

# San Mateo County Parks Foundation

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

SPRING 2022

## There's a lot to get excited about...

by Michele Beasley

**W**hen I head to my favorite park, it's usually for a long hike, and I'm either lost in my thoughts or paying keen attention to the sights and sounds around me. I feel gratitude for clear trails and clean bathrooms. What I'm usually not thinking about is all the work that goes on behind the scenes to make the experience so enjoyable, safe and interesting — for me, you and the nearly 3 million people who head to a San Mateo County park every year.

And the work is significant. It's amazing when you sit back and acknowledge all the planning and projects underway. Read on for project updates and get excited, because a lot is coming together right now. And that's a good thing because in 2024, your beloved San Mateo County Parks turns 100.

### The Eastern Promenade Project — Bringing the living shoreline back to Coyote Point

Coyote Point is San Mateo County's premier sandy spot on the bay. The shoreline, though, is plagued by chronic erosion and flooding from king tides, which limits beach access. Without mitigation measures, this problem will only get worse, as scientists predict a four-foot rise in sea levels by 2050.

Well, if you've visited Coyote Point lately, then you know a big improvement has been underway. The Eastern Promenade Project is a climate-adaptation project that will facilitate year-round, universal public access to the San Francisco Bay shoreline. The design incorporates a perched sandy beach within a crenulated bay to mimic more resilient natural forms. An elevated Promenade Trail and new linear seat wall will offer places to watch kite-boarders soar and airplanes land. We look forward to walking the Eastern Promenade later this spring!

**Upcoming Milestone:** On April 22, join San Mateo County Parks for an informal open house to view the improvements.



Opening soon! The new Coyote Point Eastern Promenade

### Flood Park — 86 years young

Flood Park, the second-oldest in the County Parks system, once had a 180,000-gallon, unheated, sixty by one-hundred-foot pool, built in the 1930s. In the 1940s and 1950s, Flood Park was one of the most popular recreation spots in south San Mateo County, with up to 200 people splashing in the pool at any given time. The pool was removed in the 1970s and in the following decades, Flood Park fell into more quiet use.

In 2015, Flood Park began receiving long overdue attention. An assessment revealed that all of the park's facilities and infrastructure either needed repair or replacement. At the same time, community demand for recreational facilities and a safe place for kids and teens to gather was growing. San Mateo County Parks held a series of community meetings to seek input on what should be included in a redesigned Flood

Park. A pump track, basketball court, soccer field and renovated tennis courts were included in the resulting concept plan, which went through environmental review between 2017 and 2019. In 2020, after the Parks Department made changes to the plan to address neighbors' concerns, the County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Flood Park Landscape Plan.

One of those changes was to move the soccer field away from neighbors' back fences. However, this could mean the removal of several mature trees. Now that the planning process has moved into the design phase, some are keen to move the soccer field again to protect the trees, a mix of coast live oak and California bay laurel. The challenge though, is where?

It is very important that the planned site for the soccer field remain separate from the baseball field. One cannot forget the numer-

(Continued on next page)

## San Mateo County Parks

Coyote Point Recreation Area  
 Crystal Springs Regional Trail  
 San Andreas Segment  
 Sawyer Camp Segment  
 Edgewood Park & Preserve  
 Devil's Slide Trail  
 Fitzgerald Marine Reserve  
 Pillar Point Bluff  
 Flood Park  
 Friendship Park  
 Junipero Serra Park  
 Huddart Park  
 Memorial Park  
 Pescadero Creek Park  
 Sam McDonald Park  
 Heritage Grove  
 Mirada Surf  
 Moss Beach Park  
 Quarry Park  
 San Bruno Mountain Park  
 Sanchez Adobe  
 San Pedro Valley Park  
 Tunitas Creek Beach  
 Woodside Store  
 Wunderlich Park

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The 2020 Flood Park Landscape Plan.

(Continued from previous page)

ous local youth who passionately advocated for the soccer field. Many of them spoke at the Board of Supervisors' hearing, like Destiny, age 14, "I forget all of my problems when I play soccer." Meeting the needs of youth is a critical goal (no pun intended).

In the design phase, we'd like to see as many healthy trees preserved as possible. We also want to see this process move forward and the many diverse interests and previously heard hopes and desires honored.

#### **Upcoming Milestone:**

*Parks is in the final phase of the planning process before breaking ground in early 2023. Community workshops and pop-up events will be held between now and September.*

## Memorial Park — San Mateo County's first park is getting ready for its centennial

In 2024, we'll celebrate the

birth of San Mateo County Parks and the very first county park, Memorial Park. Leading up to that significant milestone, this popular redwood park is benefiting from major infrastructure improvements. In 2017, a new water treatment plant was installed that delivers clean water from Pescadero Creek to campsites. A new wastewater treatment plant and collection system was completed in 2021.

During the pandemic, Memorial Park was closed for additional upgrades including new accessible restroom and shower buildings with accessible water fountains. This is a HUGE improvement over the previous, derelict restrooms. San Mateo County Parks' goal is to have installed 21 new restroom and combination restroom/shower buildings by July 2024. Roadways have also been resurfaced and new ADA parking spots delineated.

#### **Recent Milestone:**

*Memorial Park opened to campers again Memorial Day weekend 2021 after being*

*closed for 18 months. Campers with reservations in Sequoia, Redwood and Tan Oak areas were the first to experience the improvements. A new group campsite, the Doug Fir Group Campground with a capacity of up to 30 people, is being added in the Sequoia area.*

## Coastside Wildfire Safety — Agencies work together to mitigate fire risk at Quarry Park

A wildfire in El Granada is a big fear and real risk. CAL FIRE, San Mateo County Parks and the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) are taking proactive steps to mitigate risk at Quarry Park, which CAL FIRE classifies as a Very High Fire Severity Zone.

Proactive action at home means having a plan for your family in case of a major wildfire, including identifying evacuation routes, and making sure your home has at least 100 feet of defensible space. Proactive action in the parks means creating shaded fuel breaks and

reducing fuel loads like dead and dying vegetation.

In the year ahead at Quarry Park, County Parks and RCD will work on a 100-acre fire mitigation project that builds upon the original 100 acres of fuel reduction work conducted in 2019. Understory vegetation near trails less than 10 inches in diameter, including eucalyptus and acacia, will be removed. This type of work decreases a fire's intensity, slows its progress and prevents fire from reaching the canopy. It also helps firefighters respond to fire while allowing people to evacuate. Additional benefits include supporting native plant growth and a more resilient forest.

**Recent Milestone:** A wildfire fuel reduction project near the meadow was completed, clearing the way for a pump track to be built.

## Quarry Park Pump Track — Popular element in Master Plan moves forward

A pump track is a continuous circuit of banked turns interspaced by rollers and other features that cyclists can ride on without pedaling. Growing in popularity, the first two pump tracks coming to San Mateo County are in county parks — Flood Park and Quarry Park, with the latter moving forward very soon.

San Mateo County Parks worked with the Midcoast and mountain biking communities on the "Flying X" design of the pump track, which will be located in the meadow at Quarry Park. The need to complete the first phase of a wildfire fuel reduction project near the meadow took precedence, and ensures no conflict between that work and the construction of the pump track.

**Upcoming Milestone:** American Ramp Company was selected as the contractor in March and construction will break ground soon with a goal of



*Pictured above is a before-after photo from a treatment area in Wunderlich Park, along the Skyline Trail. The first photo is untreated, the middle photo is immediately following treatment, and the third (right) photo is around 7 months post-treatment. As you can see, understory plants have begun to revegetate the treatment area through the layer of mulch left behind from the masticating equipment.*

*Courtesy of San Mateo RCD*

completing this project by June.

## Off-leash dogs — A balancing act between habitat and recreation

For the last few years, San Mateo County Parks has become more welcoming of dogs and their humans. Access for dogs on leash was expanded to Junipero Serra Park in San Bruno and Coyote Point in San Mateo in 2019. Dogs on leash were already allowed at most coastal parks. The conversation then shifted to areas where dogs could be off-leash. A dog policy committee recommended Quarry Park in El Granada and Pillar Point Bluff in Moss Beach.

While Quarry Park was an agreeable place for off-leash dogs to most, Pillar Point Bluff raised alarms among environmentalists. Pillar Point Bluff is a rare environmental and geological resource. Off-leash dogs can threaten wildlife and their habitats, as well as other dogs and people. Many special status species including osprey, peregrine falcon, burrowing owl, San Francisco garter snake and California red-legged frog have been reported at Pillar Point Bluff. Thus, the bluff is protected under the County Local Coastal Program (LCP) and Coastal Act. Marine mammals, including har-

bor seals and sea otters are often spotted at the foot of the bluffs at Ross' Cove. They are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Providing parks that meet the needs of our diverse communities is challenging. The key is to remember what we do have access to — coastal trails, scenic vistas and a diversity of landscapes and wildlife — and to give thanks every day for these blessings.

**Recent Milestone:** The County Planning Commission denied the permit for the off-leash dog pilot program at their February meeting due to concerns raised by the environmental community. The Parks Dept. is coming back to the Board of Supervisors in April with a compromise — Parks is amending the request to only do the off-leash dog pilot program at Quarry Park.

## Wunderlich and Huddart Forest Health Work — Fighting fire before it starts

Important and long overdue efforts to reduce wildfire fuel began at Wunderlich and Huddart County Parks a few years ago.

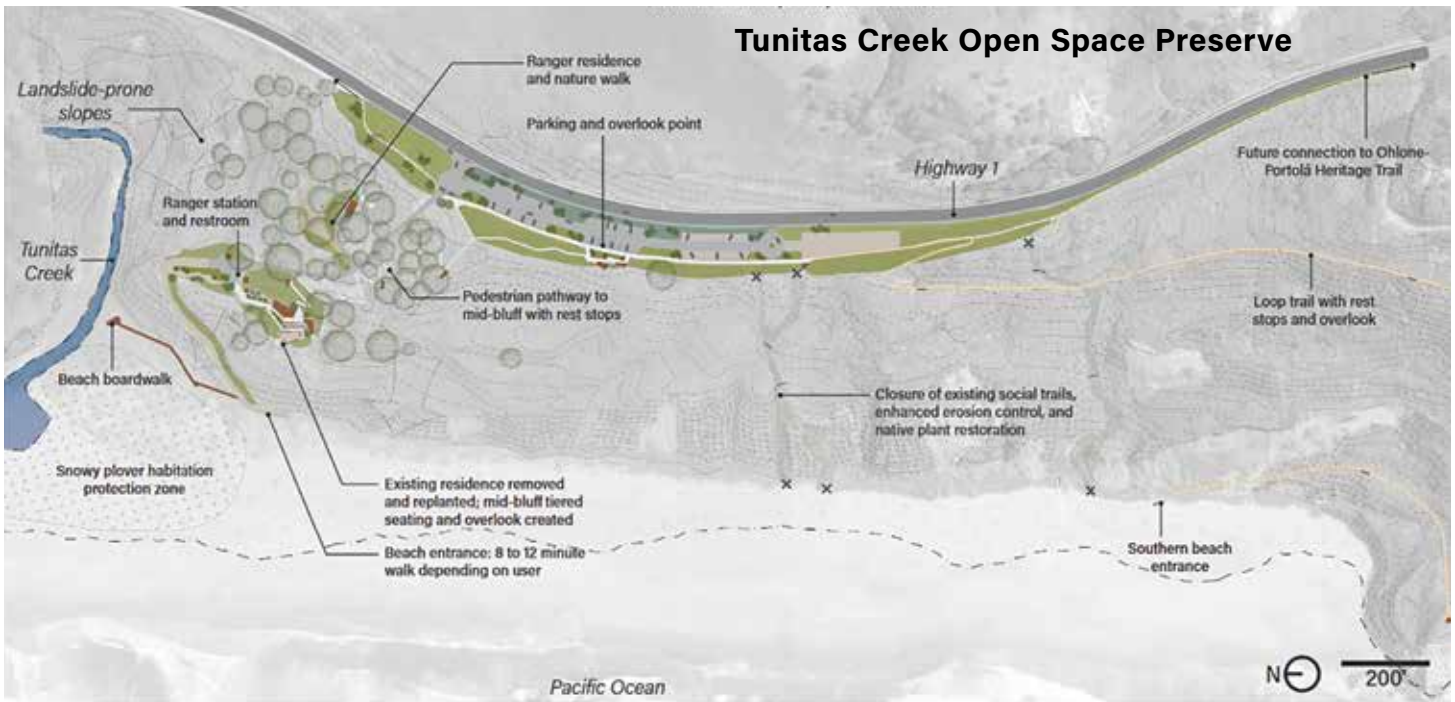
San Mateo County Parks partners with the San Mateo Resource Conservation District to do this work, which is also supported with funding from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Crews are wrapping up work at Wunderlich Park, where they have created shaded fuel breaks by selectively thinning vegetation and removing trees that are dead, dying and/or diseased.

Although the change to the landscape can be initially jarring, the effect is to help the forest



*Eucalyptus trees adjacent to the labyrinth at Quarry Park.*

## Tunitas Creek Open Space Preserve



### The Tunitas Creek Beach Preferred Design

and surrounding communities become more resilient to wildfire. Reducing the fuel that helps a fire spread protects nearby homes, preserves evacuation routes and provides the right conditions for native plant species to thrive.

San Mateo County Park staff biologists regularly perform nesting bird surveys, and members of the project team flag sensitive resources and coordinate trail closures. Areas within the parks that were worked on over a year ago have seen new life sprout, as there is more room to grow. Over the next year a total of 402 acres will be treated—218

acres in Huddart Park and 184 acres in Wunderlich Park.

#### **Upcoming Milestone:**

*Crews are moving back to Huddart Park to reduce wildfire-fuel loads on Chickadee Trail and at Zwielerlein and Miwok picnic areas; be on the lookout for trail closures through May.*

### Tunitas Creek Beach — 58 gorgeous acres of beach and bluffs

On its way to becoming the newest county park, Tunitas Creek Beach is a hard-to-access, yet supremely scenic stretch of coastline. It is currently closed to the public as a design that

reflects community input comes together. The conceptual design addresses parking, walkways and trails, overlooks, interpretive signs, restrooms and picnic areas. It also provides protections for snowy plovers and their habitat.

In fall 2021, the community was invited to complete a survey about details such as the design and style of structures, guardrails, picnic tables and seating. Their feedback, along with the conceptual design can be found online. Survey respondents also expressed a lot of interest in programming such as volunteer days, wildlife viewing and cul-

tural outings, with a particular interest in learning more about the history of Ohlone tribes.

#### **Upcoming Milestone:**

*Final designs are underway with a goal of beginning construction in the summer of 2022 and opening to the public by summer 2023!*

As you can see, there is a lot to get excited about — better access, new parks, improved facilities and more resilient forests. A big THANK YOU to all who help care for these special places today so that future generations may be inspired to care for, learn about and enjoy San Mateo County parks.

## Can You Guess the Park?

(answers on page 7)

- Part of \_\_\_\_\_'s fascinating history was when the short-lived Pacific City Amusement Park rose up along the shoreline with a roller coaster and a young Houdini challenged local policemen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a wonderful starting point if you want to reach the peak of Montara Mountain.
- The Peninsula AIDS Memorial Grove is located at \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ contains large exposed formations of serpentinite, California's state rock.
- Ross' Cove is below \_\_\_\_\_ and is part of the Montara State Marine Reserve. It is designated a Marine Protected Area and dogs are not allowed here.
- Accessible via the \_\_\_\_\_, the Pulgas Water Temple is a dramatic landmark built by the City of San Francisco as a monument to the engineering feat that brought water from Hetch Hetchy to the Bay Area.
- At 5,860 acres, \_\_\_\_\_ is the largest San Mateo County Park.
- Periwinkle, Fingered Limpet and Acorn Barnacle all live in the 'Splash Zone' at \_\_\_\_\_.
- Before it became a San Mateo County Park, \_\_\_\_\_ was part of Highway 1.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is turning 100 in 2024, making it the first San Mateo County Park.

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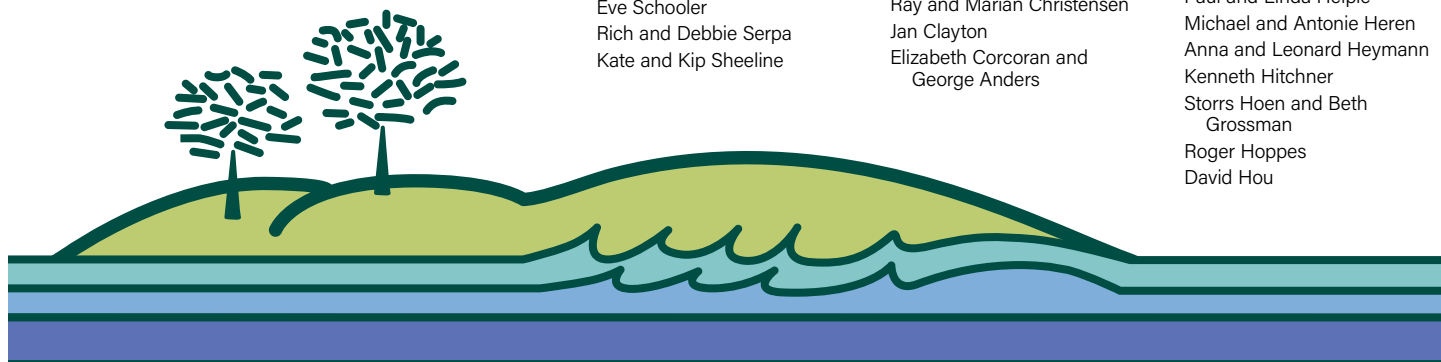
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Kirstan Price  
Salomon and Susan Leslie Quintero  
Elizabeth Raisler  
Michael and Christine Read  
Shirley Reith  
Nancy Reyering and Martin Walker  
Angela Robbiano  
Cristela Rodriguez  
Erik and Deborah Rogind  
Dennis and Linda Ronberg  
Howard B. Rosen and Susan M. Doherty  
John Rosenberg and Karen Christensen  
Geoff Rothman  
Sue Runyan  
Paul and Raquel Rusca  
Steven Rusconi  
Kibbie Ruth and James Granucci  
Susan Ryals  
James Salyards  
David and Bernelle Saperstein  
Alexey Savva  
Beverly Saylor  
Janet and Victor Schachter  
Mark Schack

Sandra Scheidler-Coulter  
George Schmid and Kim Jansen  
Matthew Schreiber  
Rick and Lauren Schwartz  
Kenneth Schwartz and Jane Tan  
Mr. and Mrs. William Schwarz  
Stanley and Willis Marie Scott  
Jeffrey Segall  
Kathie Semenza  
Marcia Settel  
Dr. Steven Shak  
Barbara and Michael Shapiro  
Bhavender and Kathryn A. Sharma  
Ruth Sheldon  
Anne Shultz  
Kathryn Shumway  
Patricia Skillman  
David and Joan Skurnick  
Patti Smith  
William Smith  
Janice Smith  
David and Barbara Smoot  
Bruce and Gayle Snyder  
Michael Sokolsky and Susan Blockstein  
Jeanne Sole  
David Spain  
Willis Sparks  
Carol Spillman  
Duane Steffey  
Linda Stegora  
Frank and Betsy Stockdale  
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Phil Strause  
Lee Strieb and Shari Golan  
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Eng Tau  
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Gary Trott  
Yousef Turshani  
Kathy Uhl  
Craig Uhrich and Joan Ferguson  
Sylvia Walker  
Paul Walsh  
Margaret Warren  
Debbie and Mark Wartenberg  
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Linda Whitley  
Greg and Lyn Wilbur  
Carol R. T. Wills  
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Marjorie Winkler  
Chris Witzel  
Kimberly Wong  
Weldon and Carol Wong  
Michael and Nancy Wright  
Paul Yang

Eric Yco  
Wojciech Zalewski

### Monthly Giving

Rebecca Archer  
Belinda Arroyo  
Judy Bacon  
Lee Baker  
Scott Barkley  
Michele Beasley  
Pamela Bilz  
Julia Bott and Paul Acklin  
Avis Boutell and Alice Miller  
Eduardo Castillo  
Susy Castoria  
Suzanne Coberly and Jeff Haas  
Ryan and Brenna Connolly  
Katherine Coonan Rhoades  
Dorothy Cordell  
Josephine Cosino  
Jill Daly  
Raquel Espana  
Adrienne Etherton  
Debra Finch  
Megan Fluke  
Timothy Fox  
Deking Francisco  
Linda Joyce Franklyn  
Mary Ellen Fraser  
Meg Gilmore  
Mark Golembiewski  
Jorge Gomez  
Jennifer Gonzales  
James and Laura Gran  
Scot Griffin and Alice Chang Kaufman  
Rita Guiliano  
Daniel Guiney  
Eloise Gularte  
Heather Hardy and Matt Nelson  
Sam and Leslie Herzberg  
Steven Hibshman  
Dan and Margaret Hilberman  
Raymond Hodges  
Christine Hollender  
Leslie and Jeff Holzman  
Traci Hornbaker  
Peter Ingram and Ann Yvette Pirie  
Amy Jensen  
Mark Kaminsky  
Alicia Kellie  
Jane Kikuchi  
Ashley Larsen  
Teresita Laya-Evangelista  
Alice Leung  
Kirk Lindstrom  
Kimberly Marlow  
Susan and Jack Marquis  
Timothy McHenry  
Dennis and Donna Meixner  
William Meyer  
Julieanne Nagal  
Jane Nettesheim  
Pamela Noyer  
Russell H. Miller and Kirk Alan Pessner  
Joseph Pfeister and Maricar Pacquing  
Stephen and Patricia Pickford

Tim Powers  
Martha Poyatos  
Danae Ramirez  
Tim Reardon  
Ma Grace Rivera  
Suzanne Rivoire  
Ronald Rogers  
Diane Ross  
Robert Ruth  
Jennifer Rycenga  
John Salcido  
Anne Scanlan-Rohrer  
Mary Catherine Schumacher  
Robert Scruggs  
Ida Sim  
Gladys Smith  
Georgia Stigall  
Matthew Suarez  
Rebecca and David Tom  
Donna Vaillancourt  
Sharron L. Walker  
Katherine Wilson  
Nanette Wylde and Kent Manske  
Diana Yen Shu  
Veneranda Zamora Redmond

### Gifts in Honor

Belinda Arroyo in honor of SEBA  
Brian and Leslie Baker in honor of Joe Pfeister  
Karen Bartholomew in honor of Katherine Wright  
Megan Fluke in honor of Ofelia Bello  
Rebecca Haseleu and Paul Hackleman in honor of Laure Finnegan  
Carolyn Peter and Nigel Raab in honor of Brian Peter and Shelley Huff  
Connie Sevier in honor of Julia Bott  
Eric Tilenius in honor of Niles Tilenius

### Gifts in Memory

Arlene Andrews in memory of Anthony Gularte  
Timothy Burkhart in memory of Heidi Sjolund  
Michael and Susan Casey in memory of Carol Kemnitz  
Deborah Cook in memory of Bev Melin  
Eloise Gularte in memory of Anthony Gularte  
Madeline and Michael Hart in memory of Thomas Duffy  
Madeline and Michael Hart in memory of Judy Griswold  
David Hou in memory of Makenna Hou  
Cynthia Hunton and Dennis Murphy in memory of Charmaine Hunton-Rone  
Rocelia Kmak in memory of Barbara Kmak and Uncle Gene  
Timothy McHenry in memory of Caroline McHenry  
Michael Pacelli in memory of Dr. Floyd Gonella

## Answers to Guess the Park Quiz

1. Coyote Point
2. San Pedro Valley
3. Huddart Park
4. Edgewood Preserve
5. Pillar Point Bluff
6. Crystal Springs segment of the Crystal Springs Regional Trail
7. Pescadero Creek
8. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
9. Devil's Slide
10. Memorial Park

Todd Repp in memory of Gilbert and Kathryn Repp  
Anne Scanlan-Rohrer in memory of Dorothy Scanlan  
Steve and Katy Spurlock in memory of Paul Reimer  
Beverly Talbott in memory of Joan Rummelsburg

### Matching Gift Programs

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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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Courtesy Brown Girl Surf

## Enhancing Equitable Access Grant Recipient Spotlight: Brown Girl Surf

Last fall, the San Mateo County Parks Foundation kicked off our inaugural Enhancing Equitable Access Grant Program. This fund was established to support activities by local tribes and nonprofit organizations that seek to break down the barriers that have prevented people, specifically communities of color, from accessing and feeling welcome in San Mateo County Parks and which provide new ways for diverse communities to enjoy the parks.

In the grant program's first year we funded three organizations: Girls to Women in East Palo Alto, Siena Youth Center in North Fair Oaks and Brown Girl Surf in Oakland. Let us introduce you to Brown Girl Surf.

The mission of Brown Girl Surf is to build a more diverse, environmentally reverent, and joyful women's, girl's and gender expansive surf culture by increasing access to surfing and the ocean, cultivating community through surf clinics and events, amplifying the voices of surfers of color and cultivating a sense of interconnectedness and care for the earth.

Brown Girl Surf primarily hosts their community surf programs at Mirada Surf and Surfer's Beach, but their advocacy for increased beach access is making waves throughout coastal California.

At Linda Mar State Beach in Pacifica, nonprofits and community organizations have historically been excluded from operating due to a

restrictive permitting system. A 2020 Pacifica Peace Paddle Out led to an outpouring of support. As a result, the City of Pacifica formed a Surf Camp Special Task Force to discuss the creation of an equitable permitting system.

In 2020, Brown Girl Surf, along with City Surf Project, proposed the Community Access Permit Partnership (CAPP) to increase beach access for historically excluded communities. In early 2022, the proposal was unanimously approved by the Pacifica City Council, the Pacifica Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission, and the Surf Camp/School Policy Advisory Task Force.

Their lessons can be shared across the state, turning the tide for communities that have been historically excluded from accessing the beach and ocean.

**"Surfing is a unique sport that challenges one's self and forges a connection with the ocean on a personal and spiritual level. A regular surfing practice allows us to access the healing powers of nature, compels us to recognize our interconnectedness with other beings, and teaches us to feel comfortable and competent navigating the elements."**

— *Adriana Guerrero,*  
*BGS Executive Director*

**WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup>** *California*  
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**Protect Our Coast  
and Oceans Fund**

The San Mateo County Parks Foundation is excited to be a recipient of the California Coastal Commission's WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup> Grants Program. Our goal with this funding is to improve access for all people at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Foundation will work with San Mateo County Parks and the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve to enhance interpretive resources for Spanish- and Mandarin-speaking visitors. Youth field trips, educational videos and translated materials are a few of the ways we can better connect people to parks and the ocean. This allows more people, and especially children, to enjoy the many mental, physical and emotional benefits of time well spent outdoors.

### Our commitment

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

### 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.

Gifts large and small are important. Charitable giving is not only for the wealthy! Estate gifts can be unrestricted or dedicated to specific projects or parks that are dear to you.

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