



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: March 24, 2016

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: April 7, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Carla Schoof, Community Programs Specialist
SUBJECT: Report on Volunteer and Community Programs

RECOMMENDATION:

Read report.

BACKGROUND:

Volunteer and Community Program updates and items of interest to the Commission.

DISCUSSION:

Volunteer Activities

In addition to the ongoing dedication of and support by our Friends and partner volunteer groups, the following community groups volunteered in San Mateo County Parks since the last report to the Commission:

- 12 members of the Hillsborough Garden Club weeded and raked at Coyote Point.
- 23 biology students at San Mateo County Community College removed French broom and vegetation and improved picnic areas at Junipero Serra Park.
- 44 Hillsdale High School students and adults removed invasive plants at Coyote Point.
- 20 Boy Scouts helped clear eucalyptus debris and pull weeds in the Meadow View area in Junipero Serra Park.
- 25 volunteers from Salesforce continued their regular volunteer schedule at Coyote Point.
- 30 students from Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Belmont weeded and spread chips at Edgewood Park.
- Volunteers with the Trail Center continued trail improvement projects in Huddart Park including repairs to the trail surface and drainage features on the Dean Trail.

- 20 Boy Scouts picked up trash along the Promenade at Coyote Point.

Upcoming Volunteer Events

Trail and Habitat Restoration Work Days, San Pedro Valley Park, April 9 and 16: The regular work days are led by park rangers and volunteers with the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park. The day begins at the Visitor Center at 9 a.m. and concludes at noon. We provide tools, gloves and comradery. We encourage volunteers to wear layered clothing and bring a hat and sunscreen.

Earth Day Trail Work Day at Sam McDonald Park, April 16 and May 14: Join our partners, the Trail Center, and their expert trail building volunteer crew leaders as they work on the Forest Trail in this 850-acre park in Loma Mar.

Earth Day Beach Clean Up at Coyote Point on Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m.: Join us and CuriOdyssey to help make our beaches and parks cleaner! No registration required. Follow the signs after entering the park. We will provide gloves and bags, but it is appreciated if you bring your own bags or buckets in which to collect trash.

Community Engagement and Education Activities

Birding for Beginners, March 19, Huddart Park: This season's ranger-led hike series began at Huddart Park with a focus on helping families discover the fun of birding by learning the basics.

Spring Arts and Crafts at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, March 26: Families were invited to join rangers at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve picnic tables for fun, spring themed art activities. Light snacks were provided to participants before they headed to the beach to explore the tide pools.

Upcoming Community Activities

Take A Hike Begins, April 2: Join us for the first hike of the season on Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m. at Coyote Point. The hike starts at the entrance to the Marina along the Bay Trail. From there we will connect with the Promenade and Bluff trails to make a full loop, approximately 2-miles-long, around the park and return to the Marina. Dr. Kapur from Kaiser Permanente returns this season to guide us through great stretches and to share tips on how to remain active and avoid injuries. We will also have 2016 Take A Hike bags and other items thanks to our sponsors: Kaiser Permanente, San Mateo Credit Union and Recology.

Breakfast at the Reserve, April 30, 10:30 – 12:30: Come visit the reserve and learn more about harbor seals and pupping season! Snacks will be available at the entrance to the reserve off of California Avenue.

Communications

Print and Electronic Media Outreach: The Department used a variety of vehicles to inform the public about park services and events in February and March.

- **Press Releases:**
 - February 9: San Mateo County Measure A Award Helps Pacifica add to Pedro Point Headlands
 - February 11: Pillar Point Bluff, Moss Beach, Closed to Mavericks Event Viewing
 - February 22: Public Comment Period: Pedro Point Headlands Trail Improvements and Restoration Project.

- **Facebook and Twitter Posts:**
 - February 11: Moss Beach, Pillar Point Bluff closed during Mavericks Event
 - February 14, 21, March 1: OpenRoad series promotion
 - February 16: Take A Hike series schedule announced
 - February 18: Living beside coyotes information meetings at Brisbane
 - February 19: Celebrate Black History Month - Sam McDonald's legacy
 - February 23: San Mateo County Parks nature walk series and Take A Hike series
 - February 23: Pedro Point Headlands public comment period open
 - March 1: Ranger Rob Cala story – Half Moon Bay Review; Take A Hike volunteer recruitment
 - March 7: Park and trail closures due to heavy storm damage
 - March 23: San Mateo County Parks recruiting seasonal park aides