

SUMMER 2016

COMPASS

Healthy Parks Healthy People



A DOG'S LIFE

Canines and their best friends
romp in our Regional Parks



INSIDE:
EBRPD COPES WITH
CLIMATE CHANGE



Never underestimate dog power. Take, for example, Bigges, the 3-year-old Australian shepherd featured on our cover. He is a terrific ambassador for our parks, not just because he's well-behaved and well-loved on the trails. The Hayward pooch is also a great role model for environmental responsibility.

When Bigges visits our parks, he makes sure he leaves them cleaner than when he came. In fact, he's picked up hundreds of plastic bottles and other debris over the years, scouring the hillsides for trash left by other hikers. His owner, Diane Petersen, collects the trash from Bigges and recycles it.

Throughout the District, we follow a similar environmental ethic: to be conscientious stewards of the land and set a good example for others. We're proud to be part of the national Leave No Trace movement, which encourages park visitors to have a minimal impact on the environment when spending time outdoors. For decades, we've also worked to restore habitat, remove invasive species, acquire and protect important open spaces, and educate the public about the importance of environmental stewardship.

Other important facts worth noting: Bigges and Petersen are members of the Regional Parks Foundation—just like you. Taken together, RPF memberships provide much-needed funds and support for many of the Park District's conservation efforts.

Check out our stories about climate change in this issue to learn more about what the Foundation—and its Members and volunteers—are doing to improve our beautiful East Bay open spaces. See you on the trail!



Carol Johnson

Carol Johnson
Executive Director
Regional Parks Foundation

Robert E. Doyle

Robert Doyle
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts about the
East Bay Regional
Park District



500

The number of native plants we planted last year



5

The acres of lawn we've replaced with drought-tolerant plants



3

The number of efficient, digitally metered irrigation systems we've installed in our most heavily used areas

THIS PAGE: EBRPD
COVER: DIANE PETERSEN

THOMAS H. MIKKELSEN



Vargas Plateau Regional Park, Fremont

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

What's New at the Foundation?

Celebrating our successes, setting even higher goals

Thanks to the generous support of Donors, Members and volunteers, 2015 marked the fifth year of consecutive growth for the Regional Parks Foundation, and together we raised \$1,706,763—30 percent over goal!

The Foundation is proud of its growth and recognizes our potential to have an even bigger role in raising funds for the Park District through its core priorities of youth development, environmental stewardship, community engagement, health, wellness, safety and universal access. The goal for 2016 is to raise \$1,550,000, but we hope to hit at least \$1.8 million.

"We know true growth happens not only through the generosity of the community, but through listening to feedback from Donors and Members to see how we can improve, how we can make it easier, how we can be more effective. 2015 was our year of continuous improvement—starting with the first-ever Member survey," says Carol Johnson, RPF executive director.

More than 1,300 Members participated in an electronic survey to give feedback on the membership program. As a result, efforts are now underway to streamline the membership options and make them easier to purchase in parks and through select third-party retailers. In addition, we've planned special Member events, such as a preview hike of Vargas Plateau.

In other news, the Foundation has realigned its vacant position, upgraded its staff expertise with the additions of a membership officer and development director, and has recruited several distinguished board members to expand our reach in the community. "Building community partnerships is key to our future growth," says Johnson, "and we are thrilled to have expanded the board with such highly skilled Members."

GET INVOLVED!

Want to help Mother Nature?

Environmental stewardship is a core initiative of the Regional Parks Foundation. The Foundation provides funding and volunteers for habitat preservation and restoration, as well as conservation projects to reduce water consumption and promote clean energy and "leave no trace" practices. Last year, more than 18,700 volunteers contributed 151,084 hours of service to the Park District to help with a variety of activities from habitat protection with wildlife biologist Dave "Doc Quack" Riensche, to Earth Day events, to Coastal Cleanup days.

By volunteering with the Park District, you can make a big impact on your community with a small amount of effort. Volunteering can also be a lot of fun!

Corporate employee volunteerism is also encouraged. Contact Raj Hajela at 510-544-2218 for more information about corporate volunteering.

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REGIONAL PARKS
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Supporting East Bay Regional Parks

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On the cover: Bigges, EBRPD #leavenotrace ambassador



HIDDEN TREASURES

All Aboard!

Journey back in time on EBRPD's historic trains—
all operated by independent groups

➤ Become a Regional Parks Foundation member and enjoy free admission on non-event days. Go to www.RegionalParksFoundation.org for info.



On this page: The Ardenwood Historic Farm boasts a collection of 17 historic wooden cars and operates trains for public rides on 1.5 miles of track.

Society for the Preservation of Carter Railroad Resources

The mission of the train club at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont is specific: Its 200 or so members are dedicated to preserving the railroad equipment of the Carter Brothers shop in nearby Newark, which supplied the Southern Pacific Coast Railroad. In the 1880s, that narrow-gauge line ran through Alameda and Santa Clara counties before climbing the mountains to Santa Cruz.

The group operates the Railroad Museum, works on restoring its collection of 17 historic wooden cars, and operates trains for public rides on 1.5 miles of track through farm fields and eucalyptus groves. Until last year, draft horses pulled the train cars, but a shortage of horse ranches in the area has led to using diesel and steam engines. For special events, club members don period costumes and tell stories of the railroad days. Club President John Stutz especially enjoys the connection the train has made with the community. He says, "There are people bringing children who came as children themselves."

➤ Operates Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from April to November; train rides included with paid admission to the farm; www.sprrr.org.



The Redwood Valley Railway is aptly named—and widely enjoyed.

Redwood Valley Railway

As steam engines began disappearing in the late 1940s—replaced by the faster and cheaper diesel models—Western Pacific Railroad mechanical engineer and track inspector Erich Thomsen decided to preserve the practice as a hobby, creating a miniature railroad on his parents' Mountain View farm. At that time, Tilden Regional Park was being developed in Berkeley, and Thomsen's train was recruited as an attraction. It started running in 1952.

Ellen Thomsen, Erich's daughter, now oversees the Redwood Valley Railway, which was moved and expanded in 1971. It runs 1.25 miles through dense redwoods. Sitting two by two in tiny open-air and covered cars, families delight in traversing two trestles, going through a tunnel and waving to people waiting in line, before the train makes its last loop on the 12-minute ride.

➤ Operates weekends year-round and weekdays during summer months; \$3 per person ages 2 and up; www.redwoodvalleyrailway.com.

Golden Gate Live Steamers

From the Redwood Valley Railway in Tilden Park, you can spot smaller trains and tracks down the hill. These belong to the Golden Gate Live Steamers, a group of about 250 train enthusiasts dedicated to keeping steam alive, which began in Victor Shattock's Fruitvale basement in 1936. Members use the facility to work on their own locomotives as well as to maintain a public train.

The public train is a narrow-gauge locomotive at 2.5-scale, and its passenger cars are outfitted with wheels made to handle the disproportionate weight. Guests ride single-file as the train chugs slowly through the redwoods, as well as its own miniature cities with casinos, saloons and water towers. Enthusiastic young riders ask many questions about how things work, says group secretary Christopher Smith. "It's awesome to see kids think like that—in an age of technology."

➤ Operates Sundays year-round, weather permitting; donations requested; www.goldengatels.org.



The locomotive on the Golden Gate Live Steamers' public train was built at 2.5-scale.



Train lovers of all ages enjoy the intricate track layouts at Golden State Model Railroad Museum.

Golden State Model Railroad Museum

Visitors can listen to the Southern Pacific train whistle blow as it rounds a grassy curve or watch a mini Union Pacific cruise through the Livermore station as it traverses the 10,000-square-foot museum located across from the park entrance of Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline in Richmond. The exquisitely detailed model train layouts—in three different scales—feature settings and stations from Northern and Central California rumbling over visitors' heads and alongside. Golden State runs freight and passenger trains from the steam-engine era up to modern diesels. The displays are built and operated by the East Bay Model Engineers Society, which was founded in 1933 and is one of the oldest model clubs in the country.

➤ Operates Sundays with trains running from April to December; \$5 per person, ages 12 and up; \$3 for seniors and kids, ages 4–11; www.gsmrm.org.

TOP TO BOTTOM: RICK ZOBELIN, CHRISTOPHER SMITH, EBRPD
BRUCE MAGGREGOR PHOTOGRAPHY (2)

A D A P T I N G T O



Warmer weather. Drier air. Drought. Heavy storms. A rising sea level and changing shoreline.

The effects of climate change are evident throughout California, including in EBRPD. “We get reports from our park supervisors about increased flooding when it rains,” says Brian Holt, principal planner, Advanced Planning. “The drought is attributable to climate change, and we’ve seen impacts with toxic algae blooms, loss of tree species and lower ponds.”

So strategies—from habitat protection to greenhouse gas reduction—are being enacted. “Climate change has affected every aspect of the Park District’s operations,” Holt says. “For example—the Breuner Marsh restoration [recently renamed Dotson Family Marsh] comprising 60 acres of habitat restoration included sea level rise projections in its design and planning.”

EBRPD works with government agencies, nonprofits, consultants and the public to help the parks thrive, taking steps to help slow climate change, such as reducing its carbon footprint. As Holt says, “We’re partnering with different entities in the region to see how we can work together.”

C L I M A T E

THE PARK DISTRICT’S MULTIPRONGED EFFORTS AIM TO PROTECT SHORELINE

COMMUNITIES AND LAKES WHILE HELPING PLANTS AND WILDLIFE THRIVE

IS EL NIÑO ENOUGH?

Winter rains are helping to restore Park District grasses and ponds. But even a robust El Niño in 2016 isn’t likely to erase the effects of California’s current drought, according to the Association of California Water Agencies.

C H A N G E

LEFT TO RIGHT: EBRPD, DAVOR DESANCIC, MICHAEL SHORT



Before

The Park District is adding fuel breaks—gaps between eucalyptus trees—to limit the intensity of any wildfires that might occur.



After

Staying a Step Ahead of Wildfires

The Oakland-Berkeley hills' dry, windy climate and hilly geography have made them prone to wildfires throughout history, and with climate change prompting drought, the area has grown only more vulnerable.

To reduce wildfire risk, the Park District is carefully removing eucalyptus trees, which are non-native and especially dangerous in fires.

"Eucalyptus grow densely, producing lots of fuel for fires, so we want to thin that out," explains Dan McCormick, fire chief at the Park District. Dead eucalyptus trees and limbs, for example, added significant dry fuel for the 1991 Oakland hills fire.

Diseased and dying trees, as well as saplings, are the District's top priority for removal.

The effort is part of the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and

Resource Management Plan, adopted by the Park District's board in 2010. It identifies over 100 treatment areas—mostly small, forested plots within parklands—as fire hazards, based on specific criteria.

"Each treatment area gets a customized prescription," says Jessica Sheppard, resource analyst in the stewardship division. "We've come at them creatively. In areas where we haven't wanted to use heavy equipment, we've used pack mules. On one steep hillside with a nice native habitat, our contractor used a crane to raise downed trees up to the roadway. In another area, we used a helicopter to lift them so they wouldn't be dragged along the ground."

The Park District solicited extensive public feedback while developing the program, and environmental surveys are posted online.

With the eucalyptus thinned, native grasses, shrubs and oaks are expected to return, and forests should become more biologically diverse and healthier. They'll also be safer, as native woodlands and grasslands do not pose the wildfire risk of a dense, towering eucalyptus forest.

This fire prevention program is not without controversy, with special interest groups taking opposing sides: Some want all the eucalyptus removed while others hope to preserve the trees. "Regardless of your position on the eucalyptus, this plan will make the East Bay hills safer, healthier for wildlife and more aesthetically pleasing for park visitors," McCormick says.

EBRPD (2)
DAVOR DESANCIC



Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area, Fremont

Good Algae Gone Bad

One unfortunate result of climate change is toxic blue-green algae, first spotted in the Park District in 2014. Scientists aren't sure what exactly causes algae to become toxic, but it's believed to be linked to warmer temperatures, low water levels and an abundance of nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen.

Toxic blue-green algae has surfaced in lakes and rivers throughout the United States, including the Great Lakes, Ohio River and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. In the East Bay Regional Park District, toxic algae has appeared at Lakes Chabot, Temescal, Anza, and Del Valle and Quarry Lakes. In some cases, the Park District treats the algae with an environmentally safe algaecide and in other cases lets the algae run its course naturally.

"Public health and safety is our top priority," said Hal MacLean, the District's water management supervisor. "We monitor our lakes very closely, and our decisions are based on protecting the public—as well as pets and wildlife—as best we can."

Toxic algae can be harmful to humans and animals, in some cases leading to rashes and gastrointestinal disorders, but it can be fatal to dogs. The Park District has installed signs at impacted lakes throughout the District warning pet owners to keep their dogs out of the water.

The Park District regularly monitors the waters, closing lakes when necessary, and shares its data with regulatory agencies. The hope is that by working together, scientists can discover what's causing the algae to turn toxic, how best to treat affected waterways and how to prevent future blooms.

STAYING SAFE

To stay safe in the water, follow these tips:

- Wash off before and after swimming in natural waters.
- Avoid swimming in waters that have foam, scum or algae mats.
- If you swallow water near an algae bloom and experience stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhea and fever, contact your physician. If your pet was exposed, contact your vet. At home, use phosphorus-free household cleaning products. Phosphorus in the environment is a nutrient for algae.



Left: Park District gardeners are replacing turf with native plants in many areas of the District.

Visit the Regional Parks Botanic Garden to see the ultimate drought-tolerant landscape: a Southern California-inspired rock garden with volcanic boulders and dozens of rare desert natives. Below: The garden was donated in 2015 by the Bonita Garden Club, thanks to a bequest by Frances Whyte, a champion amateur golfer from Oakland who died in 2009 at age 95.



A Smarter Shade of Green

Even the hardiest plants have a tough time during extreme dry spells. “Some of our known drought-resistant species like oaks are starting to dry out and die, and they shouldn’t because they’re not at their natural life span,” says Dania Stoneham, park unit manager. “That’s an eye-opener.”

So in the fall of 2014, the Park District created a drought committee to reduce its water usage. “We’re trying to use plant species that are more drought-tolerant,” Stoneham says. “The benefit of native plants is that they’re born to grow in this environment, so they should not need supplemental watering.”

The committee is also making irrigation systems more efficient. “We made a spreadsheet of different irrigation systems that needed to be modified, and we’re

looking at ways to reduce our lawn footprint,” says Stoneham.

The project is in its early stages, but the Park District has already reduced its water usage by 34 percent and replaced lawns with drought-tolerant plants across the District.

TIPS FOR LOCAL GARDENERS—INCLUDING YOU!

While the Park District does its part to plant more native, drought-resistant vegetation, you can do the same in your own yard and garden. The East Bay has various microclimates, so it’s important to know which plants thrive where you live.

Natural redwood forest habitats are characterized by fog and moisture. “Much of the moisture uptake to the plants is accomplished through the leaves, not through the roots,” explains Bart O’Brien, botanic garden manager at the Park District. “Some principal plants are the western sword fern [*Polystichum munitum*], thimbleberry [*Rubus parviflorus*] and the inside-out flower [*Vancouveria*].”

On the north side of the local slopes are chaparral and scrub environments, with shallow soil and full sun. “The plants often have small, fragrant leaves, like manzanitas and coastal sagebrush,” O’Brien says. “There are also California wild lilacs.”

In grassland environments—with heavier soils, often in full sun—native bunch grasses and other California native grasses thrive, as do many showy wildflowers like California poppies and *Calochortus* or mariposa lilies.

So when planting, remember that native varieties are a great choice. “They’re adapted to the local climate,” O’Brien says. “Also, they’re beautiful plants.”

TOP TO BOTTOM: MICHAEL SHORT, TERESA LEYUNG-RYAN
DOUGHERTY & DOUGHERTY ARCHITECTS

“We’re going to offset about 96 percent of our electricity bill for the entire parks system.”

—JEFF RASMUSSEN, ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER AT THE PARK DISTRICT



Going Off the Grid

Soon, nearly every energy user in the Park District—from administrative offices, to visitor centers, to water-pumping facilities for lagoons and pools—will be powered by the sun.

One of the District’s key sustainability goals is offsetting traditional electricity usage with alternative energy, and solar power is ideal. “The sun shines and the electricity flows,” says Jeff Rasmussen, assistant finance officer at the Park District. “There are no moving parts, and it’s a relatively proven technology.”

But before going solar, the District identified opportunities for reducing its energy usage. “Energy-efficiency programs have about a three- to seven-year return on investment, whereas for solar, the return on investment takes 10 to 15 years,” Rasmussen explains. “We didn’t need to build solar panels in all parks. So we hired a consultant, and they did an assessment of about 800 energy-efficiency projects to do districtwide.”

That done, a 1.2-megawatt solar project is being designed

for Shadow Cliffs that will offset electricity use throughout the entire Park District. To avoid disrupting natural parkland, the solar panels will all be built on three carport structures. In addition, the project includes three plug-in stations for electric vehicles, to further encourage alternative energy use.

The payoff for these efforts will be significant. Says Rasmussen, “We’re going to offset about 96 percent of our electricity bill for the entire parks system.”

DOG Day ☆ Afternoon ☆



AMBASSADOR BIGGES

→ Every dog who visits our parks is special, but none are quite like Bigges (above). Bigges—who earned his name by being the largest in his litter—retrieves plastic bottles and other trash off the trails and brings them to his human companion for recycling.

“He’s a remarkable dog,” says Bigges’ owner, Diane Petersen of Hayward. “But he doesn’t just pick up garbage. He’s great with kids, dogs and other park visitors. He’s just a great ambassador on the trails.”

Petersen trained Bigges to chew on plastic bottles when he was a puppy as a way to discourage him from chewing shoes and furniture. One day when they were hiking at Mission Peak Regional Preserve, Bigges spontaneously collected a few plastic bottles, and a tradition was born. Now he collects trash every time he goes for a walk.

The Park District Board honored Bigges with a proclamation in March, with Board President Doug Siden saying Bigges was a great example of environmental responsibility. So if you see Bigges on the trail, give him a pat and help him pick up trash!



Four-legged fun is easy to come by in East Bay Regional Parks

It’s the weekend at Point Isabel Regional Shoreline, and dogs of every stripe—and spot—frolick in the sunshine. One handsome four-legged fellow even sports a camera mounted on a harness, recording his afternoon visit for posterity. It’s no surprise that people and their pups flock to this scenic waterfront park. After all, where else can your dog socialize with scores of other canines, take a dip in the bay and even get a bath when the fun is over? >>

ELLEN SOOHOO, INSET: DIANE PETERSEN
INSET: ELLEN SOOHOO

On these pages: Exploring the wonders of Point Isabel, from paw to paw



PIDO donates money to the Regional Parks Foundation each year for the purchase of dog waste bags at Pt. Isabel.



Located at the western end of Central Avenue in Richmond, Point Isabel gets more than a million visitors a year, says Scott Possin, regional supervisor of Miller Knox Regional Shoreline. And that's counting just the humans. The rules allow folks to bring up to three dogs at a time. (Professional dog walkers can bring up to six, but they need to get a permit from the Park District.) Still, there's plenty of room for everyone. The 43-acre park has miles of paved walking paths; access to the water; and large, grassy swaths. Dogs can romp off leash in all but a protected marsh area as long as they're under voice control of their person. A few other rules: no harassing of birds at any time, leashes required in the parking lot and no aggressive dogs. Picking up doggie waste is a must, too.

Despite the profusion of pups, the atmosphere is decidedly laid-back. "It's amazing how many dogs are here—big and small—and yet there are so few problems," observes Jerry Yukic, a longtime member of Point Isabel Dog Owners & Friends (PIDO) who brings her companion, Dusty, to the park every day.

Besides exercising their pets, owners enjoy Point Isabel for the camaraderie. "The social aspect is as important as the dog walking," says Yukic. Park regulars have formed strong bonds, and there's always the opportunity to meet new kindred spirits on the patio of the Sit & Stay Cafe. The little restaurant has a diverse menu—including treats for dogs. Next door, Mudpuppy's Tub & Scrub offers bathing services so you can go home with a clean companion.

With all these good vibes, it still must be acknowledged that the park wasn't always the doggie haven that it is today. Decades ago, the site was undeveloped and less frequented by visitors. "Then, in about 1985," Yukic recalls, "75 dedicated folks started

Some Doggie Don'ts

➔ Even though dogs can romp in the vast majority of EBRPD parklands, there are some exceptions, including wildlife protection areas, marshes and ponds. Also, dogs are specifically banned from a small number of park areas, including Ardenwood Historic Farm and the Botanic Garden at Tilden Regional Park, as well as nature study areas, swimming pools and golf courses.

One other caveat: Even in dog-friendly areas, be on the lookout for blue-green algae, which can be toxic to canines. It's been found at several EBRPD parks. Never let your dog swim in those areas or in any area where a warning about the algae is posted. (For more details, see page 9.)

MICHAEL SHORT (2)

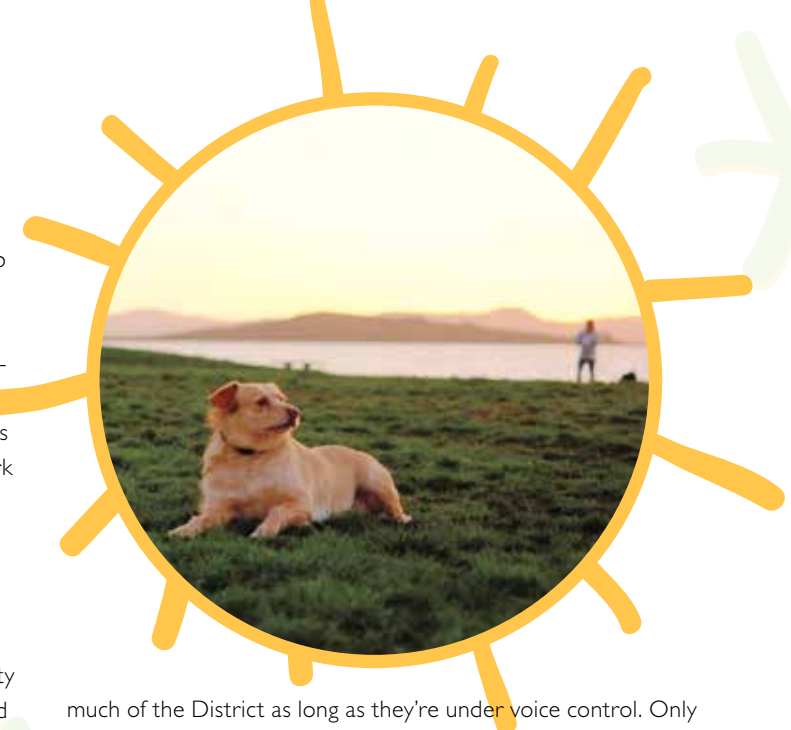
KEVIN NEWMAN

meeting with the Park District to convert Point Isabel to an off-leash dog park." PIDO evolved out of that early advocacy group and now boasts more than 5,000 members.

"The rangers are very supportive," says John Gross, PIDO vice chairperson. "They empty the garbage cans, clean the bathrooms and do minor repairs." The rangers have also stopped using herbicides at the request of park users. Instead, volunteers get together for monthly weed pulls, says Gross, ridding the park of foxtails and other noxious plants. PIDO organizes monthly cleanups, too.

In addition to the work parties, PIDO holds three special events each year, says Marla Miyashiro, PIDO's chairperson. In spring, there's the Easter Egg Hunt for kids. To keep four-legged visitors safe, the plastic eggs hidden throughout the park are empty and are redeemed for treats out of dogs' reach. The Canine Good Citizen Test, under the auspices of the American Kennel Club, challenges dogs on 10 tasks that assess their obedience and nonaggressive temperament. And Barktoberfest is the highlight of fall, when dogs parade in their Halloween finery and prizes are awarded. "Last year we had 75 dogs in costume," says Miyashiro.

Point Isabel may be canine nirvana, "but the East Bay Regional Park District as a whole is one of the most dog-friendly in the country," says Possin. The District's 65 parks, spanning Alameda and Contra Costa counties, have more than 1,000 miles of trails, almost all of which allow dogs. Dogs can even be off leash in



much of the District as long as they're under voice control. Only a few sensitive wildlife areas are off-limits, says Possin, "but those are by far the minority. Provided the rules are followed, we welcome dogs." (See sidebars on these pages for an overview of Park District rules.)

Back at Point Isabel, it's time for a latte from the cafe and a quiet moment enjoying the knockout view. With the sparkling water in the foreground and the Golden Gate Bridge and Mount Tamalpais in the distance, it's easy to forget that the freeway is less than a half-mile away. In this tranquil spot, it's all about the dogs, the friends and a good cup of coffee.

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT DOG RULES

➔ In addition to leash-free Point Isabel, most of the District's 120,000 acres are open to dogs. Keep the following rules in mind for the protection of your pets and out of respect for other park users:

- Carry a leash at all times (under 6 feet in length) for each dog.
- Dogs must remain on leash in all parking lots and developed areas such as picnic sites. Each park is unique, so please follow the rules and signs posted.
- Dogs must remain on leash for at least 200 feet from every trail entrance.
- Off-leash dogs must be under voice control.

- Dogs must be leashed on all trails in Serpentine Prairie of Redwood Regional Park, including a portion of the Dunn Trail.
- Friendly dog play is fine with owner's permission. No running at or jumping on people or other dogs.
- No chasing wildlife.
- Clean up waste: Always carry a bag and dispose of it in a trash can.

For the complete rules, as well as tips, visit www.eparks.org/activities/dogs. Includes a link to download "Dogs in the East Bay Regional Parks—Safety Tips and Rules" (PDF).

Raise a Glass to Our Parks

A new partnership brings together two East Bay favorites for a worthy cause

Enjoying a cold, locally brewed craft beer and exploring the great outdoors have to rank pretty high up on a list of top summer activities for East Bay denizens.

Which is why a collaboration between Drake's Brewing Company and East Bay Regional Park District makes perfect sense, says Amanda Cowles, Drake's events outreach coordinator. The popular San Leandro brewery has always been active in supporting charitable causes but was looking to step up its philanthropic efforts in the form of a special summer release beer, with a percentage of the proceeds donated to a local nonprofit. The only question: Which nonprofit would that be?

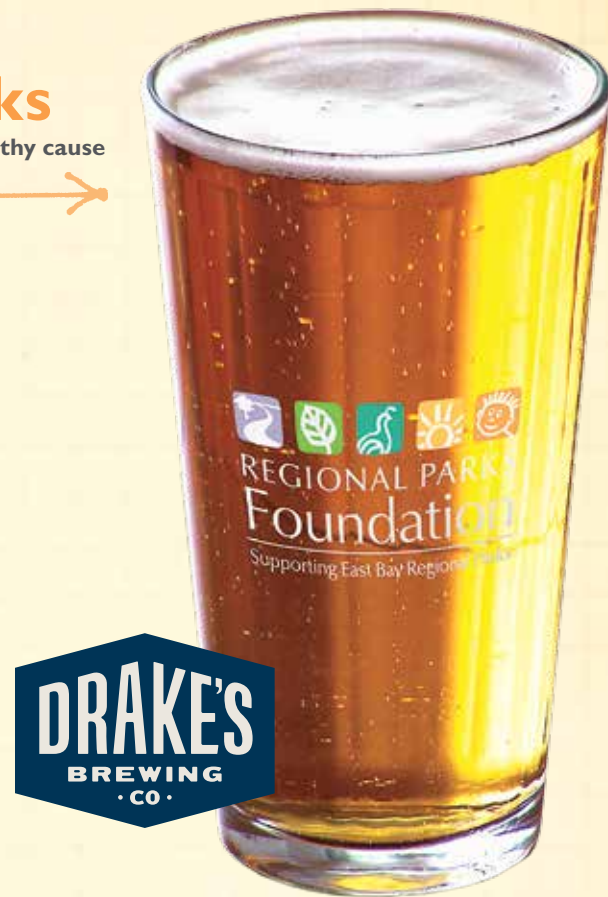
"We're a superactive bunch at Drake's—we love going to the parks. We're very environmentally conscious at the brewery and do our best to conserve resources and manage our waste appropriately," Cowles says. "So as far as aligning with the core values of who we are and what we like to do and support, we knew that we loved recreation and we loved parks—that was something we could all rally around. And that led us to the East Bay Regional Park District."

The brewery then reached out to the Regional Parks Foundation, and the rest is hoppy history. This summer will see the inaugural release of Drake's Kick Back IPA. Proceeds from every bottle popped and draft poured of this juicy, light-bodied and hops-forward brew will help support trail restoration projects at East Bay Regional Parks.

The plan is to throw a release party at Drake's monthly First Friday event in June in San Leandro, as well as hold a second event, likely a group trail cleanup followed by a barbecue, toward the end of the IPA's release run in September. While a final tally is still very much unknown, the two organizations hope to raise \$10,000 by the end of the summer.

Juliana Schirmer, development director for the Regional Parks Foundation, says they were thrilled to have Drake's choose them as a partner—and believes the decision says a lot about the District's and Drake's reputation in the community.

"I think it speaks to what we're hearing: that the parks system is well received and East Bay residents love their parks!" Schirmer says. "And for us, Drake's is local, right here in San Leandro—and they're huge advocates for the environment and urban recreation. So it just seems like a good fit for us to work together. It feels good."



ENJOY DRAKE'S, HELP THE PARKS THIS SUMMER

JUNE 3, 4-8 P.M.

Fundraiser for the Regional Parks Foundation at Drake's Brewing, 1933 Davis St., San Leandro

JUNE 4, 11 A.M.-2 P.M.

Proceeds from Drake's beer sales at the 50th anniversary Lake Chabot celebration to benefit Regional Parks Foundation

JUNE 10, JULY 8, AUG. 12, 5:30-7:30 P.M.

Concerts at the Cove at Crown Memorial State Beach in Alameda. Proceeds from Drake's beer sales to benefit Regional Parks Foundation



HONORING PHILIP SCHOLZ
The Regional Parks Foundation would like to offer a special thanks to family and friends of Philip Scholz, a 35-year-old Pleasanton man who died while trying to rescue a suicidal man from train tracks in 2014. In honor of Scholz, his family and friends created the Phil Scholz Memorial Foundation. They've raised more than \$80,000 toward their goal of \$120,000 to build new trails at Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, one of Scholz's favorite spots to hike with his wife and dog.

➤ **To donate to the Phil Scholz Pleasanton Ridge Fund, go to www.regionalparksfoundation.org or call (510) 544-2212.**

LEFT TO RIGHT: EMILY SCHOLZ, DEANE LITTLE



Redwood Regional Park, Oakland

LEAVE A LEGACY

Gifts to the Foundation are as varied as the park members who leave them

For many, estate planning is a daunting task that is preferably avoided. But the Regional Parks Foundation can help. We offer free estate planning seminars, and many park visitors and Regional Parks Foundation supporters have chosen to remember the Foundation in their bequests. It's a chance to leave a legacy, to be remembered and to make a difference to a cause that matters most to you.

Each year, the Foundation receives many bequests to support the East Bay Regional Parks. The range and types of gifts are as varied as the park members who leave them. They include cash, stocks, real estate, IRAs, charitable trusts and more, all supporting important work to preserve open space, maintain trails, and keep the parks beautiful and accessible for future generations.

Dr. Norma Solarz is a longtime park supporter and volunteer who has decided to leave a bequest in her will to support Redwood Regional Park—because it's her favorite. Solarz first visited Redwood Regional over 30 years ago when a friend invited her to come out for a walk, and she fell in love. "The beautiful redwoods, plants and flowers, the variety of trails and lovely people—I was hooked," she says. She kept asking herself, "Really? This is just up the hill? What a treasure!"

Solarz, a longtime Oakland resident, recently retired from her 30-plus-year career as a dentist providing care for underserved members of the community at La Clinica de la Raza, a community health clinic.

"Oakland is an urban city, with real urban problems, and the parks offer a close place to get away for a little while," she says. "The parks have been a real gift in my life. I have gone when I'm happy, when I'm sad, when I'm not well and when I need to heal. I'm very fortunate to have access to these special places, and my legacy gift is my chance to give back and make sure others have the access I have had."

Solarz is incredibly grateful that those who came before her had the foresight to set money aside to protect open space and develop parklands. Now it's her turn to continue that legacy, she says.

"I would have been happy if my gift was anonymous," she says, "but if sharing my story inspires others or helps people learn ways they can have a lasting impact on the parks, I'm all for it."

➤ **For more information on how you can make a legacy gift or attend a free estate planning seminar, visit www.regionalparksfoundation.org/plannedgiving or call 510-544-2212.**

CANDID CAMERA

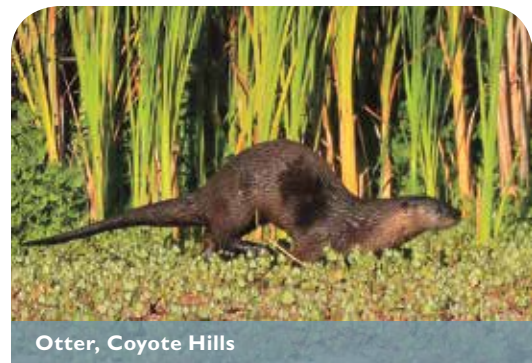
We're able to capture some amazing creatures on film through the use of remote cameras and the quick-witted camera work of EBRPD staff members and the public who happen upon wildlife in the field.



Badger, location unknown (common east of Mt. Diablo)



Red Mink, location unknown (common at Big Break Regional Shoreline)



Otter, Coyote Hills



Brush rabbit, Coyote Hills Regional Park

With its 120,000 acres of open space, the Park District provides habitat to thousands of wild animals, from the tiny, endangered salt marsh harvest mouse to the largest mountain lion.



Fox, Hayward Regional Shoreline



Coyote, Sunol Regional Wilderness

SPECIAL EVENTS

Enjoy Drake's, Help the Parks

Sales from Drake's special summer release beer will benefit the Regional Parks Foundation. Inaugural release party is at Drake's Brewery, 1933 Davis St., San Leandro, June 3, 4–8 p.m. Drake's beer sales at Lake Chabot fest and Concerts at the Cove (see below) will also benefit RPF. www.RegionalParksFoundation.org/kickback

Lake Chabot 50th Anniversary Celebration Festival and Fishing Derby Kick-Off

This day of family fun includes a marina fishing derby with prizes (starting at 7 a.m.), paddleboat races, fishing clinics and kids' fishing area, lake tours, nature hikes, entertainment, barbecue and more. Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Lake Chabot Regional Park in Castro Valley. Free.

Concerts at the Cove

Enjoy the sounds of summer as the annual concert series returns to Crab Cove at Crown Memorial Beach, Alameda. Bring a picnic dinner, or purchase treats from vendors on-site at the free, family-friendly event. Check the website at www.ebparks.org for this year's lineup. Fridays, June 10, July 8 and Aug. 12; concert 5:30–7:30 p.m., preceded by a family activity at 4:30 p.m.

Butterfly & Bird Festival

Celebrate these beautiful and useful pollinators at the Butterfly & Bird Festival held at Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont. Join guided walks, tour the butterfly garden, see slideshows, create crafts, and more. The fun begins 10 a.m., Sunday, June 5, and goes until 3:30 p.m. Free event! Parking \$5. For more information, call 510-544-3220.

Independence Day

Brush up on your seed-spitting and pie-eating skills, and you just might go home with a coveted blue ribbon from the old-fashioned Independence Day celebration at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont. Celebrate America's 240th birthday with live music, games and contests all day, July 4, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. \$10/adults, \$8/seniors, \$5 children (ages 4–17); under age 4, free.

Cajun/Zydeco Festival

If it's August, then it's time for the Cajun/Zydeco Festival, bringing the best of Louisiana sounds (and flavors) to Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont. This year's event will be held Saturday, Aug. 13, from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Check the EBRPD website for ticket info and entertainment schedule—and save room for some delicious Southern and Cajun food!



Butterfly & Bird Festival

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.



Sand Castle and Sculpture Contest

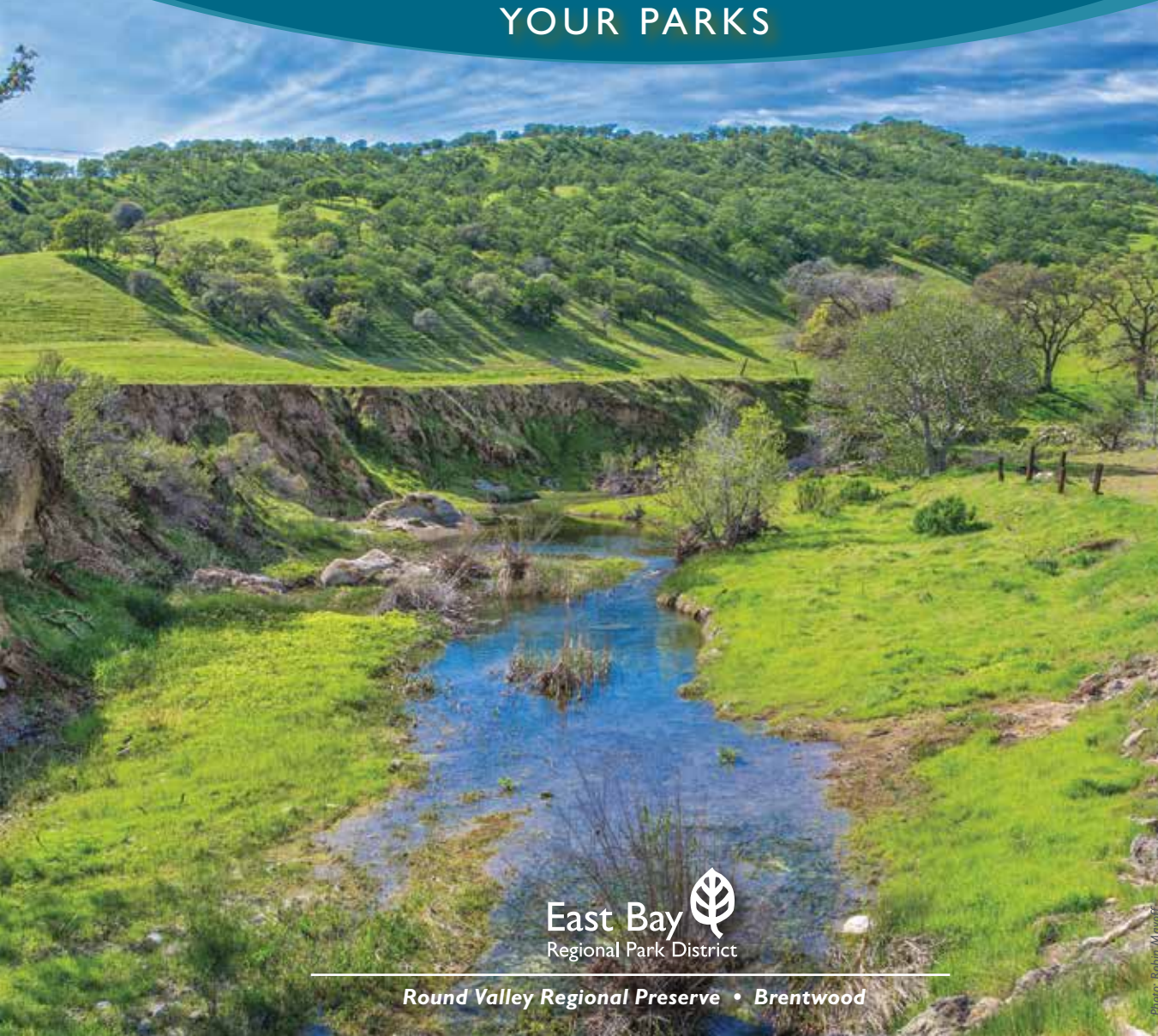
Glory, fame, it can all be yours—at least until the tide comes in. Kids, families and adult teams are all welcome to create their sand masterpieces at the annual Sand Castle and Sculpture Contest at Crown Memorial State Beach in Alameda. Register at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 11. Viewing and judging happen at noon; awards are presented at 1 p.m. There is no fee to enter.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LARRY LAMSA, JERRY TING, STEVE BOBZIEN, HAYWARD SHORELINE PARK STAFF, LISA WILLIAMS, BRENDAN LALLY
TOP TO BOTTOM: GREG STEFFES, ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARKS DEPT.

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Photo: Robin Wagner