



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: September 24, 2015

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: October 1, 2015

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

RECOMMENDATION:
Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND:
This report covers Park activities since the Commission's August 6, 2015 meeting.

DISCUSSION:
In all of our Parks Districts, preparations for the expected El Niño and seasonal winter storms are being made. Staff are stocking sand bags, clearing culverts and removing debris in and around drainage ditches, trimming and/or removing hazardous trees, grading and rocking service roads, and doing general trail winterizing maintenance.

PARKS DISTRICT I-NORTH COUNTY

Coyote Point Recreation Area

Staff used the department's new stump grinder to grind seven large diameter eucalyptus and pine stumps below grade in one day's work, and appreciate the time savings this new piece of equipment provides.

The recent extremely hot weather made the beach area a popular designation with many visitors, who came to cool down with a swim and to dry off with the afternoon winds.

Staff has met with contractors to review conceptual plans for the Eastern Promenade Rejuvenation Project.

New table boards will be installed on damaged and worn out tables in the drop in and reservation sites.

Crystal Springs Trail

The second opening of the South of Dam trail segment took place on the weekend of September 19 and 20, with a higher attendance than the first trail opening.

Several new Memorial benches were dedicated and installed along the trail.

Junipero Serra Park

Park staff and the Maintenance District's Equipment Operator improved 150 feet of Oak Cove Fire Road creating another ingress/egress for emergency vehicles and ranger vehicles.

San Bruno Mountain

Hazard tree work was completed on the Old Guadalupe Trail from the Crocker gate entrance to the main parking lot that improved the visual aesthetics of the area greatly.

The department is in discussion with State Parks to renew the operating agreement with them.

PARKS DISTRICT II – SOUTH COUNTY

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

Two culverts were replaced and a new length of split rail fence was installed along the Serpentine Trail.

Park staff and volunteers from the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association had a work day on September 19 and both rocked and installed a 30-foot steel and pressure-treated wood retaining wall along the Clarkia Trail.

All annual dethatching has been completed as part of the Creekside Science recommendations for eight acres of sensitive butterfly habitat and nearly 10 acres of non-native Yellow Star Thistle that were previously cut and/or mowed from the meadows bordering the Clarkia Trail.

An Eagle Scout completed a project along the Edgewood Trail near the Edgewood Road entrance that included removing an old rusted metal culvert above grade and replacing it with a new plastic culvert several inches below grade. A retaining wall will be added on both sides of the trail over the culvert and the grade over the culvert raised to deter future erosion.

PG&E is hydro-testing the 109 transmission line within park boundaries, and have opened three access spots to determine the line's condition.

Flood Park

Three community forums to obtain opinions and feedback on future designs for Flood Park's usage have been held to date.

Friendship Park

Gardeners have harvested their summer crops, and the planters are being cleared. The gardening plots and playground continue to be kept clean and organized by the community.

Park staff continues to help weed and clean the park, and haul the green waste composting.

Huddart Park

Take A Hike at Huddart Park on September 5th drew nearly 100 hikers. Hikers had the choice of two different staff led hikes.

An ADA accessible ramp and trail are nearly completed at the Toyon III camping area. A new propane line and tank have been installed, and the asphalt and rail contracts are nearly completed.

Wunderlich Park

Maintenance and park staff built a new structure near the arena to hold tack for the horses and an office for Chaparral to operate their concession, and a tack shed near the existing Annex shed.

California Department of Corrections crews and staff continue fuel reduction work along the park's northern boundary adjoining Bear Gulch Road. More than 10 acres have benefited from this work east and west of the Meadow gate.

PARKS DISTRICT III-SOUTH COAST

Memorial Park Complex

On July 18, a large Douglas fir tree fell across the road on Alpine Road damaging the pedestrian bridge to the Heritage Grove in Sam McDonald Park. The bridge has been closed but will be repaired in the near future.

Park staff worked with AB 109 crews on fire fuel reduction at the Tarwater Trail camps in Pescadero Creek Park.

On August 6, a Red Flag Warning was declared, which meant parks and trails were closed. The warning was lifted the next morning by 10 a.m.

Sequoia Campground was closed on September 7 for a construction project to demolish the Pescadero Creek crossing and to notch the old swimming hole dam site. This work is being funded by the Resource Conservation District to enhance protection and habitat for Coho salmon.

Porta-potties were removed from Memorial Park on September 8. Restrooms are open but no showers are open due to the continuing drought. .

PARKS DISTRICT IV - MIDCOAST

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve/Quarry Park/Moss Beach Park/Pillar Point Bluff/Mirada East & West

Staff had to remove new encampment debris in a large area that had recently been cleared at Pillar Point Bluff.

At the Reserve, SCA crews assisted with brushing in the parking lot and Bluff trail areas, and replacing one set of stairs. Staff replaced a second set of stairs two weeks later. Staff and SCA crews removed two yards of iceplant from the ramp and used stabilizing treatments to prevent erosion.

Staff planted and seeded vegetation around Moss Beach Park.

Pruning was done around the Quarry Park Native Garden. Also thinning and limbing of eucalyptus trees and brush was done to re-establish an existing fuel break located between private residences along El Granada Boulevard and Quarry Park. Our first Movie Night at Quarry Park was well attended.

San Pedro Valley/Sanchez Adobe/Devil's Slide

Staff made the site preparations for the annual Rancho Day at Sanchez Adobe.

Staff received training on using the department's new stump grinder.

A Memorial bench at Devil's Slide Trail was dedicated.

PARKS DISTRICT V

Maintenance

Staff installed horse corral panels, completed a tack shed and office next to the arena, and an access horse trail from the arena area to the Alambique Trail at Wunderlich Park, completed plumbing repairs and upgrades to Memorial Park restrooms, and

completed improvements to the Oak Cove Fire Road, Helen Gate, at Junipero Serra Park.

One of our staff acted as a station proctor for recent Department of Public Works Road Maintenance Worker II testing, one of our staff acquired the requisite DMV Class B license, and one other, Park Ranger III Brian Gatt, will retire at the end of October.

The new stump grinder and excavator was delivered, and we are completing staff training on its use.

Ongoing maintenance activities include equipment repairs and servicing, mowing for fire fuel reduction, most recently along Sawyer Camp and San Andreas Trails, and hazardous tree removal using the Altec at various locations in Coyote Point Recreation Area, and Flood and Wunderlich Parks.

Staff assisted District I with the Take a Kid Fishing program.

At our Sign Shop, we completed sign requests for CuriOdyssey, the County's Human Resources Department, Department of Public Works-Grant Yard, the Board of Supervisors' and various Park Districts.