

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: July 20, 2015

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: August 6, 2015

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: Natural Resource Manager Report

RECOMMENDATION

Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND

This report covers research and activities since the Commission's June 4, 2015 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Countywide Initiatives

GIS

Two Student Conservation Association (SCA) teams have completed the inaugural season of the GIS-focused tablet data collection. Trails data was collected using new methods for data collection and standardization.

County-wide Enterprise GIS Roadmap: Rangers and key administrative staff attended the July 27th GIS kick-off presentation by Geographic Technologies Group (GTG). GTG and Parks staff had a focused interview later that week to discuss Parks specific needs and user landscape.

Collaboration

The Natural Resource Manager (NRM) is coordinating efforts with Department of Public Works (DPW) on an update to the Watershed Protection Standards Manual and in preparation to apply to regulating agencies for programmatic permits. A tour planned by the NRM took place on June 15th and follow up documents and data were submitted to the DPW contractors to aid in the process in late July.

Fuel Reduction Projects

A fuel break maintenance project was completed during the first week in August for El Granada Boulevard. This effort was in coordination with Park District IV and SCA.

NRM/GIS Intern Rachele Hedges, who worked hard to ensure a quality product for the Parks Department and the adjacent El Granada residents.

Parks District Activities

Parks District I – North County

NRM is finalizing contracts for the upcoming vegetation work required by the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan (SBM-HCP). These will be presented to the SBM-HCP Trustees on August 19th for final approval. On July 15th the NRM presented to the City of Brisbane's Open Space and Ecology Committee on the vegetation management approach and is working with Brisbane staff to better coordinate vegetation management in SBM-HCP areas located in Brisbane.

Parks District II – South County

The NRM program has submitted a memo to the USFWS regarding restoration approach in Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve in light of PG&E's required maintenance work for the Line 109 pipeline scheduled for later this summer. The NRM has also been fielding questions and concerns about the Wunderlich hazard tree project in the parking lot and adjacent high traffic areas.

Parks District III – South Coast

The Resource Conservation District and the NRM program applied for CA Department of Fish and Wildlife grant funds to treat a large crib-log stream crossing along Old Haul Road in Pescadero Creek County Park. This project will address sediment discharges associated with an antiquated crossing and improve habitat for steelhead and Coho salmon. The NRM has spent two days a week in the field surveying for marbled murrelets.

Parks District IV - Midcoast

Contractor work to remove invasive iceplant and other species from Fitzgerald Marine Reserve's San Vicente Creek Phase I was completed this summer. Early visual inspections are indicating over 90% survival for the plants installed at the creek mouth. Additional plant material has been ordered to improve habitat in successfully treated areas later this fall. The NRM is developing the specific Phase II restoration plan for the grant funds secured for San Vicente Creek at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and for additional matching funds secured for the Surfer's Beach mitigation.