

**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Parks Department



**DATE:** January 25, 2016  
**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** February 4, 2016

**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 December 3, 2015 meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Countywide Initiatives**

**GIS**

Hannah Ormshaw, SCA Senior GIS Intern, presented to the San Mateo County-wide GIS User Meeting on January 14, 2016. Ormshaw presented on "ArcGIS Online & Collector App: Uses for Conservation & Natural Resource Management Projects in the County Parks Department." County Parks is a leader in the County at implementing tablet and smart phone apps for data collection and mapping needs in the field.

**Collaboration**

The Natural Resource Manager (NRM) attended the first meeting for the Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) Zone 6 recovery collaboration since 2011. The collaborative provides guidance on a variety of species recovery activities, areas for further research, and how to approach various management activities in habitat occupied by this endangered seabird.

**Stewardship Corps** kick-off events took place in January. The first event was in collaboration with SCA and San Bruno Mountain Watch on January 17 and 18. The community service events held during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend resulted in 200 native plants being planted and over 2,000 pounds of invasive species removed. Approximately 90 volunteers participated in Monday's event. The first NRM/Operations training took place on January 27, where ranger staff learned how to run Stewardship Corps planting events and develop good volunteer leaders to help County Parks in future volunteer stewardship events.

**Fire and Fuel Reduction**

County Parks recently had five additional staff (NRM and Operations) go through the *CALFIRE* sponsorship training for the CDC inmate crews in early February. These crews are integral to our fuel reduction work throughout the County Parks system.

*CALFIRE* received additional funding from the State for fuel management projects in the San Mateo and Santa Cruz units and worked with County Parks NRM program to identify candidate projects for this funding infusion. County Parks submitted four projects and received 20 crew days for projects at Quarry County Park and 20 crew days for projects at Huddart and Wunderlich County Parks. These additional crew days represent an approximately \$10,000 cost savings for additional fuel reduction work this year. This work is scheduled to begin February 3, 2016 and be completed by June 30, 2016.

### **Park District Activities**

#### **Park District I – North County**

NRM is coordinating with PGE for a small restoration project at Coyote Point Recreation area to address areas impacted by the recent transmission line tower work.

#### **Park District II – South County**

The NRM program held its quarterly coordination meeting with Edgewood County Parks and Natural Preserve stakeholders for natural resource management. The NRM program is working collaboratively with Creekside Science to support additional San Mateo thornmint reintroduction, grassland management for bay checkerspot butterfly species, and invasive species control. The NRM program also secured 20 additional CDC crew days for fuel reduction work at Huddart and Wunderlich County Parks.

#### **Park District III – South Coast**

The NRM program is working with marbled murrelet (MAMU) researchers and California State Parks on the MAMU Landscape Plan mentioned above in coordination.

#### **Park District IV - Midcoast**

Phase one of the San Vicente Creek bid to complete the initial work begun in 2014 was awarded to Go Native, Inc. Phase two of the San Vicente Creek restoration project scope of work was released and a site visit was held on January 21, 2016. Contractor bids are expected on February 1, 2016.

#### **Park District V – Maintenance *all areas***

Restoration seeding at Pigeon Point occurred during the rains in December before the holidays began. Additional monitoring will occur later this spring.

#### **Park District VII – North County**

The NRM program initiated two contracts with West Coast Wildlands (WCW) to oversee invasive species and scrub management along the recently cleared Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Line 132 gas pipelines. WCW has been working on San Bruno Mountain for over twenty years and is familiar with the sensitive species protections needed to implement this work. The NRM program has a new San Bruno Mountain intern, Dionne Dettmer. Dettmer is working with Senior GIS Intern Ormshaw to pilot different habitat monitoring protocols to update mission blue and callippe silverspot butterfly host and nectar plant maps, help create habitat quality definitions, and to develop a monitoring protocol for areas that have been restored after development activities.