



AGENDA

Hybrid Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2026

3:30 PM

***** IN-PERSON WITH REMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AVAILABLE*****

This meeting of the San Mateo County Parks Commission will be held in **Room 101 at 455 County Center, 1st floor, Redwood City, CA, 94063**. Members of the public will be able to participate in the meeting in person in Redwood City or remotely via the Zoom platform. Remote public participation is encouraged. For information regarding how to participate in the meeting, either in person or remotely, please refer to the instructions at the end of the agenda. A video recording of the meeting will be posted online on the Parks Department website following the meeting.

Representing the people of San Mateo County and in their interest, the Parks Commission acts as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors on matters related to open space, parks and recreation, the fish and game fund, and providing a public and transparent forum on items agendized for its consideration in coordination with the County Parks Department.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The June 4, 2026 Parks Commission meeting may be accessed through Zoom online at <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/87061361903>. The webinar ID is: 870 6136 1903. The June 4, 2026 Parks Commission meeting may also be accessed via telephone by dialing +1 669 900 6833 (Local). Enter the Webinar ID: 870 6136 1903, then press #. Members of the public can also attend this meeting physically in Room 101 at 455 County Center, 1st floor, Redwood City. Virtual public participation is encouraged, due to the small size of the meeting room.

Written public comments may be emailed to parksandrecreation@smcgov.org and should indicate the specific agenda item on which you are commenting or note that your comment concerns an item that is not on the agenda or is on the consent agenda.

Spoken public comments will be accepted during the meeting in person or remotely through Zoom at the option of the speaker. Public comments via Zoom will be taken first, followed by speakers in person.

Please see instructions for written and spoken public comments at the end of this agenda.

ADA REQUESTS

Individuals who require special assistance or a disability related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the meeting, should contact the Parks Department by 10:00 a.m. on the day before the meeting at parksandrecreation@smcgov.org. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting, the materials related to it, and your ability to comment.

1. Pledge of Allegiance**2. Roll Call****3. Public Comment**

This item is reserved for persons wishing to address the Commission on any Parks-related matters that are not otherwise on this meeting agenda.

As with all public comment, members of the public who wish to address the Commission should complete a speaker's slip to make a public comment in person. Speakers are customarily limited to two minutes.

4. Action to Set the Agenda and approve the May 7, 2026 meeting minutes**5. Reports and Presentations**

5.1 SMC Parks Department Report

6. Regular Agenda

6.1 Commission Retreat Session 2 (Discussion/Action)

A facilitated workshop to identify Parks Commission priorities and develop a workplan for the next 18 months.

- Review potential Commission priorities from May 7 Retreat Session
- Prioritize goals and activities and develop workplan

7. Commissioner Updates

7.1 Commissioner report on information items, subcommittee, or project updates

8. Items for a Future Agenda

- County priorities update
- Welcome & onboarding of new Commissioners
- County diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- Partnerships and connections – have representatives of partner organizations provide presentations to the Commission. Discuss which County department may be able to attend.
- Update on sustainability actions for the Parks Department & alignment with action plan for County Office of Sustainability. Regional transportation and active transportation
- Summary of Revitalize Coyote Point survey
- Subcommittee structure and assignments
- Processes to address public comment
- Address technological gaps to ensure accessibility for public attendees and improve participation at in-person and remote meetings.

9. Adjournment

County of San Mateo Parks and Recreation Commission

**Paul Faklis, District 1 | Arnout ter Schure, District 2 | Irma Rodriguez Mitton, District 3 (Chair) |
Brooks Esser (Vice-Chair), District 4 | Basem Manneh, District 5**

County of San Mateo Parks Department

Emma Gonzalez, Interim Parks Director

Hannah Ormshaw, Assistant Parks Director

Scott Lombardi, Parks Superintendent

Tracy Nappi, Administrative Assistant I

Instructions for Public Comment During In Person and Remote Participation Meetings

During meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission, members of the public may address the Parks and Recreation Commission members as follows:

***Written Comments:**

Written public comments may be emailed in advance of the meeting. Please read the following instructions carefully:

1. Your written comment should be emailed to parksandrecreation@smcgov.org
2. Your email should include the specific agenda item on which you are commenting or note that your comment concerns an item that is not on the agenda or is on the consent agenda.
3. Members of the public are limited to one comment per agenda item.
4. The length of the emailed comment should be commensurate with the two minutes customarily allowed for verbal comments, which is approximately 250-300 words.
5. If your emailed comment is received at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, it will be provided to the Parks and Recreation Commission members and made publicly available on the Parks and Recreation Commission website along with the agenda. We cannot guarantee that e-mails received less than 24 hours before the meeting will be read during the meeting, but such emails will still be included in the administrative record of the meeting.

***Spoken Comments:**

In person Participation:

1. If you wish to speak to the Commission, please fill out a speaker's slip. If you have anything that you wish distributed to the Commission and included in the official record, please hand it to the staff person for the Parks Department who will distribute the information to the Commission members and staff.



MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2026

3:30 PM

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1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Rodriguez Mitton, Vice-Chair Esser, Commissioner Manneh, Commissioner ter Schure, Commissioner Faklis

3. Public Comment

4. Action to Set the Agenda and approve the April 2, 2026 meeting minutes

Motion to approve April 2, 2026 meeting minutes passes.

5. Reports and Presentations

5.1 SMC Parks Foundation Report - SMC Parks Foundation Executive Director Michele Beasley

Highlights include:

- Provided funding for hazard tree removal at Coyote Point
- Provided funding for two Memorial Park Naturalist Interns for summer 2026
- Hosted first International Go To Forest Day event at Huddart Park, which focused on Shinrin-yoku, also known as forest bathing
- Upcoming events:
 - Monthly Parent's, Babies, & Toddlers meet-up at Coyote Point, Mother's Day edition, in partnership with the libraries
 - Pole-hiking demonstration and hike for SMC Parks Foundation donors at Huddart Park
 - Nature journaling class at San Bruno Mountain
 - Audio-silent book club at San Pedro Valley
- Board retreat on May 27

6. Regular Agenda

6.1 Commission Retreat Session 1 (Discussion)

A facilitated workshop to identify Parks Commission priorities and begin development of a workplan for the next 18 months.

Hosted by Facilitator Debbie Schechter

**Notes are on following pages*

7. Commissioner Updates

7.1 Commissioner report on information items, subcommittee, or project updates

8. Items for a Future Agenda

- County priorities update
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9. Adjournment

Adjourned at 5:30pm.

County of San Mateo Parks and Recreation Commission

Paul Faklis, District 1 | Arnout ter Schure, District 2 | Irma Rodriguez Mitton, District 3 (Chair) | Brooks Esser (Vice-Chair), District 4 | Basem Manneh, District 5

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Emma Gonzalez, Interim Parks Director

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Scott Lombardi, Parks Superintendent

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San Mateo County Parks Commission Goal Setting Retreat Notes
May 7, 2026

prepared by Debbie Schechter, Schechter Consulting

The Parks Commission held a goal-setting retreat on May 7, 2026 to identify its priorities and begin development of a workplan for the next 18 months. The items discussed are summarized below.

Retreat Attendees:

Brooks Esser, Commissioner
Paul Faklis, Commissioner
Basem Manneh, Commissioner
Irma Rodriguez Mitton, Commission Chair
Arnout ter Schure, Commissioner
Emma Gonzales, Interim Parks Director
Tracy Nappi, Parks Administrative Assistant
Hannah Ormshaw, Assistant Parks Director
Debbie Schechter, facilitator

Motivations

Parks Commissioners shared their motivations for being on the Commission as follows:

- Get out in community and contribute, steward lands
- Make a contribution, promote the multi-use value of parks
- Learn and be accountable: contribute and increase access
- Address the need for open space in the County
- Share love of parks and experience working on sustainability and climate

Parks Commission Shared Values

Commissioners shared their individual values related to their work on the Commission and then identified shared Commission values as follows:

Values related to impact

- Stewardship
- Sustainability
- Community access
- Equity
- Awareness
- Fun

Values related to operations

- Objectivity/transparency
- Respect for all
- Economy and efficiency
- Education
- Servant Leadership

Parks Commission Mission and Role

Parks Department staff and the Commission discussed the importance of focusing on the Commission's advisory role to the Board of Supervisors. This includes advising on policy considerations, stewardship, accessibility and strategic priorities for the County Parks System, while recognizing that operational implementation is the responsibility of Parks Department staff. Community connection and engagement are important roles for the Commission as well.

Parks Department Priorities

Parks Department Interim Director Emma Gonzalez described the priorities of the Parks Department as follows:

- Infrastructure and long-term capital investment
- Community access, inclusion and visitor experience
- Natural resource stewardship, wildfire resilience and sustainability
- Building awareness of parks as places that support wellness, environmental stewardship and public safety

Prior Year Learnings

Parks Commission Chair Irma Rodriguez Mitton reviewed some learnings from the Parks Commission's work during the past year:

- Find a better way to engage the community (e.g., through Commission meetings)
- Support Parks staff priorities or do something complementary
- Commission successfully implemented Fish and Game funds—this will come up again

Ideas from Parks Commission Goals Brainstorm

Commissioners individually brainstormed potential Commission goals, shared them aloud and roughly categorized them:

Community Awareness and Engagement: *Increase community awareness of and engagement in parks*

- Raise awareness and collect feedback:
 - Provide information stations at each park with maps of the park system and history/awareness of indigenous peoples in English, Spanish and other languages

- Provide feedback cards (business reply or dropbox) for success, improvements

Measure: number of cards, ideas implemented

- Hold community ambassador events and represent the Commission at public events or informal activities. Talk with individual supervisors about priorities and successes.
- Engage community and celebrate with the County during kickoffs or ribbon cutting. Plan a retreat or commissioners field trip to a park. Reach out to an elementary school in the area and plan a school field trip to one of our county parks.
- Community building: hold multicultural, multi-purpose and multi-age events

Collaboration/Partnerships with Agencies, Departments and Corporations:

Collaborate to raise awareness and increase access, improve understanding of parks value, and conserve funds and resources.

- Collaborate with other departments and adjacent landowners to ease financial strain and lack of resources (e.g., for wildland fire mitigation).
Measure: Complete one community engagement event or project with another entity
- Develop partnerships with agencies to raise awareness of resources and collect feedback; joint marketing through websites and mailers
Measure: Number of ideas accessed, number of shared projects
- Collaborate with other agencies to improve understanding of the value of parks including environmental aspects
Measure: Attending Y number of in-park events
- Improve public transit connected to parks (requires cooperation of other agencies)
Outcome: Majority of parks are served by at least one public transit option
- Explore corporate stewardship programs as a source of money for parks and recreation.
Measurable goal: corporate sponsorship of community engagement event.

Commission Education and Operations: *Increase Commission effectiveness through education and increased understanding.*

- Have this room (Rm 101) be our permanent room for commission meetings.
- Education: Entertain ideas of guest speaker focusing on a subject area of interest
- Increase Commissioners' understanding of parks operations and comparable departments. Hold a County and city parks summit. Conduct fiscal oversight/leverage capacity and resources.

Next Steps:

The Commission will further discuss the workplan at its next meeting on June 4, 2026. The following next steps should be completed in preparation for that meeting:

- Identify alignments with Parks Dept goals (Parks staff)
- Categorize goals and tactics (Debbie)
- Invite Supervisors' representatives for feedback

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

San Mateo County Parks Commission
June 4, 2026

Visitor Experience

Interpretive Events

From March to April 2026, the Interpretive Division hosted or participated in 37 programs, serving approximately 2495 people.

In March, the Memorial Park Nature Center reopened after several months of renovation. Funded by the SMC Parks Foundation, redwood and riparian wallpaper murals now adorn the walls, interactive interpretive panels were created, a 3D watershed model was installed, and the much-loved taxidermy was reimagined. This space gives visitors an opportunity to learn about the unique ecosystems and history of the Park. The Bilingual Community Engagement Intern also launched a new Art in the Parks program in March, focusing on Flood and Friendship Parks. Each Art in the Park event centers on a specific theme, helping participants learn about local wildlife, environmental processes, and community traditions through art and bilingual storytelling in English and Spanish.

In April, the 2026 Take a Hike Challenge launched, with Kaiser Permanente sponsoring the program. The goal is to have a medical doctor presenting a health topic at the beginning of each hike; April's topic focused on nutrition. The Interpretive Division also hosted the first ever Springfest in Quarry Park. Despite a few rain clouds, over 250 people enjoyed a bubble performer, saxophone quartet, and over 20 community resource booths at this free Coastside event.

See Attachment 1 for Interpretive Program details.

Volunteer Events

From March to April 2026, the Volunteer Program hosted 34 volunteer events throughout the parks system. These events totaled over 1500 hours of volunteer effort supporting and improving the parks. The details of each event are included in this report as Attachment 2.

Our numerous Friends groups volunteered over 2500 hours in March 2026. These volunteer hours include school and community organization field trips, habitat restoration, opening the Parks visitor centers, and horse patrol on trails.

Facilities and Infrastructure

Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail Project

Local officials and Parks Department staff gathered at Crystal Springs Dam on April 24 to celebrate the completion of this project. The project includes California State historic plaques and interpretive panels at three sites along the Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail: at the southern end of Sawyer Camp Trail adjacent to the Crystal Springs Dam, Cowell-Purisima Trail, and Don Horsley County Park at Tunitas Creek Beach. The interpretive panels highlight the role of the Ramaytush Ohlone in guiding the 1769 expedition led by Gaspar de Portolá.

San Bruno Mountain Day Use Improvement Project

On May 13, more than 75 people gathered to celebrate the opening of the San Bruno Mountain Day Use Area. With photos of San Bruno Mountain playing on a video screen in the background, local officials, Parks Department staff, and one of the founders of the Friends of San Bruno Mountain, now called San Bruno Mountain Watch, spoke about biodiversity and the role this mountain plays in the surrounding community. Students from local elementary schools helped to cut the ribbon, officially opening the restrooms, Interpretive Pavilion, and picnic areas.

Realize Flood Park

Construction of the playground is nearing completion, with punch list items and playground inspections underway. A few adjustments to playground features are needed for safety and compliance in order to open the playground. The public opening is anticipated for summer 2026. Plans are also underway to design and construct a new restroom building, to better meet demand and service needs for the park. Construction of the new restroom is currently anticipated for early 2027.

Don Horsley County Park at Tunitas Creek Beach

Work is completed to repair the two unanticipated landslides along the bluff adjacent to the beach access road. Final paving and fencing work is also complete, concluding all construction work needed on site. Parks Department staff will be working to prepare the park for opening, and conducting park maintenance work including trail brushing, mowing, and landscaping maintenance. Park opening is projected for summer 2026, with an opening ceremony to be announced soon!

Parkwide Paving Program

Upcoming projects under the department's Parkwide Paving Program are currently in final design, with construction anticipated to go out to bid in June 2026. This project focuses on addressing deferred maintenance across high-use park roads, parking areas, and paved trails, improving safety, accessibility, and overall visitor experience across the park system. The primary location for paving work this fiscal year includes the main access road and parking lots at Junipero Serra County Park, and smaller paving projects throughout the park system.

Revitalize Coyote Point – Magic Mountain Playground

Over 800 community members voted on their preferred design concept for the new playground at Coyote Point's Magic Mountain. The clear preference, winning 78% of the vote, was Concept A, "Magical Adventure in a Seaside Land," featuring a play area that allows children to range freely through a sea-themed landscape, and in the lower area, a 50-foot zipline for all abilities. Completion of the final design is underway. The playground and surrounding area will close in early July 2026 and construction will begin. The new playground is expected to open in early 2027.

Natural Resource Management

Pescadero Creek County Park Forest Health and Fuel Reduction Project

Community Tree Service (the project contractor) continues work in Pescadero Creek County Park. The project comprises a total of 541 acres of treatment area and general treatments include

mechanical mastication and handwork, which will reduce the density of understory vegetation, ladder fuels, and dead, dying and diseased trees to improve biodiversity and resiliency against wildfire, drought, pests, and climate change. To date, approximately 70 acres of work on the north side of Pescadero Creek have been completed. Trail closures are currently in place for the majority of trails on the north side of the creek, but in approximately 6 weeks, the contractor will be shifting work to project locations along Old Haul Road.

Wildfire Mitigation

Other wildfire mitigation projects that are currently in the planning phases include a non-shaded fuel break at Quarry County Park, and shaded fuel breaks at Edgewood County Park and San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. Maintenance efforts of existing shaded fuel breaks continue at Memorial Park, Junipero Serra County Park, Quarry County Park, San Pedro Valley County Park, and Sam McDonald County Park.

Attachment 1: Interpretive Programs

Date	Interpretive Program	Location	Supervisory District	Attendance
March 4	Virtual class program: Nature Journaling	Brewer Island ES, Foster City	2	30
March 6	Midpen Job Fair	Los Altos	N/A	1000
March 7	Hike: Steelhead Trout	Memorial Park	3	48
March 13	Virtual classroom program: Tidepools	Shiloh United, SSF	1	10
March 13	Virtual class program: Animal Engineers	Westlake ES, Daly City	5	24
March 13	Career presentations for high schoolers	Oceana HS, Pacifica	3	75
March 14	Presentation: Life of Sam McDonald	SMCHA, Redwood City	4	40
March 18	Field Trip: Redwood Ecology, La Honda ES	Sam McDonald Park	3	40
March 18	After-school program with RC PAL: Animal Tracks *bilingual	Redwood City PAL at Hoover ES, Redwood City	4	18
March 20	Field Trip: Redwood Ecology, Pescadero ES	Sam McDonald Park	3	40
March 21	Hike with Friends of Edgewood: wildflowers *bilingual	Edgewood Park	4	14
March 21	Nature Center ribbon-cutting	Memorial Park	3	75
March 25	Virtual classroom program: Habitats	Fox Elementary, Belmont	2	25
March 25	Career presentations for Green Academy	Woodside HS, Woodside	3	8
March 27	Virtual classroom program: Food Webs	Taft ES, Redwood City	4	25
March 27	Art in the Park *bilingual	Friendship Park, Redwood City	4	9
March 28	Hike with St. Francis *bilingual	Huddart Park	3	9
April 1	Virtual class program: Animal Engineers	Westlake ES, Daly City	5	27
April 3	Program with Riekes Center	Friendship Park	4	12
April 3	Career presentations for middle schoolers	Fernando Rivera MS, Daly City	5	90
April 4	Tabling and activity with GCSD Egg Hunt	Quarry Park	3	150
April 4	Take a Hike	Wunderlich Park	3	40
April 7	Tidepool tour with SAL	Fitzgerald Marine Reserve	3	20
April 8	Virtual classroom program: Tidepools	Buri Buri ES, SSF	5	27
April 10	El Granada ES Science Day	El Granada ES, El Granada	3	60
April 11	Interpretive Training with Friends of FMR	Half Moon Bay Library	3	10
April 15	Virtual classroom program: Food Webs	Sunnybrae ES, San Mateo	2	31
April 16	Hike: Nature Hikes with libraries	San Pedro Valley Park	3	7
April 17	Virtual classroom program: Food Webs	Sunnybrae ES, San Mateo	2	29
April 17	Art in the Park *bilingual	Friendship Park	4	17
April 22	Virtual classroom program: Food Webs	Brewer Island ES, Foster City	2	30
April 22	Tabling: County Earth Day Resource Fair	Redwood City	4	100
April 23	Hike with San Bruno Mountain Watch *bilingual	San Bruno Mountain Park	5	12
April 23	After-school program: Tidepools	SSF Library	1	20

April 24	Tabling and activity: Puente's Day of the Child *bilingual	Pescadero ES	3	60
April 24	Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail ribbon-cutting	Sawyer Camp Trail	1	13
April 25	Springfest	Quarry Park	3	250
Totals	37 programs			2495 people

Attachment 2: Volunteer Events

Date	Project	Group	Location	Participants
Mar 4	Weeding	School	Coyote Point Marina	5
Mar 5	Restoration	Scouts	Coyote Point Park	4
Mar 7-8	Broom removal	Scouts	Loma Mar	20
Mar 10	Weeding and planting	School	Coyote Point	19
Mar 10	Facilities	Scouts	Huddart Park	2
Mar 12	Weeding and planting	School	Coyote Point	18
Mar 12	Fencing	Scouts	Coyote Point	3
Mar 14	Trail maintenance	Scouts	Huddart Park	17
Mar 18	Weeding and planting	School	Coyote Point Marina	3
Mar 18	Grills	Scouts	Huddart Park	3
Mar 25	Weeding and watering	School	Coyote Point Marina	3
Mar 26	Weeding and watering	Corporate: Prometheus	Coyote Point	14
Mar 27	Litter clean-up	Corporate: Resonant	Coyote Point Marina	25
Mar 28	Bat house	Scouts	San Pedro Valley	27
Apr 1	Stewardship: weeding	School	Coyote Point	30
Apr 3	Litter clean-up	School	Coyote Point	17
Apr 4	Trail maintenance	Scouts	Memorial Park	3
Apr 4	Facilities	Scouts	Edgewood Park	4
Apr 8	Litter clean-up	Corporate: Walmart	Coyote Point	11
Apr 9	Stewardship: weeding	Corporate: KeyFactor	Coyote Point Marina	12
Apr 11-12	Install grills	Scouts	Huddart Park	36
Apr 16	Litter clean-up	Corporate: Coupa	Coyote Point Marina	12
Apr 17	Stewardship: weeding	School	Flood Park	47
Apr 18	Stewardship: weeding	Corporate: Revolution Meds	Coyote Point	15
Apr 18	Trail maintenance	Scouts	Edgewood	3
Apr 19	Weeding broom	Community	Huddart Park	29
Apr 19	Install grills	Scouts	Huddart Park	2
Apr 19	Weeding broom	Community: Grassroots Ecology	Huddart Park	27
Apr 22	Litter clean-up	Corporate: ARM	Coyote Point	22
Apr 23	Litter clean-up	Corporate: Trifecta Realty	Coyote Point	4
Apr 23	Weeding bioswales	Corporate: Rakuten	Coyote Point	15
Apr 25-26	Trail maintenance, planting	Scouts	Coyote Point	
Apr 29	Fire fuels reduction	Corporate: IFF	Huddart Park	10
Apr 30	Weeding	Corporate: Schwab	Fitzgerald Marine	15
Totals	34 volunteer events			477 participants