

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: March 30, 2015

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: April 9, 2015

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: Natural Resource Manager Report

RECOMMENDATION

Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND

This report covers research and activities since the Commission's February 5, 2015 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Countywide Initiatives

Web Presence

The Natural Resource Management (NRM) program now has a place on the Parks Department website. Please visit <http://parks.smcgov.org/natural-resource-management> to learn more about the program and active projects. In addition, Scientific Permit and Site Activity Review applications are now available through an online form. This online form will provide a digital record of individual applications and improve the process.

San Bruno Mountain HCP

A 30-year Assessment has been completed to help guide management priorities for San Bruno Mountain. This will be presented to the HCP Trustees later this year. It will also provide the basis for the upcoming vegetation management for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The Annual Field Visit is scheduled for April 10, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A rare plant survey by Creekside Science has been initiated on San Bruno Mountain to inform HCP management moving forward.

GIS

GIS and Natural Resource Intern, Rachele Hedges, has completed the Parks system boundaries layer. She also created the recent inspection database which will be used moving forward for recording annual inspection results and help Parks prioritize

maintenance needs. She has completed 15 maps to date for various projects and partnerships.

Fuel Reduction Site Visits and Initiatives

The NRM regularly participates in the County's monthly Fire Safe Council meetings. These meetings have led to increased coordination system-wide for fuel reduction projects. The NRM will provide all needed District fuel reduction projects to CALFIRE for inclusion in their annual grant-funded crew days. Site visits have been made to monitor and assess the need for fuel reduction projects in El Granada and Brisbane.

Building the Natural Resource Stewardship Program

Collaboration

Outreach to different programs offered through the local chapters of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) continues to provide guidance to the NRM program concerning the Stewardship Corps. Recent conversations with Toni Corelli, a local expert botanist, and Edgewood Weed Warrior program have provided meaningful input on documenting rare, threatened, and endangered plant species and providing meaningful volunteer opportunities for CNPS members as well as the interested public.

District Activities

District I

NRM has secured six replacement trees (coast live oaks, *Quercus agrifolia*) for Coyote Point Recreation Area. These trees will replace trees that had to be removed under PG&E transmission lines.

District II

Creekside Science and the NRM program are working to implement ongoing adaptive management trials at Edgewood using alternative methods to hydromechanical obliteration which was not able to occur this year due to lack of rain.

District III

The Resource Conservation District and the NRM program collaborated on a recent grant application that could fund close to half the cost needed to remove the largest Humboldt crossing along Old Haul Road in Pescadero Creek County Park.

District IV

The San Vicente Creek project has been completed and is now in maintenance mode. Over 16 tons of invasive plant material was removed in the initial phase of this project. Ongoing grant support is being sought to continue the work. A volunteer planting was held February 28th to further enhance the Cypress Grove area post-hazard tree treatment along the Coastal Trail.

District V

The NRM program is working with the Rangers charged with fuel reduction mowing to improve our practices concerning invasive species to limit equipment-related spread.