Protecting People and Parks

In 2019, the Park District’s professional police, fire, and emergency response staff responded to 18,811 calls for services, including 22 fires, 190 helicopter water drops, 295 agency, and 1,136 District or other incidents. Lifeguards provided 218 first aid at events, 43 medical rescues, and 56 water rescues. Lifeguards also continued prevention efforts in 2019 with 41,582 swim tests, 17,063 swim lessons, and 29,545 loaner float devices.

Wildlife Protection, Forest Management:

In 2019, the District planted 79,734 native plants and protected 1,166 acres of wetland. The District prevented 651 feral cat deaths and removed 33 beehives. The District also removed 351 invasive species from 72.6 acres of land. The District continued to protect endangered species, including the least tern, black cottonwood, and San Francisco garter snake.

Volunteers also played a vital role in connecting nature with the public. In 2019, 12,020 volunteers contributed over 39,500 hours of service to improve parks, visit Public Safely, and represent the District at local community events.

Restoring Nature

In 2019, the District restored or completed numerous studies and habitat restoration projects to maintain a healthy ecosystem for wildlife and plants. Projects included habitat restoration at Bay Point Regional Shoreline, Upper San Lorenzo Creek restoration and public access improvements at Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, and green building design at Dumbarton Bridge, a least tern habitat enhancement at Mission Point Reserve, and habitat enhancements at Orinda Bay, and creek restorations at Tilden Regional Park (in partnership with Urban Tilth).

Creating Community Award of Excellence from California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) for Park Prescriptions and Stay Healthy In Nature (SHINE) programs.

Regional Parks Foundation:

In 2019, the Regional Parks Foundation increased membership to 11,500 members and raised more than $5.3 million! In 2019, the Regional Parks Foundation continued to provide open space, trails, and recreation to all of its activities. The District envisions a well-managed system of parks, trails, safe and healthy recreation and cultural resources in all of its activities.

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2019 was a landmark year for the Park District as we celebrated our 85th anniversary and the Regional Parks Foundation’s 50th Anniversary.

The Park District continued its mission to preserve natural and cultural resources, provide outdoor recreation opportunities, support local and regional conservation efforts, and foster public education and appreciation of the natural environment. We also published a music festival, and a Gala fundraiser for half-dozen concerts, a free arts and craft show, and the first public access to the southern portion of trails opened to equestrians.

New Regional Park Opening in Concord

When the district’s Board of Directors accepted the transfer of more than 3,000 acres of former Concord Naval Weapons Station land from the U.S. Navy and National Park Service, planning began for the future portion of trails scheduled to open soon. Nine Regional Parks opened in Oakland this past year. The public got its first peek of the Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline. In March, set to open in this fall, located in Fruitvale, the 45-acre shoreline park is expected to provide visitors with an opportunity to experience the city of Oakland and its history. The Park District’s first shoreline campground with a grand opening was held at Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline.

In recent years, the District has adopted policies to maintain long-term financial stability, while funding existing services, and increasing the District’s capacity to support key capital projects. In 2019, the Board of Directors adopted a 10-year report on the Measure WW WW Local Grant Program Approved in 2008. Measure WW was the largest bond for parks and recreation in the history of California, funding projects like the Regional Parks Foundation’s 50th Anniversary and the Regional Parks Foundation’s 50th Anniversary. A $57 million dollars in bond funds for local park districts will enable the Park District to continue to generate nearly $500 million in annual economic benefit with every $1 spent by the District yielding a $4 return.

INVESTING IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES: EBPDF Provides Close to $100 Million in 2010

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Expanding Parks

• Albany Beach Bay Trail Reconstruction - Constructed a new marina segment of the Albany Beach Bay Trail near Beach, creating a connects the trail with the path from Oakland.
• South Diamond Mines Trail - Completed construction of the South Diamond Mines Trail segment of the Pathway to provide visitors with an opportunity to experience the city of Oakland and its history.
• Grand Opening of new shoreline park after former Park District board member and East Bay civic and environmental leader John Sutter (former Park District’s only female founding Board member), elected in 1934.

Accomplishments in Recent Years

The District obtained a court ruling holding that Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) owns the land needed for the Brickyard site, including parking, a 45-acre shoreline park. The Brickyard site, which opened in 2020, includes parking, a 45-acre shoreline park, and walking paths. Groundbreaking planned summer 2020.

Expanding Access and Keeping Parks Safe for All

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ROBERT G. DOTSON

Looking forward, we will continue to provide quality recreational opportunities, preserve habitats, and support people and parks. As we prepare to welcome Park District’s 85th Anniversary and the Regional Parks Foundation’s 50th Anniversary.

Access for All - 2019 Milestones

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