-leash areas to support the Dog Management Committee. And created a GIS basemap application to upload current and historic CADD files for project documentation.

PROGRAMS

Interpretive Programs

As reported by Laurel Finnegan, Ranger IV

Since the last Commission meeting, here are the events we hosted and participation numbers:

Date	Event	Location	Attendance
October 7th	TAH	Pescadero Creek Park	20
October 21st	Halloween Movie Night	Quarry Park	50
October 27th	Nature Hike: Night Hike	Edgewood Park	25
October 28th	Day of the Dead Arts and Crafts	Friendship Park	40
November 3rd	Sunset Tide Pooling	FMR	11
November 4th	Apex Predators Workshop	SPV	25
November 18th	Ranger Presentation about San Mateo County Parks	South San Francisco Library	10

This year, up until the commission meeting, we have hosted 49 events with 3231 participants. We have partnered with the San Mateo County Parks Foundation, Supervisor Carol Groom’s office for Streets Alive, Parks Alive: Kite Festival, San Mateo County Libraries, Sheriffs Activity League, the Health System: Family Health Services, Cal Academy, Audubon, Native Plant Society, Kaiser, Curiodyssey. These partnerships

have been a wonderful way to connect with more San Mateo County residents and these partnerships are helping us accomplish mutual goals towards vision 2025.

Community Programs and Communications

As reported by Carla Schoof, Communications Specialist

San Mateo County Parks and POST Announce Partnership to Preserve Tunitas Creek Beach

Through a joint new release on November 16, Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and San Mateo County Parks announced that the two entities will partner to preserve and rehabilitate Tunitas Creek Beach, located south of Half Moon Bay, and to coordinate transition of the 58-acre beachfront location to a safe and managed public park. The purchase of the property by POST for \$5 million and the partnership with San Mateo County Parks sets in motion what is expected to be a three-year public/private effort to address unmanaged use of the beach that has contributed to the degradation of the natural resources as well as activity, including large, overnight events, that have resulted in an accumulation of garbage and dangerous activity.

In the weeks prior to the announcement POST and San Mateo County Parks collaborated in development of a communication plan and strategy to ensure the unified announcement of the purchase and future plans for the location. Well-developed talking points supported POST, San Mateo County Parks and San Mateo County representatives in interviews with the media. The announcement was covered by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Mercury News*, the *Half Moon Bay Review* and KGO-TV. A supporting social media strategy facilitated further spread of the story. For example, the San Mateo County Parks Facebook post reached over 800 people and garnered 183 views of the announcement video. More than 900 people viewed the Twitter post.

In the near future POST and San Mateo County Parks will develop plans to establish an emergency access path to support public safety as well as reduce environmental degradation and address damage that has occurred on the bluffs. Plans for a parking lot, safe and accessible paths and trails to the beach, restrooms and regular park ranger presence will occur over the next three years. Through fundraising efforts, POST plans to raise \$10 million to cover the property purchase and implement restoration and public access plans. An additional \$10 million in funding from the County of San Mateo is needed to cover staffing and enforcement of the ordinances over the next 10 years.

San Mateo County Marine Protected Area Collaborative Receives \$15,000 Grant

San Mateo County Parks' staff serves as a co-chair for the San Mateo County Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative along with a representative from the California Academy of Sciences. There are 14 MPA collaboratives in California which work to steward the 124 marine protected areas in the State through outreach and education. The Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is part of the Montara MPA and is managed according to Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations.

In a new funding cycle, the San Mateo County MPA collaborative was successful in its application for a \$15,000 grant from Coastal Quest to support a more in depth, multi-media outreach campaign to educate coastal visitors about the best ways to enjoy MPAs while helping to protect marine life. The need for this education has been identified by park staff and volunteers who strive to educate visitors about the sensitive conditions at the Reserve and that it is not the ideal location to bring water toys, pick up shells and wildlife, or picnic. Earlier this year, a Department intern identified more than 20 websites that promote the Reserve as the ideal family fun beach location. The funding will support production of four, multi-lingual video vignettes. The videos will be distributed to the County of San Mateo, San Mateo County Office of Sustainability, San Mateo County Environmental Health, Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, San Mateo County Parks Foundation, San Mateo County Office of Education, San Mateo County Visitor Bureau, as well as the recently identified websites advertising the Reserve. The messages would will be made available for placement in hotels, motels, shops, restaurants and the San Mateo County Public TV station.

Flood Park Draft EIR Comment Period Concludes

During the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) comment period, which opened on October 3 and closed November 16, the Department received 77 comments regarding the adequacy of the document which considered the proposed park plan and any related environmental issues, environmental impacts, proposed mitigation measures and residual impacts associated with implementation of the plan. The Department also hosted a community meeting in Menlo Park on November 1 at the Menlo Park Senior Center where approximately 30 people attended and provided verbal comments to the Draft EIR. Consulting firm Rincon will review all comments and provide us with its analysis. Following this, the Department will work with Rincon to develop responses to the comments and begin to prepare the final EIR document.