

**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Parks Department



**DATE:** March 29, 2018

**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** April 5, 2018

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Jonathan Gervais, Parks Director

**SUBJECT:** Director's Report

**Administrative and Fiscal Services**

As reported by Rolando Jorquera, Administrative Services Manager

**FY 2017-18**

As the fiscal year-end nears, the fiscal unit will concentrate on closely monitoring both revenues and expenditures to ensure that the Department remains within budget. The fourth and final quarter in FY 2017-18 begins in April.

The Administrative and Fiscal Services Unit is working closely with the Department of Human Resources and internal staff to hire and successfully onboard many positions, including:

- Assistant Parks Director;
- Park Rangers and Park Aides; and
- Administrative Assistant II (Limited-Term)

The Parks Department recently discussed key needs for Tunitas Creek Beach with the County Manager's Office (CMO). To manage the site, the Parks Department requested additional resources including staffing, equipment, and facilities. The Parks Department will submit an item on the April 10 Board of Supervisors meeting regarding additional funding for Tunitas Creek Beach. The recommendation to the Board will include adding three additional positions, including one Park Ranger III, one Park Ranger II, and one Capital Projects Manager. In total, Parks is requesting \$204,092 in FY 2017-18 for Tunitas Creek Beach. Other costs include Park Aides, vehicles, equipment, uniforms, and safety equipment.

The Capital Projects Manager will play a vital role in assisting with Tunitas Creek Beach as well as Parks' many other projects, including 19 capital projects. Pending Board approval, Parks will begin recruiting for the position on April 10.

### **FY 2018-19**

The second year of the two-year budget begins July 1, 2018; budget activities for FY 2018-19 have already begun. Updated internal service charges will be released soon. It is expected that certain service charges will increase, including from the Information Services Department and Department of Public Works. Any increases will be accounted for in the FY 2018-19 Recommended Budget.

As a result of countywide decreases in health benefit rates, there will be a corresponding decrease of about \$99,000 in benefits costs for FY 2018-19.

Over the next several weeks, the Administrative and Fiscal Services Unit will work with internal staff to review the FY 2018-19 Preliminary Recommended Budget to identify if any substantive changes are needed.

An additional budget deliverable has been added by the CMO for the upcoming fiscal year. Departments will be required to complete a 2.5 percent Net County Cost reduction exercise. To meet this requirement, which amounts to about \$300,000 for the Parks Department, internal staff will create a list of reduction and revenue generation measures.

Parks will submit its budget deliverables to the CMO on May 4, 2018 and present to the Board on June 26, 2018.

### **DISTRICT I – NORTH COUNTY**

Includes Coyote Point Park, Crystal Springs Trail/San Andreas Trail

As reported by Ty Kang, Ranger IV, Mario Nastari, Ranger III

#### **Coyote Point Recreation Area**

- Renovation of RV sites was completed, including installation of a base rock pad, split rail fencing, hardscaping, painted tables and installation of new BBQ pits.
- All staff attended CPR/First Aid training for their annual recertification.
- New trees were planted at the New Beach/Magic Mountain side of the park.
- Volunteers removed Lira, an invasive plant from the marsh area.
- Coyote Point Park was closed for 5 hours due to an overturned debris truck at Airport Boulevard and Coyote Point Drive. Rangers assisted with traffic control and the escorting of CuriOdyssey, Marina, Rifle Range and Yacht Club personnel.
- Rangers Nastari, Castaneda & Gardner-attended the Invasive Pest Management workshop in Foster City.
- Staff replaced 19 deteriorated metal panels on the Magic Mountain Playground Castle.
- Ranger Concepcion attended Best Management Practices workshop at the Captain's House at Coyote Point.
- Staff performed clean-up after the recent storms.

### **Crystal Springs Trail**

- A redwood memorial bench was refinished and installed at Sawyer Camp Trail.
- Rangers attended the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Quarterly meeting.
- Staff performed clean-up after the recent storms.
- Staff reinstalled a vandalized redwood memorial bench at the .3 mile marker.
- Staff checked and cleared culverts along the trail.

In Memory of Park Ranger II Robert Kilonia, #84, March, 2018 'Rest In Peace'

### **DISTRICT II – SOUTH COUNTY**

Includes Edgewood Park & Preserve, Flood Park, Friendship Park, Huddart Park, Wunderlich Park

As reported by Dinora Dunsmore-Bertoni, Ranger III

### **Edgewood Park and Nature Preserve**

- Rangers Wright and Carney led a night hike on March 9 for about 30 people.
- A local Eagle Scout completed his Eagle Scout project replacing Bluebird boxes throughout the park.
- Docent led wildflower walks began on March 10 and run through June every Saturday and Sunday.
- Staff continue to monitor the shuttle bus and its riders coming to Edgewood on
- Visitor attendance has been very high on weekends.

### **Flood Park**

- A new roll top coat was installed over the rubber matting under the swing set area.
- Staff and maintenance continue to make repairs and replace parts to multiple pieces of playground equipment.

### **Friendship Park**

- Staff have continued weeding around planter boxes.
- Staff removed a piece of playground equipment due to the equipment continuously breaking/failing.

### **Huddart Park**

- The Park was host to a trail run on March 18 for 120 runners.
- Staff supervised two separate volunteer groups pulling broom, another invasive plant in the Redwood Area.
- A Wells Fargo Corporate group will be volunteering on March 30, spreading base rock under BBQ pits. This is done to prevent fires that could occur from coals falling out of BBQ pits onto the ground.
- A tuff shed was installed on Canada road for the south end closure of the road to store signs and cones used for closing the road on bicycle Sunday. The shed

was funded by the Parks Foundation.

- Staff have been checking/cleaning culverts/drainages and clearing downed trees during the rainy weather.
- Staff have been working with crews from the California Department of Corrections (CDC) on removing excess growth in the parks in order to reduce potential fire risks.

### **Wunderlich Park**

- Staff installed 600 feet of split rail fencing between the parking lot and Highway 84.
- Rangers Auda-Capel and Dunsmore-Bertoni attended the Volunteer Horse Patrol Training for new recruits/members on 3/7/18 and 3/14/18.
- Staff continue to monitor the shuttle bus and its riders coming to Wunderlich on the weekends.
- Staff continue checking/cleaning culverts/drainages and clearing downed trees during the rainy weather.

### **DISTRICT III – SOUTH COAST**

Includes Memorial Park, Pescadero Creek Park, Sam McDonald Park as reported by David Vasquez, Ranger IV

- The Student Conservation Association (SCA) held overnight camping and work days in Sam McDonald and Pescadero Creek Parks for three weekends in February. They performed maintenance on the Youth Camp Trail, as well as trail building work on the re-route section of the Portola Trail that was damaged by landslides.
- HydroScience Engineers Inc. conducted measurements and detailed analysis at Memorial Park's Sequoia Flats Campground in preparation for the construction of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Parks staff conducted scheduled maintenance of the Memorial Park Wastewater Treatment Plant including pumping and disinfecting the Clarifier and Solids Waste Disposal tanks.
- Electrical upgrades and repairs were conducted by Parks electrician to the Sam McDonald Visitor Center.
- Seasonal maintenance and contracted tree work was carried out at the Tarwater Trail Camps of Pescadero Creek Park.

### **DISTRICT IV – MID-COAST**

Includes Devil's Slide, James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Mirada Surf, Moss Beach Playground, Pillar Point Bluff, Quarry Park, San Pedro Valley, Sanchez Adobe  
As reported by Matt Del Carlo, Ranger IV

### **Fitzgerald/Mirada/Quarry/Pillar Point Bluffs/Moss Beach Playground**

- Staffing has been shifted to assist with low tides and seal pupping season at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. A time code has been added to our time sheets to track district park aide's time monitoring seals and the cone line.
- Access to Mirada East from Highway 1 is limited due to the sewer system upgrades for the mid coast.
- A call came in from a concerned dog walker about a possible coyote with mange at Mirada East. Staff has been patrolling looking for the coyote without success.
- Work will soon begin on safety fencing and signs at Pillar Point Bluff. This is to address erosion issues. This work will follow the guidelines specified from the consultant's report.
- Ranger Escoto has been hard at work getting bids and input from locals for playground upgrades to Moss Beach Park.

### **San Pedro Valley/Devils Slide/Sanchez Adobe/ Tunitas Beach**

- The Department Equipment Operator, Ranger Cardoza, was able to rock three-fourths of Weiler Ranch Road and with the good weather he will continue work on this area as time permits.
- The falcon pair is nesting again in the cave at Devil's Slide.
- The Visitor Center project for Sanchez has been moving forward, and the project can proceed as weather permits.
- A fence contract was executed for a security fence around the pink house at Tunitas Creek Beach. This is to stop graffiti and vandalism to the structure. We are looking into the possibility of PG&E installing a permanent power source at Tunitas.

### **DISTRICT V - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

As reported by Kevin Scott, Ranger IV

Note: There are no Parks in District V, this is our Maintenance Division.

- Septic lines were replaced at Huddart Park.
- Road maintenance was performed at San Pedro Valley, Weiler Ranch Road.
- Electrical work was performed at the Sam McDonald Visitor's Center.
- Interior finish work is near completion at Sam McDonald Visitor's Center.
- Hazard tree work was performed in Districts II and III.
- Planning is underway for asphalt repairs at the Marina.
- Planning is also underway for electrical upgrades at the Memorial Park Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## **DISTRICT VI – COYOTE POINT MARINA**

As reported by Mark Bettis, Harbormaster

### **Abandoned Boats**

Abandoned vessels create an ongoing problem in the Marina. Dealing with these boats is now a high priority. On March 7 a lien sale was conducted. One sailboat was sold, and one power boat was offered for sale with no bids proffered. This boat will be demolished. Liens were filed or re-filed on 12 additional vessels in March, and after the mandatory 90 day waiting period these vessels will be sold at auction or destroyed.

In an effort to decrease the number of new liens to file, the Harbor office is now working with a number of tenants who are in arrears or whose boats have deteriorated beyond repair. The goal is to reach solutions that avoid the Marina taking possession of the boats. We are helping boat owners to donate, sell, or have their boats demolished before they reach the point of abandonment.

### **Tenant Meeting**

A Marina tenant meeting was held on February 22 at the Coyote Point Yacht Club. A handful of boat owners showed up, along with Marina staff and Yacht Club members. Harbormaster Mark Bettis presented a slide show that covered current events around the harbor as well as a details on the new California Boater Card requirements.

A question and comment period followed the presentation, and various topics were discussed, including security, raccoons, long term dredging plans, lighting and the middle berm parking lot.

There will be another tenant meeting later in the year.

### **Lighting Upgrades**

The Department has upgraded the center berm restrooms with LED lighting, and is replacing fluorescent bulbs on the docks with LED light. The LED lights use less energy, last longer, and are significantly brighter than the fluorescent bulbs.

## **DISTRICT VII**

Includes Junipero Serra Park, San Bruno Mountain Park

As reported by Lisa Di Lorenzo, Ranger III

- January 22 – The SFPUC project started with tree removal for a new water pipeline project at Junipero Serra Park. The pipeline will run parallel to Crystal Springs Road. Tree removal will be completed by mid-April.
- In Junipero Serra Park staff began patching potholes that were created after the winter rains. The project will continue in the spring and be completed by May.

- On February 14, a car drove off Guadalupe Canyon Road and landed on the Ranch Road Trail in San Bruno Mountain Park. The driver was not injured but the road had to be closed for tow trucks to pull the vehicle from the park.
- February 22 – Brady Air removed the original furnace (1950) from the Junipero Serra Park shop and replaced it with a new efficient furnace. This project was funded by Measure K funds.
- March 11, park staff responded to motor bikes on the trails at San Bruno Mountain. SMC Deputies responded to the call and with park staff educated the rider of County Ordinances. A Courtesy Notice was given.
- Park maintenance staff prepared concrete pads for the Ventek machines at San Bruno Mountain and Junipero Serra Park. The Ventek machines will now accept credit/debit cards for entrance fees. This project was funded by Measure K and San Bruno Mountain Trust Fund.

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Interpretive Programs**

As reported by Laurel Finnegan, Ranger IV

Events				# of Attendees
Saturday	February 3rd	Nature Hike: Fungus/Lichen	FMR	<b>25</b>
Saturday	February 10th	Valentine's Day Arts and Crafts	Coyote Point	<b>40</b>
Saturday	February 17th	Sam McDonald History Hike	SMcD	<b>9</b>
Saturday	February 24th	Girl Scout Nature Hike	Huddart	<b>5</b>
Thursday	March 1st	Green Academy Presentation	Woodside High School	<b>50</b>
Thursday	March 8th	Science Night	Menlo Park Library	<b>200</b>
Friday	March 9th	Night Hike	Edgewood	<b>35</b>
Saturday	March 17th	St. Patrick's Day Arts and Crafts	JSP	<b>8</b>
Saturday	March 24th	Pupping Season Breakfast	FMR	
Wednesday	March 28th	Drew School Field Trip	SBM	

**Upcoming events include:**

Saturday April 7th	TAH + BBQ	Memorial
Saturday April 14th	Junior Ranger Event	FMR

**NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM)**

As reported by Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resources Manager

**NRM Coordination & Program Management**

The Natural Resource Management program has been working collaboratively to facilitate translocation of the endangered mission blue butterfly to other areas that have been restored within the County of San Mateo and in some cases the larger Bay Area. We worked with the USFWS and Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGRNA) to approve translocation of up to 60 adult butterflies from San Bruno Mountain to locations managed by GGNRA, including Milagra Ridge.

In addition to this work, we are also partnering with Creekside Science and other local entities to conduct seeding experiments related to summer lupine one of the three host species for mission blue butterflies.

The natural resource manager, Ramona Arechiga, has been working to help facilitate and collaborate with other agencies, and internal staff on a number of large projects that involve both natural resources, operations, and planning. The NRM manager has been examining the Tunitas Creek Beach emergency access project as it relates to vegetation and wildlife impacts, specifically related to the federally threatened western snowy plover. Another project includes Old Haul Road sediment reduction project associated with legacy stream crossings. This project is in collaboration with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District and will help meet the County-wide goals of sediment reduction in the Pescadero-Butano watershed. This ties directly to the recent collaboration with Department of Public Works and the Office of Sustainability to provide the Regional Water Quality Control Board comments on the recently released Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Pescadero-Butano watershed, which carries obligations to address sediment.

**NRM Team Updates**

***Arborist***

Dan Krug has been developing an Arborist Request and Tree Risk Assessment form for SMC Parks. As part of this effort he is also designing an associated training program including common tree defect identification. Just recently he has begun assessing select SMC park properties for tree related issues and have advised senior District staff in recommended management of identified risks. Dan is looking forward to initiating a regular inspection calendar. In addition he is reviewing Fire Safety Strategies for long term fuel reduction goals along the Parks borders with residential/urbanized areas. Dan is also currently researching and develop a best management procedure (BMP) for addressing tree inquiries from the public regarding Park owned trees. In the



short time he has been with Parks he has been pretty busy and greatly helping the Department!

### ***Natural Resource Specialist II***

Hannah Ormshaw is spearheading the efforts for butterfly monitoring at San Bruno Mountain for the coming monitoring season, which will include the bi-annual callippe silverspot and San Bruno elfin surveys, as well as surveys for presence of mission blue butterfly and mapping the host plant for callippe silverspot. She has been working with contractors and other agencies on the coordination of vegetation management and restoration project implementation across San Bruno Mountain. Hannah has begun to research and will provide assistance and input toward developing the technical advisory committee regarding the interest in establishing a grazing regime on San Bruno Mountain for improved butterfly habitat management and fuel reduction. Since joining the team she has already providing support to Park Rangers and field staff in the form of biological monitoring and providing resource-focused trainings and guidance including a nesting bird survey training. Hannah also comes with a terrific GIS skill set and will be providing mapping and GIS-related support to the NRM program and the parks department as a whole.

### ***Natural Resource Park Aide***

Jodi Gunning joined the Natural Resource Management program in March as our Park Aide. She has a degree in environmental studies from UC Santa Cruz and focused on agro-ecological, social and ecological systems. Jodi joins our team after already having worked for Parks for 7 months at Huddart Park. She will be helping Hannah with all of the field monitoring on San Bruno Mountain throughout our monitoring season and will be creating field guides and protocols related to the ecology of our Parks and specifically San Bruno Mountain. We are thrilled to have Jodi on board!

### **Community Programs and Communications**

As reported by Carla Schoof, Communications Specialist

### **San Bruno Mountain to be Feature on OpenRoad**

Last month, Doug McConnell and his film crew from the OpenRoad TV series spent a day on San Bruno Mountain filming for a segment that will air on April 8, 2018. McConnell was accompanied by Natural Resource Manager Ramona Arechiga, San Bruno Mountain Watch Program Director Ariel Cherbowsky, and volunteer Doug Allshouse. The Mountain's biological diversity, proximity to urban life and environmental history was a draw for the show. Each Sunday, McConnell introduces viewers to Bay Area cultural and historical resources, especially those found in parks and open spaces.

The San Bruno Mountain segment is scheduled to air on Sunday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. on NBC Bay Area. The San Mateo County Parks Foundation is an OpenRoad series sponsor.

## **Introducing More Youth to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Park community programs and communications staff is working with the Community Affairs Office and the Parks Foundation to ensure more San Mateo County students in underserved communities have the opportunity to participate in the docent-led programs at the Reserve. Funding transportation costs is the primary barrier for many of the schools. At a minimum, the team is working to introduce five schools to the reserve during the 2019 academic year. The Community Affairs office staff are well positioned to serve as key contacts to the schools, parks staff can assist with reserve reservations, and the Foundation will generously assist with funding the transportation for students.

## **Folger Stable in Wunderlich Park Featured in San Mateo Daily Journal Article**

The San Mateo Daily Journal recently interviewed Parks Superintendent Scott Lombardi and Jill Daly with the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich for a story on Wunderlich Park that appeared March 2. The story included the history and relevance of the horse in the Woodside community that can be experienced in the Carriage Room Museum and docent-led programs managed by the Friends. The planned improvements to the Carriage House, a third structure that is also part of the locations historic district, were detailed as well. The project will include a renovated restroom, and additional exit, and ADA-accessible walkway and should be completed in 2019.