In September 2022, the Park District began a project at Anthony Chabot Regional Park to remove hazardous and dying trees. The project used a climate-friendly carbonator to dispose of wood debris on-site using a low-emissions combustion process rather than burning it off site for disposal. The carbonator converts wood debris into a carbon-neutral material called biochar that can be returned to the soil, where it can improve plant health. The project is the first time a government agency in the bay area has used a carbonator in disaster recovery projects.

First-of-Its-Kind Government Fuels Reduction Project in the Bay Area

Keeping People and Parks Safe

Salute for both people and parks is one of our top priorities. In 2022, our police, fire, and lifeguard services staff responded to a record 19,461 calls for services, including medical emergencies, fires, and park Ordinance 38 rule violations.

- 80% of Anthony Chabot Fire Fuels Reduction Pilot Project
- $1 million in grants from the CA Coastal Conservancy
- $6.9 million in FEMA grants for safe and healthy forests management
- $15.3 million in federal appropriations for wildfire mitigation efforts
- Free public mapping of wildfire risk on 1 million acres in Alameda and Contra Costa counties

We provided safe access to nature for 150,000 visitors on our 9,463 acres of land in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Financial Management

- Maintaining AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor’s (S&P) Global Ratings and Aaa from Moody’s Investors Service, the highest rating possible.
- Receiving financial reporting awards from the Government Finance Officers Association for Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 22nd consecutive year, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 19th consecutive year.

- Always on our minds: keeping people and parks safe. On November 8, 2022, Board Directors Charles Sawyer (Ward 5) and John Marcatas (Ward 10) were elected to their first terms on the Park District Board of Directors, along with Director Dennis Waespi (Ward 3) who was elected to his third term, and Director John Mercurio (Ward 6) who was elected to his first term on the Park District Board of Directors. Along with Director Olivia Sanwong (Ward 5) and John Mercurio (Ward 6) who were elected to their third term, and Director Ayn Wieskamp (Ward 7) who was elected to his second term.

New Ward Map

On March 15, 2022, the Park District Board of Directors approved redistricting of East Bay Regional Park District wards based on the 2020 census data. This new ward map minimizes changes to existing wards, including keeping neighborhoods and communities together, while ensuring representation is equal and consistent across the District. The new ward boundaries are consistent with census tracts and blocks.

On November 8, 2022, Board Directors Charles Sawyer (Ward 5) and John Marcatas (Ward 10) were elected to their first terms on the Park District Board of Directors, along with Director Dennis Waespi (Ward 3) who was elected to his third term, and Director John Mercurio (Ward 7) who was elected to his second term.

East Bay Regional Park District

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Mission

Preserve a rich heritage of natural and cultural resources and provide open space, parks, trails, and healthy/recreational environments.

Vision

The District aims to enhance an extraordinary and well-managed system of open space parkland in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, which will forever provide the opportunity for a growing and diverse community to experience nature nearby.

Community Report 2022

The New Shadow Cliff Regional Recreation Area Interpretive Pavilion
Expanding Access to Nature

2022 was another dynamic, high-production year for the Park District with the opening of new large park staging areas, renovation of visitor centers and exhibits at numerous parks open and daily during periods of extreme weather and high fire dangers.

As a part of our staff members for their continued dedication and services to the community. Our parklands are a valuable public resource to protect natural habitat and provide safe and healthy recreation opportunities for all.

Some key 2022 achievements include:

- Welcoming the return of full interpretive and recreational programming in our parks
- Celebrating completion of key public access projects and visitor facility improvements to enhance the visitor experience
- Modifying access to parklands to quickly respond during excessive heat, severe wind events, and extreme fire dangers
- Continuing our commitment to public safety with fuels reduction projects to reduce flammable vegetation in parks and to reduce wildfire risks

Enhancing the Visitor Center Experience

In 2022, the Park District completed numerous projects at visitor centers that enhanced the visitor experience and ability to learn about and connect with nature. Some amenities included state-of-the-art interior and exterior improvements, enhancements to the visitor experience, and wildlife and bilingual (English and Spanish) information signs. 2022 completed projects include the remodeled Sunol Visitor Center, Shadow Cliffs Interpretive Pavilion, and the Tilden Regional Park Botanic Garden. Cerrito Creek exhibit.

New exhibit in the Sunol Visitor Center

New Cerrito Garden exhibit at the Tilden Regional Park Botanic Garden

California’s 30x30 Initiative

In 2022, the Park District joined California’s 30x30 Partnership to support implementation of the state’s 30x30 initiatives, which aims to conserve 30 percent of the nation’s lands and coastal waters by 2030 (30x30). Park District Deputy General Manager Dr. Ana M. Alvarez participates on the coalition’s partnership coordinating committee, which works to implement the policies of the 30x30 initiative and facilitate coordination among state and federal public agencies, tribal partners, and other non-governmental partners.

Expanding Access to Nature

In 2022, the Park District completed the Public Benefit Conveyance of over 2,216 acres of Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50. The land transfer represents the largest ever public conveyance through the National Park Service.

The Park District also received significant federal and state funding for Thurgood Marshall Regional Park in 2022, including $5 million in the 2023 Budget (signed in 2022) Omnibus Appropriations Bill, Congress, Tom McClintock’s and Bill Dolan’s in the 2012-2013 California state budget, secured by Assemblymember Timothy Grifin.

New Park Openings and Amenities

In 2022, we completed many park improvement projects that expand public access and recreational opportunities to connect communities and habitats for wildlife.

- Buckhorn Cove Staging Area at McGaugh-Sanborn State Park, Berkeley
- Tyler Ranch Staging Area at Pleasanton Ridge, Sunol
- Renovated Sunol Visitor Center in Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve
- Shadow Cliffs Interpretive Pavilion, Pleasanton
- New Cerrito Garden exhibit at the Tilden Regional Park Botanic Garden, Berkeley
- Chickencage Language Trail Markers and Tresor’s Bake Shop Exhibit at Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont
- Virtual Basket Exhibit at Coyote Hills Regional Park
- Two new fishing docks at Castro’s Cove, Antioch
- New trail loop at Arroyo Hondo Water Park, Fremont
- New Cerrito Gardens exhibit at the Tilden Regional Park Botanic Garden, Berkeley
- Teen Eco Action participants study and conduct 10,000 pounds of trash from 1,213 programs and events, including more than 3,775 camping reservations
- New Crevice Garden exhibit at the Tilden Regional Park Botanic Garden, Berkeley
- Connecting People, Nature, and Culture
- New Crevice Garden exhibit at the Tilden Regional Park Botanic Garden, Berkeley
- Teen Eco Action participants study and conduct 10,000 pounds of trash from 1,213 programs and events, including more than 3,775 camping reservations
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In September 2022, the Park District began a pilot project at Anthony Chabot Regional Park to remove hazardous dead and dying trees. The project used a climate-friendly carbonator to convert biomass (wood debris and plant matter) into a carbon-neutral material called biochar that can be returned to the soil, where it can improve plant health. The project is the first time a government agency in the Bay Area has used a carbonator for the 13th consecutive year, administered 10,365 swim tests, and provided mutual aid, including the use of District helicopters.

We continued fuels reduction efforts, partnered with neighboring park Ordinance 38 rule violations. Safety for both people and parks is one of our top priorities. In 2022, our police, fire, and lifeguard services staff responded to a record 19,441 calls for service, including medical emergencies, fires, and park Ordinance 38 rule violations.

We continued fuels reduction efforts, partnered with neighboring and public agencies such as CAL FIRE, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), and businesses including PG&E, and provided mutual aid, including the use of District helicopters. Funding and project include:

• 80-acre Anthony Chabot Fuel Reduction Pilot Project: 2022-2024 Includes $1 million in grants from the CA Coastal Conservancy.
• $4.4 million in FEMA grants for safe and healthy forest management.
• $15 million federal appropriation for wildfire mitigation programs.
• Fire scale mapping of wildfires risk on 1 million acres in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

We provided safe access to nature for 194,596 visitors at our nine swim facilities with zero drownings at guarded swim facilities. We provided safe access to nature for 115,026 visitors at our nine swim facilities with zero drownings at guarded swim facilities.

In 2022, the Park District maintained a balanced budget through strong financial management and planning. Achievements included:

• Maintaining AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor’s (S&P) Global Ratings and Aaa from Moody’s Investors Service, the highest rating possible.
• Receiving financial reporting awards from the Government Finance Officers Association for Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 22nd consecutive year, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 19th consecutive year.
• Appropriating $3.2 million of Measure G funding for the second full year for fire hazard reduction, outdoor facilities and nature, parks and trail maintenance.

On November 8, 2022, Board Directors Chris Sanger (Ward 5) and John Mercal (Ward 6) were elected to their first terms on the Park District Board of Directors, along with Director Denise W Woeppe (Ward 3) who was elected to his third term, and Director Colfax Cohle (Ward 7) who was elected to his second term.

On March 15, 2022, the Park District Board of Directors approved rezoning of East Bay Regional Park District’s property based on the 2020 census data. This new ward map minimizes changes to existing wards, including keeping boroughs and communities whole. Redistricting is a process of redrawing the lines of legislative districts so that each contains roughly the same number of people. Each ward is made up of unique combinations of neighborhoods and communities that reflect the unique characteristics of each area.

East Bay Regional Park District
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ebarks.org

Mission
Preserve a rich heritage of natural and cultural resources and provide open space, parks, trails, and healthy/recreation, and environmental education.

Vision
The District envisions an extraordinary and well-managed system of open space protected in Alameda and Contra Costa counties that will forever provide opportunities for a growing and diverse community to experience nature nearby.

On October 10, 2012, the Park District celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta. It is located at 2400 Big Break Road, Oakley, CA 94561. On this special day, the Park District hosted a grand opening ceremony with community leaders, elected officials, and park supporters. The event included a ribbon-cutting ceremony, tours of the visitor center, and a guided nature walk.

First-of-Its-Kind Government Fuels Reduction Project in the Bay Area

In 2022, the Park District began a pilot project at Anthony Chabot Regional Park to remove hazardous dead and dying trees. The project used a climate-friendly carbonator to convert biomass (wood debris and plant matter) into a carbon-neutral material called biochar that can be returned to the soil, where it can improve plant health. The project is the first time a government agency in the Bay Area has used a carbonator for the 13th consecutive year, administered 10,365 swim tests, and provided mutual aid, including the use of District helicopters.

First-of-Its-Kind Government Fuels Reduction Project in the Bay Area
Expanding Access to Nature

In 2022 was another dynamic, high-production year for the Park District with the opening of new or long park staging areas, extension of existing programs and exhibits and enhancements to parks open and safe during periods of extreme weather and high fire dangers.

Some key 2022 achievements include:

- Welcoming the return of full interpretive and recreational programming in our parks
- Celebrating compliance of key public access projects and visitor facility improvements to enhance the visitor experience
- Modifying access to parklands to ensure safety during extreme heat, severe wind events, and extreme fire dangers
- Continuation of our commitment to public safety with bulk fuel reduction projects to reduce flammable vegetation in parks and to reduce wildfire risk.

As a public agency, the Park District is committed to managing its resources and following federal and state laws to protect natural habitat and provide safe and healthy recreation opportunities for all.

Connecting People with Nature

In 2022, the Park District completed numerous projects that enhanced the visitor experience and ability to learn about parks and wildlife and English (and Spanish) information guide. 2021 construction projects include the remodeled Sunol Visitor Center, Shadow Cliffs Interpretive Pavilion, and the Tilden Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Civicus Garden exhibit.

New exhibit in the Sunol Visitor Center

In 2022, the Park District completed numerous projects that enhanced the visitor experience and ability to learn about parks and wildlife and English (and Spanish) information guide. 2021 construction projects include the remodeled Sunol Visitor Center, Shadow Cliffs Interpretive Pavilion, and the Tilden Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Civicus Garden exhibit.

Preserving Land Forever

In 2022, the Park District continued its focus on building land for recreation and habitat preservation and on maintaining and expanding operating agreements for parkland and trail use. Some 2022 highlights include:

- Purchased 88 acres as an addition to Byron Vernal Pools Regional Reserve, in partnership with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy.
- Acquired 1,498 foot trail easement (34 acres) for the San Francisco Bay Trail during the Hayward Regional Shoreline.
- Signed the creative use agreement for continued operation of Arroyo- Oakland Regional Shoreline, Diablo Creek Regional Recreation Area, Mission Peak Regional Preserve, and Marsh Creek Regional Trail.
- Byron Vernal Pools Regional Reserve

New exhibit in the Sunol Visitor Center

Public Benefit Conveyance of 2,216 Acres for Thurgood Marshall Regional Park

In 2022, the Park District completed the Public Benefit Conveyance of over 2,216 acres of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station to create Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50. The land represents the largest ever conveyance through the National Park Service.

The Park District also received specific federal and state funding for Thurgood Marshall Regional Park in 2022, including $8 million in the 2023 (fiscal year 2022) Omnibus Appropriations Bill, Congress’s $5 million for Mark Dedecker, and $3 million in the 2022-2023 California state budget, secured by Assemblymember Timothygroff.

New Park Openings and Amenities

In 2022, we completed many park improvement projects that expand public access and recreational opportunities and protect sensitive habitats for wildlife.

- Bellwood-Canyon Staging Area at McLaughlin-Sanctuary State Park, Berkeley
- Tyler Ranch Staging Area at Pleasanton Ridge, Sunol
- Remodeled San Jose Visitor Center in Saratoga Wilderness Regional Preserve
- Shadow Cliffs Interpretive Pavilion, Pleasanton
- Civicus Garden exhibit at the Tilden Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Berkeley
- Chickasaw Landscape Trail Markers and Tilden’s Back Creek exhibit at Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont
- Visitor Basket exhibit at Coyote Hills Regional Park
- Two new fishing docks at Castro Valley, Castro Valley
- New monitoring loop at Arroyo-Hunterwood Historic Farm, Fremont

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50, Concord

Preserving Parks and Wildlife

In 2022, the Park District continued to focus on improving land for recreation and habitat preservation and on maintaining and expanding operating agreements for parkland and trail use. Some 2022 highlights include:

- Completed a 20-year agreement with NatureBridge to provide in-person education at the Tilden Regional Park for 14,000 students.

New Exhibits (above); Photo by Jason Poss / Tilden Regional Park

Protecting Parks and Wildlife

- Focusing on the impacts of climate change. Some 2022 highlights include:
- Publishing inaugural NatureCheck Report on the health of wildlife in the East Bay
- Completed McCorkle Creek restoration, the Park District’s largest creek restoration project in the Park District’s history, including daylighting approximately 3,000 linear feet of previously channelized creek. Opening in 2022
- Begun design for the restoration of Hayward Marsh to preserve and enhance natural habitat, protect wildlife, and improve public access while lessening the impacts of climate change. Some 2022 highlights include:
- Completed a 20-year agreement with NatureBridge to provide in-person education at the Tilden Regional Park for 14,000 students.