



Moving Forward in Challenging Times
Community Report - A look back at 2011; a look-ahead to 2012





A Message from Robert E. Doyle, General Manager

I am pleased to share this report highlighting some of the activities that occurred in the Regional Parks during 2011, a challenging yet rewarding year. Despite a prolonged economic downturn and an increasingly difficult operating environment, we continued to grow, acquiring and protecting close to 3,000 acres of parklands. We continue to thrive because of prudent planning and efficiencies and because of the public's support through property tax dollars and the passage of Measure WW in 2008.

Even with a decrease in property tax revenue, we continue as a vital economic engine in these difficult times, providing both regular District jobs as well as creating jobs through construction and other projects. And we continue to offer the public a healthy way of life through access to safe, quality experiences in this spectacular network of regional parks.

The leadership and cooperation by our Board of Directors and labor organizations was vital in 2011. Their agreement to increase employee contributions to their own benefit package helped protect the District from the deeper cuts that threaten the stability of some local agencies, and thus protected jobs.

All in all, we move to 2012 with pride in our accomplishments and enthusiasm for our forward momentum. Our goals, outlined below, include a targeted focus on public access, increased environmental education and outreach, involvement with our communities, and a commitment to external partnerships. I hope you enjoy your Regional Parks this year. We are here for you.

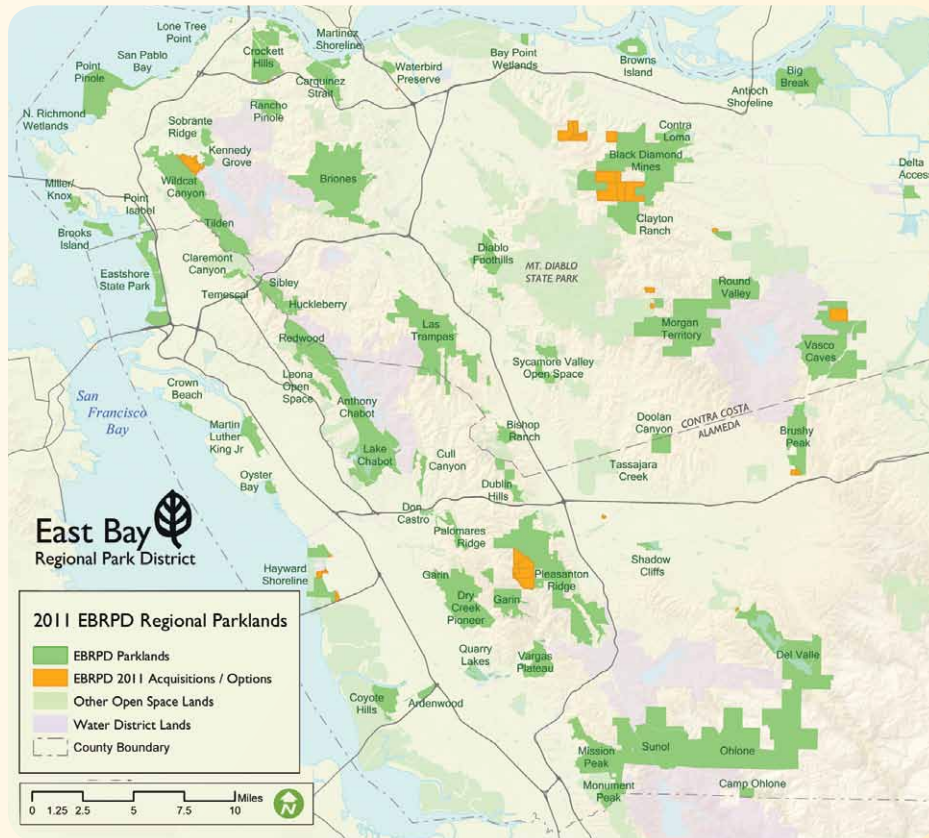
2012 Goals and Priorities:

- *Sustainable Public Access – Keeping our parks open, clean, and safe while maintaining staff levels to manage them.*
- *Access to Environmental Education and Recreation Programming – Keeping our programs free or low-cost, and connecting people, especially diverse youth, with nature in a healthy positive way.*
- *Commitment to Our Communities – Keeping our communities involved in land use plans, Master Plan updates, continued public/private partnerships, and stewardship resource enhancement projects.*
- *Growth of External Partnerships – Keeping our history protected and preserved through relationships with the Regional Parks Foundation, District Archive Center, and California Conservation Corps infrastructure projects.*



Leveraging Our Resources

The past year was a remarkable year for acquisition of open space and parklands with fourteen park and trail acquisitions which either closed escrow or are in an option to purchase. Several purchases in particular provide a snapshot of how we are able to multiply tax dollars to protect and preserve parklands in the East Bay for generations to come, and do it at the lowest possible cost.



New acquisitions during 2011 included a 798-acre parcel adjacent to Black Diamond Mines Regional Park purchased in March, followed by a 1,012-acre parcel also adjacent to Black Diamond. Also in March we were able to buy the Owen Ranch parcel of 953 acres off Palomares Canyon Road and adjacent to Pleasant Ridge, which will provide for western access to the ridge. These parcels will also allow us to connect regional parks and create uninterrupted expanses of protected environment while promoting inter-park trails and access for the public.

The market value of these lands was more than \$22 million dollars. The District was able to use approximately \$7 million of East Bay taxpayer funds from the 2008 voter approved Measure WW, and find grant funding for the remaining \$15 million. To the taxpayers, this represents a \$3 return for every \$1 of their tax money. A special acknowledgement goes to the following grant funders: East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Saving Our Green Transportation Funding

Despite serious cuts by the 112th Congress, the East Bay Regional Park District Board and senior staff were able to work in a united effort with our entire federal delegation (U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein; Members of Congress George Miller, John Garamendi, Barbara Lee, Jerry McNerney and Pete Stark) to protect the \$10.2 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant awarded to the District in 2010. Out of nearly 1,000 applications, the grant was one of only 42 awarded throughout the country. The funds will enable the District to close key gaps of its nearly 200 miles of paved bicycle and pedestrian trails which enable users to get to public transit, work, and school. The District is grateful to our federal delegation who successfully fought to prevent these funds from being cut.

Community Projects

Funded with Measure WW During 2011

The District's 2008 \$500 million Measure WW bond extension included \$125 million (25%) allocated to cities, special park and recreation districts, county service areas, and the Oakland Zoo for much-needed local park and recreation projects to be determined by those individual entities. A total of 21 community projects, totaling \$8.1 million were funded and completed in 2011:

- Alameda – Boys & Girls Club
- Albany – Ocean View Park (4 projects); Teen Center Upgrades
- Antioch – Deerfield & Eagleridge parks' playgrounds; Prewett Community Center
- Concord – Cambridge, Ygnacio Valley, Willow Pass, Concord Community & Pine Hollow parks
- Dublin – Dublin Sports Grounds; Fallon Sports Park
- Hayward Area Rec. Dist. (HARD) – Manchester Property Acquisition
- Lafayette – Acalanes Ridge Acquisition; Burton Ridge Trail Connection
- Pinole – Senior Fitness Trail
- Pittsburg – Central Park
- Pleasant Hill RPD – pool
- San Ramon – Olympic Pool; restroom renovations at 5 parks
- San Leandro – All public parks, repair walkways; Toyon Park Playground
- Walnut Creek – Acalanes Ridge Acquisition

Some of the park projects include such areas as pool and tennis court resurfacing, new playground equipment, installing shade structures, creating new urban trails, and land acquisition.



Ygnacio Valley Park, Concord

Community Connections

Keeping Your Parks Safe

East Bay Regional Park District's commitment to highly trained police, fire, and lifeguard staff makes the District's public safety program one of the most professional and sophisticated among the nation's park districts. District police and fire departments responded to more than 5,000 calls in the parks in 2011, while the lifeguard team protected thousands of children at the District's ten swim facilities. The Fire Department completed 1,195 acres of fuel management as part of a long-term comprehensive plan to reduce the risk of wildfire.

Environmental and Outdoor Education

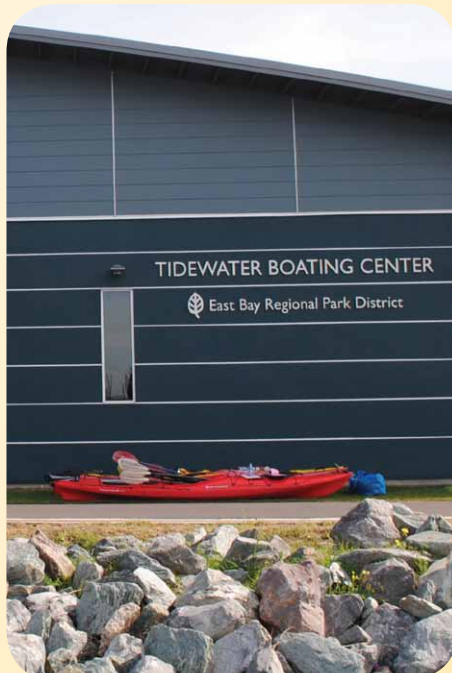
Environmental education is a core mission of the Park District. More than 65,000 school children in Alameda and Contra Costa counties benefited from environmental education programs presented by East Bay Regional Park District in 2011. That impressive number is outdone by the estimated 200,000 adults that took part in similar programs and the approximately 365,000 visitors to six educational visitor centers within the regional parks. In an effort to reach out to more school groups and visitors, the Park District now has a popular mobile fish exhibit and a mobile visitor center that travel to schools and parks without interpretive centers.

Facilities and Achievements

The Park District is especially proud of the facilities, educational and restoration projects completed in 2011 including:

- Delta Map at Big Break Regional Shoreline (Antioch)
- Berkeley Meadow Restoration at Eastshore State Park
- Ardenwood Train Station (Fremont)
- Anza Expedition Panels (Alameda and Contra Costa counties)
- Tidewater Boating Center (Oakland)

The value of projects exceeds \$4.6 million.



Engaging in Our Communities

The Park District has nearly endless opportunities to engage in our surrounding communities, building relationships and making connections. A few examples:

- Interpretive and recreation staff Community Outreach Programs such as fishing derbies touch hundreds of lives, including children with special needs, and seniors.
- District volunteer coordinators engage the public in cleaning and caring for parks, trails, and shorelines. In 2011, nearly 13,000 volunteers gave approximately 124,000 hours of their time to park projects and programs.
- In response to growing diversity, the District launched a strategic initiative to work with media in a wide range of ethnic communities and participate in community events. Along with English, brochures are available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean.





Healthy Parks Healthy People

Getting Outdoors is Good for Your Health!

In 2011, the East Bay Regional Park District took a leading role in the national movement for the Healthy Parks Healthy People initiative, a worldwide campaign that encourages healthy active fun in the outdoors while promoting appreciation and stewardship of our parks and open spaces.

The Park District introduced Healthy Parks Healthy People through community outreach and program design, in public service announcements, and at the first annual HPHP Festival on June 11, 2011 in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service on their National Get Outdoors Day.

Trails Challenge

In 2011, approximately 10,000 park enthusiasts participated in the Park District's Trails Challenge, a popular self-guided hiking program. This was a record number for this annual challenge, which is supported by the Regional Parks Foundation in partnership with Kaiser Permanente. Because of this support, we are able to offer the Trails Challenge Program free for our residents.

Protecting Plants, Animals and Cultural Resources

The health of our communities has much to do with smart resource protection and conservation planning. A department comprised of biologists, botanists, water quality experts, and grassland and fisheries professionals is involved in many important ongoing efforts and studies to help protect dozens of threatened, endangered, and protected species as well as some of the rarest native plants in the U.S. Some of the many resource projects managed in 2011 include continued restoration of Redwood Park's Serpentine Prairie to bring back the *Presidio clarkia* flowering plant, ongoing oversight of the water quality of the District's lakes, and implementation of Fisheries' invasive *Spartina* program treatments. Additionally, staff began implementation of a Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan, and was involved in wildlife projects that focused on Western pond turtles, burrowing owls, nesting least terns, California quail, Alameda whip snake, and golden eagles.

The Regional Parks Foundation

The Regional Parks Foundation encourages private contributions in support of the East Bay Regional Park District. One of the Foundation's top priorities is to ensure that underserved populations have equal access to the East Bay Regional Park District's parks, trails, programs, and services. Generous support of the Foundation's donors enables thousands of disabled children and low-income youth and families to connect with nature and visit the Regional Parks. In addition, through the Foundation's flagship Campership Program, over 3,000 kids were able to attend summer day camp, take swim lessons, learn how to become a junior lifeguard, or enjoy a week of camp at Camp Arroyo, an outdoor environmental education camp located in Livermore. The Foundation also manages a membership program for the Regional Parks which includes free parking, free swimming, discounts, and more. In 2011, the Foundation had over 7,000 members.



If you are interested in supporting or participating in the Regional Parks Foundation, or in a Regional Parks membership, please call 510-544-2202 for more information.



East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors (left to right): Ayn Wieskamp, Whitney Dotson, Carol Severin, John Sutter, Beverly Lane, Robert E. Doyle (general manager), Ted Radke, and Doug Siden.

The East Bay Regional Park District

Board of Directors

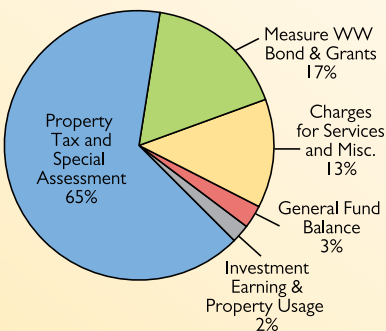
- President Carol Severin, Ward 3
- Vice President John Sutter, Ward 2
- Treasurer Ayn Wieskamp, Ward 5
- Secretary Whitney Dotson, Ward 1
- Director Doug Siden, Ward 4
- Director Beverly Lane, Ward 6
- Director Ted Radke, Ward 7
- General Manager Robert E. Doyle

District Profile

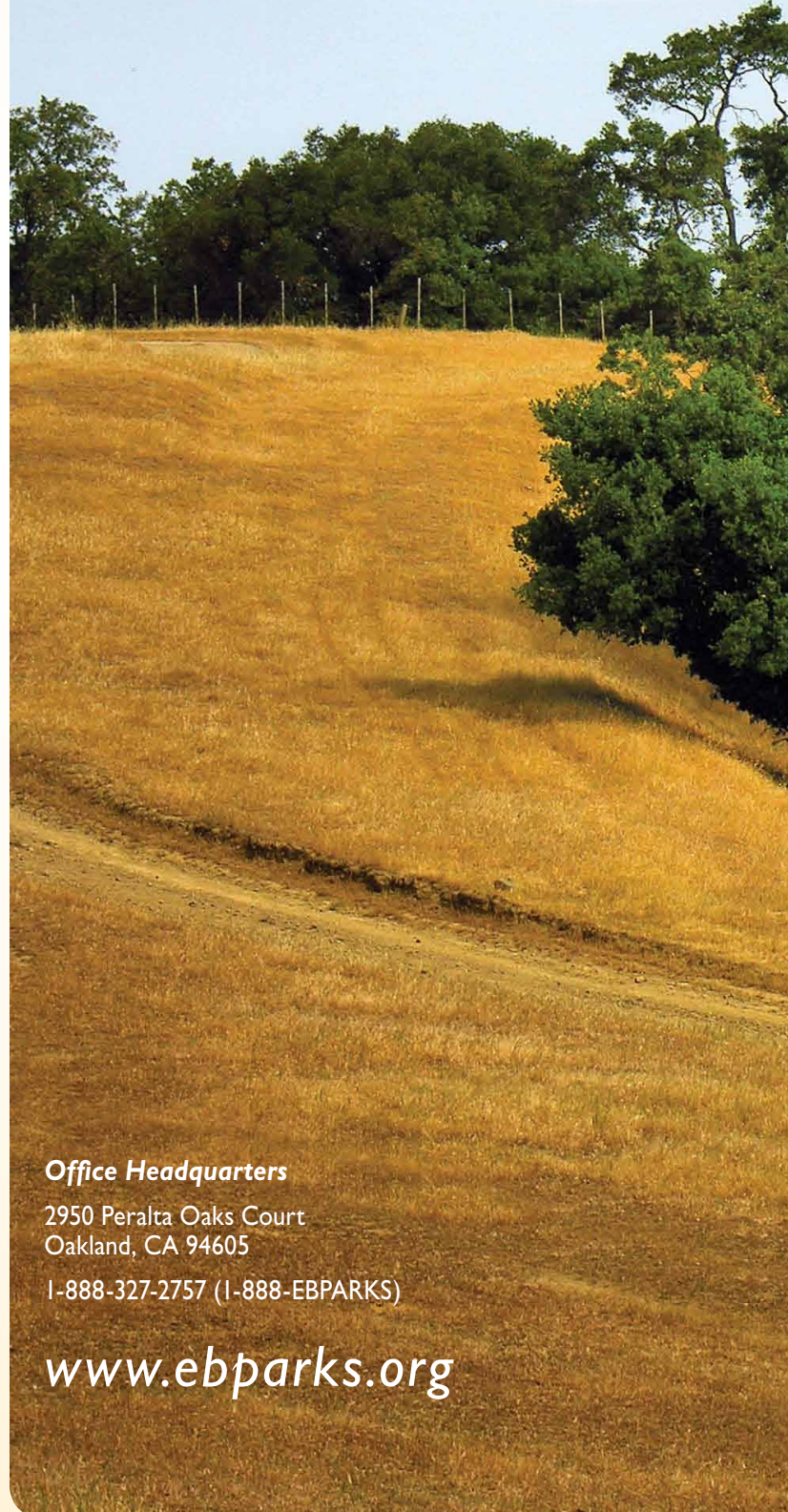
- Founded in 1934
- 111,000 Acres
- 10 Lakes
- 721 Employees
- 14 million visits per year
- 65 Regional Parks
- 1,200 Miles of Trails
- 40 miles of accessible shoreline
- 9 visitor centers
- 2012 Budget: \$176.8 million

Budget

The East Bay Regional Park District's 2012 budget totals \$176.8 million. Approximately 65% is generated from property taxes levied in both Alameda and Contra Costa counties; 17% is from the Measure WW bond fund balance and grants; 13% from fees and charges for services and miscellaneous items; 3% from the general fund balance; and 2% from investment earnings and property use. The 2012 budget is a 6% decrease over 2011. View the entire budget at www.ebparks.org/about/budget.



Cover photo credits: Deane Little (large photo), Jerry Ting (small photos, top and middle), George Draper (small photo, bottom)



Office Headquarters

2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, CA 94605

1-888-327-2757 (1-888-EBPARKS)

www.ebparks.org