

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: July 30, 2014

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: August 7, 2014

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Scott Lombardi, Park Superintendent
SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report

RECOMMENDATION:
Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND:
This report covers Park activities since the Commission's June 5, 2014 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

DISTRICT I

Coyote Point Recreation Area

- Summer is in full bloom at the park with a multitude of large corporate events, 5/10k races, bike events, including the upcoming Tour de Peninsula on August 3, and even a jet-ski demo.
- Staff continues to collaborate with the CuriOdyssey summer program "Take-A-Kid Fishing" and for the first time "Take-A-Kid-Orienteering" a creative response when fishing was not possible because of unfavorable tides.
- Rangers Nastari and Rogers tested for a Qualified Applicators Licenses to better assist the Department's Integrated Pest Management Plan.
- A Student Conservation Association crew and staff constructed a length of split rail fencing at the Coyote Point Yacht Club to protect sensitive marsh habitat

Junipero Serra Park

- An AB109 crew worked three weeks on fire fuel reduction near the park's main road, around the surrounding neighborhoods, and on Oak Cove Road, a service road that connects to Helen Drive in Millbrae.
- SalesForce employees continue to contribute volunteer hours monthly and are targeting a contribution of 2,000 volunteer hours to the Park. They have landscaped a large area near the Meadow View Playground, painted two restroom buildings, and installed a drip irrigation system.

Crystal Springs Trail

- Staff is continuing with restroom building upgrades including the installation of 300-gallon water tanks to facilitate more efficient restroom maintenance.
- Staff regularly makes contact with trail users having dogs and bicyclists speeding. We are noticing more and more trail users using earbuds while on the trail. This poses a safety issue as these trail users tend to be less aware of their surroundings. Education efforts are being made.

San Bruno Mountain

- Staff has restored the Edward Bacciocco Jr. Day Camp, which was closed 11 years ago due to budget constraints. The Day Camp is now available for group camping use to offset the loss of group camping at Memorial Park this summer.
- Trail Center volunteers did trail tread work on the Bog Trail and constructed a boardwalk over a natural water seep in the trail tread.
- Staff responded to a “suspicious activity” call near 400 Radio Road and found evidence of copper theft from the abandoned American Tower facility. We are requesting American Tower to secure all of their facilities and working with a contractor to secure the park’s West Peak shop facility.

DISTRICT II

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

- Staff and CDC crews from Ben Lomond have completed string cutting and the mowing of 18 acres of nonnative grasses including Star Thistle. Treated acreage is located off Canada Road behind the PG&E Jefferson Substation.
- A concrete contractor has started preparing the pathways from the parking lots to the Ed Center. The colored, textured and stamped concrete pathways and staircase will greatly improve ADA access and prevent the currently existing ground rock pathways from eroding into the watershed during winter storms.
- The Friends of Edgewood hosted night hikes on June 7 and July 26.

Flood Park

- Summer intern Julie Cantor is researching price, scheduling and operation procedures for multi-use fields along the peninsula. This will inform our plan for reopening the park’s playing facilities and future uses.
- We received synthetic turf from the College of San Mateo Sports Field for reuse at the park. This will replace the existing unplayable grass field. The reuse of this turf will save make the field playable, save water and improve the looks of the field.
- Three new ash bins were installed on concrete pads in strategic locations to streamline collecting ashes from BBQ pits and secure them in a safe location away from patrons.

Huddart Park

- Staff and CDC crews have removed many dead and hazardous trees at Toyon Camp Ground, and are removing and reducing the amount of ladder fuels throughout the camping areas.
- Individual campsite posts and signs have been produced and installed to create 20 new family camping sites at the three Toyon group camping areas to meet the demand for family camping sites due to this summer's Memorial Park campground closure.
- The restroom at the Toyon #3 campground number was restored and the septic and sewer line replaced. Showers are available.
- An SCA crew painted the Werder Shelter, installed a split rail fence around the newly laid asphalt parking area and helped with fuel reduction around the Werder Loop.
- The Girl Scouts' annual month long summer camp event ends July 31. This event introduces thousands of young girls to the outdoor experience and provides them valuable social skills training.

Wunderlich Park

- Maintenance staff is upgrading the riding arena subgrade and installing new posts and rails. Additionally, a tree contractor removed hazardous limbs and trees located in and around the arena.
- Park staff are filling potholes and low spots in the road and parking areas of Wunderlich Park and the Woodside Store.

Friendship Park

- All the planter beds are being used and a vast array of fruits and vegetables are growing.
- A "Little Library" is being prepared for installation. This structure provides a local place for donated books to support a program of making books available locally and particularly to youth.

DISTRICT III-SOUTH COAST

Memorial Park Complex

- Staff built a horse bridge for Parke Gulch Trail in Pescadero Creek Park with available materials on hand and then built up the approaches to the bridge.
- Staff continue to brush back trails in Pescadero Creek Park, using hand tools and power tools, to effect fire fuel reduction and support visitors safety.
- To conserve water, on June 10, showers were closed in Memorial Park. This was done to conserve water. On June 16, overnight camping was closed at Memorial Park. We assisted administrative staff calling campers regarding their future reservations. Porta-potties were ordered for the day use and Huckleberry Group reservation site at the park.
- Also on June 10, showers for both riders and horses at Jack Brook Horse Camp were shut down, and Porta-potties were brought in and located in the Sam McDonald Park parking lot. County Service Area 7 (CSA 7) is the water provider for La Honda and the Sam McDonald Park.

- Staff painted the Memorial Park gatehouse for the beginning of the 90th Anniversary Celebration. The paint and painting supplies were donated.
- Memorial Park hosted a 90th Anniversary event on June 28. A presentation on bird species in the park was made by the Audubon Society followed by a hike.
- Staff began work in the newly acquired Loma Mar Redwoods property with mowing to reduce fire fuel, installation of signs and a section of split rail fence, and painting the motorcycle barrier and gates painted.

DISTRICT IV

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve/Quarry Park/Pillar Point Bluff/Mirada East & West

- A deck extension was built at the Visitor Center to accommodate a future monitor program of interpretive videos for the Reserve
- Staff and Friends docents sponsored a Junior Naturalist Camp Program.
- We received a donation of new specimen jars from Texas A&M for the Visitor Center
- Visitor Center received full permitting through NOAA for all mammal specimens
- A whale flipper specimen, mounted by former Ranger Bob Breen, will be added to the Visitor Center displays
- A new restroom at Mirada Surf West was installed and is now open for public use
- A restroom is being constructed and installed at Moss Beach Park
- Preparation site work and components were ordered for the playground improvements at Moss Beach Park

San Pedro Valley/Sanchez Adobe/Devil's Slide

- San Pedro Valley Park will be closed on August 5 to repair a main water line leak
- The native plant garden is being restored at the San Pedro Valley Park Visitor Center through grant funding
- AB109 and Parks staff conducted annual trail brushing maintenance at San Pedro Valley Park
- A SCA crew and staff painted facilities at the Sanchez Adobe Historical Site
- Conducting annual mowing throughout District
- New memorial bench dedications installed at Devil's Slide
- Several event trail runs have been held at San Pedro Valley Park

DISTRICT V

Maintenance

- Water line installation project at Huddart Park (Redwood picnic area) completed.
- Conducted annual field mowing at various District areas for fire fuel reduction, aesthetics and vegetation management (CST, JSP, SBMT, Horse Camp, Coastside).
- Removed several large hazardous trees at Coyote Point and Huddart Park.
- Staff assisted with the Park Ranger II practical examination.
- Sign Shop-Produced District signs for Memorial Park Camping Closure, Devil's Slide, and others), CuriOdyssey, DPW-Facilities and Maintenance, and for the d Parks Foundation.

- Installed a security roll-up counter door and viewing deck for the Reserve's Video Monitor Project
- Replaced and repaired coin receiving unit on Marina boat wash pedestal.
- Completed repairs and servicing on Park equipment (Tractors, mowers, etc).
- Made Beach Group playground site preparations for new play structures.
- Made Wunderlich arena improvements.
- Installed back flow assembly on water supply line to the Horse Camp.
- Assisted with the "Take A Kid" Fishing program.
- Provided equipment training on tractor operation to staff at San Pedro Valley and Memorial Parks.