



November 17, 2023

Hello park supporters,

The Briones Pilot Project has now been in effect for almost 7 months and during that time the project team has received many questions, kudos, and concerns about the program from the public and other interested parties. The East Bay Regional Park District developed the Briones Pilot Project both to address habitat degradation issues, especially from damage created by illegally built bootleg trails, and to provide increased recreational access to various user groups while reducing trail use conflicts.

The Briones Pilot Project consists of four main objectives:

1. **Protect Resources, Habitat, Wildlife, and Watersheds**
2. **Restore Natural Habitat by Closing Illegal Bootleg Trails in the Pilot Project Zone**
3. **Enhance the Trail User Experience**
4. **Increase Volunteer Engagement in Trail Maintenance and Habitat Restoration**

Sean Dougan, Trails Program Manager, recently provided a **6-month update** to the Park District’s Board of Directors and covered a variety of topics including public engagement, data collection, habitat restoration, trail maintenance, and overall program management. You can view a recording of the meeting on the Park District’s YouTube page [here](#).

We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped this season restoring bootleg trails throughout the Pilot Project Zone! Through their hard work, 13 segments of bootleg trails, totaling about three miles, were restored back into natural habitat, providing much needed space for the critters and plants that call Briones home. Below is a summary of the “Dig Days” of 2023:

DIG DAYS 2023 SUMMARY		
Event Date	Number of Volunteers	Hours served
5/13/23	33	165
6/11/23	25	125
7/9/23	44	220
8/13/23	37	185
9/9/23	21	105
10/15/23	22	110
Total	182	910

Additionally, the Park District continues to work with the Stewards of Briones (SOBs) and Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB) as volunteer partners in trail maintenance in Briones. Conditions have

been set, procedures explained, and processes to document and record volunteer work activities and tasks have been established. Since that time the SOB's have contributed over 300 hours helping to restore illegal bootleg trails and also maintain the trails that have been opened that are now seeing triple the amount of use since the Pilot Project started. Bringing this group in and forming this relationship will set the foundation of trust and collaboration throughout the pilot project period and beyond.

On the patrol and enforcement front, our Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol (VTSP) members have been out in recent months reminding visitors of the [Pilot Project rules](#) and reporting violations or issues to the Park District's public safety department. We thank our VTSP volunteers for their hard work and dedication! Law enforcement officers have also been out at select times, dedicating nearly 200 hours of patrol time to Briones Regional Park. As of October, officers have recorded **53** incidences (warnings, etc.) and issued **28** citations for violations of the Pilot Project rules.

Over the coming months, as staff collect additional data and feedback, we may make modifications to some of the elements of the Pilot Program. If you have any specific feedback for the project team, please contact us at brionespilotproject@ebparks.org.

Finally, as a reminder, there are odd/even day restrictions within the [Pilot Zone](#) on weekends: for example, this Saturday, November 18 (EVEN date) only hikers and horses will be allowed in the zone (no bikes), and on Sunday, November 19 (ODD date) only hikers and bikes will be allowed (no horses). In other words, even weekend dates = horses okay; odd weekend dates = bikes okay. Hikers are always allowed!



BIKES



HORSES



HIKERS



WEEKDAYS (M-F)

STAY ON BIKE
DESIGNATED
TRAILS

STAY ON HORSE
DESIGNATED
TRAILS

**ODD NUMBERED
WEEKEND DATES**

STAY ON BIKE
DESIGNATED
TRAILS

**NO HORSES
IN ZONE**

**EVEN NUMBERED
WEEKEND DATES**

**NO BIKES
IN ZONE**

STAY ON HORSE
DESIGNATED
TRAILS

OPEN EVERY DAY

**FOR YOUR
SAFETY NEVER
USE BIKE-ONLY
TRAILS (B1 - B4)
MARKED IN
YELLOW ON MAP**

STAY ON HIKING
DESIGNATED TRAILS

NO ODD/EVEN
DATE RESTRICTIONS

EXAMPLE:

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		