

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Parks Department

**DATE:** July 29, 2014**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** August 7, 2014

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Carla Schoof, Community Programs Specialist

SUBJECT: Volunteer and Community Programs Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND:

Program updates and items of interest to the Commission.

DISCUSSION:**Volunteer Activities**

In the final quarter of this fiscal year, 7,600 volunteer hours were contributed to the Parks Department. In total, 27,900 hours were dedicated to volunteer projects during the FY 2013-14. The efforts of friends and other park affiliated groups represent approximately half of the volunteer hours contributed. During this year, a number of youth and school groups continued their commitment to County Parks, including College of San Mateo biology students, Nativity School, Pinewood School, Sacred Heart School, Sequoia High School, North Shoreview Montessori, German American School, and the Bowdoin Alumni Association. Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops consistently volunteer in the parks and County Parks often serve as the project site for Eagle Scout and Gold Award projects. Over the years we have developed a good relationship with several local-based corporate groups. The following corporate groups volunteered in Parks during FY 2013-14: Life Technologies, Owler, ECC, VISA, Woodruff-Sawyer, Gilead, and Oracle. Earlier this year a group of Salesforce employees set a goal of reaching 2,000 volunteer hours in County Parks by the beginning of 2015.

Devil's Slide Trail Ambassador Program

Trail Ambassador training continued April through June with a total of 54 Ambassadors now trained to patrol the trail. The volunteers file reports that include contact with the public which includes answering visitor questions or reminding visitors of the trail rules, such as dogs must be on leash and visitors must stay on the trail and not cross over the

barriers. In addition, the Ambassadors document visitors seen on the trail by type (adult, youth, bike, walk, dogs) and count. During this past quarter, the Ambassadors have received enrichment training by biologists with the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge on shorebirds, US Fish and Wildlife bird biologists, and by Toni Corelli who shared her knowledge about plants found at Devil's Slide.

Community Activities

The 4-H Million Trees project volunteers will celebrate the planting of the project's millionth tree on Saturday, August 16 at 9 a.m. in Huddart Park. San Mateo County Parks is honored to serve as the planting location for this milestone tree and to host the ceremony. The partnership that 4-H Million Trees and Parks forged three years ago has been mutually beneficial. Flood, San Pedro Valley and Huddart Parks are home to many of the trees that are part of the successful 4-H program.

Memorial Park's 90th anniversary celebration continues with the following anniversary events:

- **September 6** - [Take A Hike!](#) at Memorial Park, 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
- **September 13** - Bats! A presentation and night hike by Corky Quirk, Yolo Basin Foundation, 5-7 p.m.
- **September 27**- [BioBlitz](#): Teams of volunteer scientists, families, students, teachers, and other community members work together to find and identify as many species of plants, animals, microbes, fungi, and other organisms as possible.