

# COMMUNITY REPORT

# 2017

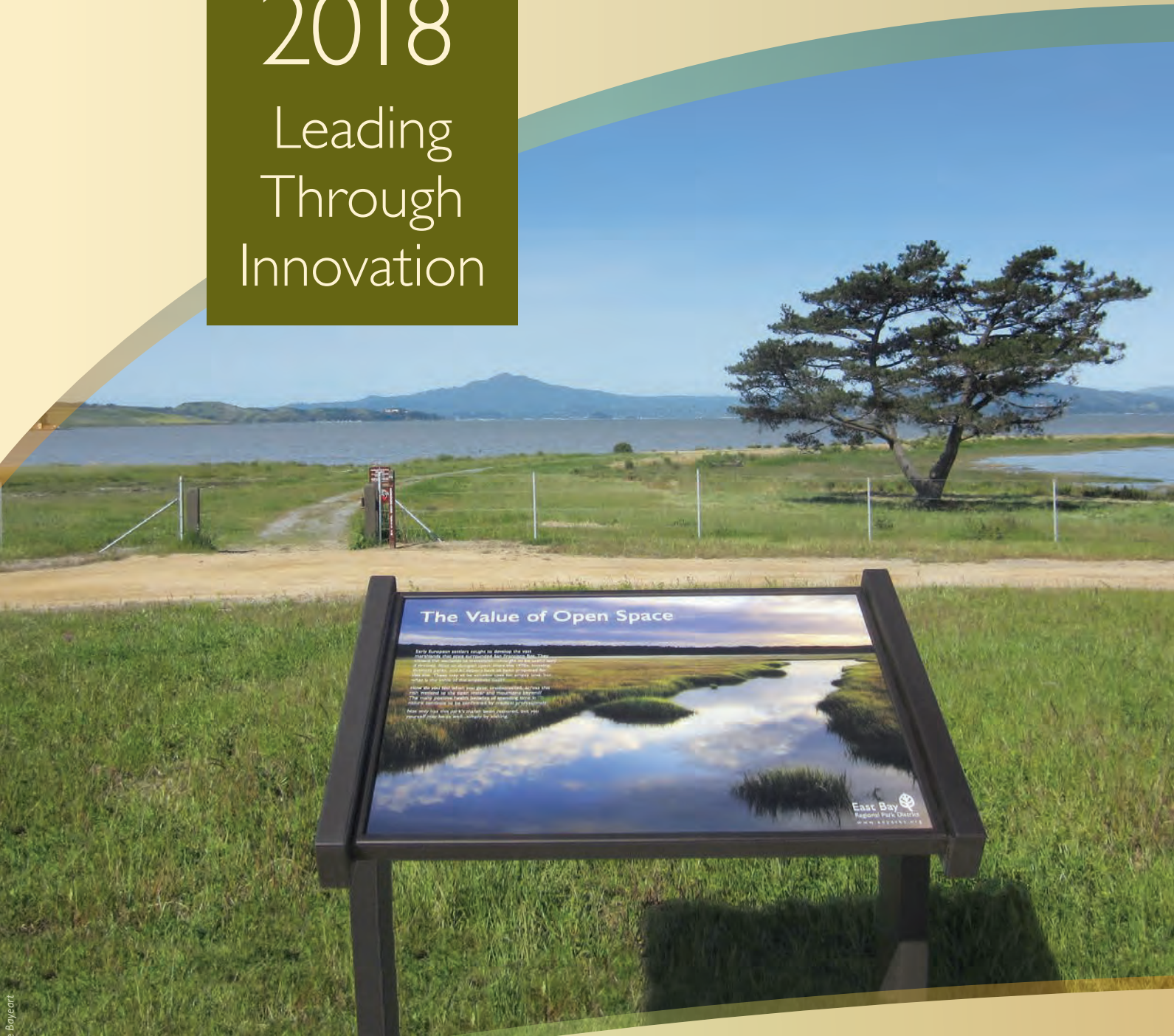
# 2018

## Leading Through Innovation

East Bay  
Regional Park District



Healthy Parks Healthy People



73 Regional Parks  
25 Million Annual Visits  
\$500 Million Annual Regional Benefits

## Leading Through Innovation

BY GENERAL MANAGER ROBERT E. DOYLE



**B**uilding on its eight-decade legacy of preserving regional parks, trails and open space, the East Bay Regional Park District again forged ahead in 2017 with innovations benefiting the quality of life for millions.

**New Facilities** – The East Bay Regional Park District has signed a lease for the historic, newly renovated “Bridge Yard” building located at the foot of the Eastern span of the Bay Bridge. The 25,000-square foot industrial building was the former maintenance hub for the Key System public transit service that traversed the bridge until 1960. The Bridge Yard building will serve as the recreational anchor of the future East Bay Gateway Regional Park, where the last remaining pilings from the old Bay Bridge will also be reused to create a new shoreline public access observation platform.

**Partnerships** – In 2017, with the East Bay’s growing and increasingly diverse population, EBRPD continued to utilize innovative partnerships to connect residents with nature.

- In Richmond, the Richmond Rangers youth program, with assistance from local nonprofit YES (Youth Enrichment Strategies), immersed youngsters in nature year-round.
- In Antioch, Pittsburg and Martinez, the Park District has partnered with doctors at Contra Costa Health Services to launch the national Walk with a Doc program. This is an extension of EBRPD’s successful Parks Rx partnership with healthcare providers to bring patients to parklands and to study the health impacts of walking in nature.
- In Pleasanton at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, residents Gary and Nancy Harrington – in partnership with the Regional Parks Foundation – are funding an interpretive pavilion for school kids and others who visit the lake to learn about its history and ecosystem.

**Green Bond Financing** – The Park District was the first park agency in the nation to issue “Certified Green Bonds.” Green Bonds are bonds that are dedicated to projects that reduce greenhouse gases, mitigate for climate change, or provide other environmental benefits. The Park District received the highest-level grade of GBI (Excellent) Green Bonds by Moody’s Investment Services, a nationally recognized investment rating service.

The Park District’s accomplishments are based on the value of transparency. We hold the public’s trust through meaningful stakeholder engagement and unfettered access to timely and reliable information on decisions and performance. See you on the trails.



Photo: HNTB/Jim Simmons



Photo: Eric Sallin



**Photos:** View of the newly renovated Bridge Yard building and future recreational anchor of East Bay Gateway Regional Park, Oakland; Naturalist at Crab Cove Visitor Center in Crown Memorial State Beach, Alameda, interprets the bay shoreline; Members of the Park District’s Richmond Rangers youth program enjoy a weekend hike in Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, Richmond; Firefighters carry out the District’s Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan in Briones Regional Park, Martinez.

Endangered burrowing owl.  
McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, Berkeley



Bikers enjoy San Francisco Bay Trail, Hayward Regional Shoreline

Photo: Joseph Morris

## Connecting People with Nature

In 2017 the Park District continued to expand its efforts to connect residents with nature, especially school-age children.

The Park District served 541,467 school children through 2,058 hosted class field trips, 602 junior lifeguards, 56 junior lifeguard aides, 36 junior lifeguard cadets, and 354 day camp participants and 43 leaders in training participants.

Additionally, 24,090 volunteers contributed a total of 168,700 hours of service in 2017, including: cleanup, restoration and maintenance of shorelines, trails, and habitat, trail safety patrols, ambassadors, and visitor center docents.



Photo: Cain Gashby

Volunteers help repair trails as part of the Ivan Dickson Trail Maintenance Program. Sunol Regional Wilderness

## Environmental Stewardship

The Park District works to ensure a healthy and thriving ecosystem that protects wildlife and habitat, and natural and cultural resources. 2017 activities include:

- Implemented monarch butterfly habitat creation projects at Point Pinole and Oyster Bay.
- Acquired California Department of Fish and Wildlife Permit necessary for implementation of the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan.
- Restored five ponds to support threatened and endangered wildlife at Morgan Territory, Sunol, and Garin.
- Restored and enhanced 1,750 linear feet of riparian habitat in Wildcat, Tilden, and Leona Canyon.



Photo: Michael J. Miller

- Acquired Biological Opinion from U.S. Fish and Wildlife for future development of Concord Hills Regional Park.
- Increased monitoring and treatment of Lake Temescal to reduce formation of blue-green algae blooms.

## Planning For Our Climate Future

Climate Change is a critical shared challenge for Bay Area residents, as well as for park managers and planners. The District is taking steps to adapt to a changing climate and a rising San Francisco Bay. Experts predict that rising sea levels will impact the District’s 55 miles of shoreline through increased beach erosion and loss of wetlands that help protect infrastructure, such as trails, piers and docks, etc.

**300,000 metric tons of CO<sup>2</sup> sequestered annually**

## Ballot Measure Planning

On October 15, 2017 – after over 5 years of persistent efforts by the Park District – Governor Brown signed SB 5 placing a statewide park bond on the ballot. It had been 15 years since the legislature last placed a statewide measure on the ballot for parks.

The measure, if approved by voters, would provide \$4.1 billion for parks, open space preservation, water resources, and flood protection throughout California. Over half – \$2.83 billion – is specifically dedicated for parks and natural resources. The measure will be on the June 5, 2018 ballot.

In 2017, the Park District also began engaging the public and stakeholders about Measure CC, passed by Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, Alameda, San Pablo, El Cerrito, Albany, Emeryville and Piedmont voters in 2004. Measure CC is set to expire in 2020 and the District is exploring extension in 2018.

## Keeping People and Parks Safe

Park and public safety continues to be the Park District’s top priority. In 2017 the Park District’s professional police and fire department staff responded to 17,380 calls for service, including 211 fire incidents, 1,265 Ordinance 38 violation incidents, and 303 agency assists.

Public Safety Lifeguards also provided 551 first aid assists, 51 medical rescues, and 91 water rescues. Additionally, public safety provided over 39,750 swim tests, 1,682 swim lessons, and 32,000 loaner life jackets.



## Key 2017 Projects

### Measure WW and CC Funded

- **Restored Dotson Family Marsh and Bay Trail** – Restored 60 acres of marshland at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline, constructed a new staging area, and added 1.5 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail.
- **New Atlas Road Park Entrance and Staging Area** – Constructed a new Atlas Bridge over the railway, a new park entrance, and a new staging area at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline.
- **Obtained Final McLaughlin Eastshore State Park Permits (Albany Beach)** – Secured final permits from the Bay Area Coastal Commission to construct improvements, including wetland restoration, public access improvements, and extension of the San Francisco Bay Trail.



### Measure WW Funded

- **Vargas Plateau Regional Park** – Reopened Vargas Plateau Regional Park with an improved Vargas Road.
- **New Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve Wilcox Station Staging Area** – Opened access road and parking area.



### Measure CC Funded

- **Crab Cove Expansion** – Demolished two former federal buildings to allow future expansion of Robert Crown Memorial State Beach near Crab Cove.
- **Clark-Boas Staging Area Renovation** – Renovated Clark-Boas Staging Area at Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.
- **Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline Improvements** – Constructed new picnic sites, restrooms, and walking paths.
- **Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve Improvements** – Renovated picnic sites, restrooms, and added parking.

### Other

- **New Convenience Camping Facilities** – Opened five new convenience camping cabins at the Del Valle Family Campground.





# Preserved Forever

Vasco Caves Regional Preserve, Brentwood



## East Bay Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

## Land Acquisition

In 2017, the Park District reached 121,397 total acres. Some notable 2017 land acquisitions include:

- **320-Acre Casey Property** .....Byron Vernal Pools Regional Preserve
- **230-Acre Roddy Ranch Golf Course Property**.....Deer Valley Regional Park
- **191-Acre Moller Ranch**.....Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve
- **80-Acre Fitzpatrick-Campos Property**.....Byron Vernal Pools Regional Preserve
- **78-Acre Shoreline Trail Operating Agreement**.....Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline
- **40-Acre Roddy Home Ranch** .....Deer Valley Regional Park
- **37-Acre Oakland Inner Harbor Tidal Canal Property** .....San Francisco Bay Trail
- **5-Acre Alameda County Bay Area Ridge Trail Property**.....Garin Regional Park
- **4-Acre Glenn Property**.....Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park

# 73 Regional Parks

**Healthy Parks Healthy People**

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## Board of Directors

Colin Coffey, *Ward 7*  
Ellen Corbett, *Ward 4*  
Whitney Dotson, *Ward 1*  
Beverly Lane, *Ward 6*  
Dee Rosario, *Ward 2*  
Dennis Waespi, *President, Ward 3*  
Ayn Wieskamp, *Ward 5*

## Mission

**Preserve a rich heritage of natural and cultural resources and provide open space, parks, trails, safe and healthful recreation and environmental education. An environmental ethic guides the District in all of its activities.**



## Managing Taxpayer Funds

Over the past several years, the Board of Directors has adopted policies to protect park services, fund necessary park and infrastructure improvements, and maintain fiscal stability.

The 2018 Budget continued those policies and funds programs to enhance public access, connect people with nature, improve public safety services, and plan for our climate future, among other essential park services.

### 2017 Accomplishments

- Obtained 70% of project funding from external sources through leveraging local Measure WW and CC funds.
- Saved taxpayers \$7.1 million through refinancing of Measure WW bonds.
- Received AAA rating from Standard & Poor's (S&P) and Moody's Investors Service – the highest possible ratings from both agencies.
- Established a pension trust fund to prepare for potential future contribution increases.

## Report Highlights Economic Impact of Regional Parks

On March 15, 2017 the East Bay Regional Park District released an independent economic report on the value and impact of East Bay Regional Parks on the East Bay's economy and quality of life. The report showed that Regional Parks:

- Generate nearly \$200 million in regional economic activity every year.
- Provide nearly \$200 million in recreational benefits every year.
- Provide \$65 million in property value benefits every year.
- Provide over \$21.5 million in healthcare benefits every year.

**The report also showed that every \$1 spent yields \$4 in public benefit.**

## Regional Parks Foundation

**In 2017, the Regional Parks Foundation achieved a record 10,000 members and its highest funding ever – \$3.3 million.**

The Regional Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports the East Bay Regional Park District through fundraising to provide universal access, environmental stewardship, educational and recreational programs and the acquisition of parklands.

Key supporters include Kaiser Permanente, Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation, Nancy and Gary Harrington, PG&E, Andeavor, Clorox, and REI, Inc.



**REGIONAL PARKS Foundation**  
Supporting East Bay Regional Parks

**On the cover:** *The newly restored Dotson Family Marsh, Point Pinole Regional Shoreline, Richmond*