

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Parks Department



DATE: May 25, 2017

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: June 1, 2017

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Sarah Birkeland, Acting Parks Director
SUBJECT: Director's Report

BUSINESS SERVICES

The FY 2017-19 Recommended Budget has been submitted. Major highlights of the two-year budget are as follows:

- Transfer of fourteen existing and on-going capital projects from the Department of Public Works (DPW) that include \$4.3 million in Measure K funded projects and \$548,000 in General Fund projects.
- \$3 million per fiscal year in new Measure K funding for Parks capital projects.
Projects transferred from DPW to Parks include:
 - \$1.7 Million for Pescadero Old Haul Road repairs.
 - \$500,000 for Huddart Park Water Supply System
 - \$100,000 for paving of Memorial Park Tan Oak Loop
 - \$200,000 for the Sam McDonald Visitor Center renovation and Interpretive Center
 - \$250,000 for new Ranger residences
 - \$250,000 for Alambique Trail repairs
- \$2.2 million per fiscal year in on-going Measure K revenue for Parks maintenance projects
- \$1.1 million appropriated in the Coyote Point Marina budget for the Marina Dredging Project
- \$206,000 in funding to implement storm water compliance activities and for planning and coordination with Office of Sustainability to meet total maximum daily loads at Pescadero Creek and provide green infrastructure at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
- \$204,000 in funding for Geographic Information System development

Other important budget items:

- Approximately \$600,000 in Parks Dedication Trust Fund (Quimby Act) revenue, due to legal restrictions, cannot be used to supplement the budget

- Personnel salary and benefit costs additions include retention of a Management Fellow position, reclassification of a Program Coordinator II to Communications Specialist, and the upgrade of a GIS Tech I to GIS Tech II
- One Park Ranger II position will no longer be funded by the Re-entry Employment Preparation Program as that program is being eliminated

Positions

The total number of permanent staff members remains at 71.

Net county cost

Net county cost adjustments were provided by the County Manager's Office for increases in cost of living adjustments (COLA) for salary and benefits, county interdepartmental charges, and for storm water compliance activities. Net county cost has an increase of \$638,450 from FY 2016-17 to FY 2017-18 and an additional \$78,022 in FY 2018-19 for salary and benefits and county interdepartmental charges.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Stewardship Corps

With the generous winter rains and copious weed season, the Corps' main concentration has been on weeding non-native species. Approximately 21.5 cubic yards of weeds have been pulled and removed from the restoration sites by volunteers over the last couple of months. An additional 10 cubic yards of broom were pulled and removed from San Pedro Valley Park to aid in fuel reduction along the park boundary with the neighbors.

In April and May so far, 176 people, including 65 youth, have participated in the programming. This equals about 523 hours of volunteer service. On Earth Day, we hosted a special program that included a natural resource focused hike on San Bruno Mountain.

Butterfly Monitoring

The Natural Resource Management team completed mission blue monitoring on May 19. Over 200 adults were observed this season.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

In Park District I at Coyote Point Recreation Area, a Super Hero 5K Special Event and Earth Day Volunteer Beach cleanup with CuriOdyssey were hosted (more detail in volunteer highlights). The May Take A Hike took place at Sawyer Camp Trail (more detail in programs highlights).

In Park District II at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, the blooming wildflowers were seen by thousands of people visiting the park. At Huddart Park, the Toyon campground improvements are completed and open to the public.

In Park District III, Memorial Park was closed temporarily to conduct emergency plumbing repairs to the wastewater treatment system and Wurr Flats was temporarily closed for storm damage cleanup and contracted tree work. Equestrians gathered at

the Jack Brook Horse Camp for their annual work day party and Trail Center volunteers worked on the Mt. Ellen trails network on May 13.

In Park District IV, May 10, the final exploratory trench was completed at Sanchez Adobe to identify and document any significant prehistoric or Mission era findings. At San Pedro Valley Park, the visitor center remodel and walking path are completed. The opening of the remodeled Education Center at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is scheduled for June 10 with a ribbon cutting at 12:30 p.m., with music provided by local artists and refreshments. The Center now provides an immersive experience, regardless of weather or other conditions, that educates patrons about the Reserve and inspires them to learn more and protect the natural environment through stewardship. Three flat screen monitors showcase videos and photography of the inter-tidal zones and offshore life that highlight the underwater ecosystem. Hewlett Packard graciously sponsored a state-of-the-art, interactive computer called a Sprout. This system includes both 2D and 3D scanning technology, a virtual tide pool, a LIVE mat that acts as a projector, keyboard, scanner and screen. The system also contains an app called iCreate which allows staff to scan items and display on large screen monitors while visitors can make their own natural world images and email them as a reminder of their experience.

Park District V, the Maintenance Unit, in addition to regular maintenance projects and parks support projects, completed ADA improvements for the restrooms at San Pedro Valley and has started on ranger residence improvements.

The Coyote Point Marina, Park District VI, has been busy with the dredging project (more detail under Projects), conducting its annual berth rate survey and annual tenants meeting.

In Park District VII, several park projects using Measure A funds are happening at Junipero Serra Park including hazard tree removal along trails, building an equipment storage shed and a retaining wall around a dumpster enclosure, and creating an overflow parking area. AT San Bruno Mountain improvements include new doors on the restroom, restoring horse shoe pits, patching potholes, and cleaning and reorganizing the corporation yard shop.

PLANNING

The first public workshop for the Quarry Park Master Plan was held May 16, 2017 from 7-9:00 p.m. – about 50 people attended. Next steps will include a follow up survey prior to the next public workshop July 25, 2017.

PROGRAMS

Interpretive Programs

In April, the Take A Hike 2017 kick-off at Huddart Park had over 175 attendees! On April 8, 20 people had a staff led wildflower nature hike at San Bruno Mountain. The 2017 Junior Ranger program kickoff was April 29 at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve with 45 participants. In May, we had 75 folks do the Take A Hike at Sawyer Camp Trail. At Memorial Park, May 20, “Indiana Jones – Raiders of the Lost Ark” kicked off summer movies. The new amphitheater system is great.

PROJECTS**Coyote Point Marina Dredging**

The Army Corps' permit required that sediment samples from various areas of the dredge footprint must be analyzed and tested for toxicity and chemicals. As reported last meeting, one of the chemical counts tested slightly higher than normal in the samples submitted. On May 17, our consultants received verbal approval from the Dredged Material Management Office that the test samples submitted were acceptable and that our dredge material was suitable for in-Bay disposal.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The Portola Trail Committee decided at its May 16, 2017 meeting to change the name of the trail to the Ohlone/Portola Heritage Trail. Maps have been updated from POST indicating segments to be improved on the coastside and the status of those. The effort is expanding to include bayside communities.

VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

More than 250 volunteers participated in the annual Earth Day beach and park clean up in partnership with CuriOdyssey at Coyote Point Recreation Area. Student volunteers from 13 area schools, including Burlingame High School, Carlmont High School, and Mercy High School joined employee groups from Kaiser Permanente, PG&E, GAP, Oracle and Wells Fargo. The San Mateo Police Activity League, along with Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops also worked for three hours that morning. In total 4.5 cubic yards of debris was collected with 5,600 trash items picked up. Food wrappers, beverage containers and cigarette butts was the major part of the debris collected. This year, Earth Day volunteers at all San Mateo County Park events received a 2017 Earth Day pin.

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 23 through 29, County Parks erected large banners at park entrances recognizing the contributions of volunteers. During the same week, the Department participated in a county wide social media campaign to highlight volunteer opportunities and encourage the public to become volunteers. Spots featured volunteer roles with Park friends groups, Trail Patrol Volunteers, Trail Ambassadors, and Stewardship Corps. The Trail Patrol program has seen a spike in volunteer applications in response to the promotion.

The Department will host the 4th Annual North Fair Oaks Bike Rodeo at Flood Park. The event features a skills drill area, bike repair stations, safety tips, free bike helmets while the supply lasts, and a raffle. The event helps fund the Siena Youth Center's Bulldog Riders trips and outdoor experiences.