

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
PARKS DEPARTMENT



DATE: April 4, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Peggy Jensen, Interim Parks Director
SUBJECT: Parks Update: March 2019 – April 2019

Executive Summary

Over the past two months, Parks staff has held events throughout the parks system, done a variety of maintenance projects and rangers have attended a number of trainings. Due to the recent windy and rainy weather, general clean-up and tree work has been ongoing in all the parks including fire fuel reduction work. The detailed activities in each park are listed below. As requested by the Commission, the park specific activities will be organized into a chart format for the next Commission meeting.

Project Details by Park: March 2018 – April 2019

Coyote Point Recreation Area

1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Projects
 - a. Carb DM is a non-profit that supports and fosters connections between people with Type 1 Diabetes, their loved ones, and medical professionals. They held a 5K fun run on January 26, with 200 participants.
 - b. There was a Hillsborough Garden Club volunteer event on March 7 with 20 participants.
 - c. On March 2, there was a Merchant Marine wedding, with 75 people in attendance.
2. Natural Resource Management
 - a. A large, hazardous willow tree was removed from the Marina lawn.

- b. Field staff attended a nesting bird training and refresher course on March 6.
 - c. Field staff treated Fennel, Oxalis, and Bristly Ox Tongue along roads, trails and within parking medians at Coyote Point.
3. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
- a. Coyote Point field staff repaired a water retaining berm at Sawyer Camp Trail in coordination with District V field staff to mitigate minor flooding on the trail.
 - b. Fading and damaged signs throughout Coyote Point Park were replaced.
 - c. The locks and roll-up doors for Board Sports were replaced and repaired after a burglary occurred on March 9. No injuries occurred as a result of the burglary.
 - d. Culverts were cleared along Sawyer Camp Trail with continued maintenance of a large blocked culvert at mile marker 4.0 with District V field staff.
4. Public Safety and Social Service Activity
- a. Field staff attended training for Dog Ordinance Enforcement on February 8.
 - b. CPR/First Aid certification classes for all rangers were held on February 21 and 27.
5. Staff Updates
- a. Ranger IV, Ty Kang retired in March after 33 years of service.
- b. Park and Park Office Closures
- a. The Knoll Parking Lot was closed during recent storms because of public safety concerns.
 - b. There was minor flooding of Sawyer Camp Trail and advisories were posted.
 - c. On March 1, the RV Campsites were reopened for Spring/Summer season.

Coyote Point Marina

1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Projects
- a. The First Friday Social for all Marina tenants at Yacht Club was held on March 5.
2. Natural Resource Management
- a. There is ongoing removal of fennel and ice plant on the jetty and the center berm.
 - b. Staff constructed and installed a nesting platform for Osprey atop the piling near the harbor entrance.
3. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
- a. Dock maintenance and repairs continue and include repair and replacement of failed cleats, failed circuit breakers, lighting fixtures/upgrades to LED dock lights, dock boxes, and water fixtures.
 - b. Ten derelict vessels were removed from the Marina. Ninety percent of the cost (\$45K) will be reimbursed through the California Division of Boating and Waterways.
4. Public Safety and Social Service Activity

- a. The Marina started a daily license plate log to monitor unauthorized live-aboard activity.

5. Staff Updates

- a. The Marina is currently recruiting for a park aide.

Crystal Springs Trail/Sawyer Camp Trail/San Andreas Trail/South of Dam

1. Natural Resource Management

- a. Contractors removed a large, hazardous willow tree from the Marina lawn.
- b. Field staff cut and treated several large invasive Jubata Grass plants along San Andreas Trail.

Devil's Slide

2. Natural Resource Management

- a. Efforts to eradicate pampas grass, an invasive plant species, continues.
- b. Field staff removed Tower of Jewel plants near the north trail end.

3. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

- a. Weather conditions on the coast deteriorates metal items more rapidly and field staff have been repainting metal bollards, restroom doors, and security fencing.
- b. A solar powered charging station was set up to assist the Devil's Slide Trail Ambassadors. Two radio and log books have been moved on site in a secure weather proof container.

4. Public Safety and Social Service Activity

- a. People are still accessing the bunker during off hours and vandalizing the area. With Spring break approaching the Department has increased patrols of this area.

Edgewood Park and Nature Preserve

1. Natural Resource Management

- a. A large hazardous Live Oak near the Education Center was removed.

2. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

- a. Improvements and repairs to the ranger office continue.
- b. Storm clean up continues with clearing downed trees and drainage along the trails.

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and Pillar Point Bluffs

1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Projects

- a. Field staff and members of the Friends are planning activities for the 50-year celebration of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. There is an upcoming event on May 11.
2. Natural Resource Management
 - a. Field staff continues to work with the Department arborist to slowly remove dead cypress trees located along the bluff top.
 - b. Harbor Seal pupping season is upon us. The first Harbor seal was found near the syncline.
3. Staff Updates
 - a. Three field staff are attending the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve docent training.

Flood Park

1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Project
 - a. Lucile Packard Children's Hospital was at the park on February 20 to film a commercial for Kohl's and do helmet fittings for kids. All permits were obtained.
2. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
 - a. Field staff have been mowing the lawns throughout the park and disposing of debris. A gate was also installed at the ranger residence.

Friendship Park

1. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
 - a. Field staff attended a project review meeting with SFPUC for the planned mini park improvements, which include a shade structure, picnic table, and bench.
 - b. Weeding and general cleanup has been ongoing.

Huddart Park

1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Project
 - a. Through an Eagle Scout volunteer project horseshoe pits were replaced at Werder Shelter on February 24 and March 10.
2. Natural Resource Management
 - a. Field staff, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and Cal Fire created a shaded fuel break along Crystal Springs Trail and Runnymede Road on February 1 and 4.
3. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
 - a. A memorial bench was completed and installed at the bridge near Greer gate on February 1.
 - b. Staff are working on the office remodel.

- c. The first phase of the valve replacement project was completed and emergency shut off valves were installed.
 - d. A new gate was installed on the north end of Crystal Springs Trail near Edgewood Road and a gate was repaired on south end near Runnymede.
 - e. Security cameras have been installed at the gatehouse.
 - f. Storm clean up continues, including clearing downed trees and drainages along the trails.
4. Public Safety and Social Service Activity
- a. A stolen motorcycle was recovered on the side of Kings Mountain Road, just north of the Huddart Park entrance. Sheriff's Deputies were called and the motorcycle was towed.
5. Staff Updates
- a. Three field staff completed California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation training at the Honor Camp in Ben Loman. The Department uses inmates to do a lot of brush clearing in the parks, so it is important that the field staff are trained how to work with the prisoners to maintain safety.
6. Park and Park Office Closures
- a. Bicycle Sunday was closed February 3, 10, and 17, and March 10 due to rain.

Junipero Serra Park

1. Natural Resource Management
- a. Trees fell in the DeAnza area at Junipero Serra Park on January 17 due to storms. Field staff cut up the trees and chipped the branches. The chips were then used in the picnic areas.
 - b. Field staff have been clearing eucalyptus debris at Junipero Serra Park in the picnic areas and on some of the trails.
 - c. Field staff cleared trees off the trails in Junipero Serra Park due to storm damage.
2. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
- a. Field staff began painting tables in the shelter buildings and power washing the floors in Junipero Serra Park. These areas are the most heavily used in the summer months.
 - b. A six-inch sewer line needs to be replaced. The plumbing repairs will be funded by Measure K funds.
3. Staff Updates
- a. On February 13, two field staff attended the CAL Fire/CDC (California Department of Corrections) training in Ben Lomond.
 - b. Field staff attended the Department Bird Nesting Training at Edgewood Park.
4. Park and Park Office Closures

- a. On February 14, Junipero Serra Park was closed because Crystal Springs Road was closed to all vehicles due to a tree that had fallen onto PG &E wires during the storm.

Memorial Park

1. Natural Resource Management

- a. Contracted tree work was completed in the Creek Flat picnic area and Redwood Flat campground.
- b. Field staff continued tree management program work throughout use areas in collaboration with the Department arborist.

2. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

- a. Field staff installed new interpretive signs along the Trillium Nature Trail. The signs provide educational background on the surrounding environment.
- b. Field staff installed new BBQ grills and a serving table at Huckleberry Flats Site.
- c. Field staff rebuilt wooden tables at picnic and camping areas of Tan Oak Flat and Sequoia Flats Campground.
- d. The Maintenance Division cleared the Sequoia Campground creek crossing along Pescadero Creek, which had built up with storm debris.
- e. During the February 5 and 25 rainstorms, Parks collaborated with the Department of Public Works, PG&E, and AT&T to restore power, telephone, and internet service to the park and the Loma Mar area after multiple large trees fell along Pescadero Creek Road and took out power lines.
- f. Rangers cleared trails of storm debris and damage including a utility line that was broken by a fallen tree branch.

3. Park and Park Office Closures

- a. For most of the month of February, Memorial Park's Azalea Campground and Day Use Picnic Area were closed for safety concerns related to storms and flooding.

Moss Beach Park

1. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

- a. Ranger Escoto has been working with vendors and the Mid Coast Community Council (MCC) to upgrade non-compliant play structures. He attended the MCC meeting on March 27 and made a presentation regarding the proposed new play structure to be installed at Moss Beach Park.
- b. Broken fence boards around the play areas were repaired.

Pescadero Creek Park

1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Projects

- a. On February 9 and March 9, Volunteer Trails Day worked on the Old Haul Road, Baker Fire Road, Tarwater Trail and Pomponio Trail. Volunteers cleared trail

drainage, removed downed trees and storm debris, and made improvements to trail tread.

2. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
 - a. As part of the Old Haul Road project, field staff repaired the Old Haul Road near the Harwood Creek Crossing.
3. Park and Park Office Closures
 - a. For most of the month of February, all use areas and trails were closed for safety reasons due to storms and flooding.

Pillar Point Bluff

1. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
 - a. Field staff repaired pot holes and tire ruts throughout the parking lot.
2. Public Safety and Social Service Activity
 - a. Field staff are monitoring areas where homeless have previously camped in the Park. No new activity has been seen.

Quarry Park, Mirada East and West

1. Natural Resource Management
 - a. Fire fuel reduction work continues on the Mirada East Fire Road.
 - b. Increased use of illegally constructed mountain bike trails are creating sediment deposits and erosion. Field staff will identify illegal trail heads to set up cameras and track activity.
2. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
 - a. A utility plan is being engineered to add a new Ranger station and housing at the bottom of Quarry Park.
 - b. The department arborist and field staff have begun tagging trees for the South Ridge Fire Road upgrade project.

Sam McDonald Park

1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Projects
 - a. The San Gregorio non-profit organization Vida Verde visited Sam McDonald Park with six, fifth-grade youth to conduct owl pellet dissection as part of their weekly nature program in the outdoors. Field staff provided an interpretive hike along the Heritage Grove Trail and Sam McDonald Park.
 - b. On February 20, a volunteer planted a Honey Locust tree at the Jack Brooks Horse Camp with the Ad-Hoc Committee members, rangers, and the department arborist.

- c. The Bio Blitz event was held on March 2, with 28 people hiking along the Uncle Man Road and Heritage Grove Trail. The interpretive field staff also led a study on the biodiversity in the park.
- 2. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
 - a. Field staff continued storm damage cleanup and tree debris clearing on all trails.
 - b. Field staff conducted repairs to the Towne Fire Road damaged by the storms.
- 3. Park and Park Office Closures
 - a. For most of the month of February, all use areas and trails were closed for safety reasons due to storms and flooding.

San Bruno Mountain

- 1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Projects
 - a. On February 23, approximately 60 people attended the Wellness Hike at San Bruno Mountain. Field staff assisted with the hike in the morning. The groups hiked on the Saddle Loop Trail and the Summit Loop Trail.
- 2. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
 - a. On January 21, an old cyclone fence on Old Guadalupe Trail in San Bruno Mountain was removed. This project was funded by Measure K.
 - b. Installation of a new vehicle/pedestrian gate at San Bruno Mountain commenced. The gate is located off of Crocker Avenue in Daly City. The project was also funded by Measure K.
- 3. Park and Park Office Closures
 - a. The Summit Loop Trail on San Bruno Mountain (markers 14 -19) was temporarily closed on February 18, due to hazardous conditions.

San Pedro Valley Park

- 1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Projects
 - a. Regularly scheduled volunteer days (Trail Day and Habitat Day) continue to improve trails and remove invasive plants. For both events we had a total of 15 volunteers.
 - b. The Friends of San Pedro Valley held a lecture on March 30, called “Ants Everywhere.”
- 2. Natural Resource Management
 - a. The Friends of San Pedro Valley had a work day where they worked on the native garden, which consisted of planting and weeding.
- 3. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
 - a. The parks pressure vessels (air compressor and propane tanks) were inspected by Cal OSHA and passed. The permit is good for five years.

4. Staff Updates

- a. Seasonal park aides are being hired. They will be trained on various tools and policies. Park aides' focus will be brushing trails for the summer season, routine clean up, and maintenance duties.

Tunitas Creek Beach

1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Projects

- a. Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) had several donor events at the site.
- b. Monthly beach cleanup continues.

2. Natural Resource Management

- a. Snowy Plover are wintering at Tunitas Creek Beach. Surveys are being completed when rangers are on site and they are recording the number of birds as well as photographing the ones that are banded for identification tracking.

3. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

- a. The Parks Department was given an emergency permit from the Planning Department to start improvements. Installation of a new electrical drop will support the operational needs and protection of resources.

Wunderlich Park

1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Project

- a. A volunteer planting event was held on February 21, along highway 84 south of the park entrance. Acorns were planted to help restore native habitat.
- b. Nine people attended a mushroom hike on February 16 led by field staff.
- c. Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich, Chaparral, and field staff held a quarterly meeting on February 20 to discuss stable operations.

2. Natural Resource Management

- a. A large Eucalyptus tree along the Loop trail was removed.
- b. Field staff worked with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and Cal Fire to create a shaded fuel break along Bear Gulch Road on February 6, 7, and 28. 120 trees were removed.

3. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

- a. Storm clean up continues, clearing downed trees and drainages along trails.

4. Park and Park Office Closures

- a. The reroute along Alambique remains closed to horses due to a landslide.

Maintenance Unit

As reported by Kevin Scott, Ranger IV

1. Natural Resource Management
 - a. Annual mowing in all districts started with an emphasis on fire fuel reduction.
2. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
 - a. Upgrades and improvements to Huddart Park Shop and Woodside Store residence are being completed.
 - b. Field staff continue work on improving park roads surfaces.
3. Staff Updates
 - a. A new ranger has started in maintenance and recently obtained a Commercial Class B driver's license allowing him to drive the Department's garbage packer.

PROGRAMS

Interpretive Programs

As reported by Laurel Finnegan, Ranger IV

1. Parks Events, Programs and Volunteer Projects

Volunteer Activities Jan – March 2019

- a. Stewardship Corp managed planting projects at Pigeon Point, Wunderlich and Fitzgerald. There were also weeding projects at Junipero Serra and San Bruno Mountain.
- b. A day group volunteer event included acorn planting, trail work, tree planting, pulling invasive and grassland restoration.
- c. Friends and Partners contributed many hours through San Bruno Mountain Watch; Mission Blue Nursery; Edgewood Ed Center Docents, Weed Warriors, and Native Garden; Devils' Slide Trail Ambassadors; and Volunteer Horse Patrol.

Department Events:

- a. Mushroom Hikes at Huddart and Wunderlich were held with 39 people participating.
- b. Twenty five people attended the Steelhead Hike at Memorial Park.

Activities in Partnership:

Eighteen students from Vida Verde participated in hikes with Ranger Katherine.

The Fair Oak Pediatric Clinic Family Hike at Wunderlich had seventy people in attendance.

Thirty people attended the Menlo Park Library Education Night – All About Birds.

San Mateo County Employee Wellness Hike at San Bruno Mountain had sixty participants.

The Bio Blitz with Cal Academy, Lichen Society, Sequoia Audubon Society had thirty five participants.

2. Public Safety and Social Service Activity

- a. Field staff continue making educational contacts regarding the changes to the Dog Ordinances. The Department is tracking contacts made. Field staff made 146 educational contacts for ordinance violations between January and February:

Pillar Point Bluff (60)
Coyote Point (42)
Fitzgerald (18)
Coyote Point Marina (17)
Devil's Slide (5)
Quarry Park (3)
Mirada Surf (1)

The most common violations include dogs off leash and dogs in undesignated areas.

3. Staff Updates

- a. Administration Visitor Service, Ranger IV – Laurel Finnegan will transfer to District I, effective March 25, 2019. Ranger Finnegan will continue to assist with training and enforcement until responsibilities have been reassigned. Ranger Katherine Wright will continue to work on the I.D.E.A. initiative with Administration and support.

Natural Resource Management Program

As reported by Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resource Management Manager

1. Natural Resource Management

- a. Marbled murrelet nesting season started on March 24. This nesting season primarily impacts our forested parks in the southern part of the county. Field staff and Park Naturalists will be sharing tips with campers and park users to minimize their impacts to these special birds that use our parks annually for breeding.

2. Staffing Updates

- a. Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resource Manager, has returned from maternity leave. And the Natural Resources team will be adding a Park Aide, Marianna Castiaux, to help with butterfly monitoring on San Bruno Mountain.
- b. Arechiga attended the Climate Ready SMC Collaborative Preparing for Wildfire meeting on March 13th. This type of meeting facilitates collaboration among

agencies and communities in order to better prepare for wildland fire within the County and on our properties.

Parks Planning

As reported by Sam Herzberg, Senior Planner, AICP

Coyote Point Recreation Area

The Sea Level Vulnerability Assessment was completed with the Office of Sustainability. This meets a requirement of the State Lands Commission and California Assembly Bill (AB) 619.

Sanchez Adobe

A two part documentary film is being prepared about the Ohlone-Portolà Heritage Trail and three early periods of the Sanchez Adobe. New interpretive signs for the Ohlone-Portolà Heritage Trail at Sanchez Adobe and Pillar Point Bluff are being planned and permitted. Heritage Day is being planned for the opening of the Interpretive Center on October 26, 2019.

Quarry Park

The Department is in the process of preparing Design Plans and securing permits for two new fire roads to close gaps off of Coronado Avenue connecting to both Mirada East Fire Road and the Southern Ridge Road. Utility improvements have been designed and are in the process of being permitted for non-potable water for irrigation and fire prevention purposes. Design Plans and permits are being initiated for potable water, electricity, and sewer to serve the Ranger office and future Ranger residences.

Tunitas Creek Beach

Design Plans have been completed and permits have been secured for a new electrical connection.

Updates provided by:

- Pricilla Alvarez, Ranger IV
- Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resources Management Manager
- Mark Bettis, Harbormaster
- Joe Immethun, Ranger III
- Matt Del Carlo, Ranger IV
- Laurel Finnegan, Ranger IV
- Kevin O'Brien, Ranger III
- Kevin Scott, Ranger IV
- David Vasquez, Ranger IV
- Sam Herzberg, Senior Planner, AICP