

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: July 23, 2015

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: August 6, 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 June 4, 2015 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

PARKS DISTRICT I-NORTH COUNTY

Coyote Point Recreation Area

A Eucalyptus Group Picnic Area restroom closed for a short while so that repairs to the sewage pump system could be made. Park visitors were able to use the other restroom and porta-potties were rented temporarily.

The Beach Center shower system and concession building were vandalized after park closure. An unknown person(s) pried the metal restroom doors open and attempted to break into four of the eight quarter units used for the showers. The machines are emptied nightly by staff so there was no money in them. These quarter units and a rollup door for the concession building were installed after a previous robbery attempt. Staff is researching video security systems for this area and the entrance to the park.

The park was filled to capacity both days of the July 4th holiday weekend.

Sales Force staff volunteers painted all of the picnic tables on the Magic Mountain side of the park and spruced up the Captain's House area by weeding and chipping the landscaped areas and raking the entire Knoll picnic area removing debris and weeds.

Junipero Serra Park

A crew from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) rebuilt two retaining walls on the Live Oak Nature Trail.

Neighbors have reported deer in the park, which is the first deer sighting reported in three years.

The self-collection station was burglarized twice. An unknown person(s) used liquid nitrogen to freeze the locks and then hit them with an object to shatter them. New measures have been implemented to discourage future break-ins.

Staff requested bids from contractors for services to remove dead and dying pine trees in the upper portion of the park.

Crystal Springs Trail

An SCA crew improved the trail shoulders along a quarter mile stretch of the Sawyer Camp Trail by laying base rock, which was then compacted.

Staff is removing the money daily from the donation boxes as those were broken into recently. The unknown person(s) doing this used the same method as the person(s) who broke into the self-collection station at Junipero Serra Park.

San Bruno Mountain

Early in July there was a fire in the Hoffman Street area of the Mountain. The burn area was approximately 20-feet by 20-feet. It self-extinguished due to prior fuel reduction measures that staff had done. There have been four fires on the Mountain since June.

Genentech volunteers finished rocking the Summit Loop Trailhead.

The Mountain was the location of the July 11 Take A Hike. Participants hiked either the Summit Loop or the Saddle Loop Trail.

PARK DISTRICT II-SOUTH COUNTY

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

The June 6 Take a Hike started off with a beautifully cool and clear morning. After stretches and opening remarks, a group of nearly 100 people hiked from the Sheep Camp Trailhead into the City of Belmont's Waterdog Lake Open Space.

New trail counters that will improve the accuracy of visitor counts were installed along the following trails: Edgewood, Sunset, Clarkia and the Ralston Bike Path.

All annual mowing and string cutting was finished prior to July 1. Staff also worked with the Friends of Edgewood, the Weed Warriors and Creekside Science to string cut and mow eight acres of sensitive butterfly habitat and nearly 10 acres of non-native yellow star thistle from the meadows bordering the Clarkia Trail.

An Eagle Scout has started a project along the Edgewood Trail near the Edgewood road entrance. The project includes replacing an old rusted metal culvert above grade with a new plastic culvert several inches below grade. The project will also include adding a retaining wall on both sides of the trail over the culvert and raising the grade over the culvert to deter future erosion. The project will greatly enhance the safety of the trail.

Flood Park

There has been an increase in the use of the park on weekdays by corporate groups and others holding special events.

The license for grading and updating the baseball field has been received from the SFPUC. Grading for the synthetic turf installation should start in the next month.

An Eagle Scout's flowerbed project was completed towards the end of June. The project replaced concrete covered rock that had become a tripping hazard with a concrete brick flowerbed. The new flowerbed will be planted with drought tolerant vegetation this fall by volunteers.

Huddart Park

Fuel reduction along Camp Ground Trail into the Toyon camping area was completed for the summer. Crews will go back in September to continue thinning out dying trees.

An ADA accessible ramp/trail is nearly complete at the Toyon III camping area. The restroom had a new roof installed as well as coin operated showers and new fixtures all of which meet ADA standards. .

The annual Girl Scout camping began in July. Approximately 800 Scouts and their counselors attend the camps on a daily basis over a four week period. The girls are learning new skills such as first aid, campsite cooking and jewelry making.

A volunteer group from a local school, who are called "Aim High," installed a new split rail fence near the Werder Playground. The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation's Volunteer Grant Program paid for the split rail fencing and hardware.

Wunderlich Park

On June 5, a volunteer group pulled non-native French Broom in an area near the historical Folger Stable. The Foundation funded Volunteer Grant Program paid for new tools and safety gear.

Mowing and string cutting were completed prior to the July 1 deadline. Fuel reduction work resumed in July along the Oak and Alambique trails.

Several large oak and bay trees are posted for maintenance or removal in and around parking lot.

Friendship Park

New crops have been planted, and the gardening plots and playground continue to be kept clean and organized by the community.

A broken duck play feature was repaired by park staff.

Park staff continues to help weed and clean the park. Also we haul the green waste composting that the volunteers collect.

PARKS DISTRICT III-SOUTH COAST

On July 10 at Memorial Park, we were able to start making water at the newly constructed water treatment plant. Our naturalist programs started June 6 at the park. We had 140 campers attend the campfire program which includes a movie. Other activities were arts and crafts and hiking. In addition to Ranger Wright, who has been leading these activities, we have two new Park Aides-Naturalists who started on July 17.

At Pescadero Creek Park, on Thursday every week, Ranger Schneider works with volunteers on repairing trail tread, clearing downed trees, and brushing back trails. He also works with a larger group on the second Sunday of every month doing trail work.

The Parks Department donated \$19,089 worth of surplus parts from the deconstructed water treatment plant at Memorial to CSA-7, the County Service Area that supplies water to some homes in La Honda and to Sam McDonald Park, as their plant and the old Memorial plant were the same facility construction.

PARKS DISTRICT IV-MIDCOAST

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

Staff completed the deck project at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve visitor center. Summer camp at the Reserve is scheduled for the first week of August.

Two individuals created an encampment below Pillar Point Bluff and eventually were arrested for probation violations, which left the encampment to be removed. Due to the location of the encampment, a helicopter was needed and used to remove 2,500 pounds of debris. Additionally two smaller encampments on the Bluff were removed by park staff.

CalFire has conducted two wild land fire response trainings at Quarry Park.

San Pedro Valley/Sanchez Adobe/Devil's Slide

In July, a special event trail run was held at San Pedro Valley Park, and on July 18 a Ride Bike event was held on the Devil's Slide Trail.

Staff and partners have started Initial talks about improvements at Sanchez Adobe based on its Master Plan.

PARKS DISTRICT V

Maintenance

Staff installed a power pole and panel for electrical service for the Greer Road Gate Project, assisted SFPUC with a hazardous tree removal project on Sawyer Camp Trail, and completed the Moss Beach Playground Project including paving, installation of an information kiosk and ADA handrails, and restriping of the basketball court.

At the Sign Shop, we completed signs for CuriOdyssey, the Human Resources Department, DPW-Grant Yard, District information kiosks and various District requests.

Staff assisted the Resource Conservation District with a training and demonstration on installing rolling dips on rural, natural surface roads.

Staff made equipment repairs and serviced chippers, RTVs, tractors, mowers, and other small equipment. .

Staff installed metal framed doors on the Toyon restroom building at Huddart Park, wiring and conduit for electrical/telephone for the pay station pedestal at Coyote Point Recreation Area, mowed for fire and fuel reduction in Park District IV, including San Pedro Valley Park, Mirada Surf, and Quarry Park, completed the deck walk-around at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Visitor Center, fabricated seven culvert catch basin covers for the South of Dam trail segment and mowed using the new Tiger John Deere mowing tractor, and used the Altec for hazardous tree removal at various locations in Coyote Point, Flood and Huddart Parks.