



San Mateo County Parks Foundation

inspiring people to care for,
learn about and enjoy our parks

Vol XII • No. 1

Spring 2016



Ramona and Hannah mapping mission blue and callippe silverspot butterfly host and nectar plants on San Bruno Mountain.

Measure A start-up funds help kick-start park projects

What do the Ralston Bike Path, Pedro Point Headlands, and Coyote Point's Pirate Ship all have in common? Besides being essential ingredients of a robust park system, they are all partially funded by Measure A.

San Mateo County voters overwhelmingly approved a half-cent sales tax called Measure A in 2012 to support essential County services and to maintain or replace critical facilities. The Board of Supervisors allocates Measure A's local funds for local needs such as mental health treatment, public safety, library programs and parks.

San Mateo County does not have a dedicated source of revenue for parks, a unique situation in the Bay Area. This

makes it challenging to maintain the County's 17,000 acres of parklands and 190 miles of trails and is one reason why the Parks Department was subsumed by Public Works for several years. This has made the work of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation very important as we raise funds to support park efforts, such as new educational facilities and trail maintenance.

There is a lot that goes into making our park system safe, enjoyable and accessible for residents and visitors alike. As a result, there is a backlog of maintenance needs left over from leaner times. The Parks Foundation played a central role in advocating

for the passage of Measure A, as we know that multiple funding sources are needed to address park needs for a growing populace.

With Measure A start-up funds, the following projects got the lifeline they needed, and County Parks was able to bring on new staff to make things happen. Even better, County Parks became its own department again, and is realizing its vision of a world-class park system.

Trail Connections

A new segment of the California Coastal Trail is being designed, planned and permitted by Coastside Land Trust. The two-mile, multi-use Wavecrest Trail will connect the City of Half Moon Bay with its southern neighborhoods.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will fill a gap in the Bay Trail by planning and constructing the 0.6 mile Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection located at the boundary of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto. This is the final gap in 80 miles of continuous trail linking three counties.

The Ralston Bike Trail connects the city of Belmont with Crystal Springs Trail and benefitted from re-paving and striping.

Pedro Point Headlands

The addition of the 5-acre undeveloped Colt Property to Pedro Point Headlands will allow for the development of the California Coastal Trail north of Devil's Slide to Pacifica.

Unsustainable footpaths will be replaced at Pedro Point and the establishment of a native plant nursery will help restore 20 acres of coastal habitat.

Natural Resource Management

And for the first time in San Mateo County Parks' history, a natural resource manager is on staff. Ramona Arechiga leads the effort to protect and scientifi-

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We are moving!

Come find us at the Captain's House in Coyote Point. Our new address will soon be:

**San Mateo County
Parks Foundation**

**1701 Coyote Point Drive,
San Mateo, CA 94401**

San Mateo County Parks

Coyote Point Recreation Area

Crystal Springs Trails
San Andreas Trail
Sawyer Camp Trail

Edgewood Park & Preserve

Devil's Slide Trail

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
Pillar Point Bluffs
Pillar Point Marsh

Flood Park

Friendship Park

Junipero Serra Park

Huddart Park

Memorial Park
Pescadero Creek Park
Sam McDonald Park
Heritage Grove

Mirada Surf

Moss Beach Park

San Bruno Mountain Park

Sanchez Adobe

San Pedro Valley Park

Quarry Park

Woodside Store

Wunderlich Park

Contact information

San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation

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CA 94025

650/321-5812 voice

info@supportparks.org
www.supportparks.org



Newsletter designed by Shannon Corey
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Settling in and feeling at home with the Parks Foundation

Spring is in the air! Birds are singing, wildflowers are blooming- this is a magical time. As I stop to really think about it, you and I are very lucky to live in a place with majestic parks in our backyard. Our collective backyard is something I do not want to take for



Michele Beasley

granted. So thank you for supporting our parks and open spaces. And thank you to the earlier generations who had the foresight to set aside these lands as parks in the first place. Now we must pass this gift on to our children and grandchildren.

And since people protect what they know and love, we must be vigilant about introducing the parks to new visitors and removing barriers to entry.

Here are a few of the projects we are excited about that will offer better access to the parks for all:

- Pedro Point Headlands- the County has plans to acquire this land from the City of Pacifica, which would extend trail options to the north of Devil's Slide. This 255-acre

promontory offers spectacular views, and will benefit from restoration efforts to heal the landscape from years of off-highway vehicle usage.

- Flood Park- Once upon a time, Flood Park was threatened with closure, but for the last year, County Parks has been engaged in a master planning process that envisions an upgraded baseball field and tennis courts, a BMX pump track and demonstration garden, plus other features. The 21-acre Flood Park is the County's second oldest park and one of its most urban.

- Coyote Point Eastern Promenade- This rejuvenation project will restore and expand the beach, add sand dunes and native vegetation, complete trail access and offer amenities to visitors such as interactive play areas, bike racks and benches. The project will be climate resilient and account for sea level rise.

- County Park Explorer Shuttle- Imagine how difficult it is to get to Edgewood or Wunderlich if you do not live nearby and do not have a car! Now imagine a free weekend shuttle taking people from East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks, and Redwood City to

Continued on next page

The Park Foundation's newest board member shares her love for the ocean

by Maureen McEvoy

When fellow board member, Mary DeLong, asked me if I would consider being on the board of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation, I was honored. Enthusiastically, I said yes.

My passion for the outdoors came to me on one pivotal day almost 40 years ago, shortly after moving from a small town in upstate New York. We were at Yankee Point, down near Carmel, whale watching. One of my friends called to me to come look at something in the water - it was a sea star and urchin on a rock OUT OF THE WATER! I was shocked and concerned for them and asked how they got there. My friend gently explained high and low tides and assured me the critters would be just fine. That started my life-changing love for



the ocean, nature and all living things.

My career took me into marketing and business development, but my passion took me into Scuba Diving and the ocean. When it opened, I immediately signed up to volunteer at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. I'm celebrating my 30th year there and have risen to the highest honor of Kelp Forest Feeding

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Volunteers get the support they need to care for our parks

Thanks to your generous donations, the San Mateo County Parks Volunteer Program remains robust. The Parks Foundation congratulates the recent round of funding recipients.

- The Trail Center is an all-volunteer organization that has partnered with County Parks for many years on the construction and maintenance of trails. Shirts, hats, and badges with names and logos will help identify and reward volunteers – \$1,000

- The Volunteer Horse Patrol assists the San Mateo County Parks Department in providing safe and enjoyable trail use for park visitors. Radio holsters are needed to protect valuable park radios and allow for good communication – \$300

- The Edgewood Weeding Program has removed invasive plants from Edgewood for 26 years. Tools like weeding knives and rakes are needed to continue their stellar work on weeds like Yellow Starthistle – \$929

- Friends of Edgewood is an all-volunteer organization that gives year-round docent-led interpretive walks of the Natural Preserve. Outfitting volunteers with tick removal kits will benefit volunteers and visitors alike – \$1,017

- The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks is dedicated to preserving the local environment and historic legacies of these two exceptional parks in Woodside. Volunteers are at the heart of what they do and docent trainings can improve interpretive skills and volunteer camaraderie. – \$1,100

- The San Bruno Mountain Watch Stewardship Program fosters diverse communities of people who are lovingly dedicated to caretaking the thriving life of San Bruno Mountain. Tools for taking out invasive plants or digging holes for native plants are needed for volunteers to engage in restoration efforts – \$1,000

Save Sunday, May 1, 2016 for Streets Alive! Parks Alive!

Streets Alive! Parks Alive! is an annual event started by Supervisor Carole Groom in April 2010, inspired by the first Active San Mateo County Conference, "Creating and Using Active Public Spaces." Gil Penalosa, a former Parks, Sport and Recreation Commissioner for Bogota, Colombia, challenged San Mateo County to open streets to people. Since then, numerous cities have participated annually, providing free opportunities for the community to participate in health-promoting activities and celebrate their public spaces.

Earth Day 2016 — A good excuse to get outside and take care of our parks!

On Saturday, April 23...

Join Pacifica Beach Coalition at Linda Mar Beach from 9-11am for beach clean-ups and habitat restoration and from 11am-2:30pm for EcoFest with refreshments, booths and activities.

Join volunteers and County Park staff at 9am at Coyote Point's Beach Parking Area for a coastal clean-up.

Join the SSF Weed Warriors at San Bruno Mountain Park from 9am-12pm to save critical grasslands. Please call leaders at 650-952-6174 to confirm.

Always remember to bring water and dress appropriately for these activities, preferably in layers with long pants and sleeves and sturdy shoes.

Newest boardmember

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Show Diver. Every two weeks I drive down to Monterey, hop in the exhibit for 20 minutes to feed the fish and talk to the audience. I have had the pleasure of certifying over 1,000 Scuba divers over the years as an instructor and am in or near the water at every opportunity.

I have the honor and pleasure of living on the coast in Moss Beach where I overlook one of our fabulous county parks, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. I also volunteer at our newest county park, Devil's Slide Trail, as a Devil's Slide Ambassador. A typical shift is a wonderful three hour stroll over and back on the 1.3 mile trail, answering visitors' questions, petting dogs (and making sure they're on leash!) and watching for the resident peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*).

My goal this year is to visit, hike, camp and even backpack in every one of our parks in San Mateo County. I hope everyone will take advantage of the wonders we have here and help the Foundation support projects and programs that benefit our parks and our visitors.

Parks Foundation updates

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these parks. No parking hassles and new visitors! This pilot phase, if successful, could expand across the county.

- Mini-Cabins for the parks- If you love the idea of staying in the parks overnight, but lack camping equipment or prefer a more comfortable option, then a mini-cabin stay could be what you are seeking.

It is up to all of us to ensure these parks remain accessible to everyone, from the young child discovering a butterfly for the first time to the bayside resident who lives car-free. This is how we nurture a new generation of land stewards who will carry on the tradition of preserving and restoring our collective backyard.

Thank you for joining us in these efforts.

Thank you to our generous supporters!

The following contributed between October 16, 2015 and January 31, 2016

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(continued on next page)



Habitat restoration at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach.

Measure A

(continued from page 1)

cally manage sensitive park resources, and she is busy! “From restoration work at the mouth of San Vicente Creek at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve to rare plant surveys at San Bruno Mountain, County Parks is better able to manage our valuable resources on behalf of residents.”

It takes many players and many resources to create and maintain a world class park system. Thank you for the role you play in making this happen.

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(continued from previous page)

- Ron & Linda Weaver
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Every effort was made to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. The Foundation regrets any errors or omissions. Please contact us so we may make the proper correction.

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Take A Hike

San Mateo County

Explore the natural beauty of San Mateo County. Learn about the history of our local parks as staff and volunteers guide you along picturesque trails.

2016 Schedule

Walks begin at 9 a.m. in main parking lot of park.

<p>March 5 Pescadero Creek Park</p>	<p>July 9 Junipero Serra Park</p>
<p>April 2 Coyote Point Park</p>	<p>August 6 Wunderlich Park</p>
<p>May 7 San Bruno Mountain Park</p>	<p>September 3 San Pedro Valley Park</p>
<p>June 4 Fitzgerald Marine Reserve</p>	<p>October 1 Edgewood Park</p>
<p>November 5 Memorial Park</p>	

For more information, find us on Facebook, visit www.SMCoParks.org/TakeAHike or call (650) 599-1005

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Our commitment

The San Mateo County Parks Foundation is committed to providing funding to improve the quality of County Parks for our community.

We are moving!

Come find us at the Captain's House in Coyote Point. Our new address will soon be:

San Mateo County Parks Foundation
1701 Coyote Point Drive,
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Thanks to thousands of individual donors like you, the Foundation has provided millions of dollars to support our San Mateo County Parks.

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You can support the Foundation and our parks by making your donation today. Your gift will help us fund priority programs and projects that benefit park visitors and the parks' natural resources.

Gifts can be mailed to San Mateo County Parks Foundation
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Or on-line at www.SupportParks.org

Leave a Legacy Gift to the San Mateo County Parks Foundation

Your generous contributions have helped us fund over 30 projects, and a gift from your estate could continue that legacy by providing important future support for the San Mateo County Parks.

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For more information, please contact Michele Beasley, Executive Director, at Michele@SupportParks.org or (650) 321-5812.