The recent improvements that the Parks Foundation made to the Memorial Park Visitor Center have been very well received by park campers and visitors. The Visitor Center has been rejuvenated – it is more warm and welcoming to all those entering the park.”

– David Vasquez, San Mateo County Park Ranger IV
To our extended Parks Family:

Just as the parks are my muse, so, too, do you inspire me with your enduring love for San Mateo County Parks. On behalf of the Parks Foundation Board of Directors, thank you from the bottom of a tide pool to the tippy tops of a redwood forest and back again. We hope you enjoy this look back at our most recent work.

In 2018, the San Mateo County Parks Foundation turned 20. At a celebration in the Redwood Grove at Huddart Park with both long-time and new friends, we honored the determined park champions who launched and supported the Foundation. In those first two decades, the Foundation contributed more than $11 million to a myriad of projects, including the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center at Edgewood and the acquisition of Mirada Surf on the coast.

As I focus on what we’ve accomplished together in just the past year, a few themes come to mind. **Parks are good for our health.** We supported more volunteers digging in the dirt and more cyclists riding along Cañada Road. We also launched a “park prescriptions pass” in partnership with the San Mateo County Health System, to give low-income patients a free park entry to any San Mateo County Park.

With this one simple action, we are beginning to break down the barriers people face when trying to visit a park. Even within a park, barriers show up in the form of downed trees, eroded trails and inaccessible bathrooms. Clearing up the hurdles that make exploring parks challenging is important to us and part of this work included ADA improvements to both Sanchez Adobe and Memorial Park— with more to come!

Finally, **building community** with and for parks shows up in our support for volunteers, field trips and our summer event series, Coyote Nights. With more people knowing, loving and sharing in parks, we believe more people will jump in to take care of the parks.

Parks are essential to our quality of life and San Mateo County offers a resplendent remedy with 22 diverse and distinctive parks. Thank you for delivering these results and stay with us as we look to the future and gear up for Memorial Park’s Centennial celebration in 2024, the birth of San Mateo County Parks.

With gratitude,

Michele Beasley, Executive Director
and the Board of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation
Your gifts support projects throughout the County

This year’s project highlights:

We provided essential funding for a video that educates people about the marine-protected areas (MPA) along our San Mateo County coastline, including Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

A first round of improvements at Memorial Park includes energy efficient upgrades to the ranger station like new double-paned windows and recessed LED lighting. A custom-made redwood countertop and warm coat of paint welcome visitors. The ranger station restrooms have been completely redone with new low-flow plumbing fixtures and accessibility improvements.

Huddart Park is one of the most popular destinations for our youth environmental field trips. The Foundation provided buses for nearly 300 students to enjoy docent-led hikes with the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks.

In partnership with REI, our summer series, Coyote Nights at Coyote Point, drew close to 200 people who came to join us in community to meet their neighbors and learn about the parks.

We funded 24 field trips to county parks, serving more than 1,000 youth from Daly City to East Palo Alto.

At Pescadero Creek, the Foundation supported the re-opening of West Brook Trail, a popular equestrian route, which included installation of a new bridge over Towne Creek.

The last of the new trail signs were installed at Coyote Point and Memorial county parks earlier this year. Since 2016, the Parks Foundation has funded 80% of the new trail signs guiding you on your way in a county park.

A new Volunteer Coordinator position at County Parks has significantly increased the number of volunteers projects in our parks, including at San Bruno Mountain, where volunteers remove invasive plants and plant natives.

The Foundation continues to support ranger staffing at the popular Bicycle Sunday. Last year, an estimated 60,000 people enjoyed riding their bikes or rollerblading along a four-mile, closed-to-cars section of Cañada Road.

We help steward two endangered plants at Edgewood, the San Mateo thornmint and the white-rayed pentachaeta. As of June 2019, biologists found a record 25,000 thornmint plants occupying the most area since this project began in 2008.

We funded 24 field trips to county parks, serving more than 1,000 youth from Daly City to East Palo Alto.

A new ADA-compliant pathways will soon make the five-acre Sanchez Adobe and its interpretative features accessible to everyone.

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

San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation
1701 Coyote Point Drive
San Mateo, CA 94401

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www.SupportParks.org
Office 650-321-5812

The San Mateo County Parks Foundation made it possible for my students to go on a field trip to Huddart Park, to go on a hike, and to learn about the natural habitat of our local animals. They loved it!”

– Lynette J., Kindergarten teacher, Connect Community Charter School, Redwood City

We are excited about the future!
The Parks Foundation is gearing up for the 2024 celebration of Memorial Park’s Centennial — and the birth of San Mateo County Parks. We are embarking on a next round of improvements focused on the nature center and we welcome your input.

The planning process continues at Flood Park, which promises to bring many amenities to the greater community.

We are increasing our support for park volunteer groups with a revamped grant program.

Finally, we look forward to working with new Parks Director Nicholas Calderon and his team to ensure our parks are welcoming, engaging, and accessible for the diverse communities of San Mateo County.

“ The natural beauty of our county is awe-inspiring. Supporting the Foundation is my way of paying forward the gratitude I feel when I walk through a meadow on the ridgeline, among old-growth redwoods, along the bay, or atop our coastal bluffs.”

– Kori Skinner, SMCPF Board Member