

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: April 2, 2015
COMMISSION MEETING DATE: April 9, 2015

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Carla Schoof, Community Programs Specialist
SUBJECT: Report on Volunteer and Community Programs

RECOMMENDATION:
Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND:
Volunteer and Community Program updates and items of interest to the Commission.

DISCUSSION:

Volunteer Activities

Third Quarter Volunteer Activity: In addition to the ongoing support we received from our partner groups, numerous community groups volunteered in parks this past quarter, including the German-American School in Menlo Park, an interfaith group from San Bruno, Hilton employees, San Mateo County Library System managers, members of the Peninsula Synagogue, Merck employees, and students from Notre Dame de Namur University and Belle Air School.

Student Conservation Association Volunteers Apply Technology in Loma Mar: Rachelle Hedges, SCA-San Mateo County Parks intern, recently took a crew of local, high school-aged SCA members out to collect data in Loma Mar, the newly acquired land that is now part of Memorial County Park, using a data collection system which Rachelle helped develop. Rachelle and the students had a wonderful day exploring and came upon the realization that in this day when technology seems to rule our lives, the marrying of technology and outdoor discovery can be a healthy and very productive proposition. The data collected will be critical to the Department in understanding and managing the natural resources in the area. Read about the outing at the Department's website: www.SMCoParks.org/News.

Upcoming Volunteer Activities

Earth Day Beach Clean-Ups, April 18: The Parks Department will host two Earth Day beach clean-ups beginning at 9 a.m. On the coast, volunteers will meet at the parking lot at the Mirada Surf trailhead. At bay side, the Department will partner with CuriOdyssey to clean the beach area and nearby trail area. Salesforce employees and their families have already committed to kick-start their second year of service with the Parks Department at this event. In addition, volunteers will have a chance to purchase lunch from an invited food truck after the clean-up.

Comcast Cares Day at Flood Park, April 25: It is expected that more than 200 volunteers will descend on Flood Park this Saturday morning to help prepare the park for the high use times of spring and summer. Volunteers from Comcast and the community will sand and stain picnic tables, weed, paint bins, spread wood chips, clean play equipment and weed and rake horse shoe pits and volleyball courts. In addition to Comcast volunteers, youth with the Sheriff's Activity League, Friends of Flood and youth sports groups are expected to participate. Registration information is on the Department's website: www.SMCoParks.org.

Community Activities

Take A Hike, Healthy Parks, Healthy People (HPHP) 2015 Season: Each year, Take A Hike begins at Flood Park in Menlo Park where participants pick up new t-shirts with the season's schedule on the back, learn about the parks on the schedule and hear about other Park events planned for the spring and summer seasons. At the March 7 event, close to 150 hikers participated – the largest turnout since the initial season six years ago. Partnerships with sponsors, including Kaiser Permanente and Palo Alto Medical Foundation and with the San Mateo County Health System and HPHP Bay Area Collaborative are helping to develop awareness of the program.

Upcoming Hikes:

- April 4** - San McDonald Park, Loma Mar
- May 2** - San Pedro Valley Park, Pacifica
- June 6** - Sheep Camp Trail, Belmont
- July 11** - San Bruno Mountain Park, Brisbane
- August 1** - Junipero Serra Park, San Bruno
- September 5** - Huddart Park, Woodside
- October 3** - Edgewood Park, Redwood City
- November 7** - Coyote Point Recreation Area, San Mateo

Night Hike at San Pedro Valley Park: On Friday, March 13, more than 40 adventurous hikers visited the park to discover what comes out in a park at night. Armed with flashlights and light from a full moon, participants, including youth from the Sienna Youth Center in Redwood City, explored the park.

Ranger-Led Bike Ride On Sawyer Camp/Crystal Springs Trail, March 19: San Mateo County Park Ranger Katherine Wright and Ranger Daniel Sánchez from the National Park Service led a morning bike ride along the Sawyer Camp segment of the Crystal

Spring Regional Trail. Bike riders learned about the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition that passed through the area in 1776 on its way to establish the Presidio and the Mission in San Francisco. The rangers shared the story of migration and the settlement of Alta California and how the Anza Expedition was a catalyst for change of the nature and culture in our region.

Upcoming Community Activities

Story time With A Ranger: In conjunction with the Peninsula Library System, interpretive programs Ranger, Katherine Wright, will read nature related stories and lead learning activities at locations throughout San Mateo County. This a fun way to introduce the world of nature and outdoor discovery to kids. Each session lasts about 30 minutes.

Date	Location	Time	Subject
Friday, April 3	Atherton Library	10:30 a.m.	Preschool story time
Friday, April 3	Foster City Library	2 p.m.	
Tuesday, April 7	Portola Valley Library	11 a.m.	Toddlers
Friday, April 10	Belmont Library	10:30 a.m.	Preschool story time
Tuesday, April 21	East Palo Alto Library	7 p.m.	Pajama story time
Thursday, April 23	Pacifica Library	10:30 a.m.	Preschool story time

BioBlitz at Coyote Point, April 25: Scientists, naturalist, students and volunteers will conduct a field study of Coyote Point. Data collected will be posted on iNaturalist, an observation and photo sharing website.

Movie Night at Flood Park, May 8, 6 – 8 p.m.: Fun in the park at night with a movie. Movie-goers can bring their own picnic dinner or purchase food from Izzy’s Cheesesteak food truck.