

**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Parks Department



**DATE:** November 19, 2015

**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** December 3, 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 October 1, 2015 meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Countywide Initiatives**

**GIS**

Hannah Ormshaw, SCA Senior GIS Intern, has finished a Fire Risk Analysis for San Mateo County Parks to provide guidance for fuel break installation prioritization. She will provide additional details in her report. Ormshaw is also developing a story map for the Bay Area-Peninsula regional collaboration known as the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network.

**Collaboration**

The Natural Resource Manager (NRM) attended a meeting for the Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) Landscape Plan aimed at developing an integrated approach to MAMU recovery for the Santa Cruz Mountains population. The Plan will provide 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 are planned in collaboration with SCA and San Bruno Mountain Watch in January over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Activities will focus on habitat enhancement through invasive species removal and small restoration plantings in the Bog Area at San Bruno Mountain. An additional planting event will be held in February at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

**Fire and Fuel Reduction**

County Parks submitted twenty project requests to *CALFIRE* for use of their CDC crews for fuel reduction work throughout all four Park Districts. *CALFIRE* approved all of these projects and the NRM program is currently supporting efforts for these project with biological surveys and

project descriptions for permitting as well as developing a process for new project requests and scheduling.

### **Trainings and Conferences**

As part of their annual symposium the California Invasive Plant Council held a special conference on Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP), *Habitat Conservation Planning and Invasive Plant Management*. County Parks oversees the management of the oldest HCP in the country, San Bruno Mountain Area HCP. This provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss and learn about how other HCPs operate and address invasive species management. California Native Plant Society (CNPS) hosts numerous trainings and workshops for botanists and land managers. The NRM attended the CEQA Impact Assessment workshop which identified best practices for writing and reviewing CEQA documents with special emphasis on botanical surveys.

### **Park District Activities**

#### Park District I – North County

NRM has been working with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to improve avoidance and minimization measures related to their regular infrastructure inspections on SBM. Deferred maintenance of gas line clearance has resulted in an increase in line clearing project which are being overseen by the NRM through the Site Activity Review process. Data analysis and the annual report for the endangered mission blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides missionensis*) is currently in draft form for the 2015 monitoring season.

#### Park District II – South County

The NRM program has been working collaboratively with PG&E for the restoration of Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve's high quality grassland that was disturbed during the Line 109 Hydrotest project for facility safety testing. Restoration began in November.

#### Park District III – South Coast

Steelhead and Coho salmon have two less migration barriers in Memorial Park with the recent completion of the flash-board dam removal and Sequoia Flats crossing improvements. Construction finished in October and this project was made possible through collaboration with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District.

#### Park District IV - Midcoast

Phase two of the San Vicente Creek restoration project will begin this winter. A request for proposals for continued invasive plant removal will be circulated in December. At least one planting date for this project will be advertised as part of the new Stewardship Corps program. Funding for the restoration is a combination of grant and mitigation funds for implementation.

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

Ranger maintenance staff did a great job fabricating the Stewardship Corps tool trailer. Due to a lack of two rain periods within seven days of each other, the Pigeon Point restoration project has been delayed. Restoration will occur sometime this winter when the rains are more consistent.