**Napa Open Space District - 2017 Power Point Outline**

Slide 1 – Title Slide - Show as a lead up to the presentation

Photos – Josh & Son on Valentine Vista trail in Moore Creek Park and Jonathan & Willow at Skyline park

Slide 2 – Introduction:

Good morning/afternoon! My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (and I am joined by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) and I am (we are) with the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, also known as the Napa Open Space District for short. We were formed in November 2006 when Napa County voters approved Measure I, creating the District and the governing Board who are elected by the people every 4 years. The Napa Open Space District is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the natural resources of Napa County and to provide public access to our open spaces. We do our work by focusing on protecting our waterways, creating access to the great outdoors and linking our communities with walking and biking paths.

Slide 3 – Go Outside and Play (map w/ Parks managed by NOSD)

The Open Space District manages the day-to-day operations of 10 locations in Napa County that are open to the public, including, Bothe Napa Valley State Park, the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, Oat Hill Mine Trail and Moore Creek Park protecting nearly 5000 acres. There are projects in every part of the County, in urban and rural areas, and extending from the top of Mt. St. Helena to the wetlands in American Canyon, from Mt. Veeder in the east to Berryessa Peak in the west. The Open Space District website, napaoutdoors.org, has an interactive map highlighting the places you can go outside and play as well as the documentation of the District including all the boring stuff like agendas and minutes of the Board meetings.

Slide 4 – Upcoming Projects (w/ map)

In addition to the 10 locations that are open to the public, the District has 6 properties that are in development and we are currently seeking additional funding to open for public access through grants or public donations. These include:

* Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats & Stone Corral – located in Pope Valley and gifted to the District by the Trinchero Family.
* Montesol – The Livermore family in 2016 placed their 7,000-plus acre Montesol property into a conservation easement through the Napa County Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land. As part of the agreement, the District can purchase the 1,254 acres of property located west of Highway 29 and open it for public access creating the first summit route to the top of Mt. St. Helena outside of the less than ideal fire service road currently in use.
* Smittle Creek – 443 acres located off Berryessa Knoxville Road approximately across the street from the Smittle Creek Day Use Area. This property was purchased in December of 2015 to provide public access into the 6350-acre Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management.
* Soscal Headwaters – 411 acres, which will result in 5 miles of new Bay Area Ridge Trail connecting Skyline Park to Highway 12 in Jameson Canyon, and offering spectacular 360 degree views from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east, Mt. St. Helena to the north, Mt Tamalpais to the west, Sutro Peak in San Francisco, and Mt Diablo to the south. The District is seeking funding to acquire another 398 acres of the ranch and to build trails and open the area to public access.
* Amy’s Grove – 51 acres on Dry and Wing Creeks in the Mayacamus Mountains, will provide a quiet respite under towering redwoods and along the creeks. The District is seeking funding to open the park for public access.
* The Cove – The District has an option to purchase this Girl Scout Camp located on Mt. Veeder, so that it can continue to be available for youth groups and others rather than sold for private development.

If you are interested in helping the District create access to these areas for hiking and biking, we do accept donations and all donations are project specific.

Slide 5 – Additional Parks

In addition to the parks that the Napa Open Space District manages, there are a variety of parks in Napa County that are open to the public, and are managed by other agencies. These include:

* Skyline Park in Napa that is managed by the Skyline Parks Association;
* Newell Open Space Preserve managed by the City of American Canyon; and
* Multiple parks in Napa including Alston Park, Westwood Hills and Timberhill Park that are managed by the City.

If you are interested in any of these parks, check out NapaOutdoors.org to see where they are located and what they offer…

Photos: Barn at Newell and runners at Skyline

Slide 6 - Protecting Waterways

Almost 25% (123,619 acres) of Napa County is protected open space through federal, state and local agencies. This open space provides the clean water upon which our agricultural economy and our residents depend. A major goal of the District has been, and continues to be, to work with these public agencies to ensure better stewardship of our land to protect our waterways and create appropriate public access. Only 35% of the watersheds that provide water to our cities is protected; so, another major goal of the District is to protect more of these municipal watersheds.

Photos: Moore Creek & the American Canyon wetlands

Slide 7 – Creating Access

As part of preserving our most special open space lands for water supply, wildlife habitat and visual beauty, the District seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to explore the outdoors promoting health, strengthening families and friendships, and improving overall quality of life. We do our work by maintaining and enhancing existing parks like Bothe Napa Valley State Park and trails like Oat Hill Mine Trail and we seek opportunities to acquire new land or access for your enjoyment. And most of our public lands are free for the public to enjoy!

Photos: Jonathan & Willow on Alta Vista Hennessey Trail and Josh & son on Valentine Vista at Moore Creek Park

Slide 8 – Linking Communities

The Open Space District continues to work with other agencies in creating links within our community, from American Canyon to Calistoga, around the San Francisco Bay and along the ridges that surround the Napa Valley including the Napa Valley Vine Trail, the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the San Francisco Bay Trail. It’s not just about recreation: trails linking communities also create safe ways for kids to get to school and parents to get to work. With the recent soft opening of the Vine Trail along Solano Ave., we now have a trail linking the City of Napa with the Town of Yountville.

Photos: TJ’s pup at American Canyon Wetlands & Napa River Trail under the Imola Bridge

Slide 9 – Bothe Napa Valley State Park and Bale Grist Mill

The District took over management of Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park 5 years ago to prevent their planned closure by the State, and both parks are now financially stable. In comparison, the State Parks spent $2 for $1 earned. The primary source of revenue is park user fees with grants and gifts to fill in the gaps. Over the last 5 years the District has:

* Installed 10 new yurts
* Finished repairs to 6 historic cabins
* Started the major undertaking of repairing the many other historical buildings at the park.
* Expanded educational programming about Napa Valley’s pioneer history and natural ecology
* Expanded public outreach to increase local community involvement in the parks

All of this is designed to increase visitors, thus increasing park user revenues without raising fees which creates self-sustaining parks.

Slide 10 – Moore Creek Park

Moore Creek Park is a prime example of a project that simultaneously improves protection for Napa’s primary municipal water supply, while also protecting wildlife habitat and providing low impact recreation. The Park was created in partnership with the City of Napa with trails both up Moore Creek and around Lake Hennessey. Trails to the Moore Creek pools, the Valentine Vista Trail, a trail connecting to Lake Hennessey, and the latest, Sam the Eagle Trail, have been completed. The park is open from sun-up to sun-down and is accessed via Chiles Pope Valley Road on the east side of Lake Hennessey.

Photos: Valentine Vista Trail & Moore Creek

Slide 11 – Napa River Ecological Reserve

The Napa River Ecological Reserve, located on Yountville Cross Road, is a fantastic example of a valley floor oak woodland and is utilized for educational opportunities for the youth of Napa County. It’s a great place to access the Napa River and to cool off on a hot day. The Open Space District manages habitat restoration, outdoor education programs and continues to clean and maintain the Reserve.

Photos: both @ Napa River Ecological Reserve

Slide 12 – Napa River Trail

The Napa River Trail, one of our community linkage trails, connects American Canyon to the City of Napa and serves as a link to the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Napa Valley Vine Trail while following the beautiful Napa River. The Open Space District worked with the City of American Canyon and State agencies to extend the trail from American Canyon to north of Green Island Road, and completed the trail section from Napa Pipe to Soscol Ferry Road, using competitive grant funds secured by the District. The District is now working to close the remaining trail gap connecting American Canyon and the City of Napa with a continuous hiking and biking trail along the River.

Photos: Trail under Butler Bridge & American Canyon wetlands

Slide 13 – Lake Berryessa

The Lake Berryessa Area is becoming more accessible for outdoor recreation to residents of Napa County. The Berryessa Peak Trail, is the latest and most challenging trail to come online in the area but also has the most rewards with spectacular views from the Pacific Ocean to the Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges. Berryessa Vista is a unique park as it is only accessible via boat with the closest launch at Capell Cove and is one of the least crowded areas to explore. Smittle Creek is a recently acquired property which once opened will allow access to the 6350-acre Cedar Roughs wilderness. Cedar Roughs is home to the largest stand of genetically pure Sargent Cedar Trees and is open to primitive camping.

Photos: Berryessa Vista & Lake Berryessa from Putah Bridge

Slide 14 – EcoCamp Berryessa

EcoCamp Berryessa is a 64-bed group environmental education camp located on the peaceful northern shoreline of Lake Berryessa. The camp, which was completed in 2015 and funded through a major grant from the State Coastal Conservancy, features solar power, showers feeding into a graywater system, environmentally friendly composting toilets, permanent tent cabins, a stone amphitheater, a canoe/kayak launch, a beach, and countless paths and trails connecting the visitor to the beauty of Lake Berryessa, which surrounds the camp on three sides. In keeping with its name, EcoCamp Berryessa was designed with an eye to energy-efficiency, use of natural and/or recycled materials, and resource conservation. EcoCamp Berryessa is home for much of the Napa Open Space District’s outdoor education program, operated in conjunction with our partners at Trackers Earth. Trackers offers camps and outdoor programs for all ages with subject matter including outdoor skills, knowledge of local flora, habitat restoration, archery, canoeing, and much more.

Photos: Tracker’s Earth archery class and cabins @ EcoCamp Berryessa

Slide 15 – Measure Z

As you can see, the district has done a lot, thanks to an annual grant from the County of Napa, which we’ve used to leverage other grants and gifts. But without dedicated funding, we’re approaching the limits of our capacity while the need to protect our remaining open spaces continues to increase.  That’s why in 2015 we convened a citizen’s advisory committee which reviewed our programs and recommended we propose a ballot measure seeking approval of a small sales tax.  Last November, we placed Measure Z on the ballot.  A solid 64.7 percent voted yes on the measure, but that was 1.9 percent below the required 2/3 approval for funding measures.  Given the closeness of the results, the District is considering returning to the ballot, potentially as soon as 2018.

Slide 16 – Get Involved

How can you get involved in protecting our valuable open space and wetlands in Napa County?

* Tell your family and friends about the open space district, and the new website that shares how to access our parks, trails and open space in Napa County – [www.napaoutdoors.org](http://www.napaoutdoors.org/).
* You can also help by volunteering to

--Build trails and take care of our parks

--Be a trail monitor and

--Help at Bothe Napa Valley State Park and Bale Grist State Historic Park

* Donations to the Parks District are always welcome. All funds are project specific and your donation can help increase access and open space in Napa County. Your donation could help us open one of our six upcoming projects more quickly!
* Exercise your right as a citizen to be involved in the democratic process, including giving the District your thoughts and advice, talking with friends and colleagues about the importance of preserving Napa's open space heritage, and getting involved in future elections.
* And most importantly, Go Outside and Play!

Photos: Moore Creek & Chris’ son Emmet (star volunteer!)

Slide 17 – Thank you!

Thank you for your time today!

Photos: Josh & Son on Valentine Vista and Jonathan & Willow at Skyline