From the Director

YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

$39.2 million TOTAL EXPENDITURES
34 PRESERVES
43 PARKS AND FACILITIES
17,900 OPEN SPACE ACRES
143 SEASONAL AND FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

Resilience. A California oak can live 400 years, through drought and fire, while providing habitat to birds and other wildlife. During a year of unprecedented challenges, Marin’s wild oaks inspired us to be resilient—maintain patience, grow, give, and adapt to change. Sheltering in place during the global pandemic, our community was reminded of the interdependence of all living things, and the impact each of us can have on the lives of others. And the restorative power of nature was felt more keenly than ever, with visitors seeking peace, joy, and play in the outdoors.

Partnership. Scientists have learned that thriving ecosystems rely not on competition, but on partnerships between individual plants and animals. Facing the COVID-19 crisis, as well as the worst fire season in California history, land managers across the Bay Area collaborated as never before, to protect public health, provide safe access to parks and open space, and deliver emergency aid. The relationships between land management agencies across Marin and beyond, from San Jose to Santa Rosa, grew stronger, emphasizing the importance of sharing resources and working together.

Agility. Like a western gray squirrel leaping from branch to branch, the Parks team proved to be adept at navigating changing conditions when life’s routines were upended in March due to COVID-19. Essential projects including fire fuel management, road and trail improvements, park maintenance, sea level rise planning, and commission meetings continued moving forward, making use of digital tools and new safety protocols. In addition, staff pivoted to taking on additional responsibilities, as the Parks team at all levels moved to support county-wide disaster service work and emergency operations.

Community. The impact of COVID-19 heightened awareness of economic disparity, historic inequities, and underserved neighborhoods. This offered opportunities to listen, learn, and gain greater understanding of community needs. A lasting legacy of 2020, a year like no other, will be continued close collaboration with community organizations, as well as ongoing engagement with the sovereign indigenous tribes of Marin, who protected these treasured lands for thousands of years. We share the common goal of taking care of what we have.

Max Korten, Director
Marin County Parks
2019–2020 Strategic Achievements

**FIRE HAZARD PREVENTION**
- Acres of vegetation thinned to maintain emergency access: 109
- Acres grazed by livestock to reduce fire fuel: 1510
- Piles burned as part of defensible space work in ten high priority locations: 228

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- Visitors to the website marincountyparks.org: 312k
- Views of One Tam online county-wide, multi-jurisdiction status map: 22k
- Public board and commission meetings: 30

**HABITAT PRESERVATION**
- Acres surveyed for natural resources in Bowman Canyon: 409
- Invasive plant populations removed by the Early Detection, Rapid Response team: 269
- Wildlife surveys for nesting, roosting, and inventory assessment: 175

**COLLABORATION ACROSS BOUNDARIES**
In 2020, multi-jurisdiction coalitions cultivated over the past decade proved invaluable, as Bay Area public land managers faced unprecedented challenges. These included pandemic stay-at-home orders in spring, and wildfires summer through fall, followed by a resurgence of the pandemic in winter.

In response to the pandemic, land managers across the Bay Area worked together to align visitation guidelines and public communications. They shared information and established priorities on weekly phone calls, to provide a consistent yet localized response. Special projects quickly materialized. To provide visitors with location status updates, the One Tam collaborative created an online, county-wide map. Social media centered on public safety themes such as #RecreateResponsibly.

Wildfires of unprecedented number and scale followed in August, as California became ground zero for climate change. Parks staff assisted fire agencies battling the Woodward Fire at Point Reyes National Seashore, by clearing brush and helping to maintain fire breaks. The fires were a stark reminder of the importance of the work done by Marin County Fire’s Tamalpais Crew, coordinated by Parks staff, and funded by Parks Measure A. The crew focuses on maintaining defensible space in priority locations across Marin’s wildland/urban interface.

The forces of nature move across property boundaries. Maintaining these strong relationships has made Parks more agile and resilient in our emergency response.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
One Tam mobilizes the joint resources of the National Park Service, California State Parks, The Marin Municipal Water District, Marin County Parks, and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Together Bay Area is a 66-member coalition of public agencies, indigenous tribes, and nonprofit community organizations across ten counties.

Marin County Parks collaborates regularly with Marin County Fire, and other regional fire agencies, as well as the non-profit community group FIRESafe Marin.

Marin County Parks routinely works with Marin’s cities, towns, and special districts, to help support their parks and open spaces.
Marin County Open Space District completed phase 2 of the Bowman Canyon Acquisition, expanding the western boundary of Mount Burdell Preserve by 409 acres.

In collaboration with Marin County Fire, the 14-person Fire Fuels Crew continues reducing fire risk in high priority areas of parks and open space across the county.

Marin County Open Space District completed phase 2 of the Bowman Canyon Acquisition, expanding the western boundary of Mount Burdell Preserve by 409 acres.

In collaboration with Marin County Fire, the 14-person Fire Fuels Crew continues reducing fire risk in high priority areas of parks and open space across the county.

A colorful Shade Structure in powder-coated steel enhances the picnic plaza at Stafford Lake Bike Park, improving the recreational experience for riders and spectators.

Evolving Shorelines at Bothin Marsh progressed with a shared vision document and community conversations about draft concepts for mitigating the impact of sea level rise.

In Pacheco Valle Preserve, the Ponti Ridge project successfully converted an unsustainable and steep fire road to a scenic multiuse trail. Work continued through the COVID-19 shelter-in-place, keeping the project on schedule.

Underground irrigation keeps Lagoon Park vegetation healthy. Parks completed the second phase of Irrigation Mainline improvements. This significant component of park infrastructure had reached the end of its service life. Purple pipe indicates the use of recycled water.

After community conversations and engineering site assessments, Parks moved forward on resurfacing and improving drainage on School Trail in French Ranch Preserve, improving safety for commuting students and other travelers.

Parks consults regularly with Marin County Fire on emergency access priorities. Improvements were completed this year on a two-mile stretch of Middle Summit Fire Road, in Mount Burdell Preserve.

Measure A funding supported these projects.
This table summarizes actual revenues and expenditures handled by Marin County Parks.

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Parks</th>
<th>Open Space</th>
<th>Measure A</th>
<th>CSAs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8,411,346</td>
<td>13,766,174</td>
<td>1,920,451</td>
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<tr>
<td>From Use of Money</td>
<td>467,972</td>
<td>154,598</td>
<td>238,005</td>
<td>81,548</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intergovernment</td>
<td>548,886</td>
<td>33,878</td>
<td>269,768</td>
<td>2,684</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charges for Services</td>
<td>1,594,187</td>
<td>(99,005)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(14,951)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>29,341</td>
<td>348,228</td>
<td>833,310</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budgeted Transfer In</td>
<td>1,095,272</td>
<td>3,295,671</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,899,487</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,735,658</td>
<td>12,144,717</td>
<td>15,107,257</td>
<td>3,889,219</td>
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### Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Parks</th>
<th>Open Space</th>
<th>Measure A</th>
<th>CSAs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Costs</strong></td>
<td>4,976,973</td>
<td>5,414,887</td>
<td>3,104,975</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>4,976,973</td>
<td>5,414,887</td>
<td>3,104,975</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Budgeted Transfer Out</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>4,390,943</td>
<td>1,785,487</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Interdepartmental Charges</td>
<td>319,352</td>
<td>854,236</td>
<td>152,226</td>
<td>376,762</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grants</strong></td>
<td>1,595,272</td>
<td>3,650,699</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>620,722</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Other Charges and Capital Assets</td>
<td>1,595,272</td>
<td>3,650,699</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>620,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Farmland Preservation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>229,058</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cities and Towns</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,087,805</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Services and Supplies</strong></td>
<td>8,387,372</td>
<td>12,092,437</td>
<td>14,870,143</td>
<td>3,802,748</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Road and Trail Management</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>845,322</td>
<td>127,924</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Vegetation Management and Fire Fuel Reduction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>115,503</td>
<td>2,036,759</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Wetland Restoration and Erosion Control</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>51,861</td>
<td>330,856</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Real Estate and Acquisition</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>251,446</td>
<td>17,796</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Park Facilities and Landscape</td>
<td>1,346,370</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,384,387</td>
<td>1,019,777</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Public Engagement and Equity</td>
<td>33,872</td>
<td>643,868</td>
<td>477,363</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Science and Research</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21,242</td>
<td>348,888</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Administration</td>
<td>100,534</td>
<td>233,374</td>
<td>181,163</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>8,387,372</td>
<td>12,092,437</td>
<td>14,870,143</td>
<td>3,802,748</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Use of Fund Balance/Net County Cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Measure A</th>
<th>CSAs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>(52,280)</td>
<td>(237,114)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>4,651,715</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY BUDGET AREAS**

- **PARKS**: 21%
- **OPEN SPACE**: 31%
- **MEASURE A**: 38%
- **CSAs**: 10%

**MEASURE A OVERSIGHT**

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors, seven committee members oversee Measure A expenditures, assist with compliance audits, and approve this annual report:

- Robert Berner
- Michael Dybeck
- Larry Kennings
- Joe Meylan
- Daniel Russell
- Mary Stompe
- Jeff Williams

Each year Measure A funds undergo two compliance audits. The Marin County Department of Finance audited organizations other than Marin County Parks that receive Measure A funding. Badawi and Associates audited Marin County Parks and will issue a report in February 2021. Audit reports are available on marincountyparks.org.
In FY 2019–20, $4.9M was expended on land acquisition. The Bowman Canyon phase 2 acquisition added 242 acres to the 167 acres purchased in 2018. Also, 33-acre Buck’s Landing on the San Pedro Peninsula was purchased after four years of planning. $1.8M was allocated to land acquisition set aside, with total set aside at the end of FY 2019–20 $4.3M.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>MEASURE A</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bowman Canyon 2</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>$3,295,671</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck’s Landing</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>$1,095,272</td>
<td>$500,000 state grant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marin’s 19 cities, towns, and applicable special districts received $2.1M in Measure A funds in FY 2019–20 for fire fuel vegetation management, neighborhood park renovations, maintenance, and staff.

Marin Resource Conservation District (RCD) receives 5% of Farmland Preservation funds to support resources on easement-protected agricultural lands. RCD matches other grants to maintain soil and water quality, water supplies, and fencing. RCD received $136,404 in FY 2019–20.

In FY 2019–20, the Marin Agricultural Land Trust returned $833,250 to the Farmland Preservation program.
Measure A: Caring For What We Have

Measure A protects the parks, open space, and farmland that make Marin County an extraordinary place to live, work, and play. In 2012, Marin voters approved a one-quarter of one percent sales tax (County Ordinance 3586) to support parks, open space, and agricultural lands across Marin. By law, funds raised by Measure A must be spent on parks and open space, farmland preservation, recreation in Marin’s nineteen cities and towns, and land acquisition. Measure A also funds over $100,000 annually in community grants, extending opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy parks and preserves through local non-profit organizations.

As of FY 2019–20, Measure A has been in effect for seven years and has generated $91.2 million. These funds are being used to address deferred maintenance in parks and preserves, finance agricultural easements that protect ranches and farms, support outdoor recreational programs in cities and towns, and help Marin adapt to climate change.

Support for Cities, Towns, and Special Districts
Measure A provides funding for parks, open space, and recreation facilities across the county. Measure A helps cities, towns, and special districts maintain parks, open space, and recreational programming. To date $14M dollars have been granted. By 2021, Measure A is estimated to generate $15.7M for Marin cities, towns, and special districts.

CITIES
Mill Valley
Novato
San Rafael
Sausalito
TOWNS
Belvedere
Corte Madera
Fairfax
Larkspur
Ross
San Anselmo
Tiburon

SPECIAL DISTRICTS
Bel Marin Keyes CSD
Bolinas Firehouse Community Park Agency
Marin City CSD
Marinwood CSD
Muir Beach CSD
Strawberry Recreation District
Tamalpais CSD
Tomales CSD
Looking Ahead

Measure A allows Marin County Parks to enhance recreation and safety while preserving the natural wonders of Marin. Watch for these future projects:

- McNears Beach Park parking lot resurfacing
- Paradise Beach Park slope stabilization studies
- Stafford Bike Park asphalt pump track design concepts
- Rush Creek trail improvements
- Whitehouse Pool inclusive access improvements
- Dog waste stations in over 20 locations, with more to come
- Bayside Park renovation
- Toyon, Lower Cascade, and Greenwood Way fire road improvements
- Evolving Shorelines Bothin Marsh community conversations and design specifications

In 2020, Parks staff supported a wide range of emergency services, while continuing to make significant progress on the projects that are taking care of what we have.

Highlighted County-wide Projects Enhanced by Measure A

1. Bolinas Wye Wetlands draft conceptual designs
2. Ponti Ridge Trail
3. Mill Valley/Sausalito Pathway bridges redecking
4. McInnis Marsh draft conceptual designs
5. Lagoon Park picnic site furnishings
6. Ring Mountain rare plant research
7. Bowman Canyon acquisition part two
8. Kent Woodlands defensible space vegetation thinning
9. Alto Bowl/Horse Hill eucalyptus grove thinning
10. Middle Summit Fire Road improvements, Mt. Burdell
11. School Trail improvements, French Ranch Preserve
12. Evolving Shorelines Bothin Marsh community conversations and draft conceptual designs

2020: A Year Like No Other

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