



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: September 25, 2015

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: October 1, 2015

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Brenda Bennett, Executive Secretary
SUBJECT: Informational Items

1. Director Finley's report back to the Board of Supervisors per their request for the September 22, 2015 budget revision hearing.
2. Announcement of Public Workshop for the Coyote Point Recreation Area Eastern Promenade Rejuvenation Project on October 22, 2015 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Captain's House.
3. Fall 2015 article in VIA, AAA magazine, on Devil's Slide Trail: *A slice of Pacific Heaven*



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Parks

Members Memorandum

INFORMATION ONLY

DATE: September 14, 2015

TO: Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors
via the County Manager

FROM: Marlene Finley, Parks Director

SUBJECT: 2015-17 Budget Hearing Report Backs: Park's Department

Whale Tail License Plate Grant Program

In 2013, San Mateo County Parks successfully secured a \$15,000 *Explore the Coast* grant award from the California State Coastal Conservancy. The *Explore the Coast* program was funded in part by the Whale Tail® License Plate Program. The grant underwrote startup costs for the Devil's Slide Trail Ambassador Program.

The Devil's Slide Trail Ambassadors help the Park Rangers by observing and reporting on trail use and conditions. These trained Ambassadors also educate and assist visitors by answering questions, distributing maps, and advising visitors of park regulations and trail etiquette,

We've been told that a future competitive cycle of the *Explore the Coast* program will be announced in Fall 2015 or Winter 2016. We will review the new guidelines and our strategic plan to identify programs or projects that would be a good match.

Honor Camp Re-Use Update

The Director of California Conservation Corps reported that this organization is not interested in the Honor Camp at this time.

On September 15, 2015, Outward Bound of California will visit the Honor Camp to explore its potential for a Center in San Mateo County. For some background: in August, San Mateo County Parks was approached by Outward Bound of California's Executive Director, Board Member and program staff expressing interest in staging programs out of County Parks. Outward Bound provides experience-based leadership programs for youth and young adults. They lead year-round programs in public schools and in partnership with youth-serving nonprofits. The nonprofit began in 1941 and is represented throughout the country. In 2008 Outward Bound launched its first West

Coast urban based center in San Francisco to reach more underserved youth in urban areas.

We look forward to growing our partnership with Outward Bound in San Mateo County.

Nominating Sam McDonald House and Park for the National Register of Historic Places

Following a successful site visit with Sam McDonald's niece and community members this summer, San Mateo County Parks' staff has pursued steps toward nominating Sam McDonald's House in Pescadero Creek watershed for the register of National Historic Places. Parks Director Marlene Finley spoke with Mitch Postel, the President of the San Mateo County Historical Association, about the idea and process.

In addition, Golden Gate National Recreation Area Park Superintendent, Chris Lehnertz, has offered to contact the National Park Service's regional historian to assist in the effort, since the National Park Service is the keeper of the National Historic register. While this is a promising start, there is much more work that needs to be done. Building a coalition of experts to assist in the nomination has been our first step.

Parks and Recreation Coordination with North County

County Parks has been taking steps toward enhancing engagement in the North County area. We are in the process of establishing a new Parks District, District VII, to be staged out of Junipero Serra Park for coverage of San Bruno Mountain and Junipero Serra Parks. In addition, the potential partnership with Outward Bund could increase programs in the North County.

Park's Business Division Proposal

We are still working on this proposal.

San Mateo County Parks' Visitor Survey

County Parks is contracting with San Francisco State University's Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism to complete a survey of both current visitors and those who are not using County Parks. The goals of the survey and focus groups are to provide new information and recommendations for park uses and community engagement that are aligned with the five-year strategic plan; to understand visitors' desires and preferences regarding park facilities and resources that meet the needs of changing populations; and to identify and eliminate barriers that may have prevented underserved communities from visiting County Parks. Focus groups will begin this Fall, followed by onsite visitor surveys in Spring 2016.

cc: Michael Callagy, Deputy County Manager
Parks and Recreation Commission
Eduardo Castillo, Management Analyst



JOIN US! Attend our Public Workshop about the rejuvenation of Coyote Point's Eastern Promenade.

**Thursday,
October 22, 2015
6:00 to 8:00 pm**

At the Captain's House
Coyote Point Recreation Area
1701 Coyote Point Drive
San Mateo, CA 94401



Please join us for a presentation of our preliminary plans to rejuvenate the Coyote Point Promenade and Beach area. You'll learn about the project and will be invited to comment on the plans for the beach, dunes and sand play area, promenade trail, restroom and three new parking areas.

Additional information will be posted to the project website before the Public Workshop. Visit parks.smcgov.org/coyote-point-eastern-promenade-rejuvenation-project.

For more information or to sign up for future project notifications, contact Cecily Harris, Project Manager at (650) 363-4027 or charris@smcgov.org.

[on the road]



Benches allow visitors to linger with a view.

A slice of Pacific heaven

Cars no longer reign on a gorgeous stretch of the San Mateo coast.

SHEER CLIFFS, crashing surf, circling peregrine falcons and red-tailed hawks—the **Devil's Slide Trail** just south of Pacifica, Calif., packs an astonishing array of natural beauty into a 1.3-mile stretch of what was once Highway 1.

Two years ago, vehicle traffic was rerouted through the new Tom Lantos Tunnels. Now pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians own the road, which was repaved and lined with interpretive panels and welcoming benches. Early fall is often pleasant and breezy; view-obscuring fog tends to burn off by midday.

Turn your gaze upward to discover dramatic examples of the coastal erosion that earned the area its name, including exposed layers of shale and sandstone pushing up against the granite slopes of Montara Mountain. The downside of such epic scenery? Limited space for parking at the path's two ends. To avoid frustration, arrive early or visit on weekends, when 15 daily buses link Pacifica to the northern trailhead.

If that trail feels like merely a warm-up, you can head inland to Old Pedro Mountain Road, a steep track that switchbacks through McNeely Ranch State Park. The route follows the 1913 road that was replaced by Highway 1, giving hikers and bikers ample opportunity to imagine the white-knuckle rides of yore.

—ERIC SMILLIE

JEWEL CITY
ART FROM SAN FRANCISCO'S
PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HERBST EXHIBITION GALLERIES
de Young
GOLDEN GATE PARK

OPENS OCTOBER 17, 2015

This exhibition is organized by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. President's Circle: Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund. Benefactor's Circle: National Endowment for the Arts.

Arthur Mathews, *The Victory of Culture over Force (Victorious Spirit)*, 1914 (detail). Oil on canvas. San Francisco War Memorial