



Photo: Craig Solin

Hidden Lake at Mount Burdell Preserve on February 22, 2014. Compare to image below.



Discover

Director's Message

Happy spring! First—the great news. We are close to our fundraising goal to commence phase one construction of Stafford Lake Progressive Skills Bike Park! As you may recall, the county provided 17 acres of land and the money for design and permitting. Private funds were required to build the park. We are almost there! When several new financial promises are fulfilled this spring, the project will break ground. (Read the bike park update on page 2 for details.) Volunteers will be needed to assist with the work. We hope some of you who helped design the park will come get dirty with us. And once this Novato project is underway, the search for a location for a second bike park in southern Marin will get serious. Ideas (and donations) are welcome!



Photo: Craig Solin

Hidden Lake, March 8, 2010

Second—the not great news. As of this writing, we are hoping for a very wet spring. The drought has changed our lives here at Marin County Parks in several ways. In Open Space: We are focused on fire danger, and urge you to be, too. There are several projects lined up to clear invasive vegetation from the open space preserves where the preserves interface with neighborhoods. We are working closely with local fire agencies to identify projects and accomplish the work. When cutting, we have water trucks nearby. In Parks: We will delay planting new shrubs and trees in the parks and landscaped areas. Some places may look brown. We will keep plants alive, but our normal lush look in the parks, on landscape islands, and at the

Civic Center grounds might be diminished this summer. Please understand, and do your part at home as you are able. Inspect your property and maintain defensible space, and be extremely careful with potential sources of ignition like barbecues, fire pans, and even mowers. Be aware that tools can spark fire too. Don't smoke near vegetation.

Sincerely,
Linda Dahl, *Director and General Manager*

Water is Life

"You don't miss the water till the well runs dry." That might seem like an appropriate adage for many of the things we take for granted, but we're witnessing this all around us now. Three consecutive dry years is showing the importance of water to every living thing around us. We see the effects in every part of the food chain: Fewer plants, flowers, and seeds mean less food for the herbivores, everything from insects to deer. And predators are hit even harder.

Consider a bird like the junco. Adults feed mainly on seeds, while the young are raised entirely on insects, which are normally abundant during spring and summer, but the drought has drastically reduced insect populations. With less prey available, fewer young will survive; some nests will fail altogether. And, to make matters worse, juncos typically nest twice each season. In years like this they will probably not even attempt a second nest.

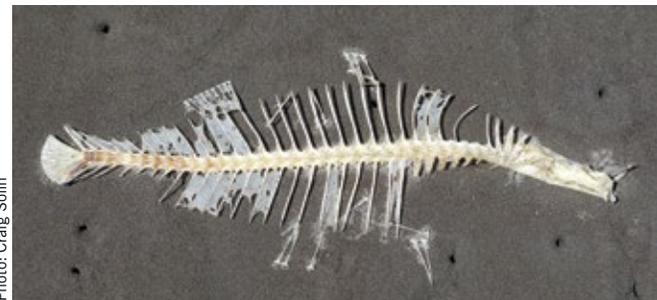


Photo: Craig Solin

This is just one example of the devastating effect of prolonged drought for a single species, but the lack of adequate moisture ripples through the food chain and throws entire ecosystems out of balance. The connections between the living things that surround us are infinite, but the element that binds it all together is water, the essence of life, delivered one raindrop at a time.



Photo: Craig Solin

Tiny footprints crisscross dry lake bed.

Measure A: New Programs Unveiled



New staff has been hired and new programs have been formed to support the distribution and use of Measure A funds across Marin County over the next 9 years. We are thrilled to welcome new biologists, a landscape architect, and visitor services staff to our team

as we embark on many long-anticipated projects to care for Marin's parks and preserves. Read on to find out more about recent program updates and the best way to stay in touch with how Measure A funds are being spent.

Breathe/Respira! Community Grant Program: From Marin County Parks' 65% portion of Measure A funds, we are setting aside \$100,000 annually through a competitive grant process to support local organizations working with underserved Marin communities to overcome economic, transportation, and other barriers preventing some Marin residents from enjoying the parks and preserves that can increase wellness and help them thrive. We are in the process of soliciting our first round of Letters of Inquiry (LOI) from community organizations in Marin. The period to submit an LOI ends March 14, 2014 and will be followed by additional

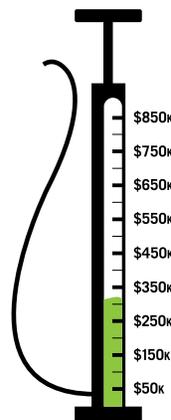
steps in the competitive grant process. All grant information is available for download on our [Measure A webpage](#).

City, Town, and Special District Program: Marin's 19 cities, towns, and applicable special districts received their first disbursement of \$982,288.76 in Measure A funds at the beginning of 2014. Participants will receive two disbursements per year for the next eight years and are planning to invest in the care and upkeep of parks and preserves they manage all over the county. With money from this first disbursement, our partners are busy implementing a range of projects that include turf replacement, basketball and tennis court repairs, safety and accessibility improvements, vegetation management in open spaces, swimming pool improvements, and community center restoration among others.

Community Oversight Committee: All applicants to the Measure A Community Oversight Committee were excellent candidates! The Marin County Board of Supervisors is in the process of making final appointments. The Committee will convene for the first time in March 2014 and will be responsible for reviewing expenditures to ensure they comply with the Measure A Expenditure Plan, oversee an annual audit, and work with staff to prepare an annual report of Measure A expenditures. We'll announce all appointed members on the Measure A webpage once they have been selected.

Measure A on the Web: We are posting regular updates on Measure A projects, programs, and the 2014-15 budget planning on the web. Visit marincountyparks.org and click **"Get the latest information on Measure A."**

Stafford Lake Bike Park



Since our winter issue, thanks to the tireless efforts of the Friends of Stafford Lake Bike Park (Friends), Marin County Parks has received another \$30,000 in donations, pumping up the total to \$320,000! Though the ultimate goal to build the entire progressive skills bike park is \$850,000, we are very near the \$480,000 needed to fund phase one construction. Two of the three required permits have been granted by the State (including the Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Regional Water Quality Control Board). Only the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers permit remains. Construction documents are set to go out to bid in time for the project to break ground this summer. Stay tuned for exciting fundraising news later this spring from the Friends.

RTMP Update

Staff presented changes to chapter four of the Draft Road and Trail Management Plan to the Parks and Open Space Commission during their meeting on January 23, 2014. At the meeting, over two dozen members of the public commented on the Draft RTMP. Staff currently is revising other parts of the plan; additional changes will be released to the public as they are completed. We will update the Commission again at upcoming meetings. Look for a new complete draft of the RTMP to be released in summer 2014. Meanwhile, road and trail maintenance and improvement projects are moving forward. Once the RTMP is formally adopted, projects will be evaluated and prioritized through the process spelled out in the Draft RTMP. As part of the transition to working under the RTMP, we are using its evaluation criteria to score and analyze current projects.

Save the date: Saturday, March 15, 2014. We will host the next community workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Health and Wellness Campus Connection Center located at 3240 Kerner Blvd in San Rafael. Staff will describe and discuss:

- The different types of road and trail projects that are contemplated in the Draft RTMP
- The current planning for road and trail projects to be undertaken during 2014 and 2015 in Baltimore Canyon, Roy's Redwoods, and Cascade Canyon preserves
- How the criteria-based project evaluation tool (outlined in the Draft RTMP) will be used to screen and assess proposed road and trail projects
- How Marin County Parks will measure progress towards RTMP and performance objectives related to the road and trail system

For more information, contact **Chief of Planning and Acquisition Carl Somers** at CSomers@marincounty.org or (415) 473-2820. Subscribe to marincountyparks.org for RTMP updates.

VBMP Update

Environmental review continues on the Draft Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan. January 21, 2014 marked the end of the public comment period on the scope of issues that the plan's Draft Tiered Program Environmental Impact Report (TPEIR) should address. Staff is incorporating all relevant comments to define the range of issues, alternatives, and mitigation measures to be considered in the TPEIR. We expect the TPEIR to be available for public comment by fall 2014. For more information, contact **Chief of Natural Resources and Science Mischon Martin** at MMartin@marincounty.org or (415) 473-2056. Subscribe to marincountyparks.org for VBMP updates.

Healthy Parks Healthy People 2.0



Each year we strive to provide community events that everyone can feel comfortable participating in. We want all to enjoy and benefit from the wellness opportunities afforded by Marin's parks and preserves. When you plan to attend our Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPPH) activities, all you need to bring is a pair of walking shoes and a comfortable outfit. Leave the rest to us!

New for 2014: We reorganized the way we offer these community-focused events. First, we planned geographically diverse activities to bring them closer to you. Second, events now repeat three times a year to keep you motivated! At each event you will be greeted by a bilingual volunteer and guided through activities by our friendly and experienced visitor services staff. Be on the lookout for our new HPPH flyers in English and Spanish!

2014 HPPH Calendar of First Saturday Events

All events begin at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. Events are typically 2-3 hours in length.

FEB 1, MAY 3, SEPT 6

Yoga in the Park @ McNears Beach Park

MAR 1, JULY 5, NOV 1

Family Fun Mile @ McInnis Park

APR 5, AUG 2, DEC 6

Levee Walk @ 1565 Vendola Dr
(Santa Venetia)

JUNE 7, OCT 4

Family Naturalist Walk @ Deer Island
Preserve (Novato)



Photo: Craig Solin

Hiking up the Deer Island Loop Trail, Deer Island Preserve.

FEATURED EVENTS

THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LIST OF OUR EVENTS.
GET THE COMPLETE LIST



THIS LOGO INDICATES A HEALTHY PARKS, HEALTHY PEOPLE BAY AREA EVENT

Volunteer

SAT, MAR 15. 9AM TO 1PM

Trail Maintenance Team

SUN, MAR 23. 10AM TO 12PM

Corte Madera Creek Clean-up

SAT, MAR 29. 9AM TO 1PM

Ring Mountain Grassland Restoration Project

FRI, APR 4. 10AM TO 2PM

Kent Island Restoration Team

SAT, MAY 3. 10AM TO 1PM

Yoga in the Park

SAT, MAY 10. 9AM TO 1PM

Save Springs Hill in Terra Linda



Photo: Shannon Burke

Sharing the wonders of nature on a Family Walk.

EVENT ACCOMMODATIONS: Events and/or locations may have limited accessibility to persons with disabilities. If you require accommodations to participate in an activity, or materials in alternate formats, contact **Steve Petterle**, not less than four work days in advance of event: **(415) 473-6387**, **TTY (415) 473-2495, CRS 711** or **spetterle@marincounty.org**.

Naturalist Walks

SAT, MAR 8. 10AM TO 2PM

Post Burn Recovery at Ring Mountain

SUN, MAR 16. 10AM TO 3PM

Trek over San Pedro Ridge

SUN, MAR 30. 9AM TO 12PM

Wildlife and Wildflowers at Deer Island

WED, APR 16. 10AM TO 2PM

Wildflowers of Ring Mountain



Photo: Craig Solin

Ranger Luke Bishop has his hands full.

TUES, APR 22. 9AM TO 12PM

Birds at Mount Burdell

WED, MAY 14. 10AM TO 2PM

Birds and Flowers at Loma Alta

WED, MAY 28. 9AM TO 2PM

Rare Plants of the Tiburon Peninsula

Family Walks

TUES, MAR 4. 10AM TO 1PM

Nature for Kids at Indian Valley

SAT, MAR 22. 10AM TO 1PM

Nature for Kids at Deer Island

TUES, APR 1. 10AM TO 1PM

Nature for Kids at Mount Burdell

TUES, MAY 6. 10AM TO 1PM

Nature for Kids at Stafford Lake

FOR MORE EVENTS & EVENT DETAILS

including description, directions, and cancellation information, please visit marincountyparks.org and click on **events calendar**. High fire danger or rain may cause cancellation of events.

MON, MAY 26. 10AM TO 1PM

Nature for Kids at Bahia

Ranger Activities

SAT, MAR 1. 10AM TO 12PM

McInnis Family Fun Mile

SAT, MAR 15. 6:30PM TO 8:30PM

Junior Rangers: Roy's Redwoods Full Moon Adventure

SAT, APR 5. 10AM TO 12PM

Santa Venetia Stroll

SUN, APR 13. 9AM TO 11AM

Mountain Bike Ride at Rush Creek

SAT, MAY 10. 4PM TO 8PM

Mystery of White Hill

SAT, MAY 17. 7PM TO 9PM

An Evening on Mount Burdell

SUN, MAY 18. 11AM TO 2PM

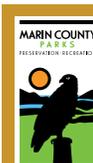
McInnis Skate Jam

FRI, MAY 30. 8PM TO 11PM

Family Movie Night

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