

SUMMER 2014

COMPASS

Healthy Parks Healthy People



MAGNIFICENT MILESTONES

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES FOR YOUR REGIONAL PARKS AND FOUNDATION

IN THIS ISSUE: KIDS OUTDOORS CHALLENGE P. 4 | CAMPING GEAR P. 16 | \$10 MILLION GIFT P. 18



WELCOME



Anniversaries prompt us all to do some status taking—not only to appreciate how long our organizations have been around but also to revisit the inspiration of our beginnings and to find ways to bring about even brighter tomorrows.

As you'll see in this special issue, 2014 has ushered in just such a milestone occasion for the East Bay Regional Park District and the Regional Parks Foundation. We have the distinct pleasure to celebrate, respectively, our 80th and 45th anniversaries, and to honor the contributions of our founders, who had the foresight to preserve East Bay open space and create a lasting legacy.

It's also a time for us to acknowledge the vital role we all must play today in advancing this cause. Certainly, EBRPD must unrelentingly maintain what Mother Nature has granted us. The Regional Parks Foundation must continue to marshal resources that fill gaps the District can't bridge—everything from restoring historical landmarks like the Temescal Waterfall (pictured at right and on the cover) to helping to create new park lands (thanks to generous donors like the Patterson family, whose gift is detailed on page 18).

As a Member, your role is arguably the most important: to keep up your support for and enjoyment of our regional parks.

Let us all embrace these joys and challenges. If we do, there will be countless more anniversaries to celebrate, for generations to come.

Carol Johnson
Executive Director
Regional Parks Foundation



This waterfall, in Lake Temescal's Beach House gardens, was built by the WPA. Its nearly 75-year-old pump was recently restored with Foundation aid.

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**REGIONAL PARKS
Foundation**

Supporting East Bay Regional Parks

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DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts about EBRPD



WILDFLOWER IN TWO SPOTS ON EARTH

The Presidio clarkia (*Clarkia franciscana*): This federally endangered plant is found in only two locations in the world. One is at the Serpentine Prairie in Redwood Regional Park and the other is the San Francisco Presidio. The plant is named after Captain William Clark, co-leader and botanist of the Lewis and Clark party.



BLACK DIAMONDS

In the past 150 years, 4 million tons of coal ("black diamonds") and 1.8 million tons of sand were mined from Black Diamond Mines, California's largest coal mine.

Coal mining thrived in the Black Diamond area through the turn of the last century; operations ceased due to rising production costs and the exploitation of new energy sources. Competition from Belgian glass and the closing of the steel foundry ended the sand mining by 1949.

“I am proud to be a member of the East Bay Regional Parks, an organization that pioneered the conservation of natural landscapes near areas of urban and suburban development and still represents one of the best park agencies in the country.”

—GARY SUE GOODMAN, BERKELEY

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

Even More for Your Membership

We're celebrating EBRPD's eight amazing decades with outstanding new benefits for you

As the East Bay Regional Park District celebrates its 80th anniversary, all of us at the Park District and the Regional Parks Foundation want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you, Foundation Members, for your loyal support. We're working hard to improve the Membership experience and the quality of service we provide.

It's a win-win proposition for you: You can be satisfied knowing that Members' financial support helps to provide broader access to EBRPD's 65 regional parks and ensures that underserved populations enjoy the benefits of educational and recreational programs. At the same time, know that even more perks are now available to you, all at the same low cost. **In addition to unlimited day-use parking, free swimming in season, a dog pass and reduced fees for camping, Members can also enjoy special, new advantages including:**

- **Free one-day fishing passes (two)**
- **Free entry to Black Diamond Mines underground mine tours***
- **One-year subscription to *Compass*, our new Members-only magazine**

Keep your calendar handy: Throughout this year, we'll be presenting events that honor our proud legacy and promising future, and we hope you'll join us. Call 510-544-2202 or visit www.RegionalParksFoundation.org for more info about Membership.

* Certain restrictions apply. Advanced reservations required; must be 7 years or older.



Above: Taking in the sights at Black Diamond Mines. Top: Big-picture view of the regional preserve in Antioch.

KIDS HEALTHY OUTDOORS CHALLENGE

Fun activities connect third-graders to the wonders of nature and plant the seeds for future stewardship

Using the outdoors as a classroom is the focus of an exciting project launched by the East Bay Regional Park District in participating schools in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. It's called Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge (KHOC), and already the fun, activity-based curriculum is introducing area children—and their educators and families—to camping, fishing, stargazing, hiking and other recreational opportunities that promote physical activity and lifelong parks use.

Participating schools and classrooms were selected in an open-application process to pilot and refine the KHOC curriculum in the 2012–2013 and 2013–2014 academic years. “We hit a home run—the program has been very successful,” says Nancy Kaiser, interpretive services manager at the East Bay Regional Park District. “I tell teachers you don’t have to be a biologist to teach outdoors—you just have to be willing.”

The Regional Parks Foundation funded transportation for field trips to various EBRPD locations. “Kids hopped on a bus that took them places they hadn’t been before,” says Kaiser. “It really was remarkable.”

FYI: A host of other community partners also support the program, including funding sources Kaiser Permanente and Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Commission. The curriculum was based on the Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights and was written by teachers from the Alameda County and Contra Costa County offices of education.

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN’S OUTDOOR BILL OF RIGHTS:

1. **Play in a safe place**
2. **Explore nature**
3. **Learn to swim**
4. **Go fishing**
5. **Follow a trail**
6. **Camp under the stars**
7. **Ride a bike**
8. **Go boating**
9. **Connect with the past**
10. **Plant a seed**



Parks Rx

EBRPD and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland (CHO) are joining forces to roll out a "Parks Rx" Health in Nature program that combats chronic illnesses confronting local parents and kids, including childhood obesity. Medical providers and trained volunteers will offer resources to families aimed at removing barriers to nutritious foods, transportation and outdoor exercise. Toward that end, RPF is funding transportation to parks, educational materials, access to naturalists and maps. Also, thanks to the partnership, walls in various CHO locations will be adorned with regional park images—an inescapable reminder to passersby of the healing power of nature.



HIDDEN TREASURE

Eugene O'Neill's Tao House

On your way to the Nobel Prize-winning playwright's hideaway, view dramatic landscapes in Las Trampas Regional Wilderness

Sound-bite history: Eugene O'Neill and Carlotta O'Neill imagined they would build their "final harbor," Tao House, when they purchased the San Ramon Valley property in 1937, just months after the playwright received the Nobel Prize in literature. Before the couple sold their retreat in 1944, O'Neill penned some of his greatest—and his last—plays, including *Long Day's Journey into Night*. Declared a national historic site in 1976, Tao House is now a national park.

Today's attractions: Guided and self-guided tours; exhibits and programs. Free admission, Wednesday–Sunday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., except certain holidays. For info, visit www.eoneill.com/eof/tao_house.htm.

Insider's tips: You can't drive to Tao House, above what is now Danville, but you can catch a free ride on the National Park Service van. For advance reservations (required) and directions, call 925-838-0249. "Get a completely different experience by coming in on foot from the San Ramon side, hiking through the park and arriving at the house," says Nancy Kaiser, EBRPD interpretive services manager. "Begin at the Las Trampas staging area on Bollinger Canyon Road, then hike over the Las Trampas ridge. The top is one of the East Bay's highest points."

▶ For more info about EBRPD's 5,342-acre Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, visit www.ebparks.org/parks/las_trampas.



THE REMARKABLE STORY OF THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, REVISITED IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES, WAS INSPIRED AND SHAPED BY COUNTLESS ENTHUSIASTS AND VISIONARIES WHO SHARE AN ABIDING LOVE OF NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS. TODAY'S GENERATIONS AND THOSE THAT FOLLOW WILL CRAFT SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS OF EBRPD'S SAGA. WON'T YOU JOIN THE CAUSE—AND THE FUN?

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

TURNS

80

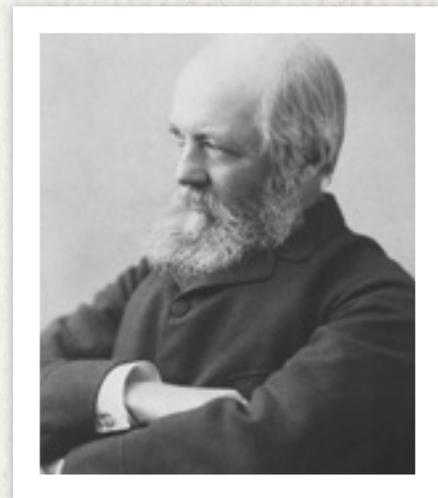


1934-2014



DREAMS COME TRUE

Our regional parks are the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted—junior and senior



Legendary landscape architects: Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. (left) and Sr. (right)

F

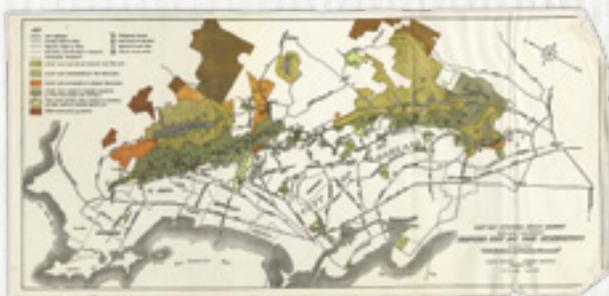
rederick Law Olmsted may not be a familiar name around your household, but it should be if you've ever hiked trails, been enthralled by panoramic vistas, inhaled fresh air contentedly or hugged your kid while in the midst of the East Bay Regional Park District's open spaces.

It was Frederick Olmsted Jr. (1870–1957), a landscape architect/city planner/educator/conservationist, along with Ansel F. Hall, the National Park Service's first chief naturalist and first chief forester, who devised the innovative 1930 plan *Report on Proposed Park Reservations for East Bay Cities*, calling for establishment of a regional system of parks in the East Bay—the first of its type in the nation. Farsighted civic leaders in this area recruited the two men for their historic mission: to survey newly available land and help figure out how to preserve the region's outdoors, finding ways to balance the wonders of the wilderness with the needs for public recreation.

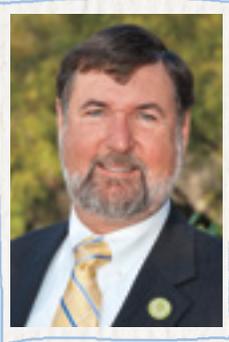
Olmsted's credentials for the appointed task were impeccable. He'd already written key language in the federal law that created the National Park Service in 1916 and conducted a critical survey that guided the birth and development of California's state park system in the late 1920s. What's more, he led a renowned firm that traced its roots to the work of his pioneering father, Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. (1822–1903), who launched the profession of landscape architecture and designed New York's Central Park and sundry other landmark projects, including the campus of Stanford University.

The Olmsted firm, in its various iterations, played a key role in the American West and beyond, in land and water conservation, land use planning, and protection of environmental resources, experts say. In his later years,

Olmsted Jr. worked to safeguard California's coastal redwoods, penning a master plan to save the magnificent trees. Before his official retirement in 1949 and death eight years later, he devoted more than a half-century as a pre-eminent spokesman and practitioner for landscape architecture and comprehensive planning, working on projects that included Oregon's Crater Lake National Park, Maine's Acadia National Park and the Florida Everglades. None so dear to our hearts, though, as our own regional parks.



From the legendary 1930 report: a foldout map identifying areas for "Proposed East Bay Park Reservations"



NURTURING NATURE

In this Q&A, EBRPD General Manager Robert Doyle checks the pulse of the District, finding encouraging signs of health—and challenges ahead

What are some of the noteworthy firsts and bests about the District?

We are the first regional park system in the nation—and we're the largest. But the fact that this unique agency was created in the 1930s, during the Great Depression, is the real miracle. People dug in their pockets, agreed to tax themselves during those hard times, to build an idea—to create a new government agency to buy land and preserve it for outdoor recreation—which then was nearly untried; the state park and national park systems were in their infancy. Our founding bond measure was passed in 1934 with 71 percent approval. That miracle was re-created in 2008, during the biggest recession since the Depression, when 71 percent of voters again taxed themselves and approved a district bond measure. How astonishing and wonderful for the public, in very dark times, to have had the foresight and trust to support their park system.

What are some of EBRPD's key initiatives nowadays?

Our original mission of preserving land and open spaces has greatly expanded, not just in total acres but also in diversity of landscapes. Of course, safe, well-maintained parks are a key priority. That said, EBRPD has still been able to continue to expand. We plan to open seven parks over the next decade, including one the size of Tilden Park. In the current economy, many property owners want to sell. We

now have great opportunities to preserve some of the remaining open land in the East Bay.

And don't forget our Healthy Parks Healthy People programs and activities. John Muir was definitely onto something when he said, "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees."

What are some of EBRPD's challenges and future prospects?

Climate change is a big one. There's no question the water level of San Francisco Bay is rising and will greatly impact the shoreline. We're studying the problem, but we already know that it's going to require a huge public investment to protect resources. A related issue is the increased fire danger in the hills. Funding ongoing fuel management is a huge public need and will require considerable public costs. Also, maintaining our well-used but sometimes worn-out infrastructure—including our aging visitors' centers—is another issue.

I am very optimistic about the future. We managed to get through the Depression; we managed to get through wars, and the system kept going, but we won't be able to do it in the coming years without a new and diverse generation of leaders. We'll need good citizen-volunteers from every quarter. My sincere hope and strong belief is they'll be there. The future of our beloved parks depends on it.



HIGHLIGHTS & HIS



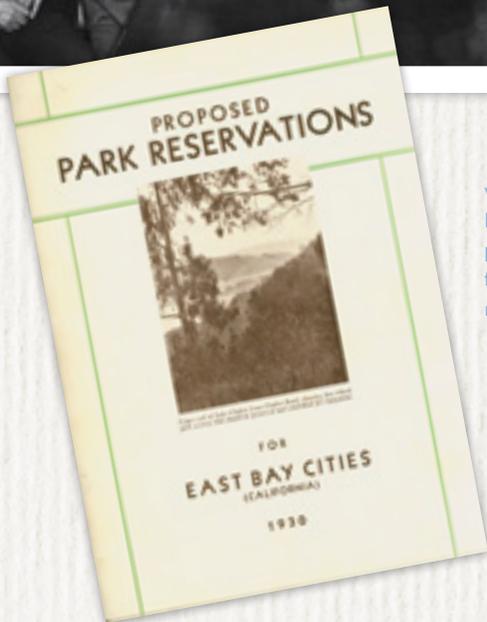
1934

EBMUD sold 2,166 acres of excess watershed in Alameda County for \$656,000 for creation of the “People’s Playground,” EBRPD’s first recreation and open space parks.



Stellar community leaders for EBRPD’s first board of directors: (1) Thomas Roberts, local labor leader, namesake of Roberts Regional Recreation Area; (2) Maj. Charles Lee Tilden, successful Alameda businessman and Spanish-American War veteran, namesake of Tilden Regional Park; (3) Dr. Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, Mills College president; (4) August Vollmer, Berkeley police chief; (5) Leroy Goodrich, Oakland attorney.

1934



1930: The same year the Olmsted-Hall plan for EBRPD was submitted, the Olmsted-Bartholomew Plan for the Los Angeles Region was also recommended—a comprehensive network of parks, playgrounds, beaches and forests. LA didn’t take up Olmsted Jr.’s plan, however, one root cause of that area’s park-poor lifestyle.



“These valuable pieces of land ought to be preserved forever.”

—ROBERT SIBLEY, UC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NAMESAKE OF SIBLEY VOLCANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE, 1936



1936



Depression-era WPA (Works Progress Administration) and CCC (California Conservation Corps) workers assisted in building infrastructure in EBRPD’s early parks.

TORY

“We now have great opportunities to preserve some of the remaining open land in the East Bay.”

—ROBERT DOYLE, EBRPD GENERAL MANAGER, MARCH 2014



Tilden's hand-carved, 1911 Herschell-Spillman carousel, acquired in 1948, is one of only two still operating in the United States. It showcases 59 hand-painted animals.

1964



In 1964, most of Contra Costa County was annexed to the District. Big Break Regional Shoreline, at the edge of the San Joaquin River in Oakley and opened in 2009, is part of the 41 miles of publicly accessible shoreline that's managed today by EBRPD.



At \$500 million, Measure WW is the largest park bond ever passed in the United States.

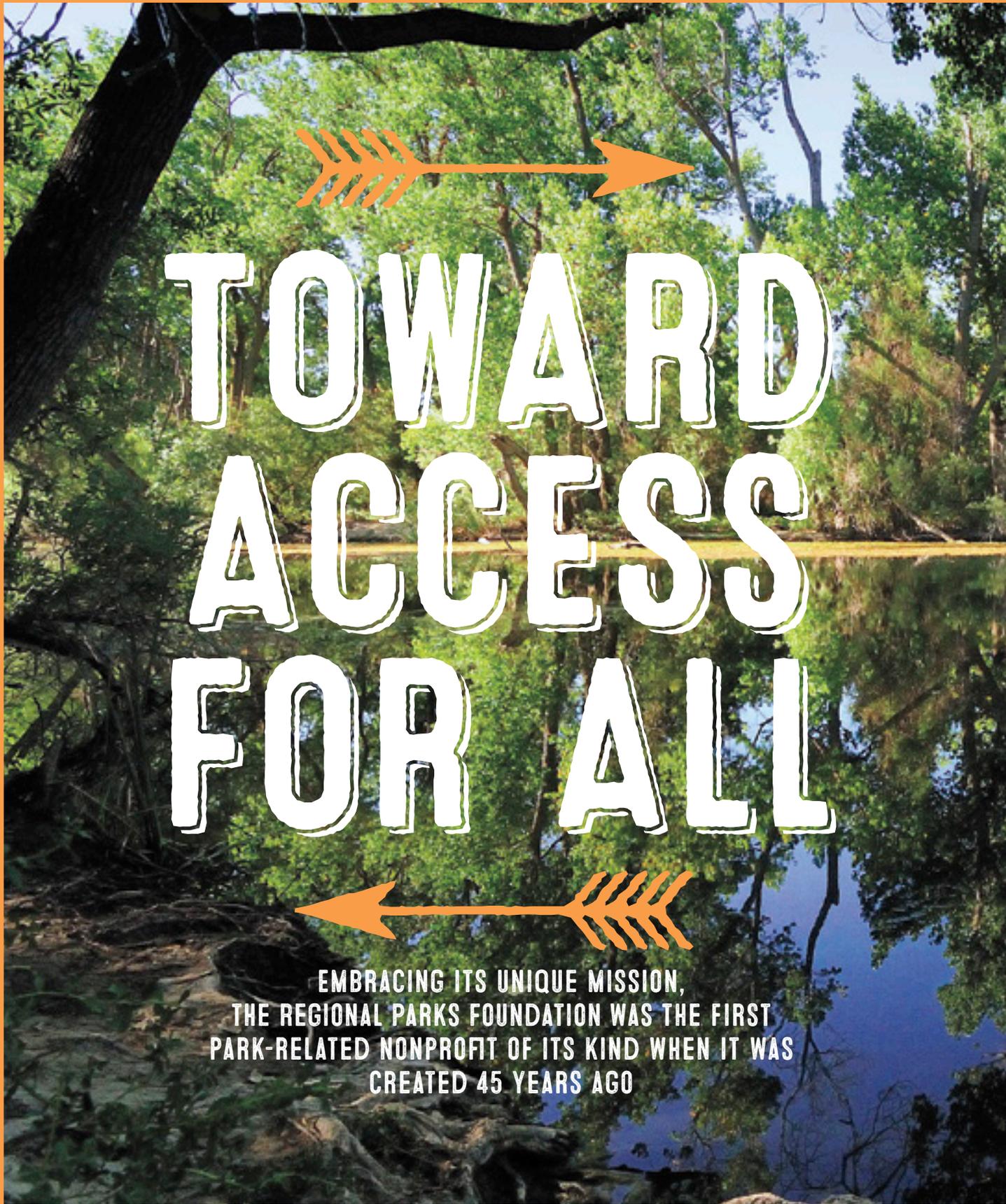


SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 13 ANNIVERSARY GALA

We're taking reservations now to attend the special gala anniversary event celebrating our history and highlighting our future. The evening will feature a reception and dinner, beverages and an auction fundraiser to benefit the Regional Parks Foundation. Special treat: unveiling of a new book featuring the regional parks, *The Wonderments of the East Bay*, written by Malcolm Margolin, publisher of Heyday Books.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2014, 5-9 P.M.; THE CLAREMONT HOTEL, BERKELEY

Ticket orders: \$125 per person. Call today to reserve your seat: Contact Nakia at 510-544-2200 or reserve online at www.ebparks.org/80th.



TOWARD ACCESS FOR ALL

EMBRACING ITS UNIQUE MISSION,
THE REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION WAS THE FIRST
PARK-RELATED NONPROFIT OF ITS KIND WHEN IT WAS
CREATED 45 YEARS AGO

45 EST. 1969
YEARS



T

he founding of the Regional Parks Foundation was the result of good fortune, ingenuity and sound purpose. Kaiser Sand and Gravel was interested in donating land in southern Alameda County to EBRPD

for a public park, but the company's own bylaws prohibited direct contributions to a public agency. Undeterred, then District General Manager Dick Trudeau figured how to make it happen. He conceived of a private, nonprofit organization that would advocate for and financially support the District. Incorporated in 1969 as a 501(c)(3) entity, the Regional Parks Foundation became the first park-related entity of its kind in the nation.

Kaiser Sand and Gravel donated the land to the new group, which immediately transferred the same parcel to the District, which then used the property's value as a match for a federal grant. Planning and design chief Lew Crutcher went to work on the park concept, developing what is now Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area near Pleasanton (pictured here). An auspicious beginning for a groundbreaking park and what has become a pioneering foundation.

RPF TODAY & TOMORROW

JOIN, GIVE, VOLUNTEER, PARTICIPATE—AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Day Camp anglers

Q&A CAROL JOHNSON, RPF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What are some of the Foundation's most noteworthy achievements?
In over four decades, the Regional Parks Foundation has raised millions to provide "access for all" and increased recreation opportunities to thousands of youngsters throughout the East Bay. One of my favorite activities the Foundation has been funding for a while is called Special Kids Fish Derbies for disabled youth. It is so powerful to see the joy of a child catching his or her first fish. Each year, we host more than 700 children and senior citizens at these fun events.

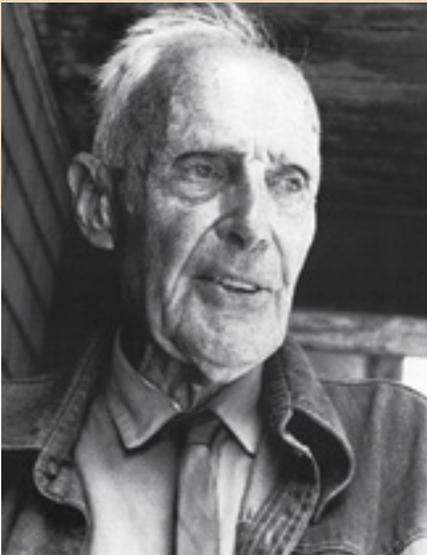
What are the Foundation's current core initiatives?
Sending kids to camp is a major priority. Connecting kids with nature, especially at a young age, provides them benefits that last a lifetime. We want to expose the great outdoors to youngsters and their families so that they will put down their smartphone or electronic game for a little while. We need this next generation of youngsters to be nature lovers for their own health and to protect our parks and open spaces for the health of our community. Our partners at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland are working with us to get the families of chronically ill and obese youngsters to experience walking along the shoreline or trail, to realize that we live in a beautiful place with many options to see and experience.

What are some inspiring stories you've heard about why Donors give?
The Regional Parks Foundation Donors and Members are generous with their time and money. Some are moved by seeing the kids enjoying themselves getting dirty planting in the garden at Tilden Nature Area. Others want to protect habitats for our critters and birds so we all can continue to enjoy seeing animals in our parks. I enjoyed a recent note from a husband and wife Member who said they joined our Membership program to lose weight. They regularly took long walks with their dog in our parks. They used our Trails Challenge guidebook to help identify trails to explore. And guess what? They lost a combined total weight of 90 pounds just by enjoying the flora and fauna in the regional parks. That made my day seeing their picture they sent to us. The most important thing I can say about our Donors is that their gift—every gift—leaves a legacy here at the Park District that educates, inspires or protects our natural resources we love so much in the East Bay.

TO LEND A HAND

Support programs of the Regional Parks Foundation by sending a donation or becoming an RPF Member today—visit www.RegionalParksFoundation.org or call 510-544-2202.

DONATIONS COUNT



WALKING THE TALK

Whenever you're out enjoying the beauty of EBRPD's many hiking trails, you may not stop to appreciate the maintenance that goes into preserving these scenic walkways. Ivan Dickson, however, is a reminder of the power of being grateful and giving back.

Until his death in 1993, Dickson was a dedicated hiker, logging up to 20 miles a day. And while he can no longer be spotted striding along the trails, his presence is still felt.

When Dickson died at 95 years old, he bestowed his life savings to the Park District, through the Regional Parks Foundation. Though he was an unassuming man—he never owned a car, television or even refrigerator—Dickson had put aside a substantial inheritance left to him by his father. The District has used his bequest to create an endowment fund for the Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program. The accrued interest pays for the development and maintenance of trails and costs such as tools, materials, safety gear and lunch for the volunteers, who proudly follow Dickson's footsteps.



HITTING THE DIRT

In the hills above Berkeley is a 10-acre sanctuary and living museum, home to many of California's rare and endangered plants. The Regional Parks Botanic Garden, located in Tilden Park, greatly benefits from the efforts of a dedicated circle of more than 100 volunteers, or "Friends of the Garden," who range in age and experience. What they share is an attraction to the gorgeous garden and an interest in public service.



BUILDING ECO-CONNECTIONS

For today's youth, the asphalt streets of the inner city can seem light years away from the wonders of Mother Nature. That's why, every summer, disadvantaged youngsters from Richmond and Oakland are given the opportunity to participate in Teen Eco Action Week. During the program, teens complete a conservation project; learn about green careers; and explore new adventures, such as hiking, fishing and kayaking. Best of all, they're actively building a lifelong connection with the outdoors.



FISHING FOR A CAUSE

For the past 20 years, the Regional Parks Foundation has hosted four annual fishing derbies for special-needs kids, which for many provide their first experience as anglers and also raise money to support low-cost transportation to the regional parks for the underserved.



Close-in Camping

Some advisable items to pack, from experts at The North Face

One of the great perks of living in the Bay Area is our easy access to EBRPD's beautiful outdoor spaces for camping. From the rolling hills of Sunol Regional Wilderness to the family-friendly facilities at Anthony Chabot to lakeside fun at Del Valle, the District offers plenty of great overnighting options. To make sure you're prepared, we asked experts at The North Face, the outdoor apparel company based right here in the East Bay, for recommendations.

1 Paramount Peak II, Paramount II convertible pants \$75–\$85

You never know what the weather will bring. Which is what makes these pants, which unzip at the knees to convert to shorts, so convenient. A durable water-repellent finish keeps them dry in light rain. An added bonus: 90 percent of the fabric is produced in an environmentally responsible manner.

2 Dipsea sandal \$35

Camping isn't all about the hiking. These retro molded sandals with soft foot bed and suede straps will keep you comfy as you're lounging tent-side.

3 Banchee 50 backpack \$199

This lightweight backpack's dynamic aluminum frame provides comfortable support for up to 45 pounds of gear. You'll also be able to sneak in any number of rest-break snacks within the pack's eight pockets.

4 HyVent hiker hat \$33

This fold-up hat is waterproof, providing protection from rain as well as sun. It's also made from breathable material, keeping you cool on hot days.

5 Tadpole 2 tent \$289

Don't forget shelter. This two-person tent provides maximized interior space at minimized weight: just under 4.5 pounds. High-low ventilation keeps things from getting stuffy, while hubbed poles and color-coded webbing make for a quick and easy setup.

6 Ultra Fastpack Mid GTX boots \$150

With a Gore-Tex waterproof membrane and tough Vibram outsole, these mid-cut hiking boots provide steady support on any surface and in any conditions. They're also surprisingly light at just over 14 ounces.

7 Cat's Meow sleeping bag \$159–\$189

Coming in at just under 3 pounds, this sleeping bag will keep you toasty at temperatures as low as 20 degrees without weighing you down on the trail. Creature comforts include a soft silken lining, glow-in-the-dark zip pull, chest-level watch pocket and reinforced Velcro flap at the head-level zip.

For more information on The North Face gear, go to www.thenorthface.com. For more info on camping in the East Bay Regional Park District, go to www.ebparks.org/activities/camping.



Parks Hit Hard by Drought

Matthew Graul discusses EBRPD measures to conserve water—from low-flow toilets and irrigation cutbacks to possible lake closures



The recent drought in California is the most severe in the past four decades.

Here, Matthew Graul, the East Bay Regional Park District's chief of stewardship, explains how that will affect the parks and their visitors.

What water-conserving measures were put in place after previous droughts?

In campgrounds, we've put in low-flow toilets and low-flow showers and also changed the sink fixtures to use less water. We've also put in timed irrigation systems that have sensors to detect when there's enough soil moisture so we're not overwatering.

What restrictions are currently in place?

Besides the voluntary 20 percent reduction in water usage from reduced turf irrigation, we have also reduced cattle herd numbers. Two things have necessitated that: one, the lack of nutritional forage and also the lack of water, ponds and spring-fed systems that support cattle. About half of our cattle ranchers didn't bring on cattle this year, and others have significantly reduced their herds.

What impact does that have?

There can be an increase in fire danger due to lack of cattle grazing. We're working with fire

departments to potentially provide some manner of vegetation management in high-density areas. That could be weed whacking, mowing, or even bringing in goats or sheep.

What other measures might be enacted if the drought continues?

The plan would be to continue to reduce irrigation, which would result in the loss of many of the park's turf and lawn areas. We'll also look at putting up signage to encourage public conservation in day-use and campground areas.

What are potential impacts for recreational users?

One potential impact is at Lake Del Valle in Livermore. There are three different other agencies that use that water, so it's possible that, without a lot more rainfall, the lake's water level could fall substantially enough to cause closure of the lake and surrounding recreational campgrounds. We're working with water agencies to hopefully keep the lake in operation until Labor Day, Sept. 1, but there is no certainty that will happen. There's also the possibility of reduced swimming and boat launch availability at Shadow Cliffs and Quarry lakes.

Visit www.ebparks.org for current information about the availability of campgrounds, swimming and boat launches in EBRPD.

Lake Del Valle,
January 2014

\$10 MILLION LEGACY

A family farm has a huge impact on the Foundation, the Fremont community—and you

Two hundred and ninety-six acres of pristine farmland in Fremont were recently donated to the Regional Parks Foundation by the William Patterson family, heirs to George Washington Patterson's estate. The estate includes Ardenwood Historic Farm, the site of the original family farm and homestead. The Foundation received the donation from William Patterson, patriarch of the Patterson heirs. With an appraised fair market value in excess of \$10 million, this donation also represents the largest donation of land value in the Park District's history. The Foundation board will turn the property over to the Regional Park District to manage and expand Coyote Hills Regional Park.

"We are astounded by this gift," says William Acevedo, president of the Regional Parks Foundation. "The Foundation is immensely grateful to the Patterson family for their generosity in donating this land for the public's enjoyment—now and for future generations to come."

"This is an amazing example of benevolence," echoes Ayn Wieskamp, president of the East Bay Regional Park District board of directors. "The Pattersons have created a lasting legacy for the community of Fremont and, in fact, the greater East Bay."



Wilcox Patterson and EBRPD Board President Ayn Wieskamp with a map of the land donated by the Patterson family

SPECIAL EVENTS

Concerts at the Cove:

Battle of the Bands

Aug. 8, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Crab Cove, Alameda. Enjoy free music as the sun sets over the bay.

Moonrise over the Mines

Aug. 10, 6:30–9:30 p.m., Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, Antioch. We'll hike through coal country and settle along a ridge top to watch the rising full moon and share stories of the night sky. Two miles round-trip with lots of uphill.

Perseid Meteor Shower Watch

Aug. 11, 8:30–10:30 p.m., Brushy Peak Regional Preserve, Livermore. Peek at the peak of the annual Perseid meteor shower and navigate through summer constellations. Bring flashlight and something to lie upon. 1–1.5 miles.

Family Music Concerts at Contra Loma Regional Recreation Area

Aug. 15, 5–7:30 p.m. Antioch. Enjoy family entertainment with live music by Patrón (July 18) and Foreverland (Aug. 15). Face painting, picture book coloring and fun in the fresh air.

Cajun-Zydeco Music Festival

Aug. 16, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont. Enjoy the best Cajun/Zydeco music, dancing, and delicious Southern and Cajun food. Visit the farm animals, shop specialty vendors and join some dance lessons. Purchase tickets online at ebparks.org or by calling 888-327-2757.

Outdoor Movie

Aug. 23, 8–10 p.m., Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont. Join us for a FREE family-oriented outdoor movie. Arrive early to secure a good seat! Bring a flashlight, warm clothes, and a blanket or chair. Info: 510-544-2554.



SUMMER FUN

A special invitation to you and yours: Join upcoming EBRPD selected programs and activities. To view complete listings of EBRPD events, visit www.ebparks.org/activities.

Historic Rail Fair

Aug. 30 and 31, Sept. 1, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont. Come to the annual rail fair featuring steam train rides, model railroads, displays, games and live music! Tickets sold at the gate. \$5–\$8.

Family Fun Day

Aug. 31, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Big Break Regional Shoreline, Oakley. Bring your family and a picnic. We'll set up games, activities and stations to help everyone explore the wonders of our Delta home.

80th Anniversary Park District Gala

Sept. 13, 5–9 p.m., Claremont Hotel. Celebrate the history of the District, dine on great food and bid at our silent auction. The public is welcome; limited seats are available for purchase. Fee: \$125 each. Or become a sponsor. Packages are available. Please call 510-544-2003 for more information.

FREE Third Fridays!

In celebration of EBRPD's 80th anniversary, enjoy free parking and entry every third Friday for the rest of the year. Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19
Free:

- Parking
- Boat launching*
- Entry for horses and dogs
- Swimming fees
- District fishing permits**
- Entry to Ardenwood Historic Farm

* Boat inspection fee is not included.

** Anglers must obtain a California fishing license.

Regional Parks Foundation
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www.RegionalParksFoundation.org

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