

WINTER 2018

COMPASS

Healthy Parks Healthy People



Outdoor Education

NANCY AND GARY HARRINGTON ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTING A NEW INTERPRETIVE PAVILION AT SHADOW CLIFFS REGIONAL RECREATION AREA. FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP.





A CARING COMMUNITY



It's often said that it takes a village to raise a child, with a community coming together to nurture, safeguard and bring out the best in a living being. The same can be said for taking care of our parks.

By leveraging a variety of resources and partnerships, the Regional Parks Foundation and the Park District are better able to protect and preserve our area's natural lands—and provide access for all those who love the East Bay's regional parks. Community support at the ballot box—including for Measure CC, an initiative that supplies vital funding for park services, public access and maintenance that is set to expire in 2020—also furthers those efforts.

And then there are those special people who see a need and step up to generously support initiatives or projects that serve the greater good. Gary and Nancy Harrington are two such individuals. The former educators—and our cover subjects—are offering to match up to \$200,000 to help finance an open-air interpretive pavilion at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton. Turn to page 12 to read more about the Harringtons and Shadow Cliffs, as well as to find out how you can support this unique educational project.

Thank you for being a part of our village.



Carol Johnson
Executive Director
Regional Parks Foundation

Robert Doyle
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

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On the cover: Gary and Nancy Harrington



DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts about the East Bay Regional Park District



21,000+

The number of volunteers in the parks annually



150,782

The hours logged by park volunteers in 2016.



47,000

The number of social media users following EBRPD

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

Morgan Territory Regional Preserve



Up for the Challenge

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Trails Challenge with a hike (or five)



The 2018 Trails Challenge marks the 25th anniversary of the self-guided event—which sees close to 10,000 people embrace health and nature in the Park District every year.

Starting Jan. 4, challenge participants should hike at least five trails, or a minimum of 26.2 miles before Dec. 31, 2018. Park District staff selected 20 different trails of varying difficulty at parks throughout the East Bay (including a few that are wheelchair accessible). This year's challenge includes trails at Vargas Plateau Regional Park, Tilden Regional Park and Morgan Territory Regional Preserve.

The Park District has once again partnered with Kaiser Permanente—which has supported the program since 2005—and the Regional Parks Foundation to offer the Trails Challenge at no cost to East Bay residents.

"We have tremendous success with this program and its ability to help people connect with nature," says Mona Koh, community relations manager. "We wouldn't be able to do the Trails Challenge without Kaiser Permanente's support."

Registration is no longer required for the Trails Challenge, and the 2018 guidebook is available for download at www.ebparks.org after Jan. 4, 2018. Hikers can also pick up a hard copy of the guidebook—and a free T-shirt, while supplies last—at participating Park District visitor centers. For a list of visitor centers and to learn more about the challenge, visit www.ebparks.org.

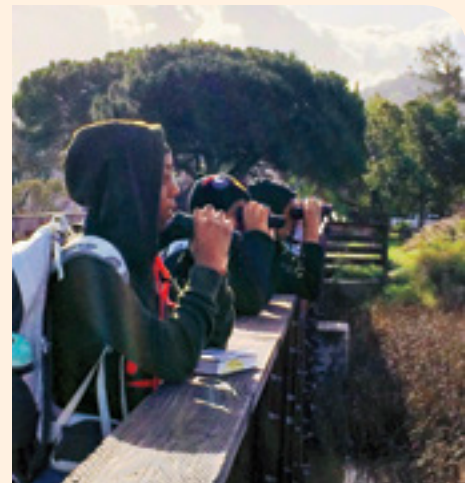
A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

This holiday season, consider sharing the gift of nature. A Regional Parks Foundation gift membership provides easy access to all that the parks have to offer, including benefits such as unlimited day parking and dog passes that can be enjoyed year-round.

Memberships are \$60 for individuals and \$105 for families. For fishing fans, an angler membership is available for \$300 that includes fishing and boat launch privileges. To purchase a gift membership, call the membership office at 510-544-2220 (gift memberships can only be bought over the phone or through the mail).

"Membership is a wonderful gift that helps protect regional open space and provide vital programs for the community," says John Dilsaver, membership committee chair. "It's a unique present for the person who may have everything, and it's a great way to get out in the parks and get healthy."

KIDS ZONE



Spirit of Adventure

At-risk youth find inspiration in nature, thanks to a new Park District program

What better reward could there be than making a young child—one who has just been introduced to the great outdoors and camped overnight for the first time—feel like he (or she) can climb any mountain?

Encouraging big dreams, appreciation for nature and healthy lifestyles are some of the goals behind Adventure Crew, a Park District program geared toward at-risk youth.

In fall 2016, Adventure Crew began as a pilot program in Richmond, backed by support from the Regional Parks Foundation, the Park District and other community organizations. The program brought together 15 children ages 11 to 13 for bimonthly outings during the 2016-2017 school year—providing continuing contact with nature along with educational opportunities.

“We want to reach parts of the community that don’t have access to parks and open space, to engage underserved inner-city kids,” says Dave Zuckermann, regional interpretive and recreation services manager.

The group, dubbed the Richmond Rangers, enjoyed fishing, hiking and camping excursions (including a trip to Sunol Regional Wilderness that inspired the wannabe mountaineer mentioned earlier). The children also went canoeing, explored Native American culture, and learned about plants and animals as well as outdoor survival basics.

“You have to keep these kids moving,” says Zuckermann. “You have to make it fun.”

The program loans hiking and camping gear to participants, provides food and transportation for the outings, and hosts



Clockwise from left: Richmond Rangers enjoying the Ohlone Wilderness, Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline and Point Reyes National Seashore.

monthly family nights. The Park District works in partnership with Richmond nonprofit YES Nature to Neighborhoods to organize and promote the initiative.

Although the pilot started in Richmond, the hope is to expand Adventure Crew to other cities. “The Foundation’s support was instrumental in getting this program off the ground,” says Zuckermann.

Some of that funding is going toward a study to measure health outcomes related to the Adventure Crew program. The Park District contracted with a San Francisco State University professor to interview participants and their families; an effort to monitor physical metrics is also in the works.

“We want to prove that this model will achieve results,” says Zuckermann. “We’re not just teaching kids about the outdoors, but seeing if their lifestyle, and possibly even their health, might change for the better.”



SEASONAL DELIGHTS

Winter brings natural wonders that will excite visitors of all ages

While family picnics in the summer sun or wildflower-strewn hikes during the spring are beloved outdoor activities, winter in the parks offers its own rewards.

"Winter represents dramatic change in California," says Ira Bletz, regional interpretive and recreation services manager. "The hills go from brown to green, and it's the biggest time for the start of new life and growth."

Visitors young and old can hike the Park District's 1,250-plus miles of trails—many of which are flat or paved for stroller-friendly jaunts—with the seasonal benefits of cooler weather and lush greenery. Even familiar walks may take on a new appeal, especially for children.

"The same spot that people may have gone in the summer is going to be very different in the winter. This is a great opportunity for families to talk about what's changed from the last time they were there," says Bletz.

Birders might also make special sightings in the colder months, when migratory birds flock to oak woodland parks such as Garin Regional Park and the shoreline parks. The recently opened Dotson Family Marsh is a prime location to scope out migrating flocks and birds making the Bay Area their winter home.

Among the more spectacular cold season attractions are the overwintering monarch butterflies at Ardenwood Historic Farm. Every year, clusters of monarchs migrate from all over the western United States, stopping off at Ardenwood and other sites along the California coast.

"These butterflies are the great-great-great-grandchildren of the butterflies who were there the winter before," says Bletz. "They are amazing, and people don't have to travel far from home to see them."

Ardenwood hosts a series of monarch programs throughout the winter, and visitors to the farm can take a guided tour or look for the orange and black butterflies on their own.

For another unique insect grouping, head to Redwood Regional Park, where thousands of ladybugs find safe haven from late October through February. Bletz recommends families go on a naturalist-led tour to avoid disturbing the hibernating bugs.



Top to bottom: Winter brings monarch butterflies to Ardenwood; all-ages hikes at Tilden Regional Park; exploring the Dotson Family Marsh; a migrating newt on parade.

Nature lovers may also enjoy the migrating newts. The Park District closes South Park Drive at Tilden Regional Park during the winter to help protect the newts as they head to the water to lay their eggs. Visitors can park near the road and look for parading newts during or just after a period of rain.

Whatever your interests, winter holds plenty of fascinating attractions for the whole family.

Visit www.ebparks.org/activities for a full calendar of events and activities.





JOINING FORCES FOR

DYNAMIC PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS ENABLE THE REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION AND THE PARK DISTRICT TO LEVERAGE RESOURCES TO BETTER PROTECT OUR NATURAL SPACES

FOR



From left: Corporate donations from organizations such as Whole Foods Market go a long way to support park programs and maintenance (pictured: Whole Foods Market's Paul Barron, with EBRPD Director Ellen Corbett and Regional Parks Foundation board President Bill Yarborough at Crown Memorial State Beach); Measure CC helped fund public access improvements at Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline.

TOP (LEFT TO RIGHT): EBRPD, LUANA ESPANA, JAKE WATLING; BOTTOM (LEFT TO RIGHT): CAITLIN AMTHOR



From left: Regional Parks Foundation camperships provide area youth outdoor opportunities at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline; making friends at Tilden Regional Park's Little Farm; the Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area.

NATURE

Innovation has been at the core of the Regional Parks Foundation's partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District for nearly 50 years, starting with the creation of the Foundation itself.

In 1969, Kaiser Sand and Gravel wanted to grant a piece of land in southern Alameda County to EBRPD, but company policy prohibited direct donations to public agencies. "The Park District board got creative and saw the value in having a nonprofit partner that would be able to help facilitate these types of private donations," says Carol Johnson, executive director of the Foundation. "So they formed a separate organization that was a 501(c)(3); the organization became the Regional Parks Foundation—and the land became what is now known as Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area." (See page 12 for more on Shadow Cliffs.)

The Regional Parks Foundation was the first nonprofit to support a park agency and has since become a model for other organizations working on behalf of parklands. "We've gone from humble beginnings to being completely diversified, run by a 21-member board and taking in a wide variety of gifts," says Johnson.



Above: Young visitors enjoy educational opportunities at the Little Farm. Funds from Measure CC supported improvements to the popular attraction.

THE CIRCLE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Creative partnerships and support from the community have always been key elements of Foundation efforts on behalf of the parks. Over the years, gifts of real and personal property have included residences, vehicles and even cows (which found a new home at Tilden Regional Park's Little Farm). More recently, the Foundation streamlined its popular membership program—its largest source of unrestricted funds—and expanded the general philanthropy program, which encourages corporations, foundations and individuals to make annual contributions to support the parks.

The Foundation also teams up with businesses in inventive ways. In 2016, Drake's Brewing Company introduced a summer IPA, with proceeds supporting Park District trail restoration efforts. "That was innovative for

"THROUGH COMMUNITY REVENUE, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE SERVICES RANGING FROM PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC SAFETY. WE'VE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO PROTECT SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF OPEN SPACE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS."

-ROBERT DOYLE, GENERAL MANAGER FOR THE PARK DISTRICT

us, but now it's become a model in the way we look at things," says Johnson. "We're looking to expand the idea with local coffee companies."

Additionally, the Foundation has grown its partnership with Whole Foods Market, which provides volunteers, food and beverages for various Park District events, and has an ongoing collaboration with REI.

"The Foundation completes that circle of community engagement," says Johnson. "Having this nonprofit vehicle that is able to take private donations through individual philanthropy, as well as corporate and foundation support, ensures that the entire community is hearing about the great work that we're doing, as well as the opportunities to get involved."

SUPPORTING PARKS AT THE BALLOT BOX

On several pivotal occasions, the community has voiced support for natural resources through ballot initiatives, which have played a crucial role in the growth and maintenance of EBRPD.

"Through community revenue, we have been able to maintain and enhance services ranging from public access to public safety," says Robert Doyle, Park District general manager. "We've also been able to protect significant amounts of open space for future generations. We are thankful for the community's support and investment in parks and open space."

“[RESIDENTS] VOTED FOR MEASURE CC FUELS-REDUCTION WORK TO BE DONE IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS. WHEN THEY SEE US UTILIZING THOSE FUNDS, IT SHOWS THEM HOW THE MEASURE DIRECTLY BENEFITS THEM.”

-AILEEN THEILE, FIRE CAPTAIN FOR THE PARK DISTRICT



In 2004 voters approved Measure CC, an initiative to improve park facilities, protect the environment and open space, enhance public access, and maintain public safety in some of EBRPD's oldest parks. That bond measure is nearing expiration in 2020.

Over the life of the bond, the Foundation augmented Measure CC efforts by securing donations

and grants to fund projects in the parks. “The Foundation has been fundamental in helping assist with both programming and improvements,” says Doyle. “That collaboration is a great example of how the Park District has partnered with private interests to leverage some of the taxpayers' funding to make Measure CC projects and services even better.”

PREVENTING CATASTROPHIC FIRES

Among the major Park District initiatives helped by Measure CC is the removal of flammable and hazardous material on 500 acres of parks and open space. In addition to reducing catastrophic fire risk, these efforts promote safer, healthier forests. “[Residents] voted for Measure CC fuels-reduction work to be

Above: Fuels-reduction efforts, supported by Measure CC funds and a grant obtained by the Regional Parks Foundation, thinned flammable eucalyptus at Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.

THE ABCs OF MEASURE CC

Measure CC passed in 2004 with more than two-thirds support from voters in western Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Through a \$12-per-year parcel tax, the bond measure raises about \$3 million each year for 20 parks in the Measure CC zone.

“[Measure CC] came about as a way to address the needs of some of the oldest parks in the district and also ensure quality services for the community,” says Robert Doyle, EBRPD general manager. “The Park District has a strong tradition of maximizing fiscal resources, and we are thankful for the community’s support through Measure CC.”

See page 11 for more on a proposed state bond measure in 2018 to extend Measure CC.



Above: EBRPD board member Whitney Dotson (second from right) and his family celebrate the Dotson Family Marsh dedication at Point Pinole.

“WE HAVE TEENAGERS WHO ARE LEARNING HOW TO LEAD, AND WE’RE ALSO PROVIDING LOW-COST SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR THE COMMUNITY. OUR GOAL IS TO TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF STEWARDS.”

-JIM O’CONNOR, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF OPERATIONS

done in their neighborhoods. When they see us utilizing those funds, it shows them how the measure directly benefits them,” says Aileen Theile, fire captain for the Park District.

Earlier this year, the Fire Department completed a fuels-reduction project in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, treating 14 acres that were covered with dense eucalyptus. Since the nonnative species can create what Theile calls “a

jackpot fuel situation” (due to the tree’s height, flammable oils and leaf shape), the Park District is thinning the eucalyptus.

“If the fire is on the ground, we want to keep it on the ground instead of allowing it to climb up trees and create a canopy fire,” says Theile. “We do that by removing ladder fuels, which include shrubs that grow up and eucalyptus ribbons that stream down from the trunks.”

One recent example of the effectiveness of these preventive measures occurred during the Grizzly Peak fire near Tilden Regional Park (located adjacent to Wildcat Canyon) in August. “The fuels-reduction work done there performed exactly as intended,” says Theile. “We can’t remove the possibility of a fire happening, but we can stop the fire from devastating neighborhoods.”

The Wildcat Canyon work was primarily funded by a

\$75,000 grant from PG&E that was obtained with Foundation assistance. “They applied for and received the grant and passed it on to us,” says Theile. “We were able to make those Measure CC funds, which are finite, last longer because we got a grant through the Foundation.”

CONNECTING YOUTH WITH NATURE

The Foundation supports a variety of programs that encourage youth to engage with nature, many of which are offered at Measure CC-funded parks such as Crown Memorial State Beach, Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and Tilden Regional Park. Each year, Foundation-backed youth development programs serve more than 10,000 young people districtwide.

The Foundation’s campership program provides scholarships for underserved youth to attend weeklong camps that foster discovery and learning about the environment. “For some people, it’s transformative,” says Jim O’Connor, assistant general manager of operations. “Education is a very important part of this, but there are other things that they get to experience that they have never experienced before.”

Leaders-in-Training, another Foundation-supported program, encourages young people to become camp counselors at Park’n It Day Camp. “We have teenagers who are learning how to lead, and we’re also providing low-cost summer programs for the community,” says O’Connor. “Our goal is to train the next generation of stewards.”

Below: A Multicultural Awareness Day at Crab Cove Visitor Center, which is staffed year-round with the help of Measure CC funds.



IMPROVING SPACES FOR FUN AND LEARNING

Budding naturalists and their families frequent Crown Memorial State Beach's Crab Cove Visitor Center, which is staffed for the full year thanks to Measure CC. "Keeping the visitor center open to the public is a huge benefit to the entire region—providing educational programs and connections with nature," says Anne Kassebaum, chief of interpretation and recreation services.

The Foundation helps forge many of those connections by supporting school trips; environmental education; and Concerts at the Cove, the popular free outdoor summer concert series. "It's very positive out there, and busy all year round," says O'Connor.

Measure CC also funded important upgrades at some of the most popular attractions at Tilden Regional Park. Improvements included new barn roofs, restrooms and hand-washing stations, and enhanced electrical service at the Little Farm; an updated sewer system and lighting at the Environmental Education Center (EEC); and a new weather-tight enclosure and fire sprinkler system for the merry-go-round.

The Foundation has a history of supporting endeavors at the Little Farm and the EEC. "We've helped with some of the interpretive exhibits, we fund transportation for school programs to come there, and the Foundation board is actively pursuing a feasibility study for capital campaigns," says Johnson.

Among the other parks with renovations backed by Measure CC are Martin Luther King Jr.

Regional Shoreline—which introduced improvements to parking, picnic areas, restrooms and San Francisco Bay Trail access at the Tidewater Staging Area in 2011—and Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline near Point Richmond: "We've installed picnic tables, accessible pathways, drinking fountains and new restrooms—public access improvements to ensure a safe and enjoyable time for visitors," says Doyle.

Adding to the attractions at Miller/Knox, the Foundation secured a \$100,000 donation from the J.M. Long Foundation to build a new play structure—replacing the nearly 20-year-old wooden model—in 2009. "It's in a really good spot between two reservable picnic sites, so families can see their kids playing without having to leave the picnic site," says Kevin Takei, Shoreline unit manager. "This play structure is more interactive, with additional climbing activities, and it's very colorful. It's a bright feature in the park."

NEW STATE BOND SUPPORTING PARK NEEDS ON 2018 BALLOT

On Oct. 15 Gov. Jerry Brown signed SB5, a legislative bill authored by state Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon that places a \$4.1 billion bond measure on the June 2018 state ballot to support parks, open space and water projects throughout California.

"This is the first state bond in nearly 15 years to fund badly needed parks and open space improvements," said Robert Doyle, general manager of the Park District. Doyle also noted that the EBRPD—with support from the Regional Parks Foundation—worked for several years to get a statewide park bond placed for voter approval. The bond would provide \$2.83 billion for parks and open space, \$720 million for water resources, and \$550 million for flood protection if approved.

Through a competitive grant process, EBRPD would be eligible to seek funding to restore habitats, close trail gaps and make improvements to regional parks.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

In April, the Park District celebrated the dedication of a pair of Measure CC-supported projects at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline: the Atlas Road Bridge, which improves public access, and the Dotson Family Marsh, which provides critical habitat restoration. The forward-looking marsh restoration effort is expected to offset the effects of rising sea levels and protect public access through 2080.

Habitat restoration and climate resiliency are major priorities for both the Park District and the Foundation.

"Voter-approved Measure CC funding has helped us restore habitat and prepare our shoreline for the impacts of climate change that we are seeing now and into the future," says Doyle.

 **To learn more or get involved, visit www.ebparks.org/measurecc.**

A VISION FOR LEARNING



Early concept architectural renderings of the planned interpretive pavilion at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton (final design may differ).

THANKS TO A GENEROUS DONATION FROM
NANCY AND GARY HARRINGTON, FUTURE VISITORS TO
PLEASANTON'S SHADOW CLIFFS REGIONAL RECREATION
AREA WILL ENJOY A UNIQUE INTERPRETIVE EXPERIENCE

PHOTO: CALI GODLEY; RENDERINGS: WARE ASSOCIATES



AS FORMER EDUCATORS, GARY AND NANCY HARRINGTON

understand the value of hands-on learning. Now retired, the Pleasanton residents and longtime supporters of public art have turned their philanthropic efforts toward an open-air interpretive pavilion at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area.

“We’ve always enjoyed nature and walking at Shadow Cliffs,” says Nancy, who served as an elementary school principal in Fremont during her 37-year career. “The park is so accessible to the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore; it’s a shame it is not being fully utilized. There is wildlife there that people don’t know about.”

Says Gary: “When I was working as a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher in Livermore, we used to have an outdoor education program in which students would spend a week in the redwoods near the Santa Cruz coast. For some kids, it was the first time they were out in nature, and it was exciting to see their reaction to the environment around them.”

The Harringtons hope to expose the natural attractions at Shadow Cliffs to visitors of all ages and have promised to match up to \$200,000 in donations to the Regional Parks Foundation to fund the construction of the new learning center.

“It’s a huge investment and we’re thrilled to work with the Harringtons on making this project a reality,” says Juliana Schirmer, development director for the Regional Parks Foundation. “It’s a vision that is important to them—and to us as well.”

BRINGING A DREAM TO LIFE

While the Park District had a visitor pavilion in its land use plan for Shadow Cliffs, it took a generous gift from the Harringtons to move the project forward. Some of their initial donation—along with funds from the Park District—went toward a design proposal for the site. While details are still being finessed, the plan calls for interpretive exhibits to be built directly into the design of the pavilion—a first in the Park District.

“We want people to be able to walk through the site and understand the history of the park and the wildlife, even without a naturalist leading interpretation,” says Anne Kassebaum, chief of interpretation and recreation for the Park District.

The pavilion will be adjacent to the parking lot and serve as a gateway to the hiking and biking trails in the wilderness area of Shadow Cliffs. The Harringtons are bringing their educational expertise to the exhibit details as well, working with the Park District on the interpretive content.

“We think it’s good to present information about the nature area, wildlife and birds,” says Gary. “There’s an opportunity to present a world of things that kids may take for granted.”

The plans include artistic elements such as life-size cutouts of birds and fish to add to the interactive nature of the pavilion.



Gary and Nancy Harrington (right) go over the plans for the pavilion with Anne Kassebaum, chief of interpretation and recreation, and Kevin Damstra, supervising naturalist for interpretive and recreation services.

FROM QUARRY TO PARKLAND

The interpretive exhibits will also touch on the Regional Parks Foundation's historic connection with Shadow Cliffs. In 1969, Kaiser Sand and Gravel donated the land, then a rock quarry, to the District for use as a public park, and the Foundation was created as a private entity to accept the parcel (see page 6 for more on the Foundation's beginnings). Shadow Cliffs opened in 1971, growing into a 266-acre park that includes a large lake along with an arroyo of smaller bodies of water.

“Exhibits will cover that transition from rock quarry to a park, as well as provide details on the land itself,” says Kassebaum. “Being a former rock quarry, there aren’t many trees and it is hard for things to grow.”

The Foundation's relationship with the area adds a personal level to the endeavor, says Schirmer. “We want to see that story told, and we’re honored to be a part of this project.”

A TRADITION OF GIVING

Gary and Nancy Harrington are familiar names in the local community. Married for 48 years, the pair has lived in Pleasanton since 1972 and currently supports a variety of nonprofits. The Harringtons recently traveled to Peru with the Rotary Club to deliver 240 wheelchairs, primarily to children.

“It’s exciting for us to help others,” Gary says.

Adds Nancy: “It’s the time in our lives when we should be giving back. Gary and I have a wonderful life, and there is nothing like giving to those in need.”

The Harringtons are best known for donating several works of public art to Pleasanton, including the *Poppies* sculpture located in front of the Veterans Memorial Building. They also lead free public art walks and have compiled *Pleasanton Public Art*

in association with the Museum on Main, a book that includes stories on and photos of the city's 70 public works of art.

The interpretive pavilion at Shadow Cliffs is another way to support the Pleasanton area, and one that will realize an extended undertaking for the Harringtons.

"We've been working on getting a nature learning center at Shadow Cliffs for four years, and now the costs have more than doubled from what we had estimated," Gary says. "To prevent the project from going through phases—which would delay the process and add to overall costs—Nancy and I are offering to match donations up to \$200,000. We're seeking support from the community in getting this project completed in one phase."

The estimated budget for the pavilion is close to \$1 million, so along with the Harringtons' donation, the Park District is supplying funds and seeking a grant from the California State Parks. The Foundation is also looking for support at the corporate and individual levels. The goal is to have all funding in place by July 2018; construction on the pavilion will commence thereafter.

"It's unbelievable that Gary and I can help make this happen," Nancy says. "When you look at all the East Bay Regional Parks, Shadow Cliffs is just a little speck, but for Pleasanton, it's more than that. The opportunity is too great to pass up."

"We've always enjoyed nature and walking at Shadow Cliffs. The park is so accessible to the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore; it's a shame it is not being fully utilized. There is wildlife there that people don't know about."

—Nancy Harrington



HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Shadow Cliffs pavilion is in keeping with the Foundation's ongoing commitment to connect donors to the parks or educational opportunities that matter most to them.

"It's not just about the construction of the pavilion," says Schirmer. "People want to educate children and the community on the environment, as well as the importance of taking care of our natural resources."

Donors who contribute over \$1,000 to the project will have their names listed on a donor exhibit at the pavilion. "Individuals or corporations can sponsor an exhibit or give to the overall pavilion construction," says Schirmer.

The Foundation plans to reach out to businesses and civic groups in the Tri-Valley for additional support.

Anyone interested in contributing to the Shadow Cliffs interpretive pavilion project should contact Juliana Schirmer at 510-544-2212 or via email at jschirmer@ebparks.org.





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Season of Gifting

Cold weather gear and garb for the nature lover in your life

When it comes to enjoying the winter wilderness—be it camping or trekking the hills—the proper gear can make the difference between blisters and bliss. This holiday season, think about outfitting your recreation-minded friends and family with the following gift ideas from the outdoor experts at REI (a longtime partner of the Regional Parks Foundation).



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1 REI Co-op Magma 850 Down Jacket (\$189)

This lightweight jacket is compact enough to bundle in a pack and so stylish your loved one will wear it outside the parks. REI recommends dressing in layers for the hike itself (visit rei.com/learn/expert-advice/layering-basics.html for tips) and saving this water-resistant product for the final destination.

2 Buff Original Buff (\$20)

A fashionable and versatile buff that can be worn in a variety of ways—sun guard, neck gaiter, dust screen or bandanna—and comes in 13 different looks. The breathable microfiber fabric is moisture-wicking and washable.

3 REI Co-op Special Edition Flash 18 Pack (\$39.95)

Ideal for shorter hikes or a day out in nature, this comfortable yet simple pack comes in five fun and colorful designs. The pack converts into a stuff sack when turned inside out.

4 Petzl Tikkina Headlamp (\$19.95)

Headlamps have multiple uses, from camping to dog walks—and Petzl provides hands-free lighting in a variety of styles and prices. The Tikkina headlamp has a long burn time (charger kit sold separately), with three brightness levels.

5 REI Co-op Flexlite Chair (\$79.95)

A comfy, deep-seated chair that is usable anywhere. This low yet supportive seat comes in six colors and folds into an easy-to-pack 4.5 by 15 inches.

6 REI Co-op Power Wool Gloves (\$44.50)

Soft and warm, these gloves can be used in everyday life or on recreational adventures. The gloves are made of merino wool with a synthetic fiber exterior for added water resistance.

7 Vasque Breeze III Mid GTX Hiking Boots (\$180)

When it comes to footwear, REI recommends bringing your intended gift recipient for an in-store professional fitting before buying. The Breeze III, made of waterproof Gore-Tex, is perfect for the average hiker—providing support, comfort and protection from the elements.

8 Smartwool Hiking Socks (\$18.95)

Meet the perfect stocking stuffer (and stocking). Made of soft merino wool, these no-itch socks are great on the trail and should keep their shape and softness through multiple washings.

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A Changing Landscape

Federal and state grants help public access and restoration efforts at Bay Point Regional Shoreline

The Bay Point Regional Shoreline has undergone several transformations over the decades—housing industrial operations in the 1950s and providing marshlands to wildlife and open space for area residents today.

The 150-acre parkland, which was purchased by EBRPD in 1996, will soon get another overhaul, thanks to a planned project to improve access and address the effects of climate change.

“We want to restore the marsh habitat and make it resilient in the face of future climate change,” says Chris Barton, environmental program manager for the Park District. “The project is also providing greater access to nature for the neighboring community.”

Along with trail and restoration efforts, the plan includes improvements to restrooms, parking areas and other public facilities.

“Getting quality restrooms out there, as well as a proper park area, makes Bay Point Regional Shoreline a real asset for the community—one that is inviting and inspires even more people to connect with nature,” says Barton.

The project—which is budgeted at \$4 million to \$5 million—recently got a boost from two grants at the state and federal levels.

In July, the Department of the Interior and National Park Service awarded \$750,000 to the Park District, which was one of only 22 grant recipients in the country. The grant is administered through the National Park Service’s Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership

“Our primary goal is to enhance public access for the Bay Point community, with the added benefit of restoring the wetlands and marshlands.”

—Chris Barton, environmental program manager for the Park District

Program, which hopes to expand outdoor recreation options for underserved communities, as well as foster public-private partnerships that promote the same goal.

The Park District also received \$200,000 for Bay Point trail improvements from the California Department of Parks and Recreation. According to Barton, the project has received additional funding from Measure WW and other bond measures; the District is pursuing further grant opportunities to complete the effort.

“Our primary goal is to enhance public access for the Bay Point community, with the added benefit of restoring the wetlands and marshlands—and better preparing the habitat for the future,” Barton adds. “We’re excited about this project and we’re thrilled that these grants will help us move it forward.”



FUN AND FESTIVITIES

Park visitors raised their glasses and cleaned up the shoreline in support of EBRPD.



1



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1 Dave and Susan Snyder at a Park District fundraiser held at Rodrigue Molyneux Winery on Sept. 16. **2** Park District board member Ayn Wieskamp with Nancy Rodrigue, owner of Rodrigue Molyneux Winery. **3** Fremont Bank employees and their families help maintain the shoreline at a volunteer event on Oct. 7. **4** Visitors enjoy some family time at the What's Brewin' in the Parks event on July 8 at Tilden Nature Area. **5** Kanyon Sayers-Roods (of Mutsun Ohlone heritage) shares her art at the 2017 Gathering of Ohlone Peoples at Coyote Hills Regional Park.





Curiosity blooms at the annual Sunol Wildflower Festival held at Sunol Regional Wilderness.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Return of the Monarchs

Hundreds of monarch butterflies gather every year and spend the cold season at Ardenwood Historic Farm. Witness the amazing migration of these creatures and discover how they survive the long cold season in the eucalyptus trees. Come greet the beautiful monarch butterflies as they flutter into the eucalyptus grove at Ardenwood Historic Farm for the winter. Celebrate the start of 2018 with a special butterfly walk on New Year's Day. Monday, **Jan. 1**, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Meet at the granary. (Event will be canceled in the case of heavy rain.) Visit www.ebparks.org for information on additional monarch programs.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Join the Park District in celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy by coming together with community members to improve his namesake park, Martin Luther King Jr.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Bring family and friends to these highlighted EBRPD programs and activities—perfect for nature- and fun-lovers of all ages. To view complete listings of EBRPD events, visit www.ebparks.org/activities.

Regional Shoreline. Clear invasive plants and remove debris from the marsh and shore. **Jan. 15**, 8:30 a.m.–noon. Register online at www.ebparks.org.

Youth Job Fairs

Come work for the East Bay Regional Park District! Whether you like spending time outdoors, working with kids, aquatics, or public safety, we have something for you. The fairs are for ages 15 to 24.

Saturday, **Jan. 20**, 10 a.m.–noon, The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

Saturday, **Jan. 27**, 10 a.m.–noon, Richmond Convention Center, 403 Civic Center, Richmond.

Sunol Wildflower Festival

This festive annual event at Sunol Regional Wilderness features live music, crafts, hikes, slideshows and exhibits celebrating wildflower season. Learn to identify flowers and where to spot them in the park. Meet local vendors and artisans or join naturalists on a flower walk. Sunday, **April 8**, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Visit www.ebparks.org for more information.

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Photo: Don Jedlovac