

# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Parks Department



**DATE:** July 27, 2017

**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** August 3, 2017

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Sarah Birkeland, Acting Parks Director  
**SUBJECT:** Director's Report

## **BUSINESS SERVICES**

### **Fiscal Year-end, June 30-July 1, 2017**

We will release data on final revenues, expenditures and fund balances by the next Parks Commission meeting.

We have sought reimbursement of \$2,026,000 for Measure K initiatives that include work performed on the Parks Shuttle Program, Sanchez Adobe Renovation, Loma Mar Geotechnical Study, Student Conservation Association Youth Corps, Fair Oaks Beautification Project, Ravenswood Bay Trail, Pescadero Old Haul Road Bridge Repair, Coyote Point Concession Study, Playground Improvements, Volunteer Stewardship Corps, Parks Baseline Mapping, Wunderlich Horse Riding Arena Improvements, and numerous other Parks operations and maintenance projects.

We have also sought reimbursement of \$447,000 from the General Fund for one time expenditures for work performed on various Parks upgrades. Included in the reimbursement request are the salary and benefits for the Management Fellow position. Unfortunately, this position will no longer be funded starting in FY 2017-18. Nevertheless, the Department is in need of this position to conduct contract management activities, budget monitoring and development support, performance measures data gathering, analysis and reporting, and special projects. Therefore, the Department is absorbing the cost of this position starting FY 2017-18.

September budget revisions are due to the County Manager's Office on August 25, 2017. The Board of Supervisors will conduct Adopted Budget Hearings on September 8, 2017.

### **Performance Measures**

Fiscal Year 2016-17 performance measures are due to the County Manager's Office by September 8, 2017. The department will report on measures that include visitor counts,

volunteer hours, customer satisfaction ratings, cost per capita, new park acres acquired, capital projects completed on time and on budget, percent of Marina berths filled, cost per berth, and Marina tenants satisfaction ratings.

## **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

### **Coyote Point Recreation Area**

Two new Electronic Vehicle Charging stations were installed at Magic Mountain playground parking lot in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability, Planning, and Public Works departments.

### **Coyote Point Marina Dredging**

Final permit approval from the Army Corp of Engineers was received in early June giving the County the green light for this summer's episode of dredging. The project was awarded to Salt River Construction with The Board of Supervisors passing and adopting a Resolution to execute an agreement with Salt River for this summer's episode of dredging. Salt River successfully completed the Marina's last episode of dredging in 2010.

### **Flood Park**

The Red Rock Volley Ball Club graciously donated tens of thousands of dollars to upgrade the two sand volleyball courts in the park. The first Bike Rodeo event was held at Flood Park, with hundreds of people attending. The event focused on bicycle safety for the underserved community, and safety gear such as bicycle helmets were handed out.

### **Pescadero Creek Park**

FEMA visited the Old Haul Road in Pescadero Creek Park to assess storm damage to the Humboldt Crossings on June 13 and on June 22, a number of regulators and RCD visited the damaged Crossings to evaluate ways forward for their repair.

### **Sam McDonald Park**

Parks staff welcomed the Outdoor Afro hiking group for a guided hike of the Sam McDonald Park and historical residence.

### **Memorial Park**

The Wurr Flats group area was reopened after the completion of tree work in the area. The Trail Center conducted a volunteer workday repairing trails in Memorial Park's trail network, including the Mount Ellen Nature Trail. The failure of wastewater lines caused the closure of restrooms and shower buildings in the Sequoia Campground and the Tan Oak Day Use Area. The District had to contract for emergency wastewater line replacements and the campground and day use area have been reopened. Rangers hosted an educational hike and outdoor activity for the Big Lift school program on July 14.

### **Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

The Education Center Grand Opening at FMR was a big success. High praise was received for the remodel of the exiting Visitor hut and the use of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology in the form of an interactive Sprout donated by Hewlett Packard.

### **Maintenance Section**

Rangers constructed a new storage shed at Junipero Serra Park, and a block storage area for District IV. They made Ranger residence improvements at Flood Park house and installed 2 new piñata pole sites at Junipero Serra Park. Maintenance also completed annual mowing of parks for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

### **Junipero Serra Park**

The Parks electrician updated lighting in restrooms and shelter buildings at Junipero Serra Park. The new lights are more energy efficient. New swings were installed in the Meadow View Playground, paid for by the improvement playground fund.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM)**

### **Staff conducts distribution monitoring of butterfly host species**

This summer our Park Aide, Sarah Roy, and SCA Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator, Jana Ng, have embarked on two key projects for San Bruno Mountain: lupine host plant monitoring and callippe silverspot butterfly distribution monitoring. Three lupine species serve as the host plant for the endangered mission blue butterfly. An important aspect of managing for this rare butterfly is to ensure it has sufficient stands of healthy host plants for its larvae to feed upon. These two important efforts were completed in July. Look for an article written by Jana Ng on mission blue butterflies on the NRM webpage!

### **Stewardship Corps celebrates its launch year**

In June, the Stewardship Corps team hosted an appreciation party to thank all the volunteers for their time and service to the parks. Our team, led by NRM Specialist Ranger Michele Laskowski, has been busy this summer working on planning continued programming and restoration projects in the Parks. The team finalized the Stewardship Corps Fall 2017 - Spring 2018 activity schedule after visiting all the sites and determining what areas need additional planting or maintenance. The team has worked to identify additional ways to reach more prospective volunteers and have expanded the use of MailChimp.com to tailor outreach and improve the quality of communications from the Natural Resource Management Program.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> the Stewardship Corps program partnered with the Junior Ranger program to provide additional opportunities for youth to engage in natural resource management activities within our parks.

### **SCA Intern undertakes Global Information Systems (GIS) data review**

Over the last two months the SCA GIS Senior Intern, Erik Schmielt, has inventoried all the Parks GIS layers in an attempt to streamline our data and pinpoint data management needs. The Parks department is transitioning to a new county-wide information model and our filesystem needs to be cleaned and inventoried for gaps

before integration. Schmiett has been key in creating, maintaining, and troubleshooting maps for our field crew to collect data on butterflies and critical host plants on San Bruno Mountain.

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Commemorative Bench and Table Program contributions FY 2016-17**

The Parks Department accepts donations for benches or picnic tables to recognize or memorialize individuals, groups, or significant historical individuals or events. For Fiscal Year 2016/2017, the Department dedicated 12 benches and 1 picnic table, with contributions for these totaling \$64,500. All revenues from commemorative benches are deposited into a Bench Trust Fund for use for the Department's Commemorative Facilities Program.

### **San Mateo County Healthy Parks Healthy People Planning Begins**

The Department is a member of the Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPPH) Bay Area collaborative which is comprised of Bay Area park and open space agencies that work to further the concept of wellness in relation to outdoor spaces. In June representatives from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Supervisor Carole Groom's office, San Mateo County Health Planning and Nutrition Educators, and San Mateo County Library Services came together to initiate a framework that would support outreach to underserved populations who have limited access to green space as a means to maintain and improve their health.

The output from the meeting included development of a mission, goals and priority areas in which to focus. The priority efforts for the group fall into the categories of people, programs and resources.

### **Intern/Fellow Assist with Park Projects**

The Department was fortunate to recruit a recent graduate of the University of San Francisco and a current student at the University of Santa Cruz to assist with two important programs. Shelan Zuhdi will work on Marine Protected Area projects aimed at informing fishermen and visitors about the purpose of the MPA and restrictions in those area. She is also developing a multi-lingual tool for enforcement personnel to use when educating fishermen and visitors who do not speak English. Shelan received her MS in environmental management with a concentration in ecology.

Sana Sheikholeslami is supporting the Park Shuttle program through outreach and engagement efforts with a focus on seniors and youth. She will also partner with an intern with the City of Redwood City to cross promote the shuttle and downtown Redwood City activities, including the Farmer's Market and special events at the Courthouse Square. Sana will return to UC Santa Cruz in the fall as a sophomore.

### **Proposal to Name Pillar Point Bluff Trails**

San Mateo County Parks Department acquired Pillar Point Bluff as an addition to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in 2011. However, when the property was transferred only one of the trails had a name: the Jean Lauer Trail (created in memory of a former POST

staffer). Using existing physical landmarks Parks is naming the following remaining trails within the property:

- Pillar Point Bluff Trail
- Frenchman's Reef Trail
- Ross' Cove Trail

Ranger Katherine Wright created the attached map to show the designated trails and their new associated names and submitted this for approval by the District Supervisor Matthew DelCarlo, Superintendent Scott Lombardi, and Acting Director Sarah Birkeland. (see attached map)

## **VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **SCA Crews start work and celebrate a 9-year collaboration**

Two Student Conservation Association (SCA) Summer Youth Crews began work on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. County Parks celebrated our nine-year partnership with SCA and the Parks Foundation by having both crews sharing their first work day at Coyote Point. We celebrated with a cake. Supervisor Carole Groom and Michele Beasley also attended.

### **Take a Hike proves very popular**

Parks has gone to a reservation system for the Take-a-Hike program because there are so many people showing up at these events. Even for a very foggy day at San Bruno Mountain there were over 50 attendees and the Quarry Park Take-a-Hike had a very large turnout.

### **Parks partners with SMC Libraries**

San Mateo County Parks partnered with the San Mateo County Libraries to host field trips for their BIG LIFT Summer Camps. We hosted 5 different field trips to parks in June and July for a total of over 500 kids!

### **Parks' first ever Kite festival a huge success**

The Coyote Point Kite Festival was a great success with support from Carol Groom's office, the San Mateo County Parks Foundation, Recology, the Burlingame Lions Club, San Mateo County Libraries, CuriOdyssey, and Peninsula Clean Energy. The event had over 600 attendees and featured a Taiko drumming presentation from San Mateo Buddhist Temple Taiko and the amazing kite display from the Berkeley Kite Wranglers. We're hoping this is the beginning of an annual event!