



July 6, 2023

Greetings park supporters,

We hope you had a wonderful Independence Day holiday and good start to your summer. The Briones Pilot Project has been in effect for the last 2 ½ months and the project team wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of the main objectives of the two-year pilot:

- **Protect Resources, Habitat, Wildlife, and Watersheds:** Illegal bootleg trails are a significant issue for Briones and other East Bay regional parks. These user-built trails are often not built to sustainable trail standards with appropriate drainage and avoidance of sensitive natural habitats. Illegal trails can have negative impacts on wildlife and watersheds. The project will include a robust monitoring and patrol program to document and prevent the expansion of bootleg trails in the pilot project zone.
- **Enhance the Trail User Experience:** The trail management strategies being tested during the two-year pilot project are intended to allow users to safely enjoy trails by providing specific days when certain user types are limited to create more space on trails.
- **Restore Natural Habitat by Closing Illegal Bootleg Trails in the Pilot Project Zone:** A primary objective of the project is to engage with the trail user community to join park staff in restoring natural habitats already impacted by illegal bootleg trails.
- **Increase Volunteer Engagement in Trail Maintenance and Habitat Restoration:** Community volunteers play an important role in helping park staff monitor and maintain park trails. The pilot project provides volunteer opportunities for trail users to join in trail maintenance and habitat restoration activities. (Information on *Volunteer Dig Days* [here](#).)

We have had reports that occasionally bikes and horses are seen on off days and staff have noted some of the “trail closed” signs have been vandalized. Now that the Briones Pilot Project has been in effect for several weeks, the Park District’s Public Safety officers will be on patrol enforcing violations such as entering the [Pilot Zone](#) on off days (bikes okay on ODD weekend dates; horses okay on EVEN weekend dates), misusing designated trails, or entering closed bootleg trails. The Park District Police Department has been working closely with Park Operations staff to help make this pilot a success.

Since April the Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol (VTSP) and Officers from the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) have been working in the area educating visitors. Officers will continue to conduct patrols of the pilot area and the greater Briones area to enforce all trail use restrictions, prevent the destruction of habitat, and enhance public safety. The East Bay Regional Park District encourages everybody recreating in the park to observe the Pilot Program restrictions and [Ordinance 38 - Rules and Regulations](#). To report trail use violations or other non-emergency incidents please call Dispatch at **(510) 881-1822** or submit a [Park Watch Report Form](#). **For Emergencies, please call 911.**

The Park District appreciates your support in making Briones a safe and enjoyable place to recreate while maintaining and restoring the land for local wildlife.

If you would like to help restore and maintain select trails, the Park District has several upcoming volunteer “Dig Days” ([sign up here](#)):

Where: Alhambra Creek Staging Area
2537 Reliez Valley Road, Martinez, CA

When: 9am to 2pm

- Sunday, [July 9](#) (Spaces available. Sign up now!)
- Sunday, [August 13](#) (Spaces available. Sign up now!)
- Saturday, September 9
- Sunday, October 15

For a full list of updates, project details, volunteer opportunities, FAQs, upcoming weekend schedule, and more, please visit the Briones Pilot Project webpage at www.ebparks.org/BPP. Thank you for supporting your Regional Parks!