

SUMMER 2019

COMPASS

Healthy Parks Healthy People



50 SEASONS IN THE SUN

THE REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION MARKS A MAJOR MILESTONE



Young beachgoers at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, the site of a land donation that led to the creation of the Regional Parks Foundation in 1969.

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CELEBRATION TIME



What a year! As we celebrate the Foundation's beginnings in 1969 and mark the Park District's 85th anniversary, we want to thank you once again for your enthusiastic support.

There has always been a special synergy among the Park District, the Foundation and the local community—with everyone coming together to protect and enjoy our amazing regional parks. Fifty years ago, a land donation from Kaiser Sand and Gravel led to the creation of a nonprofit to accept the parcel (now our cover subject, Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton) on behalf of the Park District. Over the decades, the Foundation has continued its efforts for the parks through partnerships with corporations, nonprofit organizations, individual Donors and, of course, our wonderful Members. We want to connect everyone who wants to visit our parks or loves open space, enabling access for all—now and into the future.

Honor the Park District's 85 years of improving the health and welfare of the East Bay at a series of free events and concerts this summer (as well as complimentary park admission through December) and join us on Oct. 10 for the Foundation's anniversary party at Ruby Hill Winery (see the back page for more details). Here's to the next 50 years!



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Executive Director
Regional Parks Foundation

Robert Doyle
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

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DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts about the
East Bay Regional
Park District



86.6%

The percentage of yes votes for Measure FF in November 2018; its passage provides \$62 million for regional park services and improvements over the next 20 years



65,969

The number of school-age children the Park District served in 2018



116

The number of helicopter water drops by the Park District fire department on 15 fires in 2018



Trails Challenge participants and Members are dedicated parks supporters.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

Membership Milestones

Support for the parks, and for the park Membership program, is stronger than ever

This is a banner year for the Regional Parks Foundation in more ways than one. Not only is the Foundation celebrating its 50th anniversary, but the park Membership program is also hitting new heights.

As of December 2018, there are 11,356 Members in the program, which is a 7.6 percent increase over the previous year and an all-time high. Additionally, the Membership renewal rate is more than 81 percent—further proof of the East Bay's continued commitment to its natural resources.

"Our park Members are some of the most loyal people you will ever meet and they love our parks," says John Dilsaver, president of the Foundation's board of directors.

According to Dilsaver, the Foundation has focused its efforts in recent years on raising awareness of the Membership program among park users and made it even easier to join the program with new opportunities to purchase through REI and on-site in the parks themselves. More than 900 Memberships were sold in the parks and at REI in 2018.

"We've also tried to change the messaging," Dilsaver says. "Membership isn't just about the benefits—though those are

still there; it's about being part of this extraordinary park system. That resonates with park users.

"I love to talk to people while they are visiting the parks, and our Members are always so excited to be there," he adds.

Strengthening that relationship between Members and the park system also helps develop future advocates for the parks and for the Foundation's initiatives such as universal access, environmental stewardship, educational and recreational programs, and acquiring parklands. The Membership program took in nearly \$1 million in 2018, surpassing the revenue goal; Members who join the Donor Circle or leave a legacy donation can make an even bigger difference in the parks.

"We couldn't be happier with or prouder of our Members. They are the core of Foundation efforts and we look forward to their continued involvement in the years to come," Dilsaver says.

➤ For more information on park Memberships, as well as other ways to support the parks, visit www.RegionalParksFoundation.org.

KIDS ZONE



Young visitors at the Tuibun Ohlone village site.



A staff member at Ardenwood Historic Farm gives a hands-on spinning demonstration.

Living History

School may be out for the summer, but educational opportunities abound in the parks

From a 1920s sand mine to an authentic Ohlone Indian village, the Park District is alive with history—and unique opportunities to get up close and personal with the region's past. Young learners will especially love the following history-rich parks.

Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont takes visitors back in time, providing a look at farm life more than 150 years ago. The land was originally owned by George Patterson, a 49er-turned-farmer, in the 1850s. Today, the operational farm still utilizes old-school agricultural practices and features a variety of attractions. Tour the Victorian and heirloom vegetable gardens and the Patterson House, take advantage of the many naturalist-led programs, feed the animals, ride in a restored rail car, and experience turn-of-the-last-century farm life during events throughout the year. In addition to its popular Fourth of July celebration, Ardenwood will also host wheat-harvesting demonstrations on July 14, 21 and 28. "People love the atmosphere here," says Regional Interpretive and Recreation Services Manager Ira Bletz. "They feel like they are in a different place and time."

For a glimpse of another age-old industry, head to **Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve** in Antioch. The area was once home to towns that supported California's largest coal mining operation; in the 1920s, underground mining for sand used in glass production began in the region. On weekends from March through

November, Black Diamond offers guided tours of the Hazel-Atlas sand mine for participants ages 7 and older; reservations are recommended. "You see what it looked like when it was a working silica sand mine," says Bletz. "There is also interesting geology. There are places where you can see an earthquake fault or ripples left by waves in the bottom of an ancient sea." Visitors of all ages can also see exhibits related to coal mining and life in the mining towns at the Greathouse Visitor Center, or trek up to the historic Rose Hill Cemetery where the early mining families are buried.

Get a sense of the East Bay's earliest residents at **Coyote Hills Regional Park** in Fremont, which spotlights a 2,000-plus-year-old Tuibun Ohlone village. Public access to the site is available through guided tours and school programs. The visitor center is open to all Wednesday through Sunday, however, and features interpretive programs related to Native American culture along with a detailed miniature of the village site and re-created Ohlone Indian artifacts.

"All of our visitor centers have a different story to tell about the East Bay's natural and cultural history," says Bletz. "We have wonderful staff members who truly bring these stories alive."

Visit www.ebparks.org/cals for a current calendar of park events.

FAMILY ZONE

Call in the Dogs

These pooch-friendly parks are best in show

For many area nature lovers and their canine family members, the Park District is a home away from home. "It's so big and it has so many amenities," says Mary Barnsdale, president of the Point Isabel Dog Owners organization. "There's something for everyone here—it's kind of a miracle." Take your four-legged friend for a walk on the wild side in these dog-approved parks.

BRIONES REGIONAL PARK

The massive 6,255-acre Briones has entrances throughout central Contra Costa County, including ones in Martinez, Orinda and Lafayette. The grassy expanse allows dogs off leash in the undeveloped areas, and signs clearly mark where you'll need to clip back on.

DEL VALLE REGIONAL PARK

Water-loving dogs will find aquatic heaven at Del Valle in Livermore. The 4,395-acre park surrounds a 5-mile-long lake; boats of various kinds are available for rent, and most allow dogs onboard. There are areas where pups can get in the water too, so ask a ranger to point you in the right direction.

POINT ISABEL REGIONAL SHORELINE

Often described as a "dog paradise," the 23-acre Point Isabel park in Richmond allows dogs off leash (as long as they are under the



Canine companions love Point Isabel Regional Shoreline.

vocal control of their owner) in most areas. Make sure to visit Mudpuppy's Tub & Scrub, an on-site shop offering toys, treats and do-it-yourself dog baths.

POINT PINOLE REGIONAL SHORELINE

Also located in Richmond, Point Pinole is Point Isabel's bigger and less-populated sister. With its combination of eucalyptus forests and calm beaches, you and your canine companion can choose between off-leash strolls in the shade and playing in the ocean (on designated beaches, of course).



PUP PROTOCOL

For the public's safety, as well as your dog's, make sure to:

FOLLOW THE PARKS' LEASH RULES. Keep your dog on leash if required, and if he or she is off leash, keep the leash on you. In general, your dog should be clipped in for the first 200 feet of a trail to help with congestion. Dogs must be on leash when cattle or other livestock are present.

PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG. Make sure to carry multiple bags, and dispose of them afterward in a trash can. Don't leave bags on the side of the trail, even if you think you will come back that way. There is no Poop Fairy.

MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER YOUR DOG AT ALL TIMES. Do not allow your dog to chase wildlife; pester other visitors or dogs; or invade wildlife protection areas, marshes and ponds. Before introducing your dog to other canines, check with the owner to make sure it's OK.

▶ Report incidents to Dispatch at 510-881-1121 or www.ebparks.org/report.

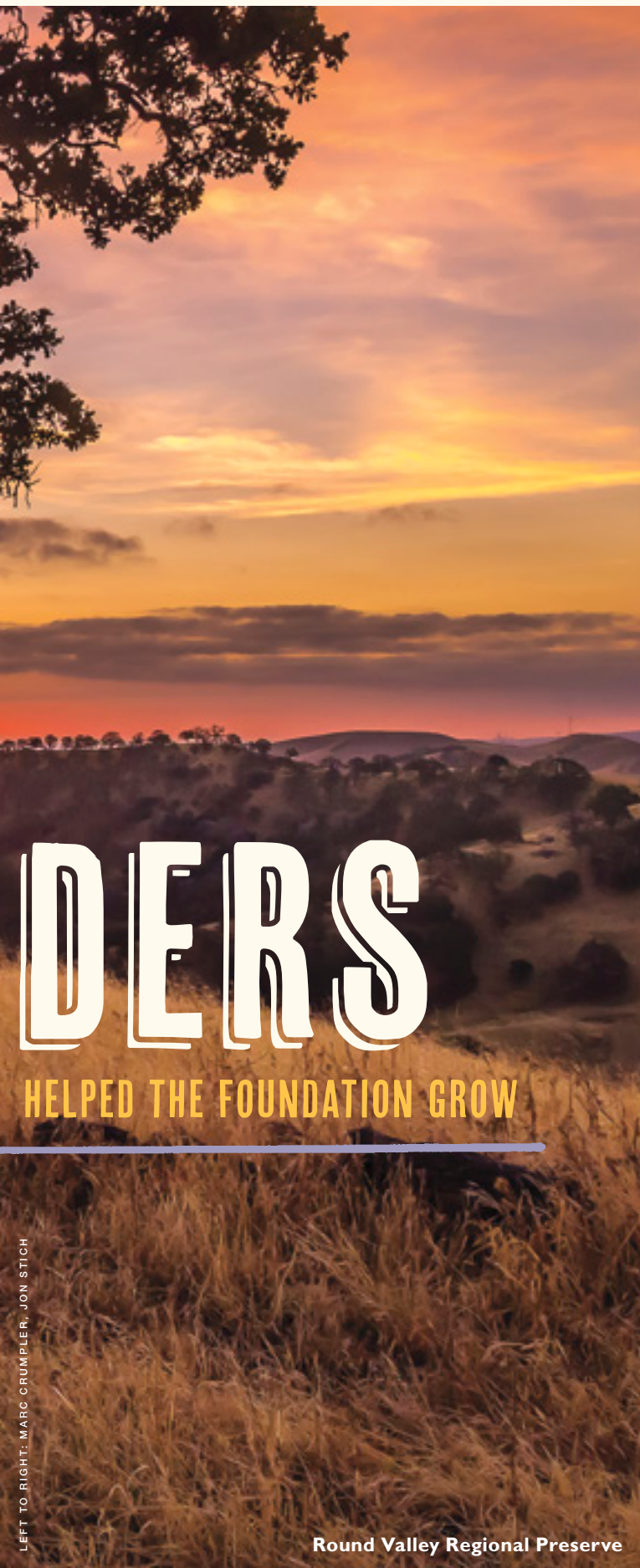


NATURAL WON

MEET FIVE EAST BAY RESIDENTS WHOSE APPRECIATION FOR THE PARKS HAS



Residents of Alameda, Contra Costa and indeed the whole Bay Area treasure the lush natural spaces of the East Bay Regional Park District. The preservation and expansion of these parklands would not be what they are without the generosity of Regional Parks Foundation Members and dedicated park visitors. In honor of the Foundation's 50th anniversary, we spotlight five locals whose commitment to their beloved parks is leaving a lasting impact.



LEADERS

HELPED THE FOUNDATION GROW

Round Valley Regional Preserve

LEFT TO RIGHT: MARC CRUMPLER, JON STICH



BUILDING CONNECTIONS

> “Kids today suffer from a nature deficit,” Nancy Wenninger laments. Because of screen time and other aspects of modern life, “they’re losing their connection with the outside world.” And that’s a shame because, as she’s learned, “To get people to support conservation efforts, they need to form a personal connection with nature.” That’s why Wenninger is a longtime donor to the Campership program and has also made the Foundation a beneficiary of her long-term legacy. “It’s an important investment for me,” she says.

Wenninger worked for EBRPD before her retirement in 2012, and she’s justifiably proud that the Park District procured a great deal of land in eastern Contra Costa County during her tenure as land acquisition manager. “Now that land will remain available for wildlife as well as for the public,” she says. It was while on the job that she was inspired to become a Campership donor. “At a luncheon for donors, kids who had gone through the program spoke. Hearing how it had changed their lives made an impression on me.”

A lifelong conservationist, Wenninger is an avid bird-watcher who’s active in her local Audubon chapter. Among her favorite spots in the park system are Morgan Territory in Antioch and Round Valley Regional Preserve in Brentwood. “They’re less frequented,” she says, “so it’s a way for me to get out in the wilderness and see birds.”



THE LEGACY OF MOUNTAIN JACK

> The late outdoor enthusiast John Ingram—known as Mountain Jack to friends and family—made sure that his love for wide-open spaces would benefit future generations. Upon his death in 2007, a bequest of \$50,000 was given to the Foundation by his heirs to honor his parents, Stuart and Vinita Ingram.

Born in Oakland, Ingram grew up in Lafayette; he went on to serve in the Navy before working at *Auto Week* magazine. But he was happiest being outdoors—skiing, hiking and enjoying nature. Ingram was an instrumental force in establishing the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which has grown over the years and currently extends 375 miles. The East Bay Skyline National Recreation Trail parallels the Bay Area Ridge Trail, traversing 31 continuous miles through six of the East Bay's most historic and picturesque parks and preserves.

In 2015, the Foundation and the Park District dedicated a shaded bench, a water fountain for humans and dogs, and a special plaque in honor of Mountain Jack and his parents at the Olympic Boulevard Staging Area of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.

A PASSION FOR LEARNING

> Nancy Storch is a firm believer in learning to appreciate nature during childhood. That's why she donates so generously to the Foundation's Campership program, having given more than \$20,000 over the years. "It's important to get out and connect with things that are not your everyday experience," she says. "It gives you time to think and to learn."

A talented artist, Storch taught painting to children in her Pleasanton studio until recently. She also holds a degree in mathematics and did computer graphics for many years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where she was something of a pioneer in her field.

Her love of the natural world dates back to her youth. A native of Seattle, she remembers the green vegetation of her hometown and spending summers on the beach. And she vividly recalls an overnight camping trip with the Girl Scouts. "I could hardly sleep," she says. "I just kept looking at the stars."

She hopes to help young people find similar inspiration, as well as encourage visitors of all ages to enjoy the variety of activities in the Park District. "If you're a hiker, you can go all day. There are places to swim. And we have so many different events," she says. "There's so much to learn."





TRAILS BLAZER

➤ Barbara Robben has been doing the Trails Challenge since its inception in 1993, and she has the 25 pins to prove it.

The premise of the Trails Challenge is simple: Walk, bike or run the designated trails, logging your miles, until you reach the desired total of 26.2 miles—the equivalent of a marathon. In fact, when the challenge started, Robben recalls, it was known as the May Marathon because participants had to complete the entire event during the month of May. “You really had to hustle to finish,” says Robben. The Trails Challenge has become much more relaxed, she notes, now that participants have the entire year to accomplish their goal.

A lifelong athlete, the remarkable 85-year-old still runs in races every weekend and has racked up 290 triathlons. Robben also holds the women’s record for the most Dipsea races run (the annual Dipsea is the oldest trail race in America). Although she is still active, Robben acknowledges that she has slowed down a little in recent years. Aging can’t be avoided of course, “but,” she says, “you try to do it gracefully.”

BENEFITING THE REGION

➤ In 2016, the Foundation launched the 1-in-a-Million campaign, in which Donors contribute a modest \$21 per month as a way to raise a total \$1 million annually. Neil Tsutsui, a UC Berkeley professor and an East Bay resident, joined the program last November.

Tsutsui grew up in northern Arizona, where the surrounding mountains and forests nurtured his affinity for wild places. “You have to personally value nature in order to care about preserving it,” he says. To that end, he often frequents Tilden Regional Park with his kids and has taken his sons’ preschool class on a trip to the Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline. Tsutsui is also a member of the East Bay Regional Park District’s Park Advisory Committee, which tackles issues ranging from budgets to land use to grazing and more.

As a scientist, Tsutsui studies social insects and how they communicate. “My life’s work is focused on understanding and supporting biodiversity,” he says, adding that contributing to the parks aligns well with those goals. He cites a recent study showing that every \$1 spent on the parks yields \$4 in benefits to the region. “It is rewarding to me to know that my support of the regional parks also helps support communities and the economy of the East Bay.”





Jewel Lake is a beloved part of Tilden Regional Park.

MARC CRUMPLER



A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

THE REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION
CELEBRATES A MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY—
AND LOOKS TO THE YEARS AHEAD



The Foundation is working on a capital campaign to update the Environmental Education Center at Tilden Regional Park.



Since the East Bay Regional Park District was first established 85 years ago, thousands of visitors have benefited from what Henry David Thoreau referred to as the “tonic of wildness”—finding health, happiness and a connection to nature in what has grown to 122,278 acres of parklands.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Regional Parks Foundation, a nonprofit agency that has supported the Park District and East Bay residents since it originated in 1969. Then-Park District General Manager

Richard Trudeau created the Foundation in order to accept a donation of land from Kaiser Sand and Gravel (Kaiser’s bylaws didn’t allow for a direct contribution to a public agency), and both the Park District and the Foundation have flourished over the subsequent decades.

“We’re so fortunate to live among generous supporters who have helped us grow over the years,” says Carol Johnson, executive director of the Foundation. “We would not be where we are today without the Park District and its amazing commitment to innovation, recreation and conservation. And even as we look back at our history—celebrating all of the people and places that got us here—we’re also focusing on our plans for the future.”

Top among the Foundation’s forward-thinking priorities are the following core initiatives.



Leaving a Lasting Legacy

➤ **Facilitating park engagement** with a diverse set of visitors has always been a key Foundation priority, and one that will extend into the future.

“The Park District is a treasure [trove] not just of open spaces but also places where the community can gather and learn in a variety of ways,” says Peter Liu, secretary of the Foundation’s board of directors. “Visitor centers are multipurpose, educating people about environmental sustainability, climate action and other important subjects.”

To enhance these informational offerings, the Foundation is working on a capital campaign in support of the Environmental Education Center (EEC) at Tilden Regional Park. The Park District is looking at the best way to rebuild or renovate the existing EEC in order to improve old infrastructure and make it ADA accessible.

“Tilden is one of the most beloved parks in the district,” says Johnson. “Our campaign will allow people to help the park and become invested in the EEC.”

In addition to establishing new corporate and nonprofit partnerships to raise funds that benefit the parks, the Foundation will continue to connect with individual Donors. These are people who “support the parks that make them happy;” Johnson adds, whether it is through legacy gifts like the bequest that established the Ivan Dickson Trail Maintenance Fund in 1996 (and still funds trail cleanups today) or donations like that of Gary and Nancy Harrington, who are helping build an interpretive pavilion at Shadow Cliffs in Pleasanton.

“So many people have provided amazing gifts that share nature with the next generation,” Johnson says. “It’s about leaving a lasting stamp on the parks themselves.”



Encouraging Youth Development

➤ **Providing access to the parks** for all young people in the East Bay is one of the Foundation’s integral pillars. Each year, more than 10,000 underserved children and youth benefit from Foundation-supported efforts—attending summer camps with the assistance of the Campership program, participating in environmental education projects and taking advantage of employment opportunities in the parks.

“We want to give young people both the chance to learn about our beautiful parks and work here,” says Johnson. “We want the Foundation to help further the connection to jobs for local residents, especially in communities of color; the Park District should be representative of our total East Bay community.”

To that end, the Foundation funds youth job fairs highlighting employment openings in the Park District and invites attendees to submit their resumes and take part in mock interviews.

According to Johnson, the Foundation also plans to increase its outreach, with representatives joining Park District educators in their work outside the parks. “Sometimes you have to go out into the community in order to get the community to come to you.”

“We want the Foundation to help further the connection to jobs for local residents, especially in communities of color; the Park District should be representative of our total East Bay community.”

—Carol Johnson, executive director, Regional Parks Foundation

The Foundation helps fund local youth job fairs.





Visitors enjoy the Old Growth Redwood Heritage Viewing Deck at Roberts Regional Recreation Area.



Welcoming More Members

► **Although the Foundation's Membership** program is at an all-time high (see page 3 for more), the goal is sustained growth and increased awareness. On-site Membership sales in REI stores have been very successful, and the Foundation would like to replicate that model with other organizations.

The Membership program is the Foundation's biggest revenue category, not only supporting the organization's efforts on behalf of the Park District but also encouraging visitors to become part of the mission to protect the region's natural resources.

"People believe they are Donors when they sign up for the program, with many providing a gift above and beyond the Membership fee to go to the area of greatest need," says Johnson. "Our Members are our best brand ambassadors."

"Our focus is getting this diverse Bay Area community to truly enjoy and embrace the benefits of the parks," adds Liu. "Access for all is at the heart of everything we do. The Foundation is a way for everyone to become a park steward, whether it is through becoming a supporter or a Member."



Protecting the Environment

► **Stewardship programs** in the parks are a crucial priority, both now and in the years to come. While Foundation-supported sustainability projects such as the rejuvenation of an endangered wildflower habitat at Redwood Regional Park or pond restorations that protect the area's frogs are examples of past successes, there is always more to be done.

In 2012, the Park District, in partnership with the Foundation and other agencies, began the first phase of the East Bay Mountain Lion Project. This long-term study examines the population, activities and viability of mountain lions in a landscape characterized by open space and dense human populations. The Foundation will provide ongoing funding for surveillance and research equipment. "This has been a fascinating project and given us a deeper understanding of wildlife dynamics in the Sunol area," says Johnson.

Also on the horizon is a restoration project at Tilden's Jewel Lake, where sediment is filling in the lake and reducing the open water available to local wildlife. "The Foundation is committed to saving Jewel Lake, with the aid of private Donors and support of the community," says Johnson.



The East Bay Mountain Lion Project provides information about the local wildlife.



Wellness Walk participants get a move on at Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area.



Connecting Wellness and Nature

► **The health of the parks** is a major driver for the Foundation, as is the health of East Bay residents.

“The parks are like a recharging station for our bodies and minds,” says board of directors member Thomas Meier. “Our Park District is second to none, and getting more people out to enjoy all that it has to offer is a very good thing.”

Both the Park District and the Foundation have a long understanding of the health benefits of the great outdoors. “The Park District was one of the first park agencies in the country to formally connect health and nature,” says Johnson.

In addition to working with local organizations to provide visual displays of outdoor scenes in health clinics, funding a study

examining nature’s impact on health in association with UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital, and supporting the Healthy Parks Healthy People initiative, the Foundation also helped launch the Park District’s Multicultural Wellness Walks in 2014.

“It’s about bringing people of multicultural interests and backgrounds together,” says Johnson. “The walks not only teach people the basics of health and nature, they make it fun. We are changing people’s lives by changing their perspectives—giving them the opportunity to connect with, and learn from, other people.”

Bringing the parks to the people and the people—especially children, seniors and those with disabilities—to the parks will continue to drive the Foundation’s efforts in the decades to come.

“I want everybody in the East Bay to know our name, and I want to deliver a life-changing experience to our park users,” Johnson says of her future hopes for the Foundation. “We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we are very excited to do it.”

“The parks are like a recharging station for our bodies and minds. Our Park District is second to none, and getting more people out to enjoy all that it has to offer is a very good thing.”

—Thomas Meier, board of directors member, Regional Parks Foundation

GOLDEN GALA



Celebrate the Foundation’s 50th anniversary on Thursday, Oct. 10 at Ruby Hill Winery’s Casa Real in Pleasanton, with a performance by Grammy winner Michael McDonald. For tickets, go to www.RegionalParksFoundation.org/50th-anniversary-gala.



Transformation Point

EBRPD welcomes a future park in Concord with a powerful history



This summer marks 75 years since the Port Chicago disaster, an incident in which 5,000 tons of munitions being loaded onto ships by mostly African-American sailors detonated in a massive explosion at Port Chicago

Naval Magazine in Concord. The tragedy simultaneously became the worst home-front catastrophe of World War II and a pivotal catalyst for change in civil rights nationwide.

Now, plans are underway for a sprawling regional park and visitor center at the site and surrounding areas where guests can learn about the local history while reveling in the open spaces and breathtaking views.

The Concord Hills Regional Park, as it is being called in development, will span about 2,500 acres of rolling hills and grassland that were formerly part of the Concord Naval Weapons Station, one of hundreds of bases nationwide that the military closed in recent decades. The city of Concord was charged with redeveloping the full 5,000-acre site and partnered with the East Bay Regional Park District and National Park Service to turn half of it

into protected open space, hiking trails and a visitor center.

The visitor center will reflect the land's history and natural assets; it will also be the starting point for tours of the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, which is not publicly accessible as it is located in a still-active portion of the base. That limited access makes the visitor center even more vital as a place to educate the public and honor both the veterans who served at the base and the hundreds of sailors who lost their lives in the Port Chicago disaster, says Tom Leatherman, general superintendent of the memorial.

"The real way we honor those people is to make sure their story is not forgotten ... by making sure we keep the conversation alive and that we help people understand what happened and what that means to us today," Leatherman says.

From the ridgeline, visitors can expect unparalleled views of Mount Diablo and the Diablo Valley, the Carquinez Strait, and the Sierra Nevada on clear days. An extensive trail system will provide miles of opportunities for exercise and exploration, ultimately connecting to the broader network of East Bay parks and trails.

Beverly Lane, a director on the Park District board, says Concord Hills will be the missing link in a ring of parks surrounding the Diablo Valley, including Briones Regional Park to the west, Walnut Creek's open spaces and Diablo Foothills to the south.

"It's like completing a gorgeous open-space border for everyone in the Diablo Valley," says Lane.

Amid excitement and anticipation, Lane says the most common question she hears from locals is, "When will this open?"

The East Bay Regional Park District was approved to receive the land through a public benefit conveyance in 2014, and the first phase of the conveyance occurred in May. The first phase of public access will likely occur on approximately 900 acres of open space located south of Bailey Road, according to Brian Holt, chief of planning and geographic information systems for the Park District. As for when the remaining 1,600 acres and visitor center will open, Holt says there are too many variables to predict—but the Park District and National Park Service will move as quickly as possible.

"This has been a long process," says Holt. "We're excited that we're moving into this next phase and bringing something of value to the city of Concord and the region on this former military site."

In July, the Park District will partner with the National Park Service and Friends of Port Chicago to host the public at the currently closed site. The U.S. Navy is expected to formally convey the 2,500 acres of land for open space at this celebratory event.

"We are melding together the amazing and tragic history of Port Chicago with future public access to this wonderful property," said Park District General Manager Robert Doyle.

The public is invited to attend the celebration on July 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.ebparks.org.



"[Concord Hills Regional Park is] completing a gorgeous open-space border for everyone in the Diablo Valley."

—Beverly Lane, Park District board member



A NEW SHORELINE PARK

On the waterfront of the San Francisco Bay, in an area once bustling with activity by the U.S. Army and Port of Oakland, a shoreline park will soon offer unrivaled views, recreation areas and access to the Bay Bridge Trail. The future Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline is named for former East Bay Regional Park District board member Judge John Sutter, who was "really the earliest champion of a park at this site," says Brian Holt, chief of planning and geographic information systems for the Park District. The park also includes an observation deck jutting about 600 feet into the bay, built on footings of the old Bay Bridge, and a large rentable indoor space called the Bridge Yard (so named because it was the maintenance and storage facility for the former railroad system). "We've got some good initial park improvements on this site that we're hoping will be open potentially later this year," says Holt.



1

ACTIVE SUPPORT

Celebrating volunteer efforts and learning opportunities in the Park District



2



4



3



5

1 Volunteers at the Backyard Collective stewardship event at Crockett Hills Regional Park on May 2. **2** Beer lovers attend Drake Brewing Company's First Friday Fundraiser on May 3 in support of the Regional Parks Foundation. **3** Participants in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service help clean up Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline on Jan. 21. **4** Park visitors stop and smell the flowers at the Garin Iris Festival in April. **5** Left to right: Save the Redwoods League Executive Director Sam Hodder, former Director of the National Park Service Jon Jarvis and East Bay Regional Park District General Manager Robert Doyle.



SPECIAL EVENTS

To celebrate the East Bay Regional Park District's 85th anniversary, the Park District has planned a number of special events and programs, including Free Fridays in the parks. Visit www.ebparks.org for details.

Concerts in the Park

Take in the sounds of summer at these free concerts. The Cheeseballs at Lake Chabot in Castro Valley. Saturday, **June 22**, noon. The David Perez Band at Contra Loma in Antioch. Friday, **Aug. 23**, 6 p.m.

Concerts at the Cove

Enjoy free concerts at Alameda's Crown Beach: Majestic on Friday, **July 12**, 5:30 p.m.; Jazz Mafia on Friday, **Aug. 9**, 5:30 p.m.; SambaDa on Friday, **Sept. 13**, 5:30 p.m.

Fall Arts and Music Festival

Bring the family to this free multicultural festival, also known as FAM Fest, at the Bridge Yard Building in Oakland's Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline park. Saturday, **Sept. 28**, 1 p.m.

Regional Park Foundation 50th Anniversary Gala

Join us for A Night to Remember, Golden Gala, as the Foundation celebrates its 50th anniversary with performer Michael McDonald. This celebration will benefit the Foundation's work in support of the East Bay Regional Park District. Guests are invited to wear '60s apparel (or cocktail attire). Thursday, **Oct. 10**, 5:30–10:30 p.m. at Casa Real in Ruby Hill Winery in Pleasanton. For details, visit www.RegionalParksFoundation.org/50th-anniversary-gala.

California Free Fishing Day

Join us for this Free Fishing Day with fishing lessons (gear provided), games, activities, crafts and more! Saturday, **July 6**, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area. Limited spots available, arrive early to sign up for a time slot. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Minimum age to fish is 3 years old. For more information, call 510-544-2554 or email mseccombe@ebparks.org.

Post 4th of July Beach Cleanup

The picnics and fireworks have filled the weekend, and it's time to help pick up the litter left behind. Bring buckets and gloves, or borrow ours. Sunday, **July 7**,



Music lovers enjoy the Concerts at the Cove.

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.

10:30 a.m.–noon at Crab Cove. For more information, call 510-544-3187.

Historic Rail Fair

Bring the family to the rail fair at Ardenwood Historic Farm. The event includes a historic steam locomotive, model railroads, early-day gas engines, games and activities for the kids, and live music. **Aug. 31–Sept. 2**, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Special event fee (\$7–\$12). Free parking.

Coastal Cleanup Day

Join us for the 35th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day as we pick up litter and recyclables from parks, lakes and creeks in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The District will provide snacks, water and trash bags. Saturday, **Sept. 21**, 8:30 a.m.–noon. Participants under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a water bottle, a bucket for trash, a hat and gloves. Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and bring sunscreen. Registration is required. Visit www.ebparks.org for this year's sites.

Harvest Festival

Engage in some down-home country fun as you help bring in this year's crop of corn at Ardenwood Historic Farm, and take home a portion

of what you harvest. Ride a narrow-gauge train, visit the pumpkin patch, and learn what late 19th-century life was like on a tour of the farmhouse. Bring your own bags to take home your harvest. Activities include magic shows, cider pressing, music and historic crafts. Saturday, **Oct. 12** and Sunday, **Oct. 13**, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Purchase advance tickets at the farm or at www.ebparks.org beginning in August.

Sunol's Old-Timey Cowboy Hootenanny

Join us at Sunol Regional Wilderness for some old-fashioned foot stompin', hand clappin' music! History comes alive with games and activities. Saturday, **Oct. 19**, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Free. Parking \$5.

Free Park Fridays

Free entrance and fees for day-use parking, swimming, dogs, horse trailers, boat launching, and fishing permits every Friday in 2019. Fee waiver does not apply to concessions, special event permits/reservations, camping and associated fees, or state fees such as fishing licenses and watercraft inspections. FREE entrance to Ardenwood Historic Farm on nonevent days.

Regional Parks Foundation
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REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
a NIGHT TO REMEMBER

CELEBRATE 60'S STYLE
GROOVE TO A CONCERT WITH
MICHAEL McDONALD

DATE / TIME / PLACE

- Thursday, October 10, 2019
- 5:30 – 10:00 pm
- Casa Real – Ruby Hill Winery
410 Vineyard Avenue
Pleasanton, CA 94566
- Tickets \$250, On Sale Now!
[www.RegionalParksFoundation.org/
50th-anniversary-gala](http://www.RegionalParksFoundation.org/50th-anniversary-gala)

CONTACT

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