



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Parks Department



**DATE:** May 22, 2018

**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** June 7, 2018

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Scott Lombardi, Parks Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Superintendent's Report

**Administrative and Fiscal Services**

As reported by Rolando Jorquera, Administrative Services Manager

The Administrative and Fiscal Services Unit visited District III (i.e., Memorial, Pescadero, and Sam McDonald County Parks) on Wednesday, May 23, to learn more about park operations; visiting sites and finding ways to provide additional support to the rangers. The unit's goal is to visit all the beautiful parks by the end of the calendar year in order to provide enhanced support and customer service to internal and external customers.

As the fiscal year-end nears, the unit continues to closely monitor revenues and expenditures to ensure that the Department remains within its budget. The unit is also in the process of hiring park aides to help during the peak season. The Department's FY 2018-19 Recommended Budget will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval on Tuesday, June 26. Below is a summary of what will be presented to the Board:

**Parks Department (3900D)**  
FY 2018-19 Recommended Budget

Total Sources	\$7,581,486
Total Requirements	\$21,149,205
Net County Cost	\$13,567,719
Authorized Positions	72

Summary of significant changes:

- Converted one vacant GIS Technician II to one Natural Resource Specialist II;
- Added one Management Analyst;
- Added San Bruno Mountain State and County Park Operating Agreement; and
- Added funding for Tunitas Creek Beach

## **Tunitas Creek Beach**

### **Tunitas Creek Beach Citizen's Advisory Committee**

A number of challenges face the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and San Mateo County Parks Department (Parks) as the process of managing Tunitas Creek Beach and preparing the property for public access begins.

Early stakeholder involvement will help frame subsequent project phases, enhance public communication, help achieve balance between competing viewpoints, and identify priorities for further consideration. With these goals in mind, POST and San Mateo County Parks is proposing that a volunteer advisory committee be formed that would participate in the early-stage planning of Tunitas Creek Beach. Peninsula Open Space Trust and the San Mateo County Parks will be the group's champions and retain full decision-making authority. San Mateo County Park staff will provide regular updates to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission about the Committee's work and accomplishments.

The committee will have several key roles:

- Create overall guiding principles for project implementation
- Provide recommendations on outreach/education efforts for subsequent master planning stage
- Identify and characterize key/thorny/priority issues
- Formulate ongoing volunteer stewardship recommendations
- Serve as representatives from and ambassadors to the community and broader public
- Provide a forum for early stage community concerns to be documented and acted upon

Membership on a committee involves making a major commitment, and members must be prepared to devote considerable time and effort. The Committee size is projected to be between 8 and 12 participants that represent a variety of diverse, overlapping geographic and social perspectives. Members will be asked to attend approximately 6 meetings in total.

Recruitment for committee members will begin this month through stakeholder identification and an invitation to apply. Prospective committee members will be asked to complete a short questionnaire. Committee formation will likely occur in August with the first meeting occurring in late August or early September. Park staff intends to

inform the Commission of the Committee's progress at its August meeting.

### **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***

- Easter Sunday - Park was at capacity -- 1,000 cars.
- A memorial gathering was held for Ranger Robert Kilonia on April 4, who passed away in March.
- Two new viewing telescopes were installed by Beach Center.
- A small volunteer group from Common Interest weeded landscape islands in the New Beach Area.
- Parks Department and CuriOdyssey hosted between 200-250 volunteers for the Earth Day beach clean-up.
- On April 15, the 'Divas' held a 5K/10K Special Event at Coyote Point Park. The Divas Running Series is an organization that raises money for the Breast Cancer Charities of America (iGoPink).
- On April 22, Habitat for Humanity (Habitat) held a 5K Race to Build Color. This is a fundraising event that helps Habitat ensure that the Bay Area remains a place where families of all income levels and backgrounds can thrive.
- Open field areas were mowed throughout the park.
- Mother's Day and Special Event 5K-TIKIM Food Festival with approximately 1,200 people attending.

#### ***Crystal Springs Trail***

- Rangers installed another refinished redwood memorial bench at Sawyer Camp Trail. There are currently 35 memorial benches on the trail.
- The San Andreas Trail was temporarily closed for one week while the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) repaired the main water line. It is open now but the SFPUC plans to return to complete the asphalt surface portion of the repairs.
- Rattlesnake warning signs have been posted along the trail.
- Started string cutting weeds/grasses along specific areas of the trail-main tractor mowing to be implemented early June.
- Construction trailers have been removed from the dam project work site at the South Gate.

### **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 Natural Preserve***

- Superintendent Lombardi and Rangers Wright, Dunsmore-Bertoni, Finnegan, Schneider and Castaneda led hikes in the park for the Take A Hike kickoff.
- Plumbing contractors completed the sewer project at the Edgewood residence and shop. The project consisted of hooking up the sewer and waterlines to city sewer to provide a more reliable system while decommissioning the old septic system.
- Docent led wildflower walks continue to bring many visitors to the park.
- Staff mowed 5.5 acres in the bay checkerspot butterfly habitat.
- Staff continues to monitor the shuttle bus and its riders coming to Edgewood and Wunderlich on the weekends.
- Visitor attendance has been very high on weekends due to the great weather.

### ***Flood Park***

- Staff continues to mow and string cut.

### ***Huddart Park***

- Staff continues to mow and string cut throughout the park and south county trails.
- Staff, in collaboration with POST and Friends of Huddart /Wunderlich, hosted a family nature day in Huddart Park where families participated in activities and hikes. More than 250 people attended.
- Woodside Fire held its annual wildland fire training in Huddart Park May 15-16 and 23-24.
- A trail run was held by Enviro Sports for 150 runners.
- Maintenance and staff are working on the ranger residence at the Woodside Store - painting, and installing new bathroom fixtures and flooring.
- The campground is now open for the camping season. Staff have removed hazardous trees in the campground areas.

### ***Wunderlich Park***

- Staff have been working on brushing back and rocking the Alambique trail in preparation for the new trail re-route. Contractors will begin work on the new re-route of the Alambique trail on May 21.
- St. Raymond School volunteered pulling weeds at the Folger Stable.

- The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich held a speaker series on how to build the tallest tree. Staff provided parking control for the event.
- Staff continued string cutting and mowing.

### ***Friendship Park***

- Staff continues weeding around planter boxes.

### **DISTRICT III – SOUTH COAST**

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

- Plumbing repairs were conducted at the Memorial Park restrooms and shower buildings.
- The Jack Brooks Horse Camp annual workday took place in Sam McDonald Park, with the collaboration of 42 volunteers from the local equestrian community.
- Seasonal fuel reduction and tree work were conducted around the Sierra Club's Hiker's Hut cabin in Sam McDonald Park.
- A seasonal fuel reduction collaborative project was conducted with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) along the Camp Pomponio and Baker fire roads of Pescadero Creek Park.
- Maintenance work was conducted within the main use areas of Memorial Park in preparation for the initiation of the Summer 2018 camping season.
- The Trail Center volunteers conducted trail restoration and maintenance on the Mt. Ellen Nature Trail of Memorial Park.
- Trail clearing and storm damage restoration work was conducted on the trails at 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

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

- Staff met on site with the vendor and contractor for the Visitor Center Project at Sanchez Adobe. A revised project timeline will be sent out shortly. Prep work will begin shortly for accessibility of modular building delivery.
- We have increased patrols and contacts at Tunitas Creek Beach. Staff is getting Western Snowy Plover training and identifying possible nesting habitat locations with consultants who also work with State Parks. This will greatly improve our ability to enforce newly adopted ordinances and manage activities on the beach.
- The Coastal Development permit has been approved for the work at Tunitas Creek Beach. Access to the beach will be improved for emergency vehicles.

County Radio services have been mapping the area to provide better radio coverage for Parks, the Sheriff's Office, and County/ Cal Fire. They have identified possible locations for a repeater.

- US Fish and Wildlife are back out at Devil's Slide monitoring Murre populations at Egg Rock.
- There has been a lot of staff movement recently. The promotion of Ranger Cross to District II and Ranger Escoto to District IV (Tunitas) has left staffing short. New-hires into the District, as well as ranger transfers, will take place shortly. We look forward to our new staff and wish the best for Steve and Greg.

### **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. The last count was 63 harbor seal pups within the Reserve Proper, which is up from last year.
- In Quarry Park, a fuel reduction project is set for June along the Mirada East Fire Road and a trail head located at Coronado Ave. A fuel reduction project will also take place at San Pedro Valley along Park Pacifica. Both locations are adjacent to residences. These projects are much needed to protect private properties and natural resources.
- Moss Beach Playground improvements are moving forward. An online poll of three options was sent out to locals. We will review comments and proceed with the winning option.
- Staff have increased patrol on Pillar Point Bluff with the recent seal killing by an off leash dog. Contact has stepped up. This campaign started last year after a hiker was bitten by an off-leash dog. Staff have been working with Fish and Wildlife wardens enforcing this and other violations.

### **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.

#### ***Maintenance***

- Electrical upgrades at the Memorial Park sewer pond have begun.
- Staff have started the annual mowing of Districts for 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Repairs to the Tripp Road Ranger Residence have started.
- Staff have repaired pot holes on the Marina middle berm.
- Tunitas Creek road improvements have started.

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

As reported by Mark Bettis, Harbormaster

#### ***Abandoned Boats***

- The Marina now has authorizations to lien sale for 10 abandoned boats. These derelict vessels will be sold at auction on June 23 (power boats) and July 8 (sail boats). Boats that do not sell will be grouped and bids will be accepted for disposal of the "fleet." An

application for a California Department of Boating and Waterways grant has been submitted. This grant, if received, will cover 90% of the cost of disposing of these vessels. Grant awards will be announced on July 15.

### **Staffing**

- Ranger Jacob George is leaving the Marina at the end of May, and is transferring to work in the Mid-Coast Parks district. His replacement, Ranger Angel Araiza, began working at the Marina on May 14, and is getting up to speed. We have also had one Park Aide transfer to Memorial Park, and a second Park Aide has accepted a Ranger position with Sonoma County Regional Parks. Recruitment is underway for these positions. Training new staff will be a significant task this summer.

### **Parking lot repairs**

- A Parks Department maintenance crew has completed pothole repairs on the northern part of the center berm parking lot. This will hold for a year, but the entire lot is due for resurfacing and will need to be included in the FY 2019-20 budget.

### **Occupancy**

- Occupancy of the Marina continues to improve, with a net increase of five boats in March-April. Occupancy is approaching 80%, and we expect the upward trend to continue through the end of the year.

## **DISTRICT VII**

Includes Junipero Serra Park, San Bruno Mountain Park

As reported by Lisa Di Lorenzo, Ranger III

- March 27<sup>th</sup> – Ventek credit card/debit/cash machines became operational in Junipero Serra Park (located at the Meadow View Playground) and San Bruno Mountain (located at main entrance). Since the machines were installed more funds have been collected, especially at San Bruno Mountain with visitors that pay with credit/debit cards.
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – Park staff responded to a distressed/lost hiker at San Bruno Mountain in the afternoon. The weather was very hot and the hiker had run out of water. The male hiker was located on the Ridge Trail and was in good condition. Park staff gave him water when he was located.
- April 1<sup>st</sup> – Easter was busy in both parks but especially in Junipero Serra Park in the afternoon.
- April 4<sup>th</sup> – The climbing structure at Junipero Serra Park was reopened to the public after cords were replaced by a playground contractor. The cords were the original cords when the playground was installed. Licensed park staff inspected the structure before reopening.
- April 9<sup>th</sup> – Park staff responded to a call in the afternoon that was left on the answering machine, reporting a hand grenade at Ridge Trail on a rock. Staff and San Mateo County Deputies responded to the location and the bomb squad was

called to dismantle the grenade. The bomb squad inspected it and it turned out to be a cigarette lighter.

- April 10<sup>th</sup> – Park staff received a county call over the park radio to assist San Mateo County Deputies looking for a male minor who had an altercation with his father and was believed to be in Junipero Serra Park. Staff did locate the minor in the park and he was taken into custody by the deputies.
- Park staff began working with South San Francisco Fire Department (SSFD), South San Francisco Police Department (SSFPD), and SMC Deputies on the homeless encampment in San Bruno Mountain. The encampment is located on the South San Francisco side of the mountain that runs parallel to the Bayshore Freeway. Several visits have been made to give the homeless couple information of assistance programs. The Department will be hiring a hazardous waste contractor to remove the garbage, human waste and any biohazard materials. The removal will be followed by removing/thinning some of the willow trees that provide the shelter for the camp. This will discourage more camps from being set up. Per SSFD they had responded to a fire set up near the encampment last year. This project will be funded by Measure K funds.
- Park staff have begun mowing and string cutting in both parks to reduce fire hazards and provide safe trails to park users. This project will continue for the next two months.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – A tree service began the removal of eucalyptus trees next to the restroom at San Bruno Mountain. These trees are being removed to install an exercise stretch area for park users. This project will be completed within the next several months.
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – Staff picked up the last of the eucalyptus rounds from Alta Vista Drive in Daly City. Park staff worked with our Maintenance division to pick up and dump two 30-yard bins that were rented from Republic Services. PG & E took down five large trees that were near the high voltage distribution lines but would not be responsible for hauling out the big woody debris. The rentals of the bins were paid for by Measure K funds.
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – Park staff responded to a lost senior hiker at San Bruno Mountain in the late afternoon. The hiker was located on the trail and assisted by the ranger to her car. She was tired but had no medical issues.

**PROGRAMS**

**Interpretive Programs**

As reported by Laurel Finnegan, Ranger IV

Events	#of Attendees
April Junior Ranger Event, FMR, Art in Parks (photography lesson and made their own terrariums)	40
April Thursday 19th Summer Learning Expo	100
Friday April Night Hike for School Group	25



	20th		
Saturday	April 21st	Pupping Season Breakfast (educating visitors on harbor seals)	250
Saturday	April 28th	BioBlitz at San Bruno Mountain	35
Saturday	May 5th	TAH – Edgewood Park (Kick off since last month got rained out)	75
Saturday	May 12th	Junior Ranger Event – Native and Invasive Plants, San Pedro Valley (pulled invasive plants, learned about native plants and gave presentations to the group on their plant of choice)	40

## **NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM)**

As reported by Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resources Manager

### **NRM Coordination & Program Management San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan**

The Natural Resource Management program, as reported last month, has been working collaboratively to facilitate translocation of the endangered mission blue butterfly from San Bruno Mountain State and County Park to other areas that have been restored within the County of San Mateo. Through this effort the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGRNA) has collected 30 females and 15 males from conserved habitat within the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan area.

Seed collection collaboration for ongoing recovery efforts focused on mission blue butterfly and restoration has been successfully scheduled and coordinated among Creekside Science with support from Root Wisdom, Pacific Gas & Electric, San Bruno Mountain Watch, and Parks. We appreciate the collaborative approach of our partners in this effort and hope to report back on seed expansion activities later in the fall.

The NRM team hosted a successful Field Tour for collaborators on San Bruno Mountain in April with additional support from Dan Krug and Jodi Gunning.

### **County-wide Collaboration**

Dan Krug and Ramona Arechiga continue to participate and provide input on upcoming revisions to the County of San Mateo Protected Tree Ordinance.

Ramona Arechiga continues to support work to facilitate Tunitas Creek Beach monitoring for sensitive species and construction monitoring to install the emergency access road. In addition, she has finalized a request for proposal for future site development and coordinated a water feasibility meeting with County of San Mateo departments that would have a role in future water availability and development at the site.

## **Team Updates**

### **Arborist**

Since the previous park commission meeting Dan Krug has been vigilantly working to reduce major tree risks within campgrounds and high use picnic areas throughout the Parks system with particular focus on the Pescadero complex. The risk assessment work he has been conducting has identified several high-risk trees which have been removed or will be scheduled for removal depending on urgency. Monitoring and identifying tree risks will be a continual process, one which Dan is excited to develop into a long range tree maintenance program. Dan has also been involved in addressing perceived tree concerns by adjacent property owners of Quarry Park, in El Granada, participated in a SOD BLITZ at Edgewood Park to assist in identifying the state of California bay infection of sudden oak death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) and visually assess the current impact of the disease to at-risk oak woodlands within the Park. He also attended the Western Chapter of ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) annual conference in April.

### **Natural Resource Specialist II**

Throughout April and May, Hannah Ormshaw has been working on conducting various butterfly surveys on San Bruno Mountain, including San Bruno elfin larval surveys, callippe silverspot adult surveys, presence/absence surveys for mission blue butterfly, as well as mapping for the callippe silverspot host plant, golden violet (*Viola pedunculata*). Hannah attend a training on survey protocol for marbled murrelets, in order to assist with monitoring for this species in the Pescadero Park complex. She has also been coordinating with various groups regarding vegetation management, restoration, and research activities at San Bruno Mountain and processing Site Activity Reviews for the conserved habitat with the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan. Hannah has also supported district staff in providing nesting bird trainings and site visits to inspect new trail alignment projects.

### **Park Aide**

Jodi Gunning has provided invaluable support and shown leadership in her work conducting various butterfly surveys on San Bruno Mountain, including San Bruno elfin larval surveys, callippe silverspot adult surveys, presence/absence surveys for mission blue butterfly, and host plant mapping. Jodi assumed a leadership role with contractors and supported the annual San Bruno Mountain Field Tour hosted earlier in April. Jodi will be leaving the Natural Resource Program to rejoin District II as a Ranger II in June. The NRM team is sad to see her go but are thrilled for her new opportunity within the Parks Department. We are confident that District II is getting a quality ranger with a lot of natural resource expertise.

### **Stewardship Corps**

The Stewardship Corps program had its last volunteer weeding event at Coyote Point in May. We are thankful for all of the efforts of our volunteer participants throughout the last year and look forward to the program beginning again in November.

## **Park Planning**

As reported by Sam Herzberg, Senior Planner

- Quarry Park Master Plan – Fifth community workshop was held April 24, 2018. Final Draft Master Plan is in staff review.
- At its April 25, 2018 meeting the County Planning Commission approved an “After the Fact” Coastal Development Permit for removal of five hazard trees, hazardous bluff signage, and drainage improvements at the main entry ramp at Fitzgerald Maine Reserve and Mirada Surf.
- At its May 9, 2018 the County Planning Commission approved a Coastal Development Permit for Tunitas Creek Beach
  - 1) Make improvements to approximately 500 feet of existing access road to the edge of the beach to allow all-terrain access for administrative and emergency personnel use
  - 2) Install two storage containers for emergency access vehicles and tools
  - 3) Install signage and fencing to protect public safety and natural resources. Improvements are scheduled to begin June 20, 2018.
- Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail Feasibility Study – Three focus group meetings were held in April: 1) Peninsula Working Group on Regional Trails, 2) Coastside stakeholders, and 3) Interpretive stakeholders. Public meetings will take place in September/October 2018. A communication plan is being developed to inform the public about the trail.