



CARING FOR WHAT WE HAVE
• 2012-2021 •



Photo: Marin County Parks Archives

McNears Beach Park is now a trailhead on the Bay Area Water Trail, part of a growing network of launching and landing sites around the San Francisco Bay.



Discover

SUMMER NEWS
AND EVENTS
2014

Director's Message

Greetings all! It is summer and we are in full swing here at Marin County Parks, readying our lands for a full and bustling season. We continue to welcome record numbers of visitors into the parks and preserves, and offer great ranger and naturalist programs and volunteer opportunities for your whole family. Summer in Marin is especially appealing. Our richness of public lands provides such diversity of topography and microclimates, you can go out to play every day for a month and never repeat your experience.



Photo: Craig Solin

If it's too hot, head out to the coast or visit Gary Giacomini Open Space Preserve, where you will find lush redwood forests cloaked in cool, morning fog. If you want to be hot, hit Mount Burdell Preserve for a long bike ride or McInnis Park for a Sunday soccer match.



Photo: Craig Solin

The opportunities to enjoy the parks and preserves are endless—bird watch at Rush Creek Preserve, paddleboard at McNears Beach Park, or volunteer to pull weeds from the marsh in Hal Brown Park at Creekside.



Photo: Craig Solin

A red-tailed hawk at Rush Creek Preserve, striking the pose that inspired our logo.

It's our job to keep the Marin County Civic Center grounds in top shape and at this time of year, that means preparing for the Marin County Fair, which will be held July 2-6. Our crews are also busy reducing dry vegetation adjacent to communities, to help protect them against the spread of fire. Almost all Marin wildfires are ignited by people or the infrastructure that serves us. Please do your part to keep your neighborhood safe. Do not smoke in the preserves. Be extremely careful with BBQ grills and disposal of charcoal. Avoid the use of outdoor fire pits. Create defensible space around your home to help firefighters if the worst happens. Be safe, but get outside and play! Visit marincountyparks.org for our summer events calendar, directions to your county parks and preserves, and a complete list of activities you and your family can enjoy when you visit.

Sincerely,
Linda Dahl, *Director and General Manager*

Bike Park Project Update



It has been an exciting few months since our spring update. Construction documents were completed, all permits have been received, and the project was approved by the Board of Supervisors. The bike park will be built in two phases to match fundraising. As this issue went to press, total funds raised to date had reached \$592,850.

As currently envisioned, Phase 1 will develop approximately 50% of the 17-acre bike park and nearly two miles of trails and riding features for all skill levels. Other Phase 1 amenities include a new parking area, entry plaza, shaded picnic and seating area, an accessible pathway, and bike parking.

The amazing fundraising efforts of the Friends of Stafford Lake Bike Park (Friends), a 501(c) (3) non-profit that was established to accept donations, are bringing this project to life. Since the Board of Supervisors first donated \$50,000, Friends has raised funds and secured sponsorships, in amounts ranging from \$1 to \$100,000 and from over 200 families and six bike industry sponsors. Keep in touch with the Friends by visiting staffordlakebikepark.com. It's the place to donate—we must raise more funds—as well as watch for future volunteer opportunities. Once the bike

park is built, we'll rely on volunteers to maintain it. Subscribe to marincountyparks.org to receive construction updates and to get the latest project news.



The Vailmont Bike Park in Boulder, Colorado.

Photo: Rick Reed

SPECIAL NOTE: Phase 1 construction marks another important milestone for the department—the launch of our first-ever integrated Marin County Parks signage! Entry, wayfinding, orientation, interpretive, safety, resource protection, sponsorship, and so much more. Be on the lookout as we continue to test and install new signage in the parks, preserves, and multiuse pathways.

Newsletter on Hiatus

The fall 2014 issue of *Discover* will go on temporary hiatus as we produce the first Measure A annual report. The report will include financial information, news, project and program updates about all Marin County Parks divisions, including the parks, landscape services, and the Open Space District.

Community Center Shines

Photo: Peter Hess



The Homestead Valley Community Center renovation project is nearly complete! Eager locals gathered this spring alongside Supervisor Steve Kinsey, to celebrate the grand

reopening event. Though final finishing touches are still in the works, this beloved community treasure is now open for use, just in time for summer.

Fuel, Fire, Feathers, and Fur

Photo: © John Randall Alves



Spring is an important period in the lifecycle of many of Marin's animals—establishing territories and rearing young are crucial to the success of every species. Spring is also

an important time to prepare for the coming summer fire season (especially during successive drought years as we are currently experiencing). Winter rains lead to increased plant material that can act as fuel during the summer. At first glance, mowing and wildlife may seem separate, but conflicts can arise when power tools such as brush cutters and mowers are used to reduce fuel loads in the presence of nesting birds, burrowing badgers, or denning coyotes (particularly active March – August). At Marin County Parks, we survey all fuel reduction sites prior to bringing in mechanical equipment, and work hard to avoid negative impacts to the wildlife that live within our preserves. We encourage you, too, to stay fire safe, but also look out for vulnerable animals while doing so.

New Addition

Through a collaboration with the Pacheco Valle community, Marin Open Space Trust, and the City of Novato, Marin County Parks is finalizing the purchase of the "Pacheco Meadows" parcels, approximately 15 acres of land at the entrance to Pacheco Valle and adjacent to the former Marin Independent Journal building. The land serves as a visual gateway and consists of a combination of steep vegetated slopes and meadowlands adjacent to Pacheco Creek. The area supports native oak and bay woodlands, grasslands, and riparian areas, and provides habitat for many species of birds and wildlife. The property would become a new addition to the Pacheco Valle Preserve.

The community of Pacheco Valle held a special election on January 7, 2014; approximately 95% of the voters participating in the election voted in favor of a new tax to fund this purchase. With the funding secure, the Marin County Open Space District Board of Directors voted to accept the property and permanently protect it as open space. This acquisition (which should be complete in June) was almost entirely driven by determined members of the community who worked tirelessly to make it happen. Marin County Parks is proud to have participated in this effort to preserve important open space lands.



RTMP and VBMP Updates

Both draft plans continue to move through the environmental review process. **RTMP:** Following changes to the Draft RTMP, we expect to recirculate its Draft Tiered Program EIR this summer, including a 45-day comment period. **VBMP:** We expect to release its Draft Tiered Program EIR in fall 2014. Subscribe to marincountyparks.org for updates.

Measure A Update



On May 15, 2014 the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission voted to recommend six grant awards for final approval by the Board of Supervisors. A total of \$100,000 in grants this year will further efforts by community partners to connect

underserved communities with our parks and preserves, as well as our volunteer and environmental education programs. Grantees will expand existing programs to connect seniors and youth to nature through hikes in our preserves, connect teens to mountain biking, enable Marin City Community Service District summer programs to utilize our parks and preserves, improve transportation resources for isolated communities to access parks and programs, train "Park Promotoras" to build community relationships with the outdoors, and more! A complete list of awards and project information will be available on our Measure A webpage at marincountyparks.org.

The Measure A Community Oversight Committee met for the first time on May 29, 2014 to begin their work overseeing Measure A expenditures and the annual reporting and auditing process. The current fiscal year comes to an end June 30. Be on the lookout for an updated list of completed Measure A projects at marincountyparks.org, the first Measure A annual report, and signs with the Measure A logo in a park near you identifying improvements made possible by Measure A.

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

MON, JULY 7. 4:30PM TO 6PM

Civic Center Grounds Clean-up

SUN, AUG 17. 9AM TO 12PM

Black Point Boat Launch Spruce-up

FOR MORE EVENTS & EVENT DETAILS

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

Volunteer

FRI, JUNE 6. 10AM TO 2PM

Kent Island Restoration Team

SAT, JUNE 7. 9AM TO 12PM

National Trails Day

SAT, JUNE 21. 9AM TO 12PM

Creekside Restoration with Save The Bay

SAT, JUNE 28. 10AM TO 1PM

Ring Mountain Grassland Restoration

Naturalist Walks

THUR, JUNE 12. 10AM TO 12PM

Summertime Steelhead Stroll

WED, JUNE 18. 7PM TO 8PM

Butterflies of Marin County

SUN, JULY 6. 10AM TO 2PM

Focus on Butterflies at Roy's Redwoods

THUR, JULY 31. 10AM TO 2PM

Dragonflies!

THUR, AUG 28. 10AM TO 2PM

Focus on Insects at Stafford Lake

Family Walks

SAT, JUNE 7. 10AM TO 1PM

 Nature for Kids at Deer Island

THUR, JUNE 26. 10AM TO 1PM

Nature for Kids at Indian Valley

TUES, JULY 22. 10AM TO 1PM

Nature for Kids: Dragonflies!

TUES, AUG 19. 10AM TO 1PM

Nature for Kids: Insects at Stafford Lake



Photo: Shannon Burke

An evening walk on Mount Burdell begins: A close encounter with a gopher snake.

Ranger Activities

FRI, JUNE 6. 4PM TO 7PM

McNears Beach Block Party

SAT, JUNE 21. 7:30PM TO 9PM

Sunset Solstice Hike

SAT, JULY 5. 10AM TO 12PM

 Fun Family Walk

WED, JULY 16. 9:30AM TO 12:30PM

Junior Rangers: Birding Adventure

THUR, JULY 24. 9AM TO 11AM

Deer Island Stroll

SAT, AUG 2. 10AM TO 12PM

 Santa Venetia Stroll



Photo: Craig Solin

Over 100,000 people will enjoy the Marin County Fair! Come help us clean-up after the fun.

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**.

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