

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: July 22, 2016

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: August 4, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Marlene Finley, Parks Director

SUBJECT: Parks Director's Report

BUSINESS SERVICES

Budget

Staff is in the middle of **FY 2015-16** fiscal year-end activities, and financial books close the end of July. Year-end financial reports will be available the second week in August. A full report of the FY 2015-16 budget year will be made to the Commission at the October meeting. All current data indicates that we will remain within budget.

FY 2016-17 budget activities began on July 1. Staff is in the process of creating new Budget Monitoring, Capital Projects and Measure A Projects spreadsheets used to track these expenditures throughout the new fiscal year to keep us within our budget.

The Parks Department is one of six County departments piloting Perspectives, which is a new system for departments to report on their performance measures to the Board of Supervisors. Perspectives will provide departments more flexibility by allowing the addition of photos and videos to the presentation, making it more of a story than just graphs and numbers. We are gathering the year-end performance data from the seven Park districts to analyze for inclusion in our year-end report.

Digitizing Maps and Facility Condition Inventory System Update

Approximately 6900 sheets of County Park maps have been scanned into PDF format and are being indexed. Upon map scanning completion, the Final or "As Built" plans will be linked to existing facilities through the County Park Facility Conditions Index System. Digitized plans and maps with facility condition inventory are instrumental for project and budget planning. These digitized documents will create enhanced efficiencies for the Department using updated technology.

Posted on the County Parks Website

Winter storm events caused significant erosion of the Pillar Point bluffs requiring emergency fencing and the posting of signs warning of unstable cliff conditions. A Geotechnical Hazard Assessment of the area prepared for the Department advises

where trails, overlooks and fencing should be considered for public safety, and is posted on the County Parks website at <http://parks.smcgov.org/press-release/report-details-erosion-pillar-point-bluff-safety-plans-development>.

Request for Proposals

The Department is requesting proposals from on call professional services consultants to prepare a Programmatic Environment Impact Report for the Flood Park Landscape Plan.

Sustainability Plan Update

Energy assessments have been completed by Energy Watch of our three highest energy use parks: Coyote Point Recreation Area, Memorial, and San Pedro Valley. Lighting assessments have been prepared for Coyote Point Recreation Area, Memorial, San Pedro Valley, Edgewood, Huddart and Wunderlich Parks. Staff is working with PG&E on a 0% loan for Energy Watch to implement \$90,000 of identified energy and lighting improvements.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Marbled Murrelet Surveys

Marbled murrelet surveys are being conducted again this year and staff is working collaboratively with others in the Santa Cruz Mountains on monitoring efforts. Five different sites are being monitored on the same days during the 2016 nesting season to increase understanding of the different areas being used by Marbled murrelets in Pescadero Creek County Park, Butano State Park, Gazos Mountain Camp, Portola State Park, and Big Basin State Park. An annual report will be prepared this fall.

San Bruno Mountain 2016 Butterfly Monitoring is Complete

Both San Bruno elfin butterfly larvae and Callippe silverspot adults were surveyed. We counted 308 San Bruno elfin butterfly larvae during our survey efforts in May. We observed 178 Callippe silverspot adults along or in transit to thirteen fixed transects monitoring May 31 through June 23, and 32 additional adults during a training on May 27.

SCA in the Parks

Senior SCA GIS Intern, Hannah Ormshaw, is leading the student conservation crews dedicated to GIS data collection. The crews use the ESRI Collector app in the field on iPads to collect GIS data on the features and condition of the parks trail systems, the presence or invasive plant populations within the parks, and to complete an inventory of all recreational and operations related facilities.

Wildlife Cameras

David Jaeckel, a Management Fellow in the Office of Sustainability, is working with staff to plan a wildlife picture index using wildlife cameras. Cameras may be in place in county parks as early as fall 2016 complete with data collection using GIS tools.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Coyote Point Recreation Area

Staff restored a redwood memorial park bench damaged by vandals and repaired an

eight-inch drainpipe in the lower CuriOdyssey parking lot roadway.

Crystal Springs Regional Trail

The SFPUC's Black acacia tree removal project is causing partial Trail closures during the week. The Trail is open on the weekends.

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

PG&E completed repair of damage they had caused with their pipeline hydro testing. Repairs included re-grading and rocking sections of the road, reestablishing water bars and drainages, and repairing fences.

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

Installation of a new two-room shed is scheduled. Interpretive displays will be housed in one room and ranger operations in the other room. The plan is to convert the existing one-room shed into a small visitor center.

Junipero Serra Park

Maintenance staff repaired a water line break.

July's Take A Hike was a lively event with about 65 people participating, including Supervisor Carole Groom. Hikers gathered in the Meadow View Area and enjoyed warmups with Dr. Kapur before setting off on their hike. Dr. Kapur is relocating to Southern California so this was his last Take A Hike with San Mateo County Parks.

Memorial Park

Sequoia and Azalea campgrounds are booked to maximum capacity. The amphitheater A/V project is nearly complete.

Mirada Surf and Pillar Point Bluffs

Over the last several weeks, visitors have had numerous sightings of whales and exciting whale activity. At the unveiling of the new path and stairs north of Mirada (Surfer's Beach), Supervisor Horsley and others were treated to great views of breaching whales 30 yards from shore.

Sam McDonald Park

Trail Center volunteers and staff worked on restoring a section of the Forest Loop Trail.

San Pedro Valley

Maintenance has nearly completed the Visitor Center flooring project and has completed the ranger residence project.

VoCal volunteers will brush trails and make tread repairs for two days at San Pedro Valley Park.

PROGRAMS

Commemorative Benches and Tables

This year nine new commemorative benches and tables were dedicated at various sites including Devil's Slide and Sawyer Camp Trails, and Huddart, Memorial, San Bruno Mountain, and San Pedro Valley County Parks. Parks has 135 commemorative benches and tables.

County Parks Shuttle Program

Shuttle stops have been confirmed at East Palo Alto City Hall, Fair Oaks Community Center, Redwood City Transit Center, and Edgewood and Wunderlich County Parks. Marketplace Park remains to be approved. Parks staff rode the shuttle route with MV Transportation, Inc. to verify mileage and estimated times. The Board of Supervisors will consider an agreement with MV Transportation, Inc. at the August 9, 2015 meeting for shuttle service. Meetings have been held with the Friends of Edgewood, Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich and Chaparral (Folger Stable concessionaire) to discuss activities and programs for the park visitors. Next steps include an agreement with a marketing communications firm to prepare a logo and various marketing collateral documents, hiring a Community Programs Intern to focus on community outreach and partnering with the North Fair Oaks Forward staff on additional outreach and partnership building. Estimated launch date is the Labor Day weekend.

Interpretive and Naturalist Program

Two Naturalists were hired for Memorial Park to provide nature hikes, campfire story nights, and family educational activities through Marbled murrelet grant funding.

PROJECTS**Coastside Multi-Modal Trail Phase 1 and 2**

County Planning has completed Phase 1 of the Coastside Multi-Modal Trail, which involved 30% design plans, and an Initial Study toward preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration, and issuance of a Coastal Development Permit. A Phase 2 contract is being initiated to prepare 60%, 90%, and 100% plans and specifications that the Department of Public Works will use to go out to bid for the project. County Parks secured some grant funding, as a portion of the project is located on Mirada Surf East. The Parks Department is anticipated to manage operations and maintenance following construction. Department staff has been involved in all stages of the project.

Coyote Point Eastern Promenade

The 90% Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) have been fully reviewed by Public Works engineers and Parks staff. Consultants are now preparing the 100% PS&E, which should be available in late August/early September. Grant applications have been prepared and submitted to the California Natural Resources Agency and California State Coastal Conservancy. Discussions have started with California Division of Boating and Waterways for an additional grant application.

Coyote Point Marina Dredging

The Board of Supervisors at their June 28, 2016 meeting unanimously approved a contract with TranSystems to prepare plans and specifications, secure permits, and oversee a yet to be determined contractor to dredge the next phase of the Coyote Point Marina.

Coyote Point Recreation Area Improvements

The **City of San Mateo Public Works** is planning to replace a pump station. The Bay Trail will need to be detoured for construction. A new Humane Society building will be under construction in the near future in this same general location. Park staff is meeting

with both project teams to determine the optimum Bay Trail detour route during construction.

Crystal Springs Regional Trail Complete the Gap Trail Segment

The Department is negotiating a grant contract with San Mateo County Transportation Authority. Our project team will meet in early August to review Request for Proposals for a consulting firm to prepare PS&E for this important multi-use trail segment.

Green Valley Trail

Consultants are preparing the 90% PS&E, which should be available in late July/early August 2016.

Quarry Park Improvements

Replacement playground equipment for two to five year olds has been ordered for installation.

Application for a Coastal Development Permit has been made for: 1) drainage improvements to existing road culverts that do not involve creeks, 2) removal of an old shed at Quarry Park and installing a new shed in the community garden for tool storage, 3) installation of two sheds on a concrete pad for Park storage and equipment needs, and 4) construction of a vista trail at the top of Quarry Park as identified by the Trail Center.

OWL at Coyote Point Recreation Area

Climate Access is working with the Office of Sustainability to install a virtual reality "OWL" device at the Coyote Point Recreation Area for five months to interpret the impact of sea level rise. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission have issued approval for the project. A Building Permit is required, and County Parks is in the process of issuing an Encroachment Permit.

REAL PROPERTY

McKesson Dedication on San Bruno Mountain

The McKesson Corporation will dedicate 48 acres located behind the Crocker Industrial Park to the County in accordance with the requirements of the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Erosion problems have been resolved and survey boundaries have been identified in the field. A Restoration and Invasive Management Plan has been prepared, reviewed and approved by Park staff and the HCP Technical Advisory Committee.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Peninsula Working Group Regional Trails

Three meetings have occurred to date to develop a Draft Action Plan for the Peninsula Working Group. Priorities being discussed include completing the gaps in the Bay Trail, Ridge Trail and Coastal Trail; exploring opportunities for interagency cooperation and collaboration; understanding the cost to design plans and construct miles of regional trails and the cost to operate and maintain access; providing access programs to promote outreach to diverse communities and promote use of parks, open space and trails; and providing shuttles to open space.

Rediscovering America/Portola Trail

On February 8 and June 8, 2016, 40 individuals representing federal, state and regional agencies, federal, state and county legislators, community groups, and Native American tribes met to discuss recognition events related to the 250th anniversary of the Portola Expedition. Application to the National Park Service has been made for a Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance grant for assistance for this effort which will recognize 10,000 years of Native American settlement in San Mateo County, the impact of the Portola Expedition in anticipation of the 250th anniversary in 2019, and opportunities to complete the California Coastal Trail.

SPECIAL EVENTS**Diva's Half Marathon**

The third annual Diva's Half Marathon took place at Coyote Point Recreation Area with 1,500 participants on June 5, 2016. Participants arrived at 6:30 a.m. and the event concluded by approximately 10:30 a.m. Diva's Half Marathon is a national race organization that holds a series of half marathons in different U.S. and Puerto Rico locales.

Girl Scout Camps

Thousands of girls are experiencing the outdoors on a daily basis at the annual summer Girl Scout camps at Huddart County Park. Informational electronic billboards positioned along King's Mountain Road advise motorists of bus travel related to the Girl Scout camps.

Packing the Parks

The National Park Service is 100 years old. Throughout the national parks system, "Packing the Parks" activities celebrating this centennial are happening. Sanchez Adobe was part of one such local celebration. Two teams of 50 people each, mostly high school aged youth, participated in a four-day/three-night trail hiking and camping event. One team started their hike from Marin County; the other team from San Mateo County. On July 24, the two teams converged onto Chrissy Field for a public celebration. <http://www.parksconservancy.org/nps100/packing-the-parks/packingtheparks.html>

On July 21, one team met at the Farallones View Elementary School in Montara, and then hiked over Montara Mountain to Sanchez Adobe where they camped overnight. Park Ranger Katherine Wright, Interpretive Specialist, helped support the event. Mitch Postel, President of the San Mateo County Historical Association, talked with the group about the historical site, and a docent provided a demonstration of campfire building and how to start the campfire using sticks to create a spark. Golden Gate National Recreation Area staff supported by bringing tents and cooking for the group.