

SUMMER 2017

COMPASS

Healthy Parks Healthy People



Discovery Zone

**A WORLD OF NATURAL WONDERS
(BOTH NEW AND FAMILIAR)
AWAITS VISITORS IN THE
EAST BAY REGIONAL PARKS**





PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



The dedication of the Dotson Family Marsh in April celebrated one of the East Bay Regional Park District's recent restoration projects and illustrated its ongoing commitment to climate change adaptation. The rise in sea level is just one of the ramifications of climate change, and the Dotson Family Marsh was designed to offset such effects through 2080.

The Regional Parks Foundation shares that commitment to protecting our natural resources. One of the Foundation's core programs, aided by generous Donors, is Environmental Restoration and Habitat Enhancement—helping to keep parklands and wildlife healthy. The creation of the Shorebird Sanctuary at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and cleanup efforts at Strawberry Cove and on park trails are a few of the Foundation-supported projects you'll read about in this issue.

Hours spent in the parks are not only about work, of course.

There are many areas to explore and breathtaking vistas to revel in for the first (or the 50th) time. Witnessing a new wonder, or sharing a secret spot with a friend, is part of what makes living in this beautiful and diverse region special. So smell the flowers at the Dry Creek Garden, say hi to one of EBRPD's mounted patrol horses—or find your own unique discovery in the parks. See you out there!



Carol Johnson
Executive Director
Regional Parks Foundation

Robert Doyle
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

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On the cover: A young farm volunteer makes a furry friend at Tilden Nature Area's Little Farm.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts about the
East Bay Regional
Park District



9

The minimum age of volunteers at the Little Farm



1955

The year the Little Farm's Red Barn was built by Berkeley High carpentry students, with support from the Berkeley Kiwanis Club



202

The number of bird species found in Tilden Nature Area

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



EASY ACCESS

On-site membership sales are coming to the parks



Loving your parks is simpler than ever, thanks to a new effort to bring Regional Parks Foundation membership sales into the parks themselves.

“Our aim is to make it easier for people to access memberships while in the parks, and enhancing on-site sales is a huge step toward this goal,” says Michele Kageura, membership development officer. “We’ve been working with the parks to streamline the process for everyone.”

Memberships will be available for purchase at entrance kiosks and visitor centers later this year, allowing visitors to instantly take advantage of benefits using a temporary card issued at the point of sale. Members will then need to activate their membership by going online or by emailing the membership office.

For many, the Regional Parks Foundation membership program is a “best-kept secret.” “Our hope is that on-site sales will increase awareness so more people can support their parks and enjoy the many benefits membership has to offer,” says Kageura.

Focus on Veterans



Park members are already sharing their appreciation of the restructured benefits that went into effect in January. “The feedback has been very positive,” says Michele Kageura, membership development officer. “People appreciate the streamlined categories and they love the new membership benefits.”

Once such benefit is the addition of a veterans category to the discounted Special Access passes. “It made sense that we would try to honor our veterans in this way,” says Kageura. Michael Hall of Pleasanton retired from the Coast Guard in 2009 after serving for 23 years. He and his wife signed up for a veterans Special Access pass after realizing the joys of walking their dogs, Pablo and Klaus, at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreational Area.

“Our dogs love running around there and we want to make them happy,” says Hall. The couple plans to explore more East Bay Regional Parks this summer with the free dog pass that is included in all park memberships.

Canine appeal is also an attraction for Gary Savell, as is time spent enjoying the parks with his family. The Hayward resident served in the Army, working in transportation at West Point in New York during the Vietnam era and then at the Presidio of San Francisco. Savell had a park membership years ago when his two children were young; he joined again in January to take advantage of walks with his dog at Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park and geocaching with his now-grown son throughout the Park District. “You’re having fun even if it’s wet and muddy,” he says. “I’m like a little kid out there.”



Gary Savell and his dog, Freedom, enjoy the benefits of park membership.

▶ For more information, visit www.RegionalParksFoundation.org.



HAPPY CAMPERS

Coming this fall: A new option at Del Valle Regional Park makes camping easier for families

For some avid campers, half the thrill comes from snoozing under the open night sky—no matter the discomfort and the dirt. For others, however, particularly those new to sleeping bags and s'mores by the fire, the comparative ease of "convenience camping" makes such pleasures accessible to more people.

Convenience campsites offer the option of a simple cabin (or in some cases, canvas structures known as yurts) as a stand-in for the typical tent. Unlike the more luxurious "glamping," convenience camping keeps traditional elements such as cooking over an open fire, rustic bathing and bathroom facilities, and eating out in nature, but makes the activity a little easier.

EBRPD visitors can try it for themselves thanks to the District's new convenience camping pilot program at Del Valle Regional Park.

"This is a way for people who don't really want to sleep on the ground to have a camping experience," says Jim O'Connor, assistant general manager of operations.

"It's about accessibility. How do we meet the various needs of people who want to use our park system?"

The pilot program offers five cabins containing wooden bunk beds, a heater, a fan and basic electricity. The sites are located on the main loop at Del Valle, below the entrance road to the main campground.

The goal is to make camping easier during nonpeak times such as spring or fall. These cabins provide more shelter and allow people opportunities to camp without the crowds of peak summer season. Reservations for the cabins can be made through the Park District's website; the cost is between \$60 and \$80 a night.

If the response to the cabins at Del Valle is positive, the Park District hopes to expand the idea to

Anthony Chabot and potentially other locations.

"I think people are going to like convenience camping, especially families with young kids," says O'Connor. "We can be that place to get them started."



Cabins like this one will soon be available at Del Valle.

FAMILY ZONE

Overnight Fun at the Farm

Sleep in the great outdoors at Ardenwood Historic Farm

Fremont-area families will get to journey into the past and enjoy a unique camping experience at the same time during two "Overnight at the Farm" events at Ardenwood Historic Farm in late summer/early fall.

Geared toward families with children ages 5 and up—particularly those who are novice campers—these evenings at Ardenwood offer a guided camping experience, with the added bonus of exploring turn-of-the-century life on a working farm. Thanks to funding from the Regional Parks Foundation (RPF), the District's Recreation Department will supply all of the necessary gear to spend the night outdoors (from tents to sleeping bags) and teach participants basic camping skills. Ardenwood staff will also provide dinner and breakfast and lead family activities ranging from sack races to feeding the farm animals.

"We've found that campers, especially ones camping out for the first time, are looking for experiences near to home," says Nancy Krebs, supervising naturalist at Ardenwood. "Park staff will be with participants all the way so everyone feels comfortable. If something happens in the middle of the night, we're right here."

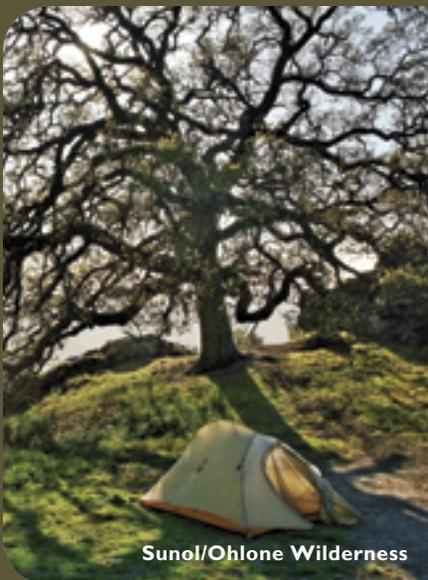
The District is partnering with the RPF and community agencies to involve local families in the event, and the chance to sleep over



Making friends at Ardenwood

at Ardenwood—which doesn't usually offer on-site camping—is a not-to-be-missed opportunity.

"It's a treat being here at night," says Krebs. "Picture yourself lying under the evening sky with the stars twinkling against the trees and the farm animals rustling nearby. It's just beautiful."



Sunol/Ohlone Wilderness

GETTING STARTED

The Park District offers a variety of camping options: tent or family camping, RV camping (with a new 62-space camp opening next year at Coyote Hills), group camping, equestrian camping, backpack camping at sites such as Sunol/Ohlone Wilderness, and convenience camping. "There's a whole spectrum available here," says Jim O'Connor, assistant general manager of operations. To make a reservation, call 888-EBPARKS (888-327-2757) and press option 2, or go to www.reserveamerica.com; reservations can be made up to 12 weeks in advance and need to be made at least two days prior to your visit. The maximum stay for family campsites is 15 consecutive nights. Fees vary depending on the type of camping. (For example, family camping at Anthony Chabot for a tent or RV with no hookups is \$25 a night; group camping starts at \$75 a night for smaller sites.) Dogs are allowed for an additional fee of \$2 a day.

▶ Visit www.ebparks.org/activities/camping for more information.



~T PROT CONS

STEWARDSHIP EFFORTS THROUGHOUT
PRESERVE PRECIOUS

Redwood Regional Park is home to an array of native plants, including purple-hued *Clarkia franciscana*.

OBJECT & ERVE



THE PARK DISTRICT RESTORE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

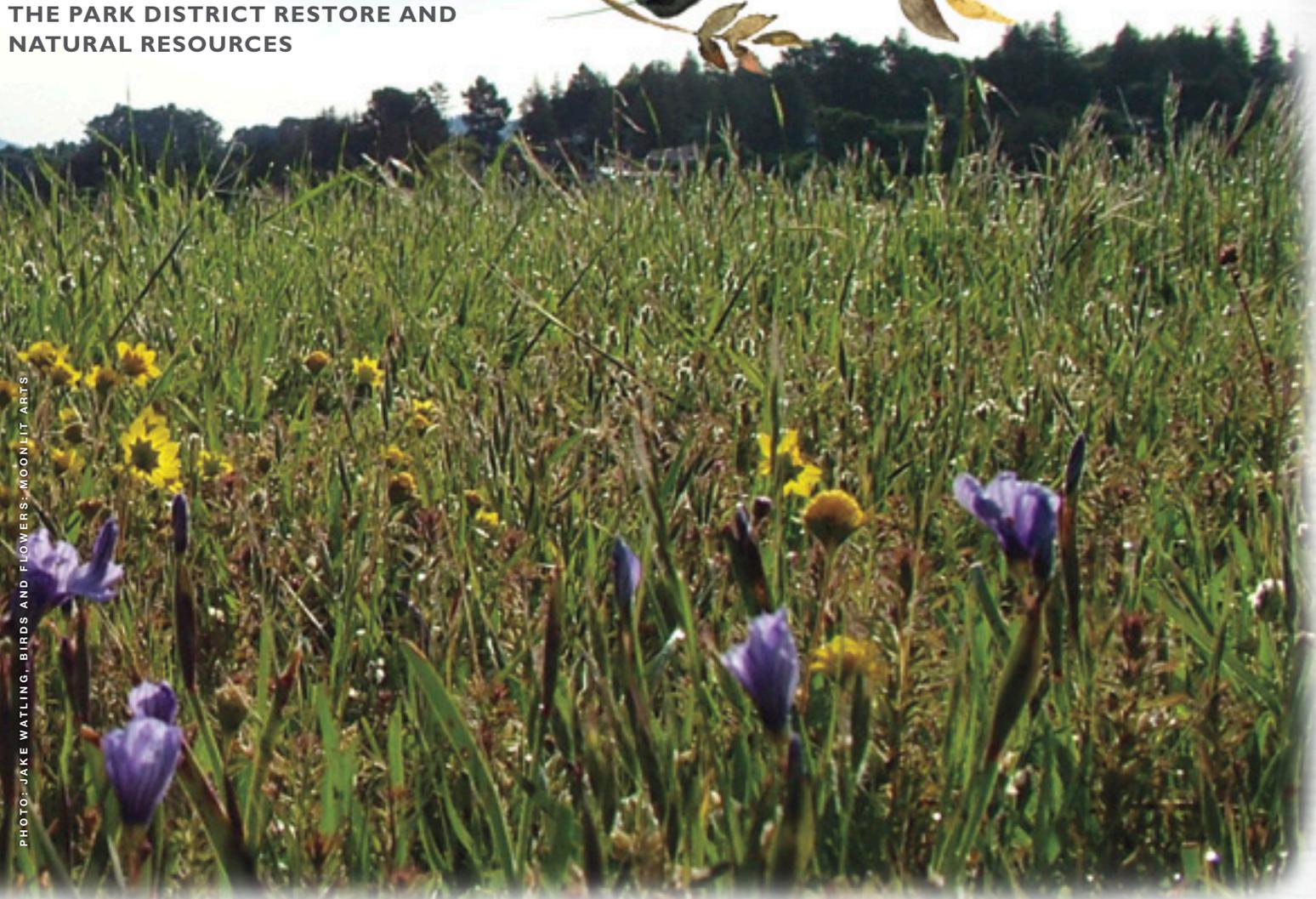


PHOTO: JAKE WATLING, BIRDS AND FLOWERS; MOONLIT ARTS



Perhaps you've never heard of *Clarkia franciscana*, also known as Presidio clarkia. But the fact that the endangered wildflower is thriving in Redwood Regional Park is the result of years of stewardship work. Presidio clarkia requires serpentine soil (dirt derived from mineral-rich ultramafic rocks), but much of its natural habitat has

succumbed to development. An ambitious plan to restore a remaining swatch of such soil near the park's Trudeau Center began in 2009; it entailed the removal of nonnative trees, carefully timed mowing, well-managed sheep and goat grazing, and ongoing elimination of nonnatives. Now a full-fledged serpentine prairie is flourishing, with a rich array of native plants.

"We couldn't have done it without the help of the Regional Parks Foundation," says Matt Graul, chief of the Stewardship division.

The Foundation's primary purpose is to support the Park District with land acquisition, conservation, education and recreation programs, and community outreach. "Our ethos is to provide safe access for individuals and also to preserve a solid ecosystem for wildlife," says Juliana Schirmer, Foundation development director.

The Foundation engages in constant outreach to secure funds through memberships, individual donations, bequests and corporate contributions. "Local businesses like to help," says Schirmer. "They see the value in it, and they want to give back." In 2016, the Foundation raised \$2.16 million, which was divided among the many programs it supports, including stewardship.

Graul's department has plenty to tackle—including protecting streams, providing new habitat and helping native plants thrive. Dedicated staff and willing volunteers help get the job done. And, says Graul, "Foundation support is essential to our work."

Conservation efforts have helped endangered wildflowers like *Clarkia franciscana*, top, and threatened species such as Western snowy plovers, right, thrive.



SANCTUARY FOR SHOREBIRDS

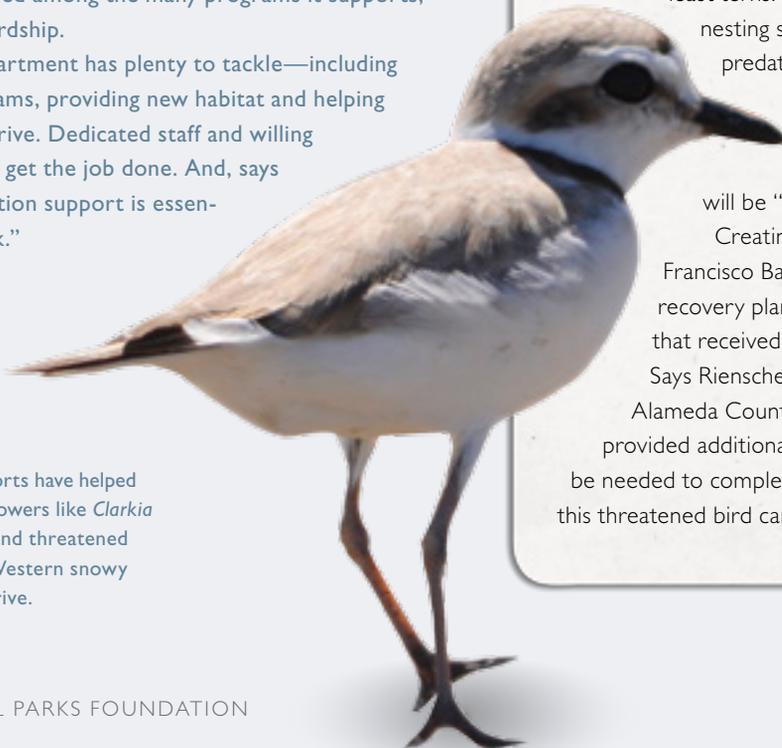
THANKS TO \$35,000 in corporate and government support granted to the RPF, Western snowy plovers are getting a new nesting ground. According to wildlife biologist David Riensche, the area around the San Francisco Bay is home to the largest breeding population of the birds on the Pacific Coast, and they could use some help. Western snowy plovers are federally listed as a threatened species and designated a California species of special concern.

Riensche will oversee the creation of the Shorebird Sanctuary at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland. Under his direction, crews will build up an island on the mud using 150 tons of coarse sand and crushed oyster shells. Western snowy plovers have successfully bred on a similar substrate at the District's Hayward Regional Shoreline, a habitat for California least terns. Like all shorebirds, the plovers need a nesting site that provides not only cover from predators but also adequate nutrition. Riensche's research has shown that the addition of oyster shells contributes to success.

He says the 28,500-square-foot island will be "delicious for nesting birds."

Creating new nesting grounds within the San Francisco Bay helps the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recovery plan for the Western snowy plover, a project that received funding from Fremont Bank Foundation. Says Riensche, "They were the founding fathers."

Alameda County's Fish & Game Advisory Commission provided additional financial support. Another \$25,000 will be needed to complete the sanctuary and maintain it so that this threatened bird can survive in the East Bay.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: TOM HILTON; MAGIC MEDIA PRODUCTION; EBRPD; MICHAEL PANG



Shorebirds find a welcoming nesting ground at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland.

“Our ethos is to provide safe access for individuals and also to preserve a solid ecosystem for wildlife.”

—JULIANA SCHIRMER,
FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

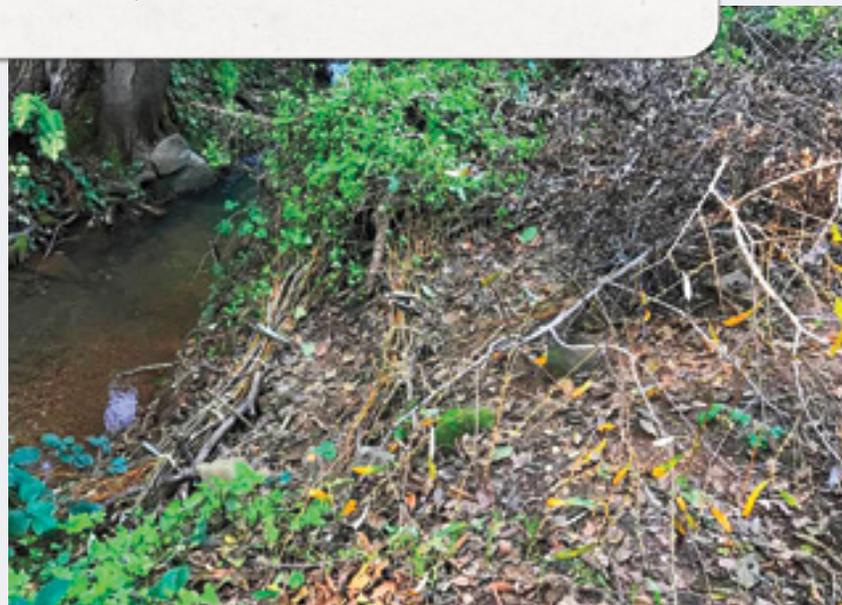
DOING DAMAGE CONTROL

➤ IN LEONA CANYON REGIONAL OPEN SPACE, near Merritt College, a trail that runs parallel to Rifle Range Creek draws a congenial mix of bike riders, hikers and people walking their dogs. Unfortunately, not everyone sticks to the established trail, and that creates problems. “We’ve seen some impact from visitor usage,” says Joe Sullivan, fisheries program manager in the Park District’s Stewardship division. Dogs are allowed off leash on the trail, and even though they’re not supposed to, they often run down the slope into the creek. “They don’t read signs very well,” Sullivan says jokingly.

People can also trample plants if they leave the trail to reach the creek. Eventually, all that foot traffic has an impact, killing vegetation and exposing the soil to erosion. Come the rainy season, too much sediment washes down those makeshift paths and clogs the creek.

Those concerns prompted the Foundation to allocate \$15,000 in 2016 for the restoration of the riparian ecosystem under the guidance of ecologist Kristen Van Dam. “This type of work is her specialty,” says Sullivan. “She’s done similar work on Wildcat Creek as well.” Van Dam’s main method of reversing damage relies on cutting willow branches that would need to be removed anyway. Then she bundles the branches and anchors them into the soil, covering space that has been denuded. The bundles serve to catch soil that washes down, preventing sediment from entering the creek. And they also discourage people—and dogs—from trampling the area.

Simply preventing foot traffic on bootleg trails allows the soil to heal itself. “Things start to grow again,” says Sullivan. “Sometimes even the willow branches sprout and take root.”



Ecological restoration at Oakland’s Leona Canyon Regional Open Space is helping reverse damage to Rifle Range Creek.

The McLaughlin Eastshore State Park is still undergoing preservation work.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Trail work events are held on one Saturday of each month, from April through November, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult; the events are not recommended for those under 10.

► For more information, visit www.ebparks.org/getinvolved/volunteer/trail or call 510-544-2631.

PRESERVING NATIVE SPECIES

► EXTENDING FROM THE BAY BRIDGE to Richmond, the 8.5-mile-long McLaughlin Eastshore State Park hugs the bay, providing access to intermittent trails and magnificent views, with the added benefit of preserving the waterfront from development. When the Bay Trail is complete, it will span the entire length of the park.

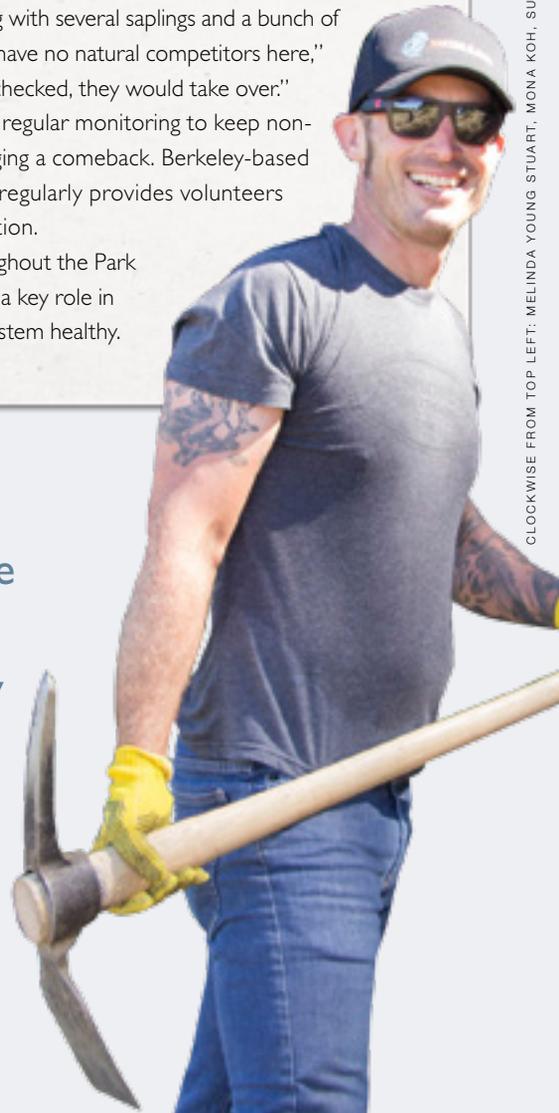
EBRPD, which manages the park for the state, has undertaken extensive work at the Brickyard site in Berkeley. "We've cleaned up debris from the old brickyard, regraded, and hydroseeded with native grasses and coastal prairie plants," says Ren Bates, capital program manager of the District's project management unit. The seeds have taken root, although geese ate some of the plants. Work is ongoing, with restrooms, trails and a picnic area still to come.

Meanwhile, neighboring Strawberry Cove underwent its own cleanup project last year. "We were thrilled when we were awarded \$10,000 through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the work at Strawberry Cove," says Juliana Schirmer, Foundation development director. That money was used to eradicate black acacia, a fast-moving invasive. Without the use of any herbicides, a mature tree was removed, along with several saplings and a bunch of seedlings. "Those trees have no natural competitors here," Bates explains. "Left unchecked, they would take over."

The site undergoes regular monitoring to keep non-native species from staging a comeback. Berkeley-based Friends of Five Creeks regularly provides volunteers to help manage vegetation.

As is the case throughout the Park District, volunteers play a key role in keeping the vast park system healthy.

Volunteers play a huge role in trail maintenance efforts, enthusiastically turning out for monthly work days and special events.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MELINDA YOUNG STUART, MONA KOH, SUZANNE WILSON, EBRPD



Volunteers of all ages help keep the trails safe and accessible.

GIVING BACK THROUGH CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Local businesses are valuable supporters of the Park District. In addition to financial contributions, many companies sponsor work days during which their staff is encouraged to help out in the park, pitching in on cleanup, planting, removing invasive plants or maintaining trails.

Clif Bar is one company that always has a huge turnout for its day of service, says Sean Dougan, trails development program manager. Another big booster is the Conservation Alliance, a coalition of outdoors-oriented businesses, large and small.

After a company requests a work event, the Park District and the Foundation partner on all of the organizing and make every effort to accommodate a business's requested date, location and particular interest. For instance, says Raj Hajela of the Regional Parks Foundation, "Fremont Bank is very family-focused. They like to have intergenerational events, and they want to make sure that everyone has a good time."

The Park District is grateful for the myriad businesses that help, and volunteers leave with the satisfaction of knowing they've filled a need. It's a win-win for everyone involved.

► To find out more about corporate volunteering opportunities, contact Raj Hajela at 510-544-2218 or visit www.RegionalParksFoundation.org/corporate.

HAPPY TRAILS

► THE PARK DISTRICT'S 1,250 MILES of trails get a lot of use, but that wear and tear, plus damage from winter storms, necessitates maintenance work to keep trails safe and accessible.

Volunteers play a huge role in such efforts, enthusiastically turning out for monthly work days and special events. Typical trail maintenance tasks might be removing leaf litter and twigs, repairing areas damaged by slides, or cutting back encroaching vegetation. "Sometimes we add steps or other features to make trails more accessible. Sometimes we do a reroute," says Sean Dougan, trails development program manager. "Volunteers like that work. It combines construction and restoration."

Even with donated hours, as the program continues to grow, so do program expenses. "It takes a lot of coordination and we need a lot of crew leaders to work with each group, since safety is a big priority," says Dougan. Then there's equipment, supplies and lunch to refuel volunteers after their hard labor.

The Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program funds some of that vital work. Dickson, an avid hiker into his 80s, made a bequest more than 20 years ago to support the upkeep of his beloved trails. The fund is now diminishing since the interest alone isn't enough to run the maintenance program; fortunately, local businesses and the public have stepped up to help.

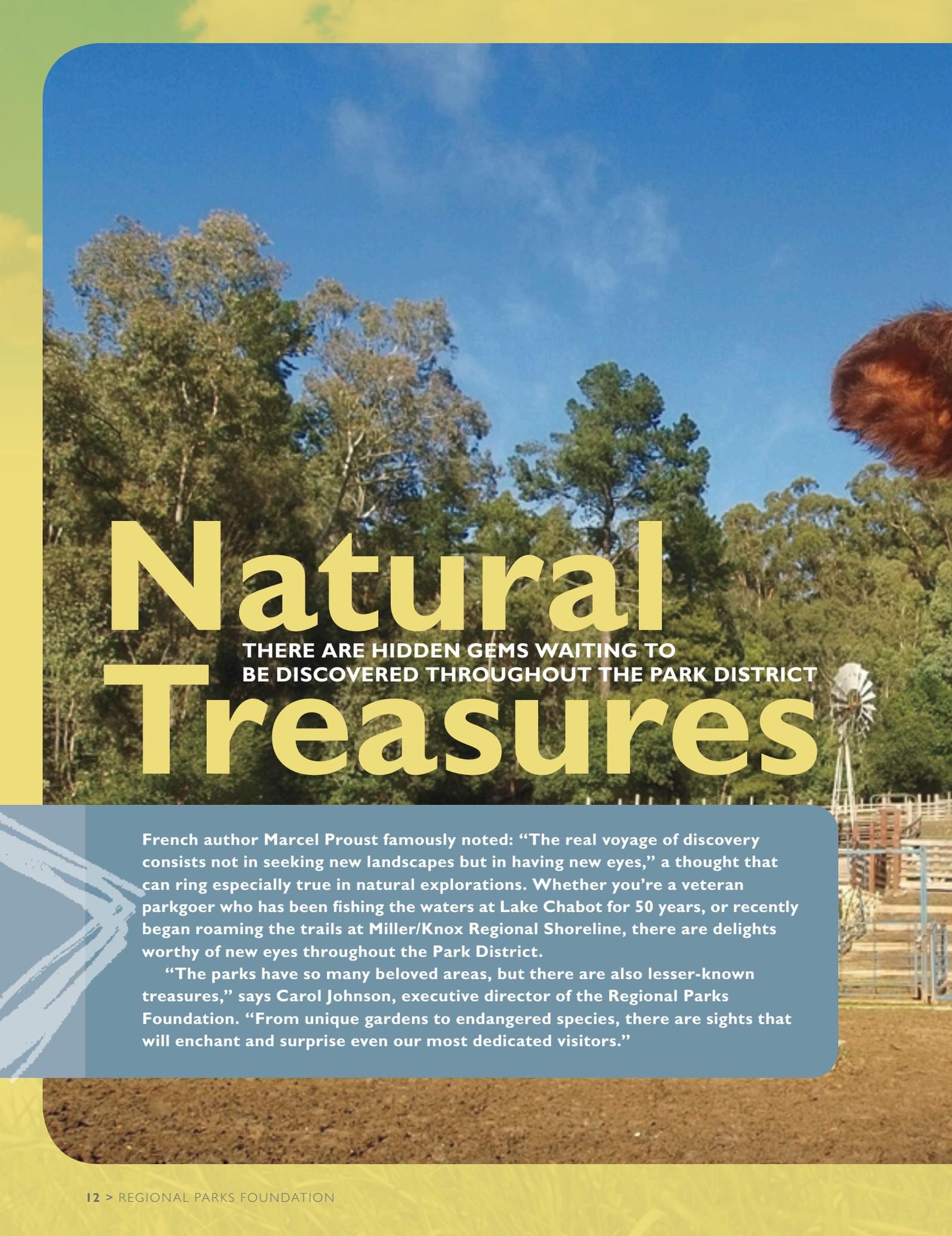
This year, the Regional Parks Foundation was fortunate to secure a partnership with Whole Foods Market Northern California through its 5% Giving Day on April 5. With the generous support of the community, Whole Foods Market donated more than \$44,000 to support the trail maintenance and restoration efforts!

REI and Drake's Brewing Company also support the trails program through the Foundation. "Since 2000, REI has donated over \$100,000, and we are so grateful," says Dougan. "Our goal is to keep the program running in perpetuity, and we couldn't do it without this community support."

► If you're interested in donating to the Trails Maintenance Fund, contact Juliana Schirmer, Foundation development director, at 510-544-2212.

Clif Bar employees enjoy their park day of service.





Natural Treasures

THERE ARE HIDDEN GEMS WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED THROUGHOUT THE PARK DISTRICT

French author Marcel Proust famously noted: “The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes,” a thought that can ring especially true in natural explorations. Whether you’re a veteran parkgoer who has been fishing the waters at Lake Chabot for 50 years, or recently began roaming the trails at Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, there are delights worthy of new eyes throughout the Park District.

“The parks have so many beloved areas, but there are also lesser-known treasures,” says Carol Johnson, executive director of the Regional Parks Foundation. “From unique gardens to endangered species, there are sights that will enchant and surprise even our most dedicated visitors.”



DANIEL PARKS

Milking Shorthorn cows enjoy life at the Little Farm.

A BREED APART

The Little Farm at the Tilden Nature Area is familiar to many families who introduced their children to barn animals at the working farm. But visitors of all ages will enjoy meeting the resident heritage breeds, including French Alpine goats, Black Welsh mountain sheep, Milking Shorthorn cows and Dutch rabbits.

"Heritage breeds are preindustrial breeds," says Stanley Ward, aka Farmer Stanley, who has worked at the Little Farm for 18 years. "There used to be a great variety of regional breeds, but with the rise of industrial farming after World War II, there was standardization throughout the industry. All the regional breeds have become very rare."

Preserving this agricultural history is one of the tenets of the Little Farm, as is offering hands-on interactions with the livestock. People are encouraged to bring celery and lettuce to feed the animals.

"We want to inform the public that there is an alternative to industrial production, but mainly we want to give children the opportunity to see real flesh-and-blood animals," says Farmer Stanley.

While the farm is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free of charge, Farmer Stanley suggests coming early on Sunday for a closer encounter with the animals. "Children from the local community volunteer at the farm on Sunday mornings. They wash the cows, let the rabbits out and take the goats for a walk to Jewel Lake."

Regardless of when you go, life on the farm can be an eye-opening experience.

"The children love it," says Farmer Stanley. "They are fascinated when the animals pee and poop. You hear shrieks of laughter."

THE SECRET GARDEN

Bounteous fruit trees, wooden bridges, and more than 200 native and exotic plant species are sprinkled throughout Dry Creek Garden, a peaceful oasis at Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park in Union City.

Also known as Meyers Garden, Dry Creek was the summer home of sisters Edith, Mildred and Jeanette Meyers. The Alameda residents and philanthropists hosted numerous fundraisers on the property in the mid-20th century and donated the garden to the Park District in 1994 after the last Meyers sister passed away (the family had already gifted 1,200 acres to the District in 1977).

"It's a very peaceful place," says Jeff Bennett, who has been the Dry Creek gardener for four years. "It's considered a cottage garden. Nothing is formal; it's very organic."

The 4-acre plot contains a rose garden, a vegetable garden, a chicken coop, hundred-year-old trees, and a creek that flows through the middle of the land in the winter and dries up in the summer—giving the spot its name. The Meyers sisters' cottage still stands but is now in use as a private park residence. The garden is popular with birders, and people often bring their own chairs to sit up on the hill and watch the local wildlife ("everything from bobcats to coyotes and deer," says Bennett). People are allowed to sample the apple, plum, cherry and pluerry trees on the property, as long as they pick only ripe fruit and don't take too many of the fresh goodies.

The garden is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. With flowers blooming at different times of the year, and trees such as crepe myrtles and buckeyes showing off rich colors in the fall, Dry Creek Garden is an ever-changing destination and worth repeat visits.

"Many locals don't even know this place is here," says Bennett. "It is a hidden treasure, not only of the Park District, but of the Bay Area."



Blossoming flowers and trees make Dry Creek Garden a pastoral oasis.



**FOR DIRECTIONS AND MORE
INFORMATION ON ALL OF THESE
PARK TREASURES,
visit www.ebparks.org.**

HORSE PLAY (AND WORK)

Visitor safety is a priority in the parks, and often that protection comes from atypical sources. Enter Dusty, Guinness and the recently retired Deacon—American quarter horses that are part of the mounted police patrol unit.

The mounted patrol is deployed as needed, taking care of everything from ordinance issues to searching for lost hikers. There is also a volunteer mounted patrol that provides support to aid their work.

“We handle the stuff that other officers can't get to way back in the parks,” says Officer Tom Walsh, who has ridden with the EBRPD mounted police for six years.

EBRPD animals (and their riders, including Walsh's mounted patrol partner Officer Barret Lindsey) get special instruction with horse trainer Susan Dockter at Diamond Hills Equestrian Center in Livermore. Dusty, Deacon and Guinness have been quartered at Diamond Hills for the past three years. With support from the Foundation, the unit is currently shopping for a new horse to replace 28-year-old Deacon.

Having served with the San Francisco mounted patrol prior to joining the Park District, Walsh says encounters with the public are much more positive when you are astride a horse. “No one ever walks up to a police officer and pets his or her car, but people will always come up to you when you are on a horse.”



From left: Dusty, Guinness and Deacon are ready to patrol.

District biologists research an endangered species of fairy shrimp found in vernal pools at Vasco Caves Regional Preserve.



POOLS OF WONDER

Highlighted by spectacular rock outcrops and historical Indian art that dates back more than 10,000 years, Vasco Caves Regional Preserve is a very special part of the Park District.

Among the fragile ecological wonders at Vasco are vernal (or temporary) pools atop the rock outcroppings that are home to endangered species of vernal pool fairy shrimp and the rare longhorn fairy shrimp, along with a variety of other creatures.

Wildlife Program Manager Doug Bell has been working with a team of scientists to study the longhorn fairy shrimp at Vasco for years with the support of a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation—examining their habitat requirements and life cycle in an effort to find restoration options for the rare species.

“Fairy shrimp are fascinating animals,” says Bell. “They are quite ancient, and the fact that they can persist in this environment is amazing.”

Other endangered species, including the California red-legged frog, Alameda whipsnake and San Joaquin kit fox, can also be found at Vasco Caves. The preserve provides habitat for a wealth of migratory creatures such as raptors, golden eagles, red-tail hawks and burrowing owls.

“The area is truly magical. There is so much history from a humanistic standpoint as well as a naturalist standpoint,” says Bell. “The rock outcroppings look like sculptures created by nature's hand, and there is such an immense diversity of life on them.”

Visitors are only allowed on naturalist-led tours that use District-provided transportation, and reservations must be made in advance. For tour information and reservations, call 888-327-2757 and press option 2.

Safety First

Foundation-supported equipment and programs help keep park users from harm

With more than 120,000 acres of parkland frequented by an estimated 25 million people annually, visitor safety is a top priority for both the Park District and the Regional Parks Foundation.

"We want to make sure that everyone can safely enjoy the parks," says Juliana Schirmer, Foundation development director.

To that end, the Foundation has a long history of funding public safety initiatives such as the volunteer trail safety patrol, rescue boards for EBRPD lifeguards, life vest loaners at all of the District waterways, and giveaways of bike bells and helmets on the trails.

OTHER RPF-SUPPORTED PROJECTS INCLUDE:

1 Vamos a Aprender

Located at Lake Del Valle, Vamos a Aprender is a bilingual water safety program introduced in 2016 in partnership with the Department of Water Resources. During the summer, Spanish-speaking EBRPD lifeguards teach basic water safety to children at the lake, including how to get in and out of a boat and how to put on a life vest. Each child then gets to keep the life jacket. "The program has been so successful, we're hoping to expand it to other parks this year," says Schirmer.

2 Aquatic Adventure Camp

This free summer program for underserved children ages 8 to 12 offers a week of water safety education to students who can't swim. "It's hard to teach a young person how to swim in such a short period of time, but we can teach them how to be safe near the water," says Schirmer. Camp participants learn how to help in water rescues, put on life jackets and use swim tubes.

3 Mounted horse patrol trailer

The mounted patrol helps equestrian users and ensures the safety of visitors in remote areas. With the aid of a grant from Fremont Bank, the RPF is buying a new trailer so the unit can add another horse.

4 Large-animal rescue equipment

Following a tragic accident in which an equestrian's horse died after stumbling on a hillside trail at Briones Regional Park, the Foundation helped purchase large-animal rescue equipment in 2015. The rescue equipment works like a sling, allowing trained users to put the harness under an animal and hoist it up. "The equipment is a valuable safety resource for the Park District and our equestrian visitors," says Schirmer.

Visit www.RegionalParksFoundation.org to find out more.



1



2



3



4

By the Numbers

A new report offers an analysis of the Park District and its impact on the economy and life in the East Bay



120,000

THE ACRES OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS IN THE DISTRICT, UP FROM 91,000 ACRES IN 2000

The impact of EBRPD on the regional economy (including direct visitor spending and outside grants)

\$191 MILLION

\$500 MILLION

THE ANNUAL ECONOMIC VALUE OF EBRPD'S LANDS AND OPERATIONS* TO THE REGION

\$199 MILLION THE RECREATIONAL ECONOMIC VALUE OF EBRPD, A

97%

INCREASE SINCE 2000



25 MILLION ANNUAL VISITORS TO THE PARK DISTRICT, UP

78%

SINCE 2000



\$20 MILLION

The approximate annual health care cost savings resulting from District-provided recreation opportunities (the study estimates that nearly 60,000 visitors wouldn't exercise without access to District lands and facilities)

*Benefit measured by aesthetic, recreational, health, water quality, flood control and climate change-related contributions.

Source: *Quantifying Our Quality of Life: An Economic Analysis of the East Bay's Unique Environment 2017*. Prepared by Economic & Planning Systems Inc., in association with the Strategy Research Institute. Download a copy of the economic impact report at www.ebparks.org.

FUN AND FESTIVITIES

Celebrating milestones and spring outings in the East Bay Regional Parks



1 Fremont Bank employees volunteer for restoration efforts at Lake Chabot as part of the Team Heroes program. **2** EBRPD board members and guests at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Atlas Road Bridge entrance at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. **3** EBRPD board member Whitney Dotson and his sons and grandsons celebrate the Dotson Family Marsh dedication at Point Pinole. **4** Paul Barron, of Whole Foods Market, presents EBRPD Director Ellen Corbett and RPF board President Bill Yarborough with a \$44,042 check at Crown Memorial State Beach. **5** EBRPD board members Ayn Wieskamp, left, and President Beverly Lane, right, take a moment with naturalist Nancy Krebs at What's Brewin' in the Parks? at Ardenwood Historic Farm.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Historic Hay Harvest

Hop into the hay wagon at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont for a ride into the fields, then help load the freshly mown hay and haul it back to the hay boom to build a big stack. Sundays, **June 18** and **25**, 1–3 p.m.

Independence Day Celebration

Brush up on your seed-spitting and pie-eating skills, and you just might go home with a coveted blue ribbon from the old-fashioned Independence Day celebration at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont. Commemorate America's 240th birthday on Tuesday, **July 4**, with live music, games and contests, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. \$10/adults, \$8/seniors, \$5 children (4-17); under age 4, free.

Concerts at the Cove

Get ready to dance and take in the sounds of summer at Crab Cove Visitor Center at Crown Memorial State Beach in Alameda. The concert series features live music and a beer garden, with sales benefiting local Rotary Club scholarships. Bring a picnic dinner, or purchase tasty treats from vendors on-site. Visit www.ebparks.org for details on the entertainment lineup. Fridays, **July 14** and **Aug. 11**; concert at 5:30–7:30 p.m., preceded by nature programs at the Visitor Center at 4:30 p.m. Free. Parking \$5.

Coastal Cleanup

Each year Park District staff and volunteers pick up litter and recyclables from shoreline parks and lakes and along creeks in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. In our efforts to "Go Green" and reduce the amount of waste, please bring a refillable water bottle, bucket for trash, hat and gloves. All volunteers should wear



Making apple juice at the Harvest Festival

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Bring family and friends to these highlighted EBRPD programs and activities—perfect for nature- and fun-lovers of all ages. To view complete listings of EBRPD events, visit www.ebparks.org/activities.

closed-toe shoes and appropriate layered clothing and bring sunscreen. The District will provide snacks, water and trash bags. Participants under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The event begins at 8 a.m and goes until noon. Saturday, **Sept. 9**. For more information, call 510-544-2515 or email volunteers@ebparks.org.

Garin Apple Festival

Honor our farming and pioneer past at Garin Regional Park in Hayward. Garin is home to an antique apple orchard with varieties of apples you won't find anywhere else—except at the Apple Festival! Try hand-cranking ice cream or pressing apple cider, then taste the "fruit" of your labor. Music, dancing, crafts and old-fashioned games make this a lively family event. Saturday, **Sept. 9**, noon–4 p.m.

Harvest Festival

Have some down-home country fun as you help bring in this year's crop of corn at Ardenwood Historic Farm. Wander through a 5-acre field searching for ears of Indian corn and take home a portion of what you harvest (please bring your own bags). Ride a narrow-gauge train, visit the pumpkin patch and learn what late-19th-century life was like on a tour of the beautifully restored farmhouse. Plus, enjoy magic shows, cider pressing, old-time music and historic crafts. Saturday and Sunday, **Oct. 7 and 8**, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Special event fees apply. Free parking. Visit www.ebparks.org for more information.

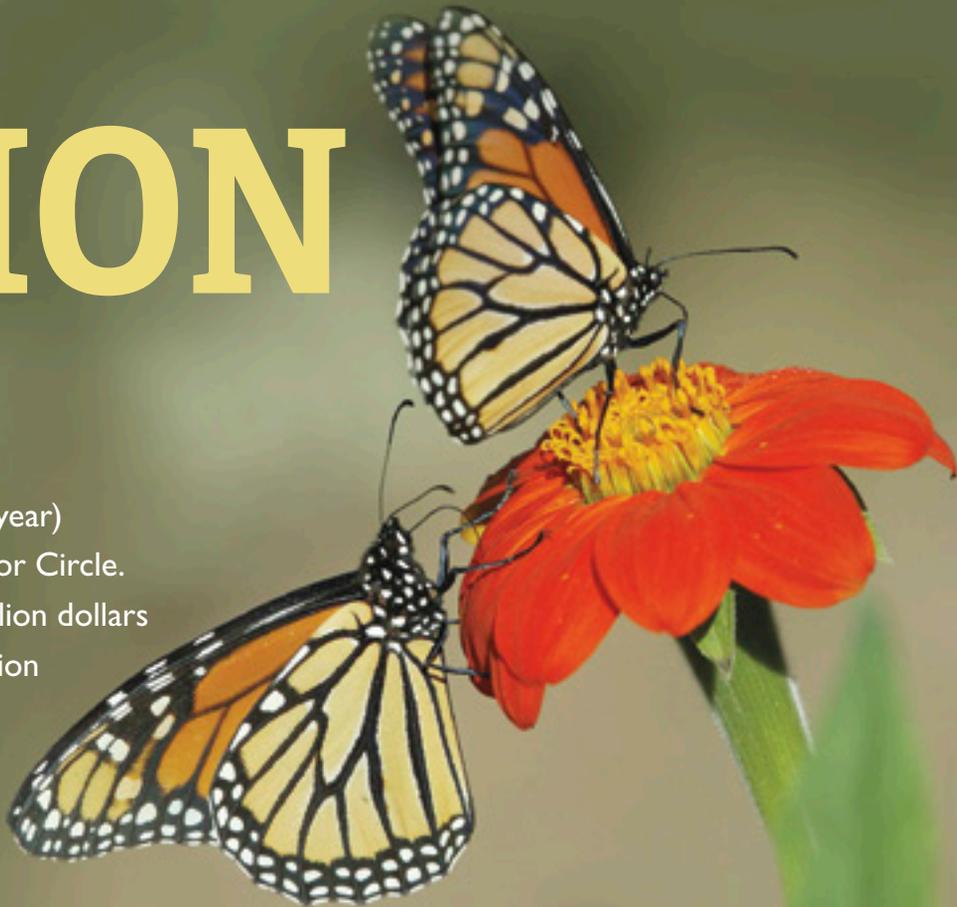
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Photo: Don Jedlovac