

**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Parks Department



**DATE:** May 27, 2014

**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** June 5, 2014

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Carla Schoof, Community Programs Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Report on Volunteer and Community Programs

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and accept report.

**BACKGROUND:**

Program updates and items of interest to the Commission.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Volunteer Activities**

In the third quarter of this fiscal year, 6,034 volunteer hours were contributed to the Parks Department. This amount is very close to what was reported in the same quarter last year. Approximately two-thirds of the volunteer hours represent the volunteer service provided by Friends and other partner groups.

A day of service in honor of Martin Luther King was held at Flood County Park on January 22. More than 120 volunteers, including youth with the Sheriff's Activity League (SAL), Friends of Flood Park members, youth sports groups and other community members groomed and leveled the baseball field, sanded and painted bleachers, removed weeds and trimmed overgrown shrubs, and painted curbs at the park. The Parks Department and SAL hosted a barbeque following the work. During the same quarter, students from the College of San Mateo volunteered two days at Junipero Serra Park and students from the German American School in Menlo Park volunteered at Flood Park in January, February and March.

Volunteers with the new Devil's Slide Trail Ambassador program were pressed into service even before the Trail opened on March 27. Three training sessions were held in February and early March in order for the volunteers to become familiar with trail

regulations, communications procedures, and park radio use. In addition, the Trail Ambassadors played an important role in assisting the Department in meeting its requirement to observe and document the behavior of the pair of Peregrine Falcons that are resident nesters on the cliffs. Ambassadors also served as hosts to groups that were invited to see the trail before the opening. Forty-one volunteers have completed training and are patrolling the trail. Ten additional volunteers will receive training in early June. To date, the ambassadors have received one enrichment presentation on Devil's Slide geology. Other enrichment sessions will be scheduled. The Devil's Slide Trail Ambassador program is partially funded by the California Coastal Conservancy.

### **Community Activities**

Memorial Park 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration begins on Saturday, June 28 with a special viewing of the recently renovated Nature Center. Katherine Wright, newly appointed Ranger II, spent months collecting materials, including taxidermy provided by CuriOdyssey, to enhance the exhibits. She also devoted considerable time researching the natural history of the park and the area and creating new displays. Katherine drew on her experience as the summer naturalist at the park for the past several years while completing this project.

The first hike of our 2014 Take A Hike season was held at San Bruno Mountain on April 5. It was well attended with more than 80 hikers joining rangers and volunteers from San Bruno Mountain Watch. Dr. Eshwar Kapur, sports medicine specialist with Kaiser Permanente, shared tips on exercise and the importance of stretching and hydration. He led the group through several warm-up exercises before the hikers began the 3-mile hike up Summit Loop Trail. On Saturday, June 7, the third hike of the season will be held at Coyote Point Recreation Area. Hikers should meet at 9 a.m. on the Bay Trail near the Coyote Point Yacht Club.