

COMMUNITY REPORT

2018-2019



Ours to Explore, Enjoy and Protect

85 Years of Service to the Community

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ROBERT E. DOYLE



For 85 years, the East Bay Regional Park District has led the charge in creating and fostering a forward-looking agency. The Park District has provided strong governance and essential services with a focus on relevance, transparency, innovation, efficiency, and inclusion. Our steadfast advocacy for park-friendly legislation and success in collaborating across agencies, community organizations, and businesses to leverage our collective resources and knowledge has enhanced the quality of life for residents in the East Bay.

Through the decades, our long-standing priority has been to keep our parks, shorelines, lakes, and trails safe and well-maintained. More recently, to mitigate the impacts of a changing climate, our integrated adaptive management has included wildfire hazard reduction practices, lake water and algae monitoring, wetland restoration, and expansion of our network of paved trails connecting users to transit hubs, schools, and work sites.

Our major accomplishments in 2018 include, among others:

- Passage of Measure FF
- Passage of Prop 68
- \$5.1 million for Del Valle Regional Park included in State Budget
- 116 helicopter water drops on 15 fires
- Transparency certification
- Passage of a balanced budget with enhanced funding for wildfire protection

We appreciate the public's trust, support, and investment in this beautiful regional park system.



Measure FF Passed with Unprecedented 85.6% Vote

On November 6, 2018, voters in western Alameda and Contra Costa counties passed Measure FF to extend funding with 85.6% support. Measure FF will provide \$62 million over the next 20 years for regional park services and improvements, including wildfire protection, public safety, public access, and habitat protection and restoration.

California Passed First State Bond for Parks in 16 Years

On June 5, 2018, California voters approved Proposition 68 (Prop 68) to invest \$2.83 billion in parks and natural resources statewide. Prop 68 was the culmination of 16 years of advocacy by the Park District. The Park District had unwaveringly proposed placing a park measure on the statewide ballot to include per capita funding and grant opportunities for districts that have passed "self-help" revenue measures for parks. Prop 68 passed with 57.4% support, receiving 68% of the vote locally in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.



Land Acquisition 73 Regional Parks • 122,278 acres • 1,250+ miles of trails

In 2018, the East Bay Regional Park District acquired, optioned and leased significant open space and parkland to close trail gaps and improve connections between parks. The District continues to leverage Park District Measures AA and WW bond funds with grants and funds from strategic partnerships.

Milestones Completed in 2018

- 1 Pinole Shores Bridge and Bay Trail** – Constructed a new \$13.2 million, 1,100-foot bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks along the San Pablo Bay Shoreline. Added half-mile of San Francisco Bay Trail. This is the District's largest investment in the Bay Trail to date.
- 2 Bay Water Trail Improvements at Point Isabel Regional Shoreline** – Added enhancements to increase opportunities for non-motorized water activities like kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, canoeing, kiteboarding, and windsurfing.
- 3 New Old-Growth Redwoods Exhibit at Roberts Regional Recreation Area** – Completed exhibit which preserves and protects a remaining 18-foot diameter old-growth coast redwood footprint for nature education. The exhibit was a joint project with Save the Redwoods League.
- 4 Castleridge Trailhead at Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park** – Opened a new trailhead that significantly increases ridgeline trail access from the northern side of the park. Trailhead services include street parking for 50 vehicles, a drinking fountain, and restrooms. The trailhead was a joint project with the City of Pleasanton.
- 5 New Staircase at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve** – Installed a new stairway that allows for safer and longer mine tours. The tours now follow a continuous loop from the Hazel-Atlas entrance to the underground Greathouse Visitor Center.
- 6 Trail Paving throughout the Regional Parks** – Repaired and repaved nearly 20 miles of regional trails. The District's 200+ miles of paved regional trails offer valuable access for recreation and transportation and are part of the region's green transportation network.

Park Planning and Expansion in 2019

Approved projects include:

- The Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve Land Use Plan and EIR which includes the addition of 639 acres for recreation and wildlife habitat protection.
- The draft Coyote Hills Regional Park Land Use Plan which adds 306 acres for wildlife protection and public access.
- Construction continues at Dumbarton Quarry, soon to be the Park District's first shoreline campground.

\$5.1 Million for Del Valle Regional Park

The Park District will receive \$5.1 million from the 2018-19 State Budget for improvements at Del Valle. Opened in 1970, Del Valle has an aging infrastructure system in need of a major overhaul. Other critical needs include water treatment capacity, water delivery infrastructure, visitor center facilities, docks, and a flood resistance/resilience system.

Strong Fiscal Management

Over the decades, the Park District has adopted policies to provide timely and reliable information on decisions and performance, as well as leveraging funds to maintain fiscal stability.

Accomplishments in 2018:

- Approved the 2019 budget of \$247.5 million with augmentations for wildfire protection and other essential services.
- Completed the Park District's first annual Green Bond certification report highlighting how projects benefited the environment. The Park District was the first district of its kind in the nation to issue "Certified Green Bond."
- Received certification from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for comprehensive annual financial reports that demonstrate the Park District's spirit of transparency and full disclosure.
- Continued to receive AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service – the highest possible ratings.
- Continued to generate nearly \$500 million in regional economic benefits where every \$1 spent by the District yields \$4 in return.



Multicultural Wellness Walk
Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, Antioch

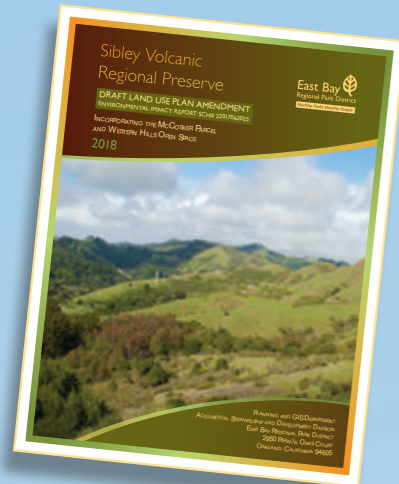
Connecting People with Nature

In 2018, the Park District, in partnership with the Regional Parks Foundation, continued to connect residents with nature, especially youth with limited access to nature. In total, the Park District served 65,969 school-age children through 2,414 class field trips, and 366 day camp participants. The District also initiated a Junior Ranger Adventure Crew pilot program to foster leadership, increase environmental literacy, and improve health and wellness among youth from disadvantaged communities.

Additionally, 11,669 volunteers contributed a total of 91,770 hours of service toward improving nature and park safety, and providing information about regional parks at community events. Activities included cleanup and trash removal, restoration, and maintenance of parklands, shorelines, and trails.



Temescal Regional Park, Oakland



The Park District is a founding member of the Hills Emergency Forum, a consortium created to facilitate a broad and cooperative approach for wildfire hazard reduction, suppression, and emergency planning.

Taking Care of the Environment

Restoration and habitat preservation projects continued in 2018, including beach and dune habitat restoration at Albany Beach, a seasonal wetland restoration at Deer Valley Regional Park (in partnership with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy), pond habitat restoration and sediment control at Tilden Nature Area, and pond habitat restoration and erosion control at Morgan Territory Regional Park (in partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service).

In 2018, the Park District Board of Directors also approved the Sibley Regional Preserve Land Use Plan Amendment to restore 3,061 feet of creek habitat, **the largest creek restoration project in Park District history.**

Ensuring Wildfire Protection, Park Safety

In 2018, the Park District's professional police, fire, and lifeguard services staff responded to 10,912 calls for services, including 20 fire incidents, 116 helicopter water drops on 15 fires, 1,145 Ordinance 38 violations, and 280 agency assists. Lifeguards provided 311 first aid assists, 33 medical rescues, and 60 water rescues. Aquatic services continued water safety educational efforts with 54,618 swim tests conducted, 1,602 swim lessons taught, and 30,783 loaner life jackets provided. There were no drownings at guarded park facilities for the 9th consecutive year.

In 2018, the Park District thinned and removed hazardous vegetation on over 1,000 acres to reduce fire risk. The Park District also implemented a public education program to inform the public about what they can do at home to reduce fire risks.

Awards

In 2018 the Park District received many awards from professional associations throughout the country.

- **2018 Legacy Award** for Innovation from the East Bay Economic Development Alliance.
- **SHIFT Innovation Award** for Diversity in Public Health Programs.
- **Excellence in Design & Park Planning** from the California Parks & Recreation Society for Dotson Family Marsh.
- **Green Building certification** from the Alameda County Green Business Program.



- General Manager Robert Doyle received the prestigious **Cornelius Amory Pugsley Award** from the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration. Past recipients include Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service, East Bay Regional Park District General Managers William P. Mott, Richard Trudeau, and Pat O'Brien, and former East Bay Regional Park District Board Directors Carol Severin and John Sutter.

Transparency Certification

On June 5, 2018, the Park District received a "Certificate of Excellence" for transparency from the California Special District Leadership Foundation for its commitment to transparency and open government. The "Certificate of Excellence" is a testament to the Park District's commitment to transparency, accountability, and civic engagement.

Regional Parks Foundation

In 2018, the Regional Parks Foundation achieved a record 11,000-plus members and its highest fundraising ever (excluding capital grants) – \$2.7 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, land preservation, and educational and recreational programs. Key supporters include Kaiser Permanente, Fremont Bank, Marathon Petroleum, PG&E, Chevron, REI, and Drakes Brewing.



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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.

On the cover: Vargas Plateau Regional Park, Fremont
Photo: Kevin Fox