

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
PARKS DEPARTMENT

DATE: October 4, 2018

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

DISTRICT I – NORTH COUNTY

Includes Coyote Point Park, Crystal Springs Trail/San Andreas Trail
As reported by Ty Kang, Ranger IV, Mario Nastari, Ranger III

Coyote Point Recreation Area

- Two Lightning tube slides replaced at Magic Mt. Playground.
- Completed Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) 'Surface Cleaner' annual training. This is an annual course that provides training for pollution prevention practices.
- Pergola ceremony site in Upper Knoll completed.
- Eagle Scout project on August 11, 12, with 8 participants. Installed split rail fencing at pergola site.
- Hosted 'Take a Kid Fishing' in cooperation with CuriOdyssey Day Camp.
- Special Events-Corporate groups: July 19-Upstart, 300 attendees, August 17-Gilead, 150 attendees, August 25-Exponent, 300 attendees, August 29-Essex, 600 attendees
- Repaired 8" main water line break-Knoll.
- Hazardous tree removal-Rifle Range perimeter.
- Labor Day holiday weekend-staff did a tremendous job.
- Volunteer project (SMC Environmental Services)-Magic Mt. landscaping.
- Hosted 'Take a Hike' on September 1, with 50 participants
- 'Fishing with a Ranger'-Jr. Ranger Program, September 1, and 10 participants.

Crystal Springs Trail

- Attended SFPUC ¼ meeting.
- String cut and cleared trail section-South Gate to Dam.
- String-cut, hedged and chipped along Sawyer Camp Trail.
- Attended meetings for bridge-dam project.

DISTRICT II – SOUTH COUNTY

Includes Edgewood Park & Preserve, Flood Park, Friendship Park, Huddart Park, Wunderlich Park
As reported by Rogelio Castaneda, Ranger IV

Edgewood Park and Nature Preserve

- Hazard tree removal, and green waste disposal.
- Shuttle Program to Edgewood ended August 26, 2018.
- Prepared Butterfly habitat plot with a chain drag.

Flood Park

- Hazardous tree removal throughout the park.
- Removed pile of artificial turf rolls/sand and cleared parking lot #3.
- Able Septic Services, hydro flushed sewer lines throughout the park and at Rangers Residence.

Friendship Park

- Staff continues to perform playground inspections and basic maintenance.

Huddart Park

- CDCR/CAL Fire hand crews at the Meadow, Archery Fire Road.
- Hazardous tree removal by Timberline along Archery Fire Road, and other areas recommended by County Arborist.
- Repaired two water breaks, at campground road and Werder Loop.
- Hosted POST family day and assisted with Ranger led hikes.
- Hosted the Parks Foundation 20th Anniversary.
- Shoulder work along service road, and pothole repairs.
- Trail brushing on trails throughout park.

Wunderlich Park

- Parks Shuttle for Wunderlich ended August 26.
- Assisted with parking and helped with the Barn Dance Event.
- San Mateo County Drug Enforcement eradicated 300 marijuana plant, and staff assisted on cleanup of camp.
- Added four corrals at the Arena area for the Chaparral Trail Rides.
- Gonsalves & Stronck started Wunderlich Park Carriage Room improvements project.
- Timberline Tree company on hazardous tree removal at upper Alambique trail, and at main parking lot.
- Professional Tree Care Co, removed all the downed eucalyptus along Hwy/84 and two hazards.
- Completed Alambique trail reroute improvements, and reopened the trail to the public.
- CDCR/CAL FIRE, three days on Alambique reroute improvements.
- Shoulder work along service road.

DISTRICT III – SOUTH COAST

Includes Memorial Park, Pescadero Creek Park, Sam McDonald Park
As reported by David Vasquez, Ranger IV

Memorial Park/ Pescadero Creek Park/Sam McDonald Park

- Two critical pumps and corresponding plumbing were installed by contractors at the Memorial Park wastewater treatment system overflow pond and spray fields. Parks Maintenance Division staff re-wired the electrical and rebuilt the sheds that housed the new pumps while the contractors installed the plumbing and pumps.
- On Friday August 5, ISD began working on important upgrades and repairs to the main radio communications tower in Sam McDonald Park, just off of the Towne Fire Road, a few miles above the Jack Brooks Horse Camp.
- Parks Maintenance Division replaced the roof on the Sam McDonald Visitor Center buildings.
- Parks entered into first time agreement with local organization PUENTE of La Honda who are funding a seasonal Park Aide youth to work at Memorial Park.
- Parks' Natural Resource Management planned with field operations and Resource Conservation District to begin contracted work on the Old Haul Road on Monday July 17th to repair two creek crossings, Harwood and Keystone, as they intersect with the road in Pescadero Creek Park.
- Parks completed plans and turned in permit applications to repair the equestrian bridge over the Towne Creek on the West Brook Trail in Pescadero Creek Park.
- Contracted tree work conducted at the Shaw Flat Trail Camp of Pescadero Creek Park to re-open it for use. Memorial Park rangers conducted tree work at the Tarwater Trail Camp of Pescadero Creek Park to re-open it as well.

DISTRICT IV – MID-COAST

Includes Devil's Slide, James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Mirada Surf, Moss Beach Playground, Pillar Point Bluff, Quarry Park, San Pedro Valley, Sanchez Adobe
As reported by Matt Del Carlo, Ranger IV

San Pedro Valley/Devils Slide/Sanchez Adobe/ Tunitas Creek Beach

- Efforts at Tunitas Creek Beach have paid off. Most illegal activity has been curtailed to isolated incidents with the exception of poaching Dungeness crabs. Both Fish and Wildlife and Ranger staff have cited poachers. One Warden staked out the area and cited many individuals for poaching.
- The project at Sanchez Adobe continues to move forward. Both the reworked site plan and electrical drawings have been completed. Trenching continues the week of the 24th.

- All symbols along Devil's Slide trail have been painted in house. We are working on a contract to get Thermal Stripping from the north to south end of all center lines and dashed lines.
- The public has really appreciated all the efforts Rangers are making at San Pedro Valley. Many have stated it is the best the park has looked in 25 years. The continued effort to reduce brush along Weiler Ranch road will start up again after nesting season ends.

Fitzgerald/Mirada/Quarry/Pillar Point Bluffs/Moss Beach Playground

- Additional staffing continues at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve with some extreme low tides.
- Ranger Hanson has taken the lead on removing small dead cypress trees along Fitzgerald's bluff top. He has meet with the County Arborist and have scheduled a meeting for neighbors to inform them of the project.
- The fuel reduction project was completed at Mirada East. The Department operator finished hauling off all large logs that could not be chipped. Additional days were given to us to accommodate the San Pedro Valley Fuel reduction project
- Increased patrols continue at Pillar Point with emphasis on dogs off leash and dogs on the beach at Ross' Cove.
- Patrols are increased at Quarry with several complaints of motorcycles on trails. To date no contacts have been made.

DISTRICT V - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

As reported by Kevin Scott, Ranger IV

Note: There are no Parks in District V, this is our Maintenance Division.

- Completed Tunitas Creek gate and emergency access road
- Repaired Sam McDonald Visitor Center roof
- Completed Memorial Park sewer pump and electrical upgrades
- Operator assisted with archeological dig at Sanchez Adobe
- Assisted Marina with removal of abandoned boats
- Continued with district wide mowing during summer

DISTRICT VII

Includes Junipero Serra Park, San Bruno Mountain Park

As reported by Priscilla Alvarez, Ranger IV

Junipero Serra Park & San Bruno Mountain

- July 25 - Park staff installed a bench along the Old Guadalupe Trail at San Bruno Mountain. Since then, park staff have received much praise from the daily walkers.
- July 28 – Supervisor David Canepa hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new bench at San Bruno Mountain. Additionally, approximately 50 people

participated in a guided hike around the Saddle Loop area with Supervisor Canepa, San Bruno Mountain Watch and Park Staff.

- August 4 – Junipero Serra Park hosted Take a Hike. Approximately 40 people participated in the hike.
- August 18 - San Bruno Mountain hosted a Special Event Run – Star City San Bruno Mountain Half Marathon. There were approximately 100 runners that participated in the event. The run began in Brisbane and runners used various trails throughout the park.
- August 18 – Junipero Serra Park hosted movie night. Approximately 70 people watched Black Panther in the Meadow View area.
- August 25 – San Bruno Mountain hosted a Special Event – Urban Coyote Running Club. Approximately 125 participants used various trails throughout the park.
- August 27 – Contractor Steri Clean was hired to clean three dump site/unoccupied homeless encampments at San Bruno Mountain. Work is scheduled for October 9-11
- September 4 – Contractor Go Native began lifting and thinning the willow trees along Airport Blvd. in South San Francisco to prevent homeless encampments at San Bruno Mountain. Over 50 trees were thinned out. The homeless encampments are threatening the ecosystem in this area.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM)

As reported by Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resources Manager

Operations Support

The NRM team has continued to support Parks Operations staff through conducting sensitive species surveys and flagging at various parks to support routine trail maintenance and routine projects. Hannah has secured and overseen contractor work to support the Old Haul Road sediment repair projects through securing biological monitors for oversight of project activities during construction, and for completing the necessary pre-construction surveys for species of concern in the project areas. Hannah is continuing necessary coordination for this project with the RCD, contractors, and Parks operations staff through the duration of the construction starting in mid-September. In addition, the NRM team has taken over processing permit applications for routine projects that require permits from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. This enables improved coordination between NRM and Operations and to secure ecologically appropriate mitigation outcomes for projects that are necessary to keep our Parks safe for recreation and improve ecological outcomes.

Dan has recently taken over responsibilities as the point-of-contact for an arborist training program, instituted by Arborwell. The Arborwell program provides hands-on training related to live and dead limb pruning and end weight reduction skills and techniques for new arborists. Dan will be working to identify appropriate County parks for this work to occur at no charge to the Parks. This project, which has been

established for multiple years, has provided high quality tree pruning to many trees within Flood County Park. Under Dan's direction this program will be extended to other parks where tree pruning is sorely needed to manage risk to visitors, while still providing reasonable training opportunity for the arborists trainees.

NRM Coordination & Program Management

The NRM team also completed the annual reporting for the Municipal Regional Permit issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. This is coordinated annually by the Office of Sustainability and all departments are required to report on compliance with this permit as it relates to the Clean Water Act. Since August, Dan has been shifting his work load from conducting tree inspections to focusing on developing a Parks' Tree Management program. This program will directly benefit safety and improve operational oversight of trees within high visitor use areas. His early work providing physical inspections has assisted him to better understand the best ways to implement a tree safety and risk management program.

San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan

The NRM team has engaged with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to coordinate the implementation of the West Peak restoration plan, to restore critical habitat for mission blue butterfly. The plan for this restoration project was recently approved by the NRM team as well as the USFWS, and PG&E is taking initial steps for implementation this fall. Management of conserved habitat in the form of invasive vegetation removal and scrub encroachment reduction for the fall and winter of 2018-2019 is underway, with all priority treatment areas identified, and contractors being lined up to complete the work in the coming months. The first meeting of a technical advisory committee focused on facilitating the re-introduction of cattle grazing as a habitat management tool at San Bruno Mountain took place at the start of September. This committee is composed of experts in the fields of rangeland management, conservation grazing, and protected butterfly species. PG&E has also initiated the discussion with the NRM team on the potential for using goat or sheep grazing in their right-of-ways as a tool for vegetation management work. In addition, the SBMHCP Annual Trustees meeting was held on September 10th and information about this meeting can be found on the Parks Department webpage.

Wunderlich County Park – Oak Woodland Restoration

Under the guidance of Ramona, Dan has been working closely with PG&E to continue the discussions and project planning regarding the Wunderlich L-109 mitigation project which will include removal of multiple acres of eucalyptus from the center of the park to be converted into ecologically valuable oak woodland. The Parks Department hosted a public meeting with PG&E on September 11th in Portola Valley to discuss the project with interested community members.

Region-wide and County-wide Collaboration

The NRM team is collaborating on a fine-scale vegetation map for all of San Mateo County. This effort is being led by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and is in collaboration with regional partners such as California State Parks, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, and Peninsula Open Space Trust. This effort provides a unique opportunity for all regional agencies and partners to have the same baseline vegetation map for all manner of analysis to support conservation, fire safety and fuel reduction, and improve project impact analyses. The NRM team is coordinating collaboration at the County level with the Office of Sustainability, Department of Public Works, Agriculture Weights and Measures, Planning and Building, and Information Services Department to improve our access to this important resource.

NRM Team Updates

Arborist

In early August Dan had attended the International Society of Arboriculture's, Tree Risk Assessment course, and is now an ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ)! Completion of this course affirms that Dan has a breadth of knowledge in the Arboricultural field, and is able to apply his knowledge of tree physiology and tree failure patterns to think critically about the consequences of failure while following a peer-reviewed tree risk assessment protocol. Dan has been taking lead on Utility Right-of-Way projects including working closely between Parks' staff and the utility contractors to verify the scope of work to be done within County property. Which include PG&E, their contractors and the Stanford Linear Accelerator (SLAC) easement.

Natural Resource Specialist II

Hannah Ormshaw has attended a training on reporting requirements for the RWQCB MRP annual reporting requirements since the last commission meeting. She has been coordinating contractors for the vegetation management activities and priorities at San Bruno Mountain for this coming fall and onward. Hannah has provided an updated tracking application for use by all county contractors and volunteers, for recording all vegetation management activities in the parks. She has worked closely with Ramona to cover project responsibilities during her leave, including stewardship corps, HCP supervision, Old Haul Rd, Tunitas Creek Beach, and San Vicente Creek projects, as well as other permitting and reporting tasks.

Natural Resource Manager

Ramona Arechiga also attended a training on reporting requirements for the RWQCB MRP annual reporting requirements since the last commission meeting. She directly coordinated reporting for the 2017-18 MRP RWQCB permit this year and is working to streamline future reporting requirements. Since June Ramona has been working to coordinate and hand-off projects ahead of her scheduled maternity leave in September. As part of this effort, she has worked closely with Dan and Hannah on all of the projects listed above as well as a number of more routine tasks to ensure a smooth transition while she is out. Ramona will be returning in March.

PROGRAMS

Interpretive Programs

As reported by Laurel Finnegan, Ranger IV

Since the last Commission meeting, here are the events we hosted and participation numbers:

Saturday	July 21st	Movie Night w/ SAL - Coco	Flood	105
Saturday	July 28th	Supervisor Canepa District 5 Hike	San Bruno Mountain	40
Thursday	August 2nd	Coyote Nights Art Night	Coyote Point	75
Saturday	August 4th	TAH	JSP	45
Saturday	August 11th	Junior Ranger Event	Coyote Point	30
Saturday	August 18th	Movie Night w/ SAL - Black Panther	JSP	60
Saturday	August 25th	TAH	Quarry	40
Saturday	September 1st	TAH	Coyote Point	50
Saturday	September 1st	Fishing with a Ranger	Coyote Point	10
Saturday	September 8th	Junior Ranger Event	SPV	45