

Protecting People and Parks

In 2019, the Park District's professional police, fire, and lifeguard services staff responded to 19,891 calls for services, including 22 fires, 110 helicopter water drops, 291 agency assists, and 1,216 Ordinance 38 violations. Lifeguards provided 338 first aid assists, 43 medical rescues, and 56 water rescues. Lifeguard services also continued prevention efforts in 2019



with 41,582 swim tests, 17,063 swim lessons, and 29,545 loaner life jackets provided. There were no drownings at guarded park facilities for the 10th consecutive year.

Wildfire Protection, Forest Management:

- Added new eight-person fire hazard reduction crew dedicated year-round to reducing fire fuels in parks.
- Added two fuels reduction coordinators to manage large fuels reduction projects.
- Helped establish the North Orinda Fuel Break from Briones Regional Park near Lafayette to Tilden Regional Park near Orinda.

Eliminating Roundup in Developed Park Areas:

Underscoring the importance of health and safety for all of our visitors and staff, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to eliminate the use of the pesticide glyphosate in all developed park areas.

Connecting People with Nature

In 2019, the Park District worked in partnership with the Regional Parks Foundation to connect people with nature, especially youth in under-resourced communities. In total, the Park District served 255,988 people through organized interpretive and recreation programs, including 63,847 students through 2,049 class field trips. Recreation staff also served 458 day camp participants. The Park District's visitor centers saw 253,388 in total attendance in 2019.

Volunteers also play a vital role in connecting visitors with nature. In 2019, 12,020 volunteers contributed over 93,000 hours of service to improve parks, assist Public Safety, and represent the District at local community events.

Restoring Nature

In 2019, the District initiated or completed numerous studies and habitat restoration projects to maintain a healthy ecosystem for wildlife and habitat. Projects included habitat restoration at Bay Point Regional Shoreline, Upper San Leandro Creek restoration and public access improvements at Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve (groundbreaking in 2020), California least tern habitat enhancement at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, monarch butterfly habitat enhancement at Oyster Bay, and creek restoration at Tilden Regional Park (in partnership with Urban Tilth).

The Park District also continues to evaluate the impacts of climate change on Regional Parks, including leading a regional study to assess the impacts of sea-level rise on the Bay Trail; and working on a joint Hayward Shoreline Master Plan with the City of Hayward and Hayward Area Recreation and Park District to evaluate sea-level rise impacts and possible solutions along the Hayward shoreline.



Western Snowy Plover

Awards

In 2019 the Park District received recognition and awards including:

- Outstanding Innovations Award from California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) for Park Prescriptions and Stay Healthy In Nature Every Day (SHINE) programs.
- Creating Community Award of Excellence from California Parks & Recreation Society (CPRS) for Park Prescriptions and SHINE.
- General Manager Robert Doyle received General Manager of the Year award from the California Special Districts Association and a 2019 Local Heroes Award from the Bay Nature Institute.
- Park Prescriptions and SHINE programs featured in PBS News Hour segment "Why Doctors Are Prescribing Nature."
- Naturalist Ashley Adams received the Outstanding New Interpreter award from the National Association for Interpretation (NAI).



Regional Parks Foundation: Celebrating 50 Years

The Regional Parks Foundation celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2019. Thanks to a generous donation of land in Pleasanton by the Henry J. Kaiser Sand and Gravel Company in 1969, the Regional Parks Foundation was born. That land donation created Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area.

Today, the Regional Parks Foundation continues to support Park District parks and raise funds to support universal access, environmental stewardship, education and recreation programs, and the acquisition of new parklands. In 2019, the Regional Parks Foundation increased membership to 11,500 members and raised more than \$5.3 million!



East Bay
Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
T: 1-888-EBPARKS
F: 510-569-4319
ebparks.org

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.

Vision

The District envisions an extraordinary and well-managed system of open space parkland in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, which will forever provide the opportunity for a growing and diverse community to experience nature nearby.

East Bay
Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Miller/Knox Regional
Shoreline, Richmond
Photo: Michael Short

COMMUNITY REPORT 2019-2020



Expanding Access and
Keeping Parks Safe for All



Expanding Access and Keeping Parks Safe for All

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ROBERT E. DOYLE

2019 was a landmark year for the Park District as we celebrated our 85th Anniversary and the Regional Parks Foundation's 50th Anniversary.

The Park District continued its mission to preserve natural and cultural resources, and provide quality parks, trails, healthful recreation, and environmental education – with the primary goal of keeping parks and people safe while expanding access for diverse park users.

Some key activities and accomplishments include:

Anniversary Celebrations

We celebrated the Park District's 85th anniversary and the Regional Parks Foundation's 50th anniversary throughout the year with Free Park Fridays, a half-dozen concerts, a free arts and music festival, and a Gala fundraiser for the Foundation. We also published a commemorative book featuring beautiful photographs of our East Bay parklands.

Wildfire and Public Safety

In a year of high fire danger resulting in mass power shutoffs and unprecedented closure of parks and trails, EBRPD protected life and property by responding to fires throughout the East Bay and the state and proactively reducing fire fuels in our parks. We added an 8-person fuels reduction crew and two coordinators dedicated to decreasing forest density and increasing safety in our parks.

New Regional Park Opening in Concord

After two decades of advocacy, we accepted the transfer of more than 2,200 acres of former Concord Naval Weapons Station land from the U.S. Navy and National Park Service. Planning has begun on the new Concord Hills Regional Park with the first public access to the southern portion of trails scheduled to open soon.

New Regional Park Opening in Oakland

The public got its first preview of the new 45-acre Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline in September 2019. Set to open this spring, JJS Regional Shoreline is nestled just southeast of the Bay Bridge in west Oakland and will provide the public access to this portion of the shoreline for the

first time in over 100 years. The park will feature vistas of the San Francisco Bay and city skylines, the historic Bridge Yard Building event center, a 600-foot pier, and access to the Bay Bridge Bike Trail.

Whitney Dotson

2019 also marked the retirement of Board Director Whitney Dotson, Ward 1. During his term, Director Dotson advocated for several significant projects in his ward, including the construction of the Atlas Road Bridge and restoration of the Dotson Family Marsh at Point Pinole, completion of the Bay Trail between Pinole Shores and Bayfront Canyon at Albany Beach. Sadly, Whitney passed away at his home on January 8, 2020.

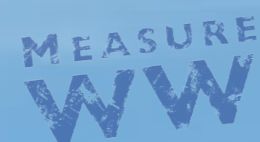
Looking forward, we will continue to provide quality recreational opportunities, preserve open space, and keep people and parks safe. Thank you for supporting your East Bay Regional Parks.



Director Whitney Dotson

INVESTING IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES:

EBRPD Provides Close to \$100 Million in 10 Years



In 2019, the Park District issued a 10-year report on the Measure WW Local Grant Program. Approved in 2008, Measure WW provides \$500 million in bond funding for enhancement and expansion of regional parks and protection of open space with \$125 million allocated to cities and local park districts throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties on a per-capita basis to address critical park and recreation needs. To date, a total of \$96.8 million in WW local grants has been leveraged with local, state, and federal funds to complete 170 local park and recreation improvement projects valued at \$324 million – a 277% return on investment.

99% Consider EBRPD a Valuable Public Resource

The Park District conducted a comprehensive community survey of over 8,000 residents, with 99% viewing East Bay Regional Parks as a valuable public resource. The survey evaluated community views on a number of topics including preferred park activities, reasons for visiting, and visitor amenities. The survey provided valuable feedback that will help guide future decisions.

Preferred Park Activity:

- 79% ♦ Hiking
- 36% ♦ Dog Walking
- 34% ♦ Picnicking

Reasons for Visiting:

- 38% ♦ Physical Health
- 27% ♦ Stress Relief/Relaxation
- 15% ♦ Time with Family and Friends

Desired Amenities:

1. Water Bottle Filling Stations
2. Recycling/Compost Containers
3. Additional Restrooms



Access for All – 2019 Milestones

- 1 Albany Beach Bay Trail Extension and Beach Restoration** – Constructed a new one-mile segment of the Bay Trail near Albany Beach, creating a continuous 18-mile segment from Oakland to Richmond.
- 2 Black Diamond Mines Coal Mine Exhibit** – Installed a new underground exhibit to provide visitors with an immersive learning experience complete with the sights and sounds of a working 1870s-era coal mine.
- 3 Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline Bay Observation Pier** – Previewed new shoreline regional park at the Oakland base of the Bay Bridge, including a 600-foot observation pier constructed by the Bay Area Toll Authority. Opening Spring 2020.
- 4 Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline Public Access** – Obtained a court ruling holding that Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) does not have rights to reactivate a dormant rail line that could threaten access to the shoreline.
- 5 Bay Point Regional Shoreline Habitat Restoration and Public Access Improvements** – Restored marsh habitat and constructed public access improvements that enhanced recreational opportunities in eastern Contra Costa County.
- 6 Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline Disc Golf Course** – Constructed an 18-hole Frisbee disc golf course. Opening Fall 2020.
- 7 Crab Cove Visitor Center Expansion** (Crown Memorial State Beach) – Converted former office space into an educational wet lab for interpretive programs.



Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park, Oakland



Bay Observation Pier, Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline

Expanding Parks

- A Dumbarton Quarry Campground by the Bay at Coyote Hills** – Continued construction of the Park District's first shoreline campground with a grand opening expected in early 2021.
- B Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline** – Named the new 45-acre shoreline park after former Park District board member and East Bay civic and environmental leader John Sutter. Opening Spring 2020.
- C Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park** – Renamed the park in honor of Dr. Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, the Park District's only female founding Board member, elected in 1934.
- D Coyote Hills Restoration and Public Access Project** – Approved Land Use Plan Amendment adding 300 acres for public access and habitat protection.
- E Southern Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Land Use Plan Amendment** – Finalizing Land Use Plan Amendment to expand public access within 750 acres in southern Las Trampas, including additional park access points, trailheads, parking, and trail connections. Approval expected in 2020.
- F McCosker Stream Restoration and Public Access Project** (Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve) – Secured \$5.5 million for the largest creek restoration project in the Park District's history, including restoration of 3,000 feet of creek habitat and public access improvements. The District thanks Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for obtaining \$4 million in the 2019 state budget.
- G Berkeley Brickyard** (McLaughlin Eastshore State Park) – Finalized plans for the restoration of habitat and improved shoreline access at the Brickyard site, including parking, restrooms, water fountains, and walking paths. Groundbreaking expected Summer 2020.
- H Lone Tree Point** – Finalized plans for a half-mile extension of the Bay Trail from Rodeo to Hercules. Groundbreaking expected Spring 2020.

Managing for Fiscal Success/Fiscal Stability

Throughout the Park District's long history, financial decisions have been driven by sustainable, conservative policies. In recent years, the District has adopted policies to maintain long-term financial stability, while funding existing services, park improvements, and facility and infrastructure needs.

2019 accomplishments include:

- Passage of \$275.9 million balanced budget, including a \$1 million contribution to the District's pension trust to stabilize and minimize future pension costs.
- Appropriation of over \$40 million for dozens of capital projects throughout the Park District.
- 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 annual economic benefit with every \$1 spent by the District yielding a \$4 return.