



COMMUNITY REPORT 2015

Connecting
Parks to
People

East Bay 
Regional Park District
www.ebparks.org



A Message from General Manager Robert E. Doyle

2015 was a busy, productive and rewarding year for the East Bay Regional Park District, as we acquired and protected new parklands, created new trails and

recreation areas, and provided high-quality environmental education and outdoor activities for our growing and diverse communities.

Among the many milestones in 2015, a few stand out. In October, we won a major legal victory that allowed us to save a prime piece of Alameda waterfront from development. This spectacular, 3-acre purchase will become part of Crown Memorial State Beach, completing the park with areas for picnicking, recreation and wildlife habitat.

We also embarked on a \$5 million, 1.2-megawatt solar project at Shadow Cliffs Recreation Area that will generate enough power to offset electricity use throughout the entire Park District, and pay for itself within 14 to 17 years.

At Lake Chabot Regional Park, we began a major overhaul of Redwood Canyon Golf Course, with significant capital improvements, a new operator and a new name. We're proud to bring this cherished facility up to modern standards for future generations.

Our Healthy Parks Healthy People initiative continues to expand and prosper, with regular wellness walks, multi-cultural events, and partnerships with organizations

like UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland to link low-income, chronically ill young people to our parks.

We've also added more than 2,200 acres of parkland and miles of new trails, restored sensitive wildlife habitat (including the 150-acre Breuner Marsh in Richmond), and reduced fire hazards along 20 miles of East Bay ridgeline, making open spaces safer for residents and wildlife alike.

But most importantly, we've adapted to and prepared for climate change. We're restoring wetlands to protect our shorelines and prepare for sea level rise, and have taken numerous steps to adapt to severe drought and El Nino. Throughout the District we've replaced lawns with native plants, reduced wildfire hazards and cut back water use 34 percent.

We accomplished these goals while maintaining a balanced budget and undergoing a broad staffing transition due to retirements, promotions and expansion. We received more than \$3 million in grants, won awards for our fiscal responsibility, and maintained our AAA bond rating. We're deeply grateful for the strong leadership of our board, hard work by staff, and unwavering support from park visitors, volunteers, elected officials and partner organizations.

We wish you a healthy and relaxing year in our parks, and we'll see you on the trail!

Breuner Marsh at Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline

2016 Goals and Priorities

- **Land.** Acquire new parks and trails, and continue to keep our parklands clean, safe and accessible.
- **People.** Promote community health and environmental awareness by offering free and low-cost outdoor programs, connecting people to nature.
- **Transparency.** Keep the public informed of and involved in District governance, planning and finances.
- **Partnerships.** Advance our mission by creating strong ties with local, state and federal agencies, non-profits and health-care providers.
- **Stability.** Continue our fiscally conservative policies to ensure the long-term financial health of the District.

Leveraging Our Success

Thanks to Measure WW, passed by voters in 2008, the Park District awarded more than \$9.8 million in 2015 to East Bay park and recreation projects. A few projects approved in 2015 include the Larkey Pool Renovation and Splash Pad in Walnut Creek, San Lorenzo Community Park improvements, public artwork and other upgrades at De Fremery Park in Oakland, and new sports fields at Rumrill Park in San Pablo.

MEASURE
WW



Funds from Measure CC, a \$12-per-year parcel tax passed by voters in western Alameda and Contra Costa counties in 2004, were also a big part of our success in 2015. Fuel management in the East Bay hills, Bay Trail extensions, new picnic tables and improved restrooms and habitat enhancements are among the ongoing projects funded by Measure CC.

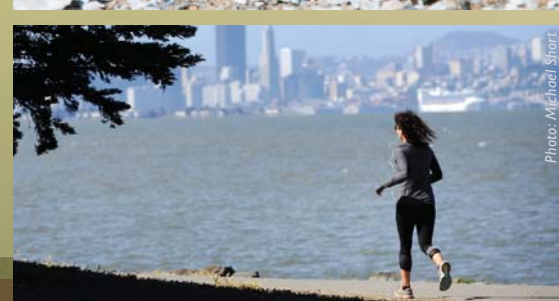
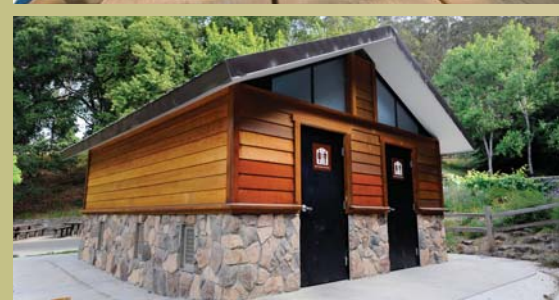
New Parklands

In 2015, the Park District acquired or optioned more than 2,200 acres of parkland and open space, furthering our commitment to protect biological, recreational and historically significant resources in the East Bay. A few notable acquisitions include:

- 990 acres in the Hayward hills, expanding Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Parks. This stunning property, among the largest acquisitions in District history, includes a 3.5-mile extension of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.
- 646 acres near Knightsen, providing a key link between Big Break Regional Shoreline and the future Delta Access Recreation Area.
- 362 acres in Norris Canyon, connecting Bishop Ranch Open Space Regional Preserve and Dublin Hills Regional Park.
- 262 acres near Mt. Diablo to expand Morgan Territory Regional Preserve and connect to state parklands to the west.
- 3 acres in Alameda to expand Crown Memorial State Beach, ending years of legal efforts to save the property from development. Strong advocacy by Alameda residents made this victory possible.

We also added numerous extensions to regional trails, with support from our local, state and federal representatives. Projects completed or underway in 2015 include:

- **East Bay Greenway:** Completed the first ½-mile segment from the Coliseum BART station to 85th Avenue in Oakland.
- **San Francisco Bay Trail:** 2/3 mile completed in Hercules, and 2.5 miles at Pt. Molate in Richmond.



Leadership

We welcomed two new board members, Dennis Waespi (Ward 3) and Diane Burgis (Ward 7), and supported all seven board members throughout the year at public meetings, District events and inter-agency conferences.

We also served as leaders in promoting environmental and community health. A few highlights:

- Parks Rx and SHINE programs. Expanded our partnership with UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital

Oakland to introduce our parks to chronically ill children and their families.

- Field trips. Hosted more than 53,000 students on park field trips, and saw a 51 percent increase in the number of classes participating in our popular Kids Healthy Outdoor Challenge 3rd-grade science and nature curriculum.

East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors

The Park District is governed by a seven-member board of directors, each representing a specific geographic area within the District. The board members are publicly elected to serve four-year terms, staggered at two-year intervals. The District itself is comprised of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Whitney Dotson, Ward 1; John Sutter, Ward 2; Dennis Waespi, Ward 3; Doug Siden, Ward 4; Ayn Wieskamp, Ward 5; Beverly Lane, Ward 6; Diane Burgis, Ward 7.



Engaging Our Communities

2015 was an award-winning and record-setting year for the Park District, as we reached new communities while strengthening ties with longtime supporters. A few we are most proud of:

- Celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Botanic Garden with an open house, dinner and dedication of a new rock garden.
- Won the “Champion of Youth Advocacy” award from the Contra Costa County Workforce Development Board for our youth employment programs.
- Hosted 10 information events at Mission Peak Regional Preserve in Fremont, reminding thousands of hikers about park etiquette and rules.
- Won the “Road-to-Trail Conversion” award from the California Greenways and Trails Conference for our Pleasanton Ridge Trail and George Miller Trail projects.
- Celebrated the groundbreaking of the Dumbarton Quarry Regional Recreation Area, which will include the first campground on the San Francisco Bay shoreline in decades.
- Won awards from California Association of Public Information Officials for social media, as well as our outreach campaign related to our 80th anniversary.
- Hosted more than 50,000 people at community events such as the Gathering of the Ohlone Peoples, Wildflower Festival and an Old-Fashioned Independence Day.
- Responded to 7,267 calls for police and fire service, and for the sixth consecutive year we had no drowning deaths under the watch of lifeguards.
- Hosted Ivan Dickson trail maintenance volunteer events.
- Won the “2015 Award of Excellence for Comprehensive Plan - Large Jurisdiction” from the American Planning Association, California Chapter Northern for our 2013 Master Plan.



**Crown Memorial State Beach,
Alameda**



**East Bay Greenway
trail dedication, Oakland**



**Dumbarton Quarry Regional
Recreation Area, Fremont**

Infrastructure Improvements

Using funds from Measure CC, the District completed or is close to completing 17 projects in western Alameda and Contra Costa counties. A few highlights from 2015:

- Fuel and vegetation management at Wildcat Canyon, Anthony Chabot, Sibley, Claremont Canyon, Huckleberry, Pt. Pinole and Redwood regional parks.
- Trail and safety improvements at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, Crown Memorial State Beach and McLaughlin Eastshore State Park.
- Picnic area restoration at Tilden Regional Park and Crown Beach.
- Visitor Center improvements at Crab Cove.
- New paths, accessible restrooms and other major upgrades at Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline.
- Elsewhere around the District, we improved trails, repaired aging facilities and broke ground on new projects throughout the District. Some key projects:
 - 5 miles of single-track trails at Crockett Hills Regional Park for bicyclists and hikers.
 - Shoreline restoration and Bay Trail re-surfacing at Albany Beach

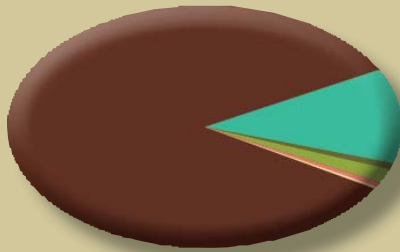
District Budget

The District's 2016 budget is balanced and totals \$238 million for all funds. This year we expect a 4.5 percent increase in property taxes, thanks to the continued recovery of the real estate market, and hope to fill 19 new positions, increasing our number of full time employees to 781.

In 2015, we received the distinguished budget award from the Government Finance Officers

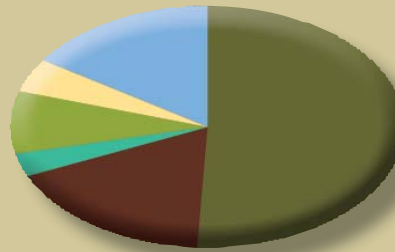
Association, maintained our excellent AAA bond rating, and had no layoffs or furloughs. We received more than \$3 million in state and federal grants, and awarded more than \$9.8 million in Measure WW grants to local communities.

Please see www.ebparks.org/about/budget for the complete budget and financial report.



2016 Source of Funds

● Taxes and Assessments.....	83.8%
● Charges for Services.....	12.8%
● Investment Earnings.....	0.7%
● Property Usage.....	2.0%
● Miscellaneous.....	0.5%
● Grants and Inter-agency Agreements.....	0.3%



2016 Use of Funds

● Personnel Costs.....	50.9%
● Debt Service.....	15.7%
● Capital Outlay.....	4.6%
● Inter-agency Agreements.....	8.3%
● Intra-District.....	3.1%
● Supplies and Services.....	17.4%

2950 Peralta Oaks Court
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
T: 1-888-EBPARKS
F: 510-569-4319
TRS Relay
for Hearing Impaired: 711

District Profile

- Founded in 1934
- 119,893 acres
- 1,250 miles of trails
- 65 parks
- 40 miles of accessible shoreline
- 10 lakes
- 10 visitor centers
- 762 employees
- 22 million visits per year
- \$238 million annual budget
- Largest regional park system in the United States
- Serves 2.6 million residents across two counties



Regional Parks Foundation

In 2015, the Regional Parks Foundation, a non-profit organization, provided funds for more than 5,000 low-income children to attend camp or receive swim lessons – an increase of more than 20 percent from 2014. The success was due to a significant increase in membership (which now stands at 8,704) as well as a jump in donations and grants. The Foundation received more than \$1.7 million in 2015. The Foundation has broken its fundraising records every year for the past five years.

