

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: March 28, 2016
COMMISSION MEETING DATE: April 7, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Scott Lombardi, Parks Superintendent
SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report

RECOMMENDATION

Read report.

BACKGROUND

This report covers Park activities since the Commission's February 4, 2016 meeting.

DISCUSSION

PARK DISTRICT I

Coyote Point Recreation Area

With summer quickly approaching, special event permit requests, including athletic events, large corporate group use and weddings, have increased dramatically.

Staff participated in a meeting hosted by the Department's Interpretive Planning Committee to inform the future direction of the new Interpretive Program.

Park Ranger Nastari participated in the County's Human Resources first annual Sequoia High School Job Shadow Day. Various department representatives met with 60 high school students to discuss the diversity of jobs at the County and the satisfaction of providing services to County residents.

Volunteers from Hillsdale High School removed approximately 50 cubic yards of invasive weeds, mostly French broom, along Coyote Point Drive.

Crystal Springs Trail

Staff attended a Bird Nesting Training at Edgewood Park that the Natural Resource Manager presented. Staff learned to identify active nests near worksites to minimize impact to bird populations during their nesting season.

PARK DISTRICT II

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

An Eagle Scout completed his project to build a new 2-foot by 40-foot flowerbed. Parks volunteers will plant native plants. The project required the removal of nearly eight tons of broken concrete sections.

Volunteers and staff have completed brush clearing and the widening of sections of the Franciscan and Ridge Trails. They also installed or improved (existing) trail treads and drainage features.

The Department continues the process of working with PG&E to rehabilitate the areas affected by their work. Volunteers for the Blue Bird Box project have completed the repair and relocation of nest boxes and staff has started adding snake guards to protect the any nesting birds. Volunteers and park staff are removing invasive fruit trees in the day use area as well as starting to pruning back poison oak growing along the trails.

Flood Park

The Alternative Work Program crews are weeding reservation areas and parking lots.

An Eagle Scout has started his project at the Bay Picnic reservation area, which involves replacing the lumber for the tables, the BBQ pits and landscaping the area surrounding the picnic site.

Huddart Park

A footbridge is being constructed over a drainage ditch to provide a safe crossing for visitors near the lower Oak picnic area.

Volunteers are spreading chips around picnic tables in the Upper and Lower Oak picnic areas and removing French and Scotch broom near the Redwood reservation area.

Wunderlich Park

The Department is collaborating with Woodside Fire, CalFire and Caltrans to remove 12 large hazardous eucalyptus trees located along Highway 84

New directional signs were installed for the Folger Stable Museum.

Two new electrical lines were installed to provide power to the new restroom and office building near the arena.

Friendship Park

Staff continues to help weed, clean the park and haul the green waste composting the volunteers collect.

PARK DISTRICT III-SOUTH COAST

Comcast has begun their contracted work to install and upgrade Internet and wireless services for the Water Treatment Plant and Memorial Park gatehouse and headquarters buildings. Staff installed new pumps and treatment infrastructure components in the lift station for Memorial Park's wastewater system. Contractors began work on the new generator project for the sewer plant and lift station.

Staff and La Honda Fire personnel conducted a successful emergency response for an injured hiker who had fallen down a cliff in Pescadero Creek Park.

Due to the recent storm conditions, Memorial Park was temporarily closed for one week while staff worked to clear affected camping and use areas.

PARK DISTRICT IV

San Pedro Valley/Devils Slide/Sanchez Adobe

Ranger patrols were increased on the north end of Devil's Slide in response to reported break-ins of parked vehicles.

During February and March, Student Conservation Associations crews worked on steps for the Brooks Trail and removal of pampas, jubata, broom and eucalyptus saplings.

The Brook's Trail Bridge washed out during the three-day rain event in March.

Volunteers from Alma Heights weeded and spread 10 yards of bark on islands and planters around the visitor center

Staff is working with consultants and Public Works to update the lighting for the Visitor Center to use new energy efficient lights that will energy consumption and highlight the design features of the building space.

Fitzgerald/Mirada/Quarry/Moss Beach Playground

Staff is working with PG&E to remove trees from power line easements along Quarry and Mirada Surf parks,

The Maverick's Surf Event was held in February. The Department had 14 Rangers on duty during the event to help protect people and resources on County lands.

PARK DISTRICT V

Maintenance

Staff registered the two new Brush Bandit chippers with the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Air Resources Board (ARB).

Chipper training for park staff was conducted during March. Maintenance staff attended ARB training and bird monitoring training.

The Parks Equipment Mechanic is servicing the heavy equipment for mowing season and catching up on the servicing of all the small equipment, chippers, and RTVs.

The Parks Electrician is installing LED lights at Coyote Point Recreation Area.

Other work accomplished by Maintenance staff includes building a retaining wall behind the ranger residence at San Pedro Valley Park, constructing a kiosk for the Pedro Point Headlands, preparing for a generator installation at Memorial Park, testing backflow devices at San Bruno Mountain State and County Park, and mowing in Park District III.

PARK DISTRICT VI

This park district is the Marina, and the Harbor Master makes a report separately on the agenda.

PARK DISTRICT VII – Junipero Serra Park/San Bruno Mountain

Storms caused several trees to fall including a heritage oak tree in February that fell on several tables and a food locker at the Oak Cove Day Camp in Junipero Serra Park. Also in February at Junipero Serra Park, a eucalyptus branch fell and broke a skylight at the women's restroom in the lower Meadow View area.

On March 8 and 10, 25 student volunteers from the College of San Mateo worked with park staff removing weeds, placing base rock under barbecue pits and tables in the drop in areas of De Anza, and spreading mulch.

All rangers attended the Bird Nesting training in March held at Edgewood County Park.

On March 21, Junipero Serra Park officially reopened to the public after being closed since an SFPUC water line break in July 2015. The gatehouse is still under construction and will be finished in April. In the fall, oak trees and native plants will be planted at the park entrance.