



Napa County
Regional Park and Open Space District

Seventh Year Report



Thanks for Creating Ridge Trail Miles in Napa County



Dedicated to the
preservation and enjoyment
of the natural resources
of Napa County

March 27, 2014



Bothe Napa Valley State Park



Napa County Regional Park
and Open Space District

Introduction

Seven is an auspicious number in the numerology of many cultures, and seven was an auspicious year for the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District.

The District opened Moore Creek Park—the first new regional park in Napa County in 40 years—in June of 2013. At the urging of the District and other local supporters, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council adopted a new “Go North” alignment for the Bay Area Ridge Trail that better serves Napa Valley residents and takes advantage of land conservation successes of the past decade. Moore Creek Park added several miles of new trail along this new alignment. Then in November four miles of the Oat Hill Mine Trail were also dedicated as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

In partnership with the Napa Valley State Parks Association, the District continued successful management of two State Parks for a second year. To expand the customer base and increase revenues, seven yurts were added to the three that had previously been installed. Repairs to six historic cabins were begun, with the intent of making them available to the public for overnight use. And the historic Wright House was repaired and is now generating revenue for the park as a month-to-month rental. In addition to these physical (and financial) improvements, interpretive and educational programs at the two parks were maintained and expanded, and plans are now in the works to further grow these programs in 2014.

Construction plans for Camp Berryessa were completed and submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation for final approval, with construction scheduled for the summer of 2014. And planning for the District’s 2,500 acre Spanish Valley holding got underway with biological surveys and mapping of existing conditions.

The District’s partnership with the County of Napa, through which the County provides some funding and selected professional services to the District, has been essential to the success of the District. Since formation of the District, Napa County has provided 25 percent of the District’s overall revenues. The District has matched these County funds at a 3:1 ratio with other grants, donations and volunteer support.

Volunteer support and in-kind donations continue to be essential to the success of the District. Since the formation of the District, volunteers have provided nearly 24,000 hours of service worth over \$485,000. The amount of volunteer support has grown each year since District formation: for calendar year 2013 volunteers provided over 5,350 hours of assistance with an estimated value of over \$107,000.

Despite strong support from volunteers and the County of Napa, the District is reaching the limits of what it can accomplish with current levels of funding. The Board of Directors has authorized the formation of a broad-based citizens advisory committee to evaluate progress to date and develop recommendations on how to obtain the funding necessary to meet the public’s hopes for the District.

The balance of this report provides an update on the District’s on-the-ground projects, then a discussion of the District’s capacity building and administrative efforts, and finally a discussion about the District’s future direction.

Projects

The seventh year was an extremely busy one for the District. Described below are the major projects the District worked on in 2013.

1. Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park

A major accomplishment for the District in 2013 was the continued successful management of these two parks, which it has operated in partnership with the Napa Valley State Parks Association since April of 2012.

When State Parks ran the two parks, it spent two dollars for every one dollar in revenue that the parks generated; the District, by contrast, must make the two parks financially self-sustaining. To do this, the District has been working to increase revenues without raising basic user fees. In 2012 the District helped State Parks complete the installation of three yurts, and in 2013 the District installed seven additional yurts, repaired the historic Wright House for use as month-to-month rental housing, and started repairs on six historic cabins with the intent of making them available to the public as overnight rentals.

The District also performed extensive deferred maintenance, and obtained grant funds to repair the roofs on the Bale Grist Mill Granary, the Visitor Center and several other historic buildings. Overall, the District spent an estimated \$129,000 during 2013 on addressing deferred maintenance and installing the yurts.

In addition to the physical operation of the two parks, through its partnership with the Napa Valley State Parks Association, interpretive activities at the parks were maintained and even expanded. These include Old Mill Days, Harvest Festival, Pioneer Christmas, a youth leadership summer camp, a new monthly Music at the Mill, and a new annual event demonstrating traditional forestry tools and practices.

Next Steps: Complete sufficient repairs and ADA modifications for six cabins to be able to make them available for public use in 2014. Also in 2014, Install new roofs on up to 10 buildings, and resurface the day use area driveway. Finally, participate in what is expected to be extensive discussion and debate at the state level about the future of State Parks and local partnerships such as ours.



A volunteer demonstrates traditional grain processing techniques to the next generation of stewards of our precious natural and cultural resources.

2. **Moore Creek Park** (Moore Creek and Lake Hennessey Units)

A significant milestone was reached with the opening of Moore Creek Park to the public in June of 2013.

Moore Creek Park consists of 673 acres of biologically rich habitat in the Moore Creek watershed owned by the District, including 3 miles of year-round Moore Creek and six miles of trails for hikers, mountain bicyclists and equestrians. The park is a rich mixture of habitats, including Oak woodlands, grasslands, Madrone and Douglas Fir forest, and chemise chaparral.

In the past year the District has constructed a total of just over two miles of trails at Moore Creek. During 2012 the District had constructed about one mile of the planned Valentine Vista Trail, and in 2013 completed another mile of this trail, leaving a one-mile gap that should be finished by the summer of 2014. In 2013 the District also obtained all approvals from the City of Napa to extend the park to include 900 acres of oak woodland owned by the City on the north side of Lake Hennessey, and constructed a half-mile trail connecting this area with the Moore Creek Park staging area. Separately, volunteers completed another half-mile loop trail at the north end of the park, as well as a spur trail to an overlook and then to some lovely pools carved into the rock by Moore Creek.

In addition to recreational and habitat improvements, the District installed an environmentally safe engineered septic system, and a drinking water purification system, for the ranch house within the park, painted the exterior of the gatehouse at the entrance to the park, and graded and graveled the staging area.

Next Steps: Install signs, fencing and two horse watering locations, and open the Lake Hennessey unit of Moore Creek Park by the summer of 2014. Also by the summer of 2014, complete the Valentine Vista Trail. Complete scouting and begin construction of the Madrone Footpath before the end of the year. In future years, construct several miles of additional trails in the Lake Hennessey Unit.

3. **Blue Ridge - Berryessa Peak Trail**

Volunteers completed this nearly sixteen mile round trip trail connecting Knoxville-Berryessa Road with Berryessa Peak. The trail was made possible by an easement donated by John and Judy Ahmann on their ranch east of Lake Berryessa that connects and makes accessible thousands of acres of what up to now has been inaccessible federal land, including miles of dramatic Blue Ridge and the top of Berryessa Peak. Construction is now complete except for



Moore Creek Park was opened with poetry by County Supervisor Brad Wagenknecht



Berryessa Peak Trail volunteers take a deserved rest.

two fence crossings and some directional signage.

Next Steps: Obtain approval from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for proposed signage and fence crossings which will be on DFW property. Once approval is obtained, install the improvements, and officially open then trail to the public.

4. Camp Berryessa

The District has raised \$1.55 million in grants, completed environmental review and obtained Bureau of Reclamation approval to construct an outdoor education camp for students and other groups, with an ultimate capacity of 125 people at a time. The camp will be located on the Putah Creek arm of Lake Berryessa.

Phase I will accommodate approximately 60 people, with up to 8 people in each of 8 tent cabins. The tent cabins are located in two clusters, with each cluster served by a common cooking and eating area and a combination toilet/shower facility. To conserve water and energy, the toilets will utilize state-of-the-art composting technology. Solar panels will provide most of the electricity needed by the camp.

All discretionary permits have been obtained, and construction plans and bid specifications are complete and are now undergoing final review by Reclamation. The District has most of the funding needed for construction of phase one, but will need to either reduce the scope of phase one or obtained some additional grant funding.

Next Steps: Obtain Bureau of Reclamation approval of construction drawings, close the funding shortfall, and begin construction in the summer of 2014.

5. Napa River and Bay Trail

Construction of Phase I of the Napa River and Bay Trail was completed in early 2012. Phase I included a 2.5 mile loop trail around the closed American Canyon landfill, and a 2.1 mile trail heading north to Green Island Road. These seamlessly connect with another trail from Wetland Edge Drive to the Napa River completed by the City of American Canyon in 2011. The District and the City of American Canyon share management responsibility for these trails.

Extending the trail north of Green Island Road has been the primary focus during 2013. The California Department of Fish

and Wildlife (DFW) committed as part of their restoration of the former Cargill Salt Plant site to provide an upland area which would serve as a future Runway Safety Area; the trail is planned to be constructed on the perimeter of this upland area. Unfortunately, DFW partially constructed but



Myrna Abramowicz, Ward 1 Director from 2007 to 2012, was a champion of the Napa River and Bay Trail. Here she is sitting next to Congressman Mike Thompson at the dedication of the Phase I trail network in American Canyon.

did not complete the upland area. Without this upland area, there is no safe location for the trail as proposed. The District has been working with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Association of Bay Area Government's San Francisco Bay Trail Project, the Napa County Airport, and State legislators in an attempt to find a solution to both the Runway Safety Area and the trail project.

Separately, the District in 2013 received preliminary approval of a grant to complete the section of the Napa River and Bay Trail further to the north, between the Napa Pipe project and Soscol Ferry Road. This section of the Napa River and Bay Trail also serves as a link in the Vine Trail.

Next Steps: Construct the 0.8 mile section of the trail between Napa Pipe and Soscol Ferry Road in the summer of 2014. Continue to seek DFW cooperation in permitting the trail north of Green Island Road next to Pond 10. Work with the Bay Trail Project in developing a new smart phone-based interpretive program.

6. Oat Hill Mine Trail

In 2008 the Napa County Board of Supervisors exercised the County's retained easement rights to just over 8 miles of the former Oat Hill Mine Road (between Calistoga and Aetna Springs Road), and entered into an agreement with the District for the District to manage the historic road as a public non-motorized route. Since that time the District with the help of volunteers has maintained the trail, including constructing water bars and drain dips to reduce soil erosion, trimming encroaching vegetation, maintaining signs and information kiosks, and cleaning of occasional litter.



The Oat Hill Mine Trail offers incredible views of the Napa Valley and surrounding mountains.

The District together with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council dedicated the 4 miles of the Oat Hill Mine Trail between Calistoga and the Holms Place as a section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail at a ceremony in November 2013.

The Oat Hill Mine Road north of Aetna Spring Road still exists, but has been closed to the public since the 1970's. Along this northern section are the relics of three mercury mines. The non-profit organization Tuleyome is working with the property owner to clean up two of the abandoned mines. If the clean-up is successful, the District will consider opening the remainder of the Oat Hill Mine Trail, from Aetna Springs to the Lake County line, as a non-motorized recreational route. In addition, the district is working with the property owner to secure an easement or fee title ownership to a portion on the property that would allow the District to construct a backcountry camp accessed via the Oat Hill Mine Trail.

Next Steps: The District will continue to partner with Tuleyome and the affected property owner on the cleanup of the Twin Peaks and Corona Mines and the potential development of a backcountry camp south of the Twin Peaks Mine along with the opening of the northern section of the Oat Hill Mine Trail.

7. Napa River Ecological Reserve

The District continues to manage the entryway portion of this 73 acre State-owned reserve on the Yountville Cross Road. This includes weekly litter pick-up and graffiti removal, and periodic mowing around the parking area and the trails. The District contracts with Options3, a local non-profit organization serving mentally-challenged young adults, to perform this weekly cleanup using its resident clients and staff. Options3 uses the revenues to enhance programming for its clients.

The District is also into the fifth year of a long-term effort to combine environmental education and habitat restoration at the Reserve. The project involves removing invasive plants from the reserve's entryway meadow, restoring the area with native trees, shrubs and grasses, and installing a small self-guided nature trail. Work on the restoration has been performed by a combination of numerous school classes, volunteer organizations, the California Conservation Corps, and private contractors. Grant funding to support this youth outdoor education has come from the State Coastal Conservancy and Napa County's Wildlife Commission.



Students learning to recognize and remove teasel and other invasive weeds.

Next Steps: Seek new funding to continue the environmental education and restoration program when current grants run out in June 2014.

8. Putah Creek Properties (Spanish Valley, Crystal Flat and Stone Corral)

In January of 2012 the District took possession of 2,790 acres of open land donated by Bob and Evalyn Trincherro. The donation consists of the 1,900 acre Spanish Valley holding, the 684 acre Crystal Flats holding, and the 206 acre Stone Corral holding.

Since then, the District has performed biological surveys of the properties, worked on various property boundary, water rights and access issues, and repaired the well and pump that supplies water to a metal building in Spanish Valley. Working with the non-profit organization Tuleyome, which is constructing the Pope to Putah trail on BLM land to the south of Spanish Valley, the District has begun to flag a trail route linking Spanish Valley to the Pope To Putah Trail and to Walter Hill.

In 2013 the District almost completed the transfer from BLM to the District of 480 acres of land between Spanish Valley and Lake Berryessa Estates. In addition to enabling a trail connection between Lake Berryessa Estates and Spanish Valley, the property transfer will also enable Napa County to construct and operate a fire sub-station on the property, which should substantially improve fire safety for those residents, as well as reduce fire insurance premiums.

The District in 2013 also continued discussions with the Lake Berryessa Estates Property Owners Association about shared use of Crystal Flats and Stone Corral.

In addition to their inherent resource values, the Putah Creek properties have great potential for outdoor recreation, including hiking, horseback riding, mountain bicycling, wildlife viewing, camping, swimming and kayaking. The Spanish Valley holding connects to several thousand acres of federal land, offering the potential for a very extensive network of trails including a connection to Pope Canyon Road to the south.

Next Steps: For Spanish Valley, the next steps are to resolve access issues, develop the plan for the property, and obtain a Use Permit from Napa County. The goal is to open Spanish Valley to the general public for no-motorized recreation in 2014. For Crystal Flats and Stone Corral, the next step is to finalize an agreement between the District and the Lake Berryessa Estates Property Owners Association regarding shared use of these areas. The terms of that agreement will guide future District actions.



Putah Creek flowing through Crystal Flats

9. Berryessa Vista Wilderness Park

This 224 acre property on the southern side of Lake Berryessa was acquired by the District in 2007. Since that time, volunteers have prepared GPS-based maps showing existing trails, springs, overlooks and potential camping areas, and District volunteers have periodically monitored the park. The park at this time is only accessible by boat from Lake Berryessa. The District has also continued to work with other partners investigating the potential purchase of several parcels between existing public lands which would if acquired allow overland access to Berryessa Vista.

Illegal off-road vehicle use has been a problem at Berryessa Vista since well before the District acquired the property, causing soil erosion and damaging native vegetation. The District initially contacted adjacent property owners to inform them that off-road vehicles were not permitted in District property, and has also installed inexpensive signs, but the use has continued.

Next Steps: During FY 2014 the District will take additional steps to try and stop illegal off-road vehicle use and the resultant damage to natural resources.

10. Skyline Park

Napa County efforts to acquire Skyline Park from the State stalled in 2013. The County with District support had previously sponsored legislation authorizing the State to sell to property to the County at fair market value. Unfortunately, the State disagreed with the results of the professional appraisal of the value of the property. Nonetheless, the County and the District remain

committed to protecting Skyline Park in perpetuity by acquisition of the property when that becomes possible. The current lease of the property from the State runs until 2030.

The City of Vallejo's Vallejo Lakes property is east of Skyline Park. The Vallejo City Council has authorized staff to work on the sale of some or all of this property, but little progress has been made by the City to determine whether to sell all or only a portion of the site, complete the legal description of the property and appraise its value. District staff is coordinating with the Solano Land Trust, Solano County, and property owners in Green Valley regarding the possible acquisition of this property for watershed and habitat protection and public recreational purposes. The proposed alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail goes through the Vallejo Lakes property.

The District has also been in negotiations with the owner of the land to the south of Skyline Park, for the purpose of extending the Bay Area Ridge Trail from Skyline Park down to Highway 12. To this end, the District has lined up a grant of \$1.1 million to assist with the acquisition of the portion of the property needed for this trail connection, as well as access to spectacular views of the San Francisco Bay Area--south to Sutro Peak in San Francisco, west to Mt. Tamalpais, southeast to Mt. Diablo and (on a clear day) east to the Sierra Nevada Mountains.



View of Mt. Diablo from open space lands next to Skyline Park that the District is in negotiations to purchase.

Next Steps: Continue to support County efforts to acquire Skyline Park. Once the City of Vallejo determines what they want to do with their property,

work with District partners to acquire either fee title ownership or a conservation/trail easement for all or a portion of the property. Coordinate with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the affected property owner to transfer to the District a Ridge Trail-held easement over private property for approximately 1.5 miles of Ridge Trail located immediately east of Skyline Park. Finally, continue to work with private property owners to complete the Ridge Trail between Skyline Park and Highway 12.

11. Cooperative Planning Projects

- i. **Bay Area Ridge Trail Realignment.** The Bay Area Ridge Trail is an approximately 550 mile regional trail proposed to circumnavigate the San Francisco Bay generally following the hills and ridges that surround the bay. In Napa County, the alignment was initially proposed to cross the Napa Valley at the Yountville Cross Road. The District took the lead in proposing and evaluating an alternative alignment for this regional trail; the alternative alignment runs through the mountains east of the Napa Valley from the Solano County line to the Oat Hill Mine Trail, then crosses the valley at Calistoga and head into Sonoma County via the proposed Napa Valley Vine Trail and Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. This planning effort was done in conjunction with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Land Trust of Napa County and several local trail

leaders. This “Go North” alignment was adopted by the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council in 2013, followed by dedication of new sections of the Ridge Trail in Moore Creek Park and on the Oat Hill Mine Trail.

- ii. **Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition.** The Vine Trail Coalition is a broad-based non-profit formed to build and operate a non-motorized class I bicycle and pedestrian trail connecting from the Oat Hill Mine Trail in Calistoga to the Vallejo Ferry Terminal. At the northern end, the Vine Trail is proposed to also serve as a portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail (see project #11.i), while south of the City of Napa the Vine Trail utilizes a portion of the District’s Napa River and Bay Trail (see project #5). The Vine Trail is also proposed to run along the eastern edge of Bothe-Napa Valley State Park.

Next Steps: Work with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, Vine Trail Coalition and California State Parks to determine, complete and dedicate the route of these two trails through Bothe-Napa Valley State Park.

Capacity Building

The success of the District depends on building its capacity in three arenas: financial capacity, public involvement, and education of the next generation of citizens.

1. Financial Capacity

When first formed, the County of Napa was the only source of funding for the District. County financial support for the District has come from a portion of the Transient Occupancy Tax.

County funding has been supplemented in three ways—grants and donations from both public and private sources, volunteers providing labor and expertise, and program income.

The District generated \$1,475,229 in revenues and had \$897,009 in expenses for fiscal year 2012-13, and ended the year with a fund balance of \$1,114,400, an increase of \$587,348 from the prior year. This positive balance is more a matter of timing than actual surplus, however. Most of the District’s fund balance will be substantially drawn down in 2014 as projects that are in the pipeline are completed. Of the fund balance, \$100,246 is restricted for future expenses at Moore Creek, \$50,000 is restricted for future expenses at Camp Berryessa \$5,000 is restricted for the District’s Putah Creek holdings, and \$296,635 is restricted and assigned for future expenditures at the State Parks, leaving \$662,519 available for general District operations. Virtually all of this unrestricted reserve will be needed in 2014 for projects already in the pipeline.

The County of Napa continued its support for the District’s operations and projects utilizing funds from its Transient Occupancy Tax. The grant for FY 2012-13 was \$926,850, and for FY 2013-14 is \$688,413. The higher amount for the past fiscal year was higher than the current fiscal year because of the timing of money flows; the actual allocation from the County for the past fiscal year was actually \$650,000, but this was increased by unused carryover funds from the prior fiscal year. Since the formation of the District in 2007, the County has provided to the District grants totaling \$4,356,922 for both operations and projects. This compares to a total of \$17,345,000 in program income, grants, donations and the value of volunteer labor that the District has obtained since its inception.

Thus, since formation, the District has leveraged County General Fund support to obtain other grants, donations, volunteer labor and program income, at a ratio of 3 to 1. Stated

differently, County General Fund support has accounted for 25% of the District's total revenue over the first seven years of operation.

Program revenue is a particularly important rubric, since it is not dependent on others, but a measure of economic activity that is within the District's means to control. Program revenue was \$462,000 for 2013, which was equivalent to 52 percent of total operating expenses for the year. Nearly all of the program revenue was generated at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. Similar rates of revenue generation are not possible for other parks and trails unless they have overnight accommodations. Given this, to cover more than half of District expenses through program revenue is quite an achievement. Higher rates of revenue generation are probably not possible without noticeably harming the quality of the user experience and adversely affecting access for lower income populations.

2. Environmental Education

Environmental education is part of the District's core mission, and essential to building the public understanding and support necessary for the long-term preservation of Napa County's special places. During the past year, the District completed construction drawings for Camp Berryessa, which when complete will offer an overnight facility for students and other groups to learn about and enjoy the natural world. The District also continued its program of offering field trips for K-12 students at the Napa River Ecological Reserve. Also at the Ecological Reserve, the District maintained and enhanced a short interpretive trail that introduces the most common plants found at the Reserve. Finally, as part of the Napa River and Bay Trail project, the District maintained nine interpretive panels as well as internet-based audio messages recorded by local students and community members that explain the ecology and history of the area. In an exciting partnership with the Bay Trail Project, the audio tour will in 2014 be upgraded to utilize the latest smart phone technology.

The District's newly-formed partnership with the Napa Valley State Parks Association to manage and operate Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park dramatically expanded the District's educational role. Through this partnership the Grist Mill is open for tours every weekend and open one day a week for school groups. The demand for the school tours is so strong that the District and Association hope to expand school tours to two or three days per week. Numerous interpretive programs and events are also held during the year. In addition, a youth leadership camp was operated in the summer of 2013 at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. Finally, the second annual Forest Practices Get-Together was held in the fall of 2013, designed to demonstrate historic woodworking and logging tools and techniques.

3. Volunteers

In 2013 volunteers donated over 5,150 hours of labor, with a value of over \$103,000. This brings the total volunteer hours donated since the formation of the District in 2007 to over 24,000 hours and a value of over \$485,000.



It takes a lot of gloves to handle all the volunteers



Also in 2013, the District benefited from \$30,669 in donations of cash and in-kind services, bringing the total since formation of the District to over \$205,000, in addition of land donations totaling \$4,450,000.

The greatest number of volunteers and hours of time donated was to

assist with the operation of Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park. Volunteers served as camp hosts, Visitor Center and Granary staff, firewood splitters, and much more. Volunteers have also donated many hours to Moore Creek Park, designing, constructing and grooming trails, and maintaining fences and other improvements.



The Napa River Ecological Reserve has benefited from students volunteers who have help with invasive plant removal and native plant restoration, while also learning about the ecology of the Napa River.

Volunteers also helped with everything from keeping the Napa River and Bay Trail clean to maintaining the District's Facebook page.

Retaining and expanding the District's volunteer base is essential to the success of the District. Even more important than the taxpayer money they save is the fact that volunteering connects the community with its parks and open spaces, and strengthening this connection is the single most powerful thing the District can do to ensure Napa County's open space lands are adequately protected, preserved and beneficial to the public.



Future Directions

The next year will see several major projects come to fruition:

- In 2014 the District expects to more than double the effective size of Moore Creek Park with the opening of approximately 900 acres of oak woodland on the north shore of Lake Hennessey, made possible through an agreement with the City of Napa.
- Construction of Camp Berryessa will also start in 2014, and Phase I should be complete before the end of the calendar year.
- The next phase of the Napa River and Bay Trail (from Soscol Ferry Road to Napa Pipe) will be constructed in 2014, and the District remains hopeful that impediments to the completion of the trail north of Green Island Road next to Pond 10 will be resolved so that construction of that section can begin.
- The District hopes to obtain a Use Permit in 2014 to open up public access to the 2,500 acres Spanish Valley property.
- New roofs and pavement overlay on the picnic area road are funded and scheduled to be complete in 2014, and repairs and renovations to historic cabins and other structures at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park will continue.

In addition, if all the necessary pieces come together, the District hopes to complete negotiations on two potential acquisitions. One is a beautiful oak woodland area that has value in and of itself, but most importantly would provide public non-motorized access to the Cedar Roughs Wilderness owned by BLM; most of this wilderness currently has no practical public access. The other would allow the extension of the Bay Area Ridge Trail from Skyline Park to Jamieson Canyon.

Finally, 2014 will be a critical time for the District's operation of Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park. Starting with the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2014, these two parks will need to be operating in the black without the need for operational subsidies. The District is on track to achieving financial sustainability for these two parks, but much still remains to be done to address deferred maintenance and develop new sources of revenue while protecting the parks' natural and cultural resources. Against this backdrop of efforts by the District, and other local partners around the State, in Sacramento the Parks Forward Commission is expected to release its conclusions and recommendations. The Commission was formed by the State to conduct an independent review of and development recommendations for the long-term direction of State Parks, including the role of local partners such as the District. The Commission's recommendations will most likely play a major role in determining whether these two State Parks will continue to be operated by the District after its current agreement with the State runs out in 2017.

While the District's on-the-ground projects and accomplishments are significant, the biggest challenge going forward is to assure the long-term financial health of the District. County of Napa financial support, together with numerous other outside grants, have enabled the District to make considerable progress since its formation in 2007, but the District has essentially maxed out on what it can accomplish with the current level of funding. New sources of funding will be needed if meaningful progress is to continue. The Board of Directors has authorized the formation of a citizen's advisory committee, to be composed of representations from Napa County and each of the cities in the County, representing the full diversity of interests as they relate to natural resource preservation, outdoor recreation, and environmental education. The committee will be charged with evaluating what has been accomplished, what remains to be accomplished, and how best to provide adequate operational and capital funding.

For More Information

The Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District is governed by a five member Board of Directors elected by the voters of Napa County. Staff support is provided by Napa County under contract to the District.

Board of Directors

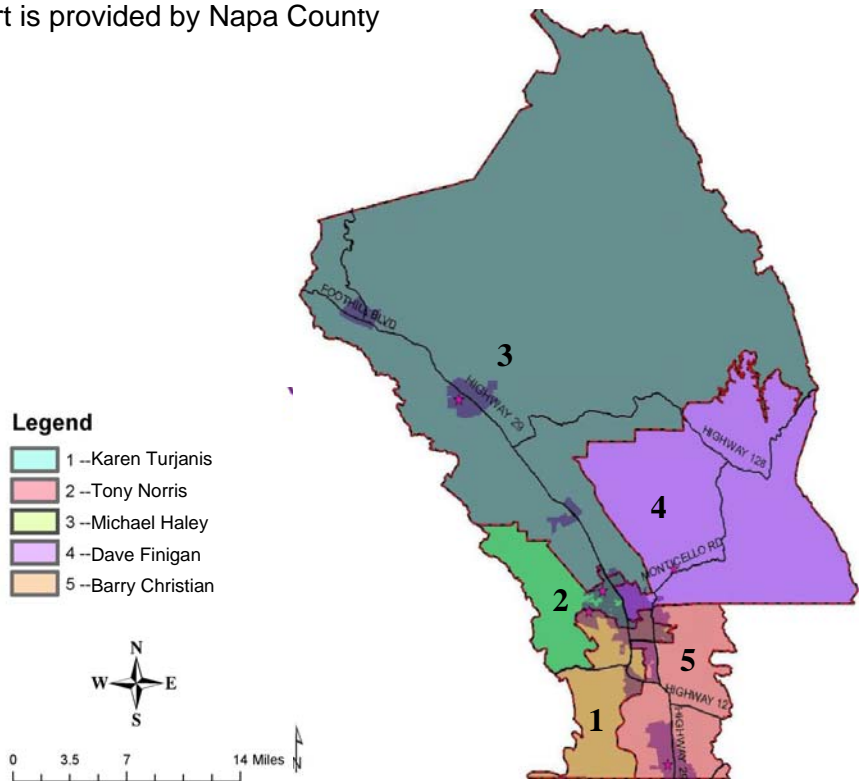
Karen Turjanis
(Ward One)
kbowerturjanis@ncrposd.org

Tony Norris
(Ward Two)
tnorris@ncrposd.org

Michael Haley
(Ward Three)
mhaley@ncrposd.org

Dave Finigan
(Ward Four)
dfinigan@ncrposd.org

Barry Christian
(Ward Five)
bchristian@ncrposd.org



Staff

John Woodbury (General Manager)
jwoodbury@ncrposd.org

Tracy Schulze (District Auditor)
tschulze@ncrposd.org

Chris Apallas (District Counsel)
capallas@ncrposd.org

Tamie Frasier (District Treasurer)
tfrasier@ncrposd.org

Melissa Frost (District Secretary)
mfrost@ncrposd.org

Chris Cahill (Project Manager)
ccahill@ncrposd.org

Chino Yip (Outreach Coordinator)
cyp@ncrposd.org

Sandy Jones (State Parks Manager)
sjones@ncrposd.org

Rob Grassi (Maintenance Specialist)
rgrassi@ncrposd.org

Eric "Bam Bam" Barnett (Park Aide / Trailmaster)
ebarnett@ncrposd.org