



**NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Karen Bower Turjanis
Director, Ward One

Tony Norris
Director, Ward Two

Brent Randol
Director, Ward Three

Dave Finigan
Director, Ward Four

Barry Christian
Director, Ward Five

AGENDA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 11, 2019 at 2:00 P.M.

Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3rd floor, Napa, CA

General Information

Agenda items will generally be considered in the order indicated below, except for Set Matters, which will be considered at the time indicated. Agenda items may from time to time be taken out of order at the discretion of the President.

The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Assistive listening devices and interpreters are available through the District Secretary. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids, or services may be made to the Secretary's office no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting date by contacting 707.259.8603.

Any member of the audience desiring to address the District on a matter on the Agenda, please proceed to the rostrum and, after receiving recognition from the President, give your name, address, and your comments or questions. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President.

State law requires agency officers (Directors and Officers) to disclose, and then be disqualified from participation in, any proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, if the officer has received from any participant in the proceeding an amount exceeding \$250 within the prior 12 month period. State law also requires any participant in a proceeding to disclose on the record any such contributions to an agency officer.

All materials relating to an agenda item for an open session of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors which are provided to a majority or all of the members of the Board by Board members, staff or the public within 72 hours of but prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection, on and after at the time of such distribution, in the NCRPOSD Office at 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, California 94559, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., except for County holidays. Materials distributed to a majority or all of the members of the Board at the meeting will be available for public inspection at the public meeting if prepared by the members of the Board or County staff and after the public meeting if prepared by some other person. Availability of materials related to agenda items for public inspection does not include materials which are exempt from public disclosure under Government Code §§6253.5, 6254, 6254.3, 6254.7, 6254.15, 6254.16, or 6254.22.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Public Comment

In this time period, anyone may address the Board of Directors regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period.

3. Set Matters

Consideration and potential release of draft Master Plan Update for public comment

4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors meetings on February 11, 2019.
- b. Consideration and potential authorization to dispose of surplus property
- c. Consideration and potential approval of Amendment N^o 2 to Agreement N^o 18-04 with Matt Greene Forestry and Biological Consulting, increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$32,750 to a maximum of \$97,750.
- d. Consideration and potential authorization for the General Manager to apply to the State Coastal Conservancy for an Explore the Coast grant
- e. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff.
- f. Review of the District Projects Status Report.
- g. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park.

5. Announcements by Board and Staff

In this time period, members of the Board of Directors and staff will announce meetings, events, and other matters of interest. No action will be taken by the Board on any announcements.

6. Agenda Planning

In this time period, members of the Board of Directors and staff will discuss matters for possible consideration at future meetings. Other than to determine whether and when such matters should be agendaized, no action will be taken by the Board on these items unless specifically noted otherwise.

- a. Ab 1234 ethics training and filing of Form 700

7. Adjournment



STAFF REPORT

By: John Woodbury
Date: March 11, 2019
Item: 3
Subject: Consideration and potential release of draft Master Plan Update for public comment

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss the draft Master Plan Update, amend as desired, and authorize release of the draft Update for public comment

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND

The Board of Directors approved the District's first Master Plan in 2008, with the intent to update the plan every three or so years so that it continues to be a living guide, not a static document that sits on the shelf. The first update to the plan was approved in 2012. In 2015, the District appointed an advisory committee to review the work of the District and make recommendations for the future. The resulting advisory committee report issued in 2016 served as the next update to the Master Plan.

Much has happened since then, and it is now time to again update the Master Plan. Attached is the draft 2019 Update, prepared by staff with oversight from an ad hoc Board committee consisting of Dave Finigan and Tony Norris. The draft Master Plan Update describes the District's goals, its progress to date, and three scenarios for the future. The District is considering placing a measure on the ballot in 2020 to provide dedicated funding to support implementation of District goals and objectives; the Update is intended to provide the framework for any such measure.

Considering the importance of the Update, staff recommends the Board release the draft Update for an extended period of public review, to July 8, 2019, with the intent to adopt the Update at the Board meeting scheduled for that date or for August 11, 2019. During the public comment period, the District will reach out as broadly as possible to get input and bring all suggestions back to the Board for consideration before adopting the Update.

RENEWAL



D R A F T

2019 UPDATE

to the

Napa Open Space District 2008 Master Plan



NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Background

The Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (commonly referred to as the Napa Open Space District) was approved by the voters in 2006 along with its first Board of Directors consisting of Harold Kelly, Tony Norris, Guy Kay, David Finigan and Myrna Abramowicz. The five-member Board of Directors serve for staggered four year terms. The current Board of Directors includes:

Ward One	Karen Bower Turjanis (kbowerturjanis@ncrposd.org)
Ward Two	Tony Norris (tnorris@ncrposd.org)
Ward Three	Brent Randol (brandol@ncrposd.org)
Ward Four	Dave Finigan (dfinigan@ncrposd.org)
Ward Five	Barry Christian (bchristian@ncrposd.org)

The District adopted its first Master Plan in 2009. The Plan was updated by the Board of Directors in 2012. The current update is intended to document what the District has accomplished to date, and to set the District's policy and financial framework for the next 15 years.

Process for this Update:

Board of Directors review Preliminary Draft	March 2019
Release Preliminary draft for public review	March 2019
Outreach and receive public comment	March - July 2019
Public Hearing	July 2019 (tentative)
Adoption	July-August 2019 (tentative)

For inquiries about the Plan, or to otherwise communicate with the District, please contact the District General Manager John Woodbury at jwoodbury@ncrposd.org, 707-259-5933, or the Directors at the emails shown above, or write to NOSD at 1195 Third Street, 2nd floor, Napa, CA 94559.

I. Executive Summary

The Napa Open Space District remains committed to the goals identified in the Master Plan adopted by the District Board of Directors in 2008. This Update reaffirms those goals, but adjusts specific objectives and provides greater focus, based on the achievements and experience of the District in its first twelve years of operation, as well as a better understanding of broader trends in the community and in the natural environment.

Since formation, the District has:

- preserved 5,090 acres of open space through acquisition in fee title and 200 acres through conservation easements,
- developed and/or operates 53 miles of non-motorized recreational trails,
- saved two State Parks from closing, including 1,900 acres of forest, a campground and day use area and the water-driven Bale Grist Mill along with other historic buildings,
- opened 900 acres of open space owned by other agencies for non-motorized recreation,
- established and now operates one youth-oriented camp
- acquired and is now restoring another group camp
- organized nearly 96,300 hours of volunteer service, worth just over \$1.9 million of benefit

This Update describes 14 parks, trails and other open space properties where the District has made significant investment and public outreach. These 14 project sites are categorized as Committed Projects.

In terms of priorities going forward, the primary and most essential focus of the District continues to be to protect, restore and preserve open space lands and their associated resources for current and future generations. Key aspects of this overarching goal include protection of water supplies and quality, maintaining and improving ecosystem health and protection of wildlife habitat including both core areas and connecting corridors.



Egret takes flight in wetlands near the Napa River and Bay Trail in American Canyon

Experiences and knowledge gained in the decade since the District Master Plan was adopted in 2008 have reinforced the importance of this goal, as well as suggesting how the District should sharpen its focus. In particular, the devastating wildfires of recent years have demonstrated the interconnectedness of public health and safety with ecosystem health, and the need to ramp up forest management activities.

In addition to protecting and stewarding valuable open space areas, the District also remains committed to making these areas accessible to the public. Considerable scientific research confirms what we innately know: spending time in nature is good for our physical, mental and spiritual well-being. It's also an excellent way to gain an understanding of what we as humans should be doing to care for the environment on which our quality of life depends.

“Healthy Parks Healthy People” is more than just a slogan for the District; it is a guiding principle for all the District’s work. Thus, the District intends to continue its work providing public access to the open space lands it protects and manages.

With this update to the Master Plan, the District acknowledges the need for a more comprehensive and seamless approach to outdoor recreation. While the

District's focus continues to be on nature-based recreation, there is no sharp line between a tot lot in a residential neighborhood, a city bicycle and pedestrian path, a community sports field, and a regional open space park. For this reason, this Update calls for the District to strengthen partnerships with the cities within Napa County, for planning, funding and implementing projects.

In 1970, half of all Napa residents lived in rural areas; today, more than 80 percent live in one of the five municipalities in Napa County. With an increasingly urban population, deliberate and organized effort to educate the next generation is necessary if people are to value the natural environment and understand how to care for it. This Update calls for continuing and expanding the District's naturalist program, providing field trips and outdoor education programs for students as well as the general population.

In 2015 the District convened a community advisory committee consisting of representatives from the County, each municipality and a range of community interests. The committee was asked three questions: (1) do you like what the District has done so far, (2) has the District done enough, or is there more to be done, and (3) if there is more to be done, how do we pay for it? The committee members concluded that they were impressed by what the District had accomplished with limited resources, that there was much more to be done, and that the District should seek voter approval for a small sales tax to pay for this essential work.

This Update renews the District's commitment to seeking adequate dedicated funding for the District. The District intends to work with Napa County, the four cities and one town within the County, other special districts and interested organizations to develop compatible partnerships for funding projects and provide improved public access to our abundant natural resources. The intent is to place a measure providing dedicated funding before the voters in 2020 in support of the objectives contained in this Master Plan Update.

Three scenarios are discussed in this Update:

- (1) Maintenance of Effort on Committed Projects. The Napa County discretionary grant based on a percentage of the County's Transient Occupancy Tax receipts is assumed to continue, as well as the District's ability to successfully compete for various other grants. Under this scenario, efforts to preserve Napa's natural landscapes will be strictly limited; it will take an estimated 60-plus years to complete the repairs, restorations and improvements needed for the District's already Committed Projects list.
- (2) Enhanced Progress. In addition to continuing existing revenue sources, this scenario assumes new revenues are approved that are equal to a ¼ cent sales tax dedicated to the purposes identified in this Master Plan Update. Under this scenario, in the next 15 years the District would be able to preserve an estimated 20,000



Volunteer planting buckeye tree as part of bank restoration project at Moore Creek

acres of land. This is expected to be sufficient to protect many, though not all, of the most valuable open space lands in the County that come on the market during this period of time, to manage those lands for water supply, water quality, and wildlife habitat purposes, and to

make necessary improvements so the public can responsibly enjoy these beautiful landscapes. This scenario assumes 20 percent of the new revenues would be made available to the four cities and one town within Napa County to implement their park and recreation goals. This scenario also includes dedicated funding for fuel reduction/invasive plant removal to help manage wildfire risk, and dedicated funding to provide at least one outdoor education experience annually for every school child.

- (3) Accelerated Preservation and Implementation. This scenario assumes new revenues equal to a ½ cent sales tax dedicated to the purposes identified in this Master Plan Update. This

valuable open space lands that come on the market, with less risk of losing unique and irreplaceable resources to inappropriate development.



Napa County Search and Rescue team trains at Camp Berryessa

scenario assumes 20 percent of the new revenues would be made available to the four cities and one town within Napa County to implement their park and recreation goals, and also includes the wildfire management and outdoor education activities contained in Scenario Two. The additional revenues in Scenario Three would enable the District to protect and manage an estimated 40,000 acres of additional watershed, habitat and other

II. District Goals

The District Master Plan adopted in 2008 identifies four goals for the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. The spirit of these four goals continue to guide the District. They are restated in this Update as follows:

Goal: Preserve, restore and protect open space lands, watershed resources and wildlife habitat. Of particular importance is the protection of watersheds that provide municipal drinking water, as well as watersheds that feed the rivers, lakes and wetlands so essential to both wildlife and agriculture. We must also improve forest



Linda Falls is a source of drinking water for the City of Napa—and adds exceptional beauty that all can appreciate

management in order to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Goal: Develop a system of parks, trails, and accessible open space that supports outdoor recreation and promotes physical and mental health. District objectives include serving as broad a range of nature-based recreational interests as possible, distributed equitably throughout Napa County, with special attention given to projects in closest proximity to where people live and work.

Goal: Provide historical, cultural and environmental education. The District's focus is hands-on outdoor education (as contrasted to classroom learning) that takes advantage of District-owned and/or operated open space lands. A primary objective is to train the next generation of Napa County residents to understand and be good stewards of our water, air, land and other natural resources, as well as the plants and animals with which we share this precious place.

Goal: Pursue effective District management and interagency partnerships. The District needs to maintain and strengthen its organizational capacity, while also coordinating with and supporting partnerships with other agencies, community-based organizations and the private sector to take advantage of their existing capacity and minimize public costs. A guiding principle of the District as articulated in the first District Master Plan of 2008 is to not duplicate or compete with existing agencies, organizations or the private sector; rather, District energy has and will continue to be dedicated to projects and programs that otherwise would not be accomplished, and where District involvement adds value.

III. What We've Accomplished

Since its formation in 2006, the Napa Open Space District has compiled a portfolio of open space properties, parks and trails that it owns outright and/or operates on behalf of others. Together, these open space lands preserve watersheds, woodlands, wildlife and other natural resources, provide recreational and educational opportunities, and serve as building blocks for future strategic acquisitions.

Since formation, the District has:

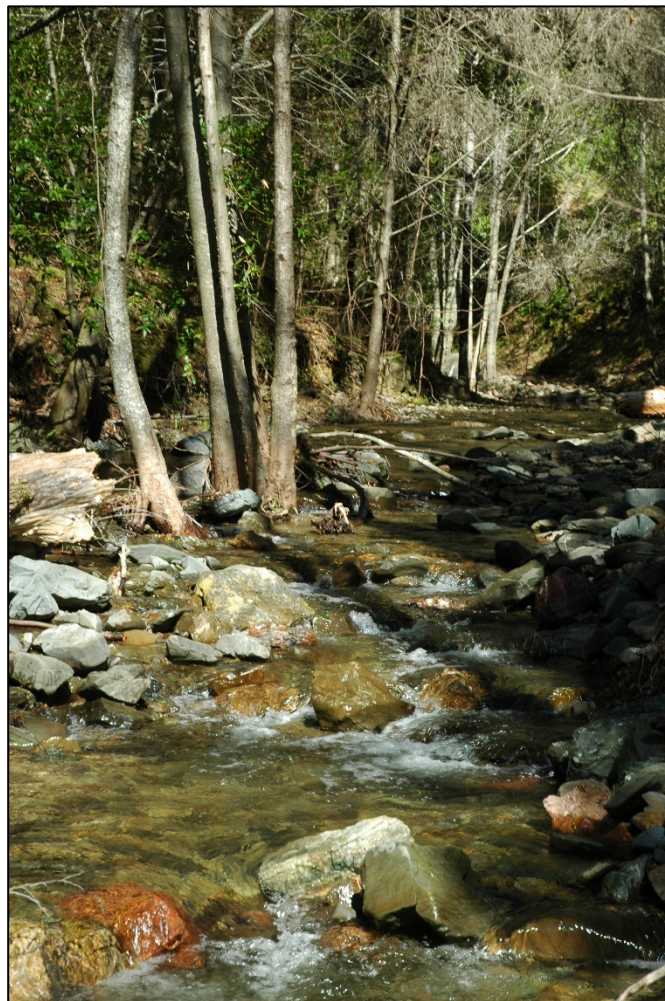
- preserved 5,090 acres of open space through acquisition and 200 acres through conservation easements,
- developed and/or operates 53 miles of non-motorized recreational trails,
- saved two State Parks from closing, including 1,900 acres of forest, a campground and day use area and the water-driven Bale Grist Mill along with other historic buildings,
- opened 900 acres of open space owned by other agencies for non-motorized recreation,
- established and operates one youth-oriented camp
- acquired and is now restoring another group camp
- organized nearly 96,300 hours of volunteer service, worth just over \$1.9 million of benefit

The discussion below outlines the 14 projects where the District has already made substantial investments. In this Update, these projects are referred to as the Committed Projects. Other projects identified in the 2008 Master Plan are still desirable, but for one reason or another have not yet progressed. These other potential projects are included in the Appendix to this Update, with brief notes about their status. For more complete descriptions of these other projects, please refer to the 2008 Master Plan and the 2012 Update.

Moore Creek Park

Moore Creek Park consists of 673 acres of municipal watershed land owned and managed by the District (the

Moore Creek Unit) and 900 acres owned by the City of Napa and managed by the District for recreational use (the Lake Hennessey Unit). The park currently has about 15 miles of trails, and plans for approximately 5 additional miles of trails within the park, as well as a trail connection north to Angwin. The park protects 3 miles of Moore Creek, an important source of Lake Hennessey's drinking water supply. About 50 percent of the Moore Creek watershed is now protected from conversion to other uses, thanks to the District's



Moore Cree flows into Lake Hennessey and provides water for City of Napa residents

purchase combined with other publicly-owned land and conservation easements held by the Land Trust of Napa

County. Moore Creek Park preserves iconic Oak woodlands, a mixed forest of Madrone, Douglas Fir and Gray Pine, grasslands and serpentine chaparral. In 2017 over 20,000 people used the trails in Moore Creek Park; of these, 68 percent were hikers, under 1 percent were equestrians, and 31 percent were mountain bicyclists. If the opportunity arises, the District is interested in acquiring land to expand the park and increase protection for the Lake Hennessey watershed.

Next steps:

- Complete the Madrone Footpath
- Complete a mountain bike optimized trail alternative to the Alta Hennessey Trail
- Be prepared to protect more of the Moore Creek and Chiles Creek watersheds as opportunities arise. For budget projection purposes, \$30 million is estimated to be needed for future acquisitions of undeveloped Lake Hennessey watershed parcels.

Napa River and Bay Trail

The Napa River and Bay Trail is a Class I (paved) pedestrian and bicycle path which will eventually connect from the southern boundary of the City of American Canyon to the northern boundary of the City of Napa. Over two-thirds of the population of Napa County lives in the area served by this trail. Except for the section north of Imola Avenue in the City of Napa, the route is also part of the ambitious 350 mile-long region-wide San Francisco Bay Trail, now a little more than half completed. The portions of the route within the cities are mostly the responsibility of the respective cities, while the District has focused on the sections of the trail within the unincorporated area between the two. In partnership with the City of American Canyon, the District has constructed about 5 miles of the trail, with just over 4 miles remaining to be completed. In addition, in partnership with the Vine Trail Coalition, the District has agreed to hold the trail easement and manage the trail for a short segment between the former Napa Pipe property and Kennedy Park which is shared by the Napa River and Bay Trail and the Napa Valley Vine Trail; that section will be constructed as part of the redevelopment of the former Napa Pipe



The Napa River and Bay Trail is an excellent place to observe wild flights of birds

property, together with the section of the trail across the former Napa Pipe property. An estimated \$2.5 million will be needed to complete the missing section between Suscol Ferry Road and Green Island Road. Timing depends on whether rights of way can be obtained from the public agencies that own the property along the proposed route and permits obtained from regulatory agencies.

Next steps:

- The key hurdle is whether the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will permit the construction of approximately 700 feet of boardwalk on the perimeter of Fagan Marsh.
- If CDFW permit can be obtained for the boardwalk, seek a trail easement from the Napa Sanitation District for the rest of the route.
- If the above two actions can be completed, then a variety of regulatory permits will be needed.
- For budget projection purposes, \$2.5 million is estimated to be needed to complete the trail.

Suscol Headwaters Preserve

This Preserve encompasses the upper watershed of year-round Suscol Creek and protects valuable habitat for endangered steelhead trout and red-legged frogs, as well as several species of raptors, mountain lions and other wildlife. The Preserve also protects a Native American cultural site. Finally, public ownership of this area enables the construction of over five miles of the

Bay Area Ridge Trail between Highway 12 in Jameson Canyon and Skyline Park. The Bay Area Ridge Trail is a planned 550-mile recreational trail circumnavigating the Bay Area along the ridges that surround San Francisco Bay. Region-wide, nearly 400 miles of the Ridge Trail has been completed.



Suscol Headwaters Preserve just three months after the October 2017 wildfires burned through the watershed

The Suscol Preserve has historically been grazed with cattle, and the District intends to continue this practice, both to be supportive of agriculture, and to manage invasive grasses and reduce wildfire risk. The District acquired the first 411 acres of the Preserve in 2015, and the second 298 acres in 2017. Funding for acquisition of the Preserve came from the Priority Conservation Area program managed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments, from mitigation funds generated by the expansion of Highway 12, and from the State Coastal Conservancy. The Napa Valley Transportation Authority was a key partner in securing these funds, since purchase of the Preserve was the most cost-effective method to satisfy one of the mitigation requirements for the Highway 12 improvement project.

Next Steps:

- Obtain a Use Permit from Napa County

- Reconfigure existing ranch roads on the property in order to reduce soil erosion and better accommodate recreational use
- Construct several miles of new trails, mostly multi-use, though one of the proposed new loop trails may be optimized for mountain bicyclists
- Construct a trailhead staging area to provide public access from Highway 12
- Construct a new red-legged frog pond to comply with funding requirements
- An estimated \$500,000 and 2-3 years of work will be needed to complete these improvements

Napa River Ecological Reserve

The District manages the front meadow on the 55-acre Napa River Ecological Reserve owned by the State of California and located on Yountville Crossroad where it bridges the Napa River. The Reserve offers one of the few spots along the non-tidal Napa River where the public can access the water. The Reserve features riparian woodland with great birdwatching, and is also a popular location for swimming and water play in the hot summer months. The District has been working for several years to control invasive plants in the meadow and replant with native vegetation. The District has also installed a short nature trail and an information kiosk



Napa River Ecological Reserve is a great location for students to study river ecology

and improved the parking area. District maintenance responsibilities include regular cleaning of a portable toilet, weekly trash pickup, and removal of graffiti as soon as it occurs. No further improvements to the Reserve are planned, but periodic removal of teasel, Himalayan blackberry, fennel, Harding grass and other invasive plant species will be required in perpetuity.

Next Steps:

- Continue meadow restoration and weed control
- Continue on-going cleaning and maintenance
- Continue sponsoring outdoor education field trips

Mt. Veeder including The Cove and Amy's Grove

The 51 acre Amy's Grove property at the confluence of Dry Creek and Wing Creek was donated to the District in 2015. In 2016 the District obtained an option to purchase a 160 acre rustic camp on Mt. Veeder, to the west of Amy's Grove at the headwaters of Wing Creek, that was owned by the Girl Scouts of Northern California and known as The Cove. The Cove includes the peak of Mt. Veeder, which is the highest mountain entirely within the boundaries of Napa County, and which offers an impressive 360 degree vista. Both properties burned in the firestorms in October 2017; Amy's Grove was only lightly burned, but the fire in The Cove was extremely hot, destroying all the campground improvements and killing most of trees. The natural environment is expected to recover and evolve through natural processes, though active restoration work is needed at The Cove.

The District intends to replace the campground improvements so it can continue to be used for camping by Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other groups. This will entail constructing a new water system, reestablishing campsites, and building rustic shade and rain shelters. In addition, the trails that led from the campground to the peak of Mt. Veeder need to be entirely rebuilt.

In 2017 the District obtained options to expand Amy's Grove by purchasing an additional 164 acres, and accepting the donation of another 7 acres, that straddle Dry Creek to the north of Wing Creek. These

acquisitions will protect two more year-round tributaries of Dry Creek, plus another ¾ mile of the main stem of Dry Creek. Enchanted Hills Camp is located between this additional property, Amy's Grove and The Cove. The District is now exploring with Lighthouse for the Blind, which owns and operates Enchanted Hills Camp, about the potential for a trail connecting from Dry Creek Road to the top of Mt. Veeder, passing through the woods next to Enchanted Hills Camp. The trail would be designed to serve both the visually-impaired users of Enchanted Hills Camp as well as the general public.

If the opportunity arises, the District is interested in expanding Amy's Grove and The Cove through additional acquisitions, to provide more water quality protection for the Wing Creek and Dry Creek watersheds, as well as enhanced recreational amenities.



Snow softens the visual impact of the October 2017 wildfire that burned through The Cove

Next Steps:

- Complete the restoration of The Cove and repair of the campground and trails, including removal of dead hazardous trees, replanting, and control of post-fire invasive plants
- Exercise options to expand Amy's Grove by 171 acres
- Construct a new trail connecting Amy's Grove to The Cove, along with interpretive elements, in partnership with Lighthouse for the Blind

- Exercising existing options for land acquisitions will require \$1,150,000. The trail, parking and other improvements proposed for Amy's Grove are estimated to cost \$500,000. Forest restoration and rebuilding of the campground at The Cove is estimated to cost another \$500,000.

Oat Hill Mine Trail

Built in the 1890's to serve the Oat Hill, Corona and Twin Peaks mercury mines, the Oat Hill Mine Road was abandoned as a public road in the 1970's. The road was reopened by the District in 2007 as a non-motorized recreational trail between Calistoga and the western terminus of Aetna Springs Road, and is known as the Oat Hill Mine Trail.

In 2017 over 18,000 people used the Oat Hill Mine Trail; of these 88 percent were hikers, and nearly all of the rest were mountain bicyclists.

The Oat Hill Mine Road easement continues north of Aetna Springs Road to the Lake County line, but has not been opened for recreational use because the right of way runs through the middle of former mining areas that have not yet been adequately cleaned and secured. The District has supported work by the non-profit organization Tuleyome and the owner of two of the mines to clean up and secure the mines; when that



The Oat Hill Mine Trail winds through the volcanic cliffs of the Palisades north of Calistoga

work is complete the District will evaluate the feasibility of opening the Trail north of Aetna Springs Road.

The Oat Hill Mine Road easement crosses both public and private parcels. One of the privately-owned parcels was donated to the District in 2014. Should they become available, the District would be interested in acquiring the other private parcels to protect recreational use of the trail and to prevent inappropriate development in an area with both high habitat values and an extreme risk of wildfire.

Next Steps:

- If determined to be safe to do so, extend the Oat Hill Mine Trail north to the Lake County line
- Purchase other private properties along the Oat Hill Mine Trail if they become available
- Up to \$1 million may be needed for future acquisition of privately-owned open space land along the trail corridor; another estimated \$250,000 would be needed for trail improvements between Aetna Springs Road and the Lake County line. A possible back country camp is estimated to cost up to \$250,000 to provide potable water and appropriate sanitation.

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

Faced with the proposed closure of 70 State Parks, including two in Napa County, the District in April 2012 assumed operating responsibility for Bothe-Napa Valley State park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park under a 5-year agreement (which has now converted to a month-to-month agreement). The District and State Parks are negotiating a new 20-year Operating Agreement. Since assuming operating responsibility, the District has completed the installation of 10 yurts, restored 5 cabins, repaired and reoccupied the historic Wright House, made safety improvements to the swimming pool, and made substantial progress in addressing decades of deferred maintenance, though considerable deferred maintenance remains to be addressed.



The Bale Grist Mill is a unique venue for interpreting the history of the Napa Valley

Bothe-Napa Valley State Park includes a campground with 47 tent/RV sites, 10 yurts, 5 cabins, a group camp site, day use area, swimming pool, visitor center and pioneer cemetery. The Bale Grist Mill is a restored water-driven mill that provides a fascinating venue for learning about life in Napa in the late 1800's. The District operates an active naturalist program at Bothe and offers student and public tours of the Mill.

Since assuming operation, the District has been able to increase revenues without raising basic fees, and cut expenses through more efficient operations, with the result that the District operates the two parks "in the black" without County-funded assistance. The positive cash balance is being used to tackle the major maintenance backlog left by State Parks.

Once a new operating agreement is executed, the District expects to continue with repairs and restoration, including bringing into productive use the boarded-up Recreation Hall, two additional cabins and another craftsman-era house. The District is also interested in supporting efforts to restore Ritchie Creek for steelhead migration and spawning. Deferred maintenance costs far exceed available revenues, so the scope and timing of improvements is tied to the level of operating profits that are generated, plus any grants that can be secured. An old estimate developed by State Parks indicates the full cost of all the deferred maintenance needs at the two parks is well over \$8 million.

Next Steps:

- Continue to operate the two parks, and use any revenues not needed for operations to continue restoration and major repairs
- Seek grant funds for specific high cost repairs, including rebuilding the water wheel at the Mill and restoration of Ritchie Creek to enable fish passage
- Support the Vine Trail Coalition's efforts to complete the Vine Trail segment proposed for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and support the Bay Area Ridge Trail connection to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Sonoma County.

Robert Louis Stevenson State Park

The new Operating Agreement for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park is also expected to include Robert Louis Stevenson (RLS) State Park. RLS includes many miles of hiking trails, a popular rock climbing area, awesome views from the top of Mt. St. Helena and from Table Rock, and several buildings both historic and modern. The buildings were abandoned until the District helped repair one of them (a small cabin) and its water system, and arranged for a live-in caretaker. The 2017 wildfires damaged the water system.

With a new Operating Agreement, the District intends to complete repairs to the cabin so there can be an on-site staff presence at RLS. The District will also evaluate



The peak of Mount St. Helena in Robert Louis Stevenson State Park is a popular destination for those seeking vigorous exercise and unrivaled views

the feasibility of repairing the other buildings (two houses and two barns).

Next Steps:

- Finalize the new Operating Agreement with State Parks
- Prepare a General Development Plan for RLS for approval by State Parks
- Repair the houses and other buildings that have been abandoned within RLS
- Obtain permission from Caltrans to install a bus stop on Highway 29 to serve the staging area for RLS
- Repairs to the cabin and its water system are estimated to cost \$50,000. Repairs to the other buildings in the park and to the staging area could run as high as \$1 million.

Camp Berryessa

Ecocamp Berryessa is a 64 bed (in eight tent cabins) facility serving youth and community groups, located on the banks of the Putah Creek arm of Lake Berryessa. Camp Berryessa is a unique location for learning swimming and boating, and also offers training in cooking (and cleaning!), teamwork, and a myriad of other skills. The District constructed and operates the camp under an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, the agency that manages Lake Berryessa and the federal lands surrounding the lake.



Camp Berryessa offers youth groups everything from archery to water sports, with a lot of environmental education mixed in

A Phase II expansion of the camp, to add another 32 beds and a central dining facility, including expanded wastewater system, is permitted under the District agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. The District is currently gaining experience operating the Phase I camp to determine the level of demand and cost for the potential Phase II improvements.

Next Steps:

- Continue to operate the camp and develop additional partnerships with other organizations offering youth camping experiences
- Evaluate the desirability of expanding the camp by another 32 beds. If pursued, this Phase II is preliminarily estimated to cost up to \$1.5 million.

Berryessa Peak Trail

This eight mile (sixteen mile round trip) hiking trail, made possible with the donation of a trail easement by



The Berryessa Peak Trail gives access to thousands of acres of federal land with unmatched views thanks to a trail easement donated by a local rancher

a local ranching family, provides public access to several thousand acres of otherwise shut-off public lands owned by the federal government, and offers dramatic views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east, Mt. St. Helena and the Mayacamas Range to the west, Snow Mountain to the north, and Mt. Diablo to the south. A wildfire in 2018 caused minor damage to trail signs and

fence stiles. The cost of these repairs is minimal, since the work will be performed by volunteers.

Next Steps:

- Repair fire damage to signs and fence stiles
- Maintain the trail as needed

Putah Creek Land Bank (Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats and Stone Corral)

This land bank of 2,790 acres in three distinct areas was donated to the District in 2010. The Spanish Valley unit comprises 1,900 acres of open grasslands surrounded by oak woodland and chaparral covered hills west and south of Lake Berryessa Estates. Spanish Valley links together several hundred additional acres of scattered tracts owned by the federal government, and preserves an exceptionally rich and healthy ecology. Crystal Flats covers 684 acres along both sides of Putah Creek north



Putah Creek is the primary source of water for Lake Berryessa; District holdings protect a portion of this watershed

of Snell Creek and includes an unimproved campground used by Lake Berryessa Estates property owners. Stone Corral covers 206 acres east of Lake Berryessa Estates along the western banks of Putah Creek. Stone Corral has a day use area and boat launch used by the Lake Berryessa Estates property owners. The campground, day use area and boat launch were in place before the District obtained fee title to the land. The District's long-term objective is to support appropriate recreational use by both the existing adjacent property owners as well as the general public. At this time there

is no specific plan and no estimate of costs. A placeholder projection of \$1 million for unspecified future improvements is included in long-range budget projections contained in this Master Plan Update.

Next Steps:

- Develop a long-term plan for these three areas
- While in land-banked status, manage the properties for their resource values
- Investigate the feasibility of an on-going prescribed burn program to enhance native grasses and forbs in Spanish Valley as well as reduce wildfire risk for the nearby Lake Berryessa Estates community.

Berryessa Vista Wilderness Park

The District acquired this 224-acre oak and bay woodland from the Land Trust of Napa County in 2008 for approximately one-third of its appraised value. The property abuts another 520 acres of publicly or land trust owned open space. Accessible only by hand-launched boat from Capell Cove, the District's property together with the adjacent public and land trust properties protects the area's unique wildlife and habitat, and allows hiking and rustic camping. The District is currently working to make back country trail and campground improvements. The District also intends to acquire from the land trust the 80-acre "donut hole" between current District lands and those



Berryessa Vista Wilderness Park is only accessible by canoe or kayak; in this photo Boy Scouts are exploring Capell Creek just upstream of Lake Berryessa

owned by the federal government, to provide logical boundaries for and protect the environmental integrity of this largely intact wilderness. Acquisition of other adjacent and nearby undeveloped parcels would be desirable both for habitat and wildlife protection and to potentially provide an overland access route into the wilderness park from the Knoxville-Berryessa Road.

Next Steps:

- Redesign trails and 4-wheel drive tracks to reduce existing soil erosion
- Acquire the 80 acre “donut hole” property from the Land Trust of Napa County
- Explore other acquisitions to expand habitat protection and provide overland access
- For budget projection purposes, this Update allocates \$1 million for future land acquisition.

Smittle Creek (Cedar Roughs)

This 443-acre land holding was acquired by the District in 2015 using a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board. Another 80 acres immediately to the west was acquired at the same time by the Wilderness Land Trust and subsequently transferred to the Bureau of Land Management. The District acquisition protects an area of oak woodlands, grasslands and chaparral, as well as offering the potential for the first practical public access into the 6,500 acre Cedar Roughs Wilderness managed



View of Lake Berryessa from Smittle Creek

by BLM. Since acquisition, the District has removed a substantial amount of trash from the property, and prepared resource surveys in preparation for obtaining a Use Permit to construct trails and open the area to the public. An estimated \$400,000 is needed to obtain permits and open the property for public recreation. This estimate includes upgrades to an existing spring-fed water system and installation of a septic system to accommodate a caretaker trailer placed on the property, as well as repairs to existing ranch roads.

Next Steps

- Obtain Use Permit from Napa County
- Construct new trail from the Smittle Creek Day Use Area up to the first ridge within the property
- Repair existing ranch roads to reduce soil erosion
- Explore feasibility of developing a caretaker site
- An estimated \$50,000 is needed for basic trail construction and road repairs. Construction of an RV host site is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000

IV. Priorities

While the four broad-brush goals identified in the 2008 Master Plan remain essentially unchanged, the District's priorities have evolved through the past twelve years of investigating and implementing projects and operating parks and trails. Community concerns have also evolved, with increased attention being paid to the impacts of growth, watershed threats, drought and wildfire. This section discusses refinements to District priorities in light of the experiences of recent years.

Goal: Preserve, restore and protect open space lands, watershed resources and wildlife habitat.

The primary and most essential focus of the District continues to be to protect, restore and preserve open space lands and their associated resources for current and future generations. Key aspects of this overarching goal include protection of water supplies and quality, maintaining and improving ecosystem health and protection of wildlife habitat including both core areas and connecting corridors.

Experiences and knowledge gained in the decade since the Master Plan was adopted in 2008 have reinforced the importance of this goal, and suggest how the District should sharpen its focus. In particular, the devastating wildfires of recent years have demonstrated the interconnectedness of public health and safety with ecosystem health, and the need to ramp up forest management activities.

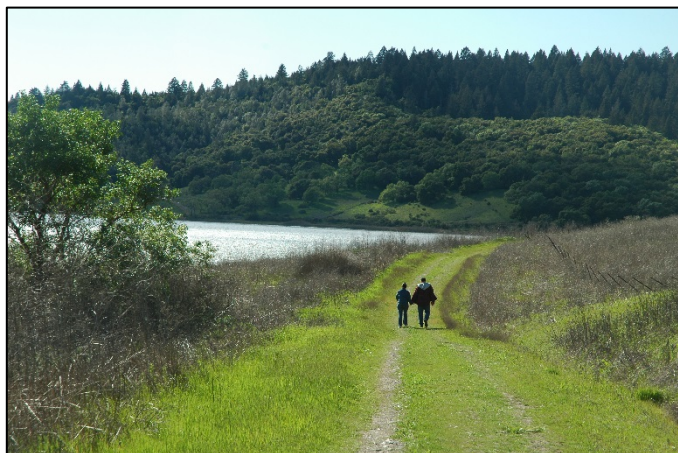
Water Quality and Water Supply

Napa County residents are fortunate to obtain much of their municipal water from local watersheds. This water is collected in 6 locations: Lake Hennessey and Milliken Reservoir (City of Napa), Rector Reservoir (Town of Yountville and Veterans Home), Friesen Lakes

(Angwin), Bell Canyon (City of St. Helena) and Kimball Reservoir (City of Calistoga).

The most effective and cost-efficient way to protect public water supplies and water quality is by protecting the watersheds that generate municipal drinking water supplies. Privately-owned property is subject to the changing needs of those who own the property, and may be developed in a variety of ways which impact the watershed. Permanent protection is best accomplished through public ownership, or through conservation easements held by public agencies or non-profit land trusts dedicated to these purposes. Of the 47,300 acres of municipal watershed lands serving Napa County cities, just over 12,000 acres (or about 25%) are so protected, meaning over 35,000 acres of these critical watershed lands are unprotected and subject to the vagaries of individual interests. Of the unprotected acreage, just over 15,000 acres (or approximately 32 percent) is undeveloped (eg, no houses, commercial buildings, or planted crops, though there may be small-scale improvements for ranching, hunting or other low intensity uses).

Those municipal watershed lands which have not yet been developed should get first priority for protection,



Moore Creek Park is an example of combining watershed protection with compatible public recreation

if for no reason other than that undeveloped parcels can be acquired for less cost than developed parcels while achieving comparable benefit. Within these areas, the lands which also support high levels of biodiversity or which provide connecting corridors for wildlife are especially important.

Most of the unincorporated areas of Napa County depend on groundwater supplies or diversions from in-stream flows. Traditionally, much rural development tapped into surface water. However, traditional stream flows and ponds are in most cases inadequate to supply additional development. Indeed, existing diversions in many cases already exceed the capacity of these streams to fulfill their basic ecosystem functions to support riparian species and wildlife.

Underground aquifers also have their limits. How underground aquifers are connected, and their overall health, is not all that well understood. A few areas, notably the MST (Milliken, Sarco and Tulocay watersheds) east of the City of Napa, have been formally acknowledged as suffering from overdraft. In other rural areas, groundwater supplies are often limited, and/or contain minerals that make them unpotable (high salinity or arsenic for example) or unsuitable for agriculture (high boron for example).

Areas with depleted or declining groundwater supplies are obvious candidates for protection as open space, since such protection can prevent further stress on the overall system. Areas where the groundwater is highly saline or contains chemicals such as boron or arsenic are also logical candidates for protection as open space; such areas have limited value for irrigated agriculture or for residential development, but still generally deliver high ecosystem benefits (collecting and distributing surface rainwater, providing wildlife habitat, and supporting endemic, rare and endangered species)

Objective: Protect 15,000 acres of municipal watershed lands through acquisition of fee title or conservation easements, provided there are willing sellers

Objective: Prioritize protection of ponds, lakes, and major Blue Line streams.

Objective: Prioritize protection of lands with depleted or unusable groundwater supplies.

Ecosystem Health

Guaranteeing healthy watersheds is not a matter of just protecting land in a natural state, but also about maintaining and enhancing ecosystem health. Major threats to ecosystem health include climate change, habitat fragmentation and the proliferation of invasive species. These three factors interact in complex ways that can be devastating—a point driven home by the unprecedented number, scale and destruction of recent wildfires.

- **Climate change.** Climate change is nothing new, but the rate of change is unprecedented in modern human history. Nearly all scientists agree a major cause of climate change today is human activity, and specifically the release of carbon dioxide, methane and other gases or particulate matter into the atmosphere that trap heat and are raising the earth's average temperature. Protecting open space land in its natural state can be beneficial by sequestering carbon in retained vegetation, in root systems and in undisturbed soil. Protecting open space land also has the indirect benefit of helping focus human investment and activities into urban areas, where less energy is required to ensure a vibrant economy. Transportation is a major source of human-generated carbon dioxide; reducing vehicle miles traveled is the single most effective way of reducing the generation of greenhouse gases, and focusing growth into existing urban areas along is the best way of reducing per person vehicle miles travelled (more non-motorized paths and trails also helps).
- **Habitat fragmentation.** Small, isolated habitats do not perform well. The diversity and density of wildlife declines dramatically as habitats become fragmented and isolated. This problem is exacerbated

by climate change. To respond to climate change, animals and plants need to be able to migrate as some habitats become inhospitable to them, and other habitats open up. To enable this movement, it is essential to protect habitats at the landscape scale, with both core areas as well as connecting corridors.

Habitat fragmentation in Napa County today is mostly human-caused. Suburban development sprawling into the countryside has been dramatically slowed by a series of land use initiatives and regulations adopted over many decades. However, the urban limit line and minimum parcel size restrictions that have been used to control suburban expansion are increasingly ineffective at controlling the proliferation of estate homes, remote wineries and clearcutting of forests. While these latter forms of development may visually often appear to retain considerable open space, they can have tremendous adverse impacts on habitat and the diversity and density of wildlife. Thoughtful regulation can reduce these adverse impacts, such as by requiring the retention of habitat corridors, protection of microhabitats (such as wetlands and riparian corridors), and control of stormwater runoff, but regulation has its own limits. Much of rural Napa has already been subdivided into parcels so small that regulations sufficiently strong to adequately protect habitat and water quality would render those parcels largely worthless; this would be both an undue financial burden on individual property owners as well as potentially constitute an illegal “takings” of property rights.

For the most ecologically valuable open space lands, where regulation by itself is inadequate, an essential tool for protecting the ecological benefits that all of the public enjoys is for the public to purchase these lands or to obtain conservation easements over the lands.

- **Invasive species.** The migration of species is a natural feature of long-term evolution. Many of the plants and animals that we tend to regard as part of our open landscapes came from elsewhere in the world. The problem, within a human time frame, is that the



Volunteers including many students have donated hundreds of hours removing teasel, Himalayan blackberry, fennel and other invasive plants from the Napa River Ecological Reserve, and replanting native vegetation to improve habitat for wildlife

rate of movement and change has increased dramatically since the time when the first Europeans arrived in California. This increasingly rapid pace of change allows native species less time to adapt and evolve, resulting in accelerating rates of native species extinction and disruption of ecological balances.

The spread of non-native species can have significant implications for people. Star thistle, goat grass and other invasive weeds severely degrade rangeland suitable for ranching. Invasive *Arrundo donax* worsens flood risk by clogging waterways. In east county streams, tamarisk sucks up surface water and dries up streams. French broom has spread to many parts of rural Napa, creating a dense, highly flammable forest understory that greatly increases the threat of uncontrollable and excessively hot wildfires. As they multiply, invasive weeds further exacerbate habitat fragmentation.

In California, many counties formerly had Weed Management Areas—cooperative, multi-agency, public-private partnerships to control the spread of targeted weeds. Unfortunately, these efforts were even in the best of times never adequately funded, and that funding has since diminished or disappeared. In the last

decade, Napa County's WMA ceased to function due to a lack of funding.

- **Wildfire Risk.** The devastating wildfires in and around Napa County in the past few years are the result of a combination of the above factors. Climate change has increased the frequency of drought, raised average temperatures and lowered humidities. Rural development has put more people in the path of wildfires. The proliferation of some invasive species has increased fuel loads and created fuel ladders into tree canopies, increasing the risk of destructive wildfires.

These changes are on top of the accumulated impact of



Invasive French broom forms a dangerous ladder fuel. Volunteers have spent countless hours removing mature plants and then coming back to pluck new seedlings to reduce wildfire risk at Moore Creek Park

several hundred years of fire suppression, starting with the arrival of the Spanish in the 1600's. Prior to that, Native Americans regularly lit fires to clear out brush and improve the habitats that provided them food. Our iconic oak woodlands are the result of their active fire management. European settlers to the Bay Area did not understand the importance of fire to maintaining the landscape, and banned the practice of setting frequent small fires. We now have an environment with much higher fuel loads than previously, one that is primed to burn. Wildfires today can quickly shift from small-scale, relatively cool events that enhance forest health, to

massive, very hot conflagrations that destroy everything in their path.

Objective: Use the Conservation Lands Network research and mapping to identify the areas with the highest conservation benefits for core habitats and wildlife corridors.

Objective: Prioritize the protection of open space lands with the greatest potential for carbon sequestration in above-ground vegetation and below-ground root zones.

Objective: Use historic wildfire mapping data to identify areas most prone to destructive wildfires, and prioritize these areas for protection from development, so that fewer people and less monetary investment is placed at risk.

Objective: Seek funding to support comprehensive, consistent and sustainable efforts to target the most damaging invasive species, control their spread and density and reduce fuel loads.

Goal: Develop a system of parks, trails, and accessible open space that supports outdoor recreation and promotes physical and mental health.

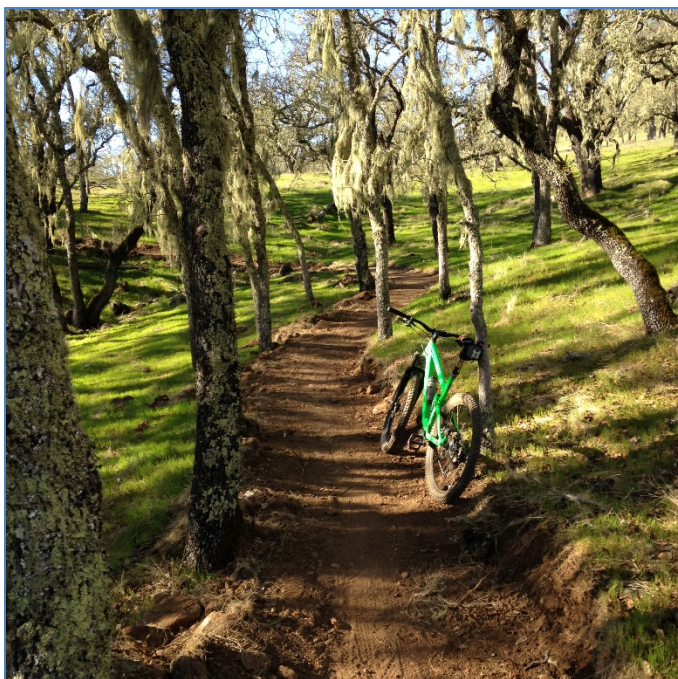
Considerable scientific research confirms what we innately know: spending time in nature is good for our physical, mental and spiritual well-being. It's also an excellent way to gain an understanding of what we as humans should be doing to care for the environment on which our quality of life depends.

"Healthy Parks Healthy People" is more than just a slogan for the District; it is a guiding principle for all the District's work. Thus, the District intends to continue its work providing public access to the open space lands it protects and manages.

With this update to the Master Plan, however, the District acknowledges the need for a more

comprehensive and seamless approach to outdoor recreation. While the District's focus continues to be on nature-based recreation, there is no sharp line between a tot lot in a residential neighborhood, a city bicycle and pedestrian path, a community sports field, and a regional open space park.

In terms of the District's direct responsibilities, this Update continues to emphasize the construction of new trails and paths, and campgrounds and picnic areas, for these are the primary infrastructure of public access. The District has and will continue to primarily build multi-use trails that serve diverse user groups ranging from casual strollers to serious hikers to mountain bicyclists to equestrians, and facilitate diverse interests ranging from bird watching to dog walking, and exercise to quiet contemplation.



New trails feed both the body and the soul

That said, in some locations it is desirable and appropriate to optimize trail design for particular uses. For example, the Madrone Trail now under construction in Moore Creek Park, is an entirely hand built trail on steep and heavily forested terrain. It is being designed as a footpath for hikers, in part to serve those who want

a particularly quiet and contemplative experience, and in part due to the recognition that to build a full multi-use trail in that terrain would require an undue amount of soil disturbance to construct a sufficiently wide trail to be safely used by mountain bicyclists and equestrians. Conversely, in the District's recently acquired Suscol Headwaters Preserve, District staff is investigating the feasibility of a loop trail optimized for mountain bicyclists to supplement the multi-use trails also planned for that area. This area is being considered for a trail optimized for bicyclists because it is adjacent to an area (Skyline Park) already in great demand by bicyclists, yet beyond the distance range of most hikers; in this situation, optimizing the design of one trail in this area for one user group should have minimal impact on the experience of other user groups.

A different type of trail optimization is now under consideration for Amy's Grove. The District has begun discussions with the adjacent Enchanted Hills Camp. In conjunction with the expansion of Amy's Grove through the planned purchase of another 164 acres in 2019, the objective is to construct a trail network optimized for the blind and visually impaired.

In addition to trails the District will also continue to provide other facilities that enable public enjoyment of the outdoors. At Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, the District has continued to operate a traditional campground, while adding yurts and cabins for those wanting a more comfortable forest experience. At Ecocamp Berryessa, the District has built a campground with tent cabins and space for personal tents serving youth and other groups.

The District is now in the process of restoring the fire-damaged girl scout camp at The Cove on Mt. Veeder, with the goal of re-opening this well-loved camping facility.

The 2008 Master Plan contemplated backcountry camping on or near the Oat Hill Mine Trail, at Moore Creek Park, and potentially elsewhere. That continues to be a District objective.

To complement the above initiatives, the District has made some progress working with the cities within Napa County on joint projects such as the Napa River and Bay Trail, or the removal of invasive French Broom from Westwood Hills Park. This Update recognizes the need for the District and the cities to work even more closely in the future, so that the public is provided a full, seamless and complementary network of open spaces and recreational facilities.

Another challenge is to ensure the permanent protection of Skyline Wilderness Park, including both its open space benefits as well as its recreational amenities. Skyline Park is State of California land leased to the County of Napa, which in turns has an agreement with the non-profit Skyline Park Citizens Association to operate and maintain it. The State lease expires in 2030, after which the State could sell the land for other purposes. While Skyline Park is not a direct District responsibility, the District's General Manager acts as the County's agent in administering the agreements with the State and the Association. The District and the County of Napa are committed to acquiring the property to preserve the park in perpetuity. Several attempts have been made to acquire the property, but getting State approval has so far not been successful.

Objective: Increase the amount of accessible parkland by at least 20,000 acres.

Objective: Construct another 50 miles of recreational trails over the next 15 years

Objective: Develop additional back county camping

Objective: Cooperate with the municipalities of Napa County to provide seamless recreation programing and a full range of park and recreation facilities

Objective: Work with the Skyline Park Citizens Association and the County of Napa to obtain State authorization to acquire the property so that it will remain a park in perpetuity.

Goal: Provide historical, cultural and environmental education.

In the process of protecting open space lands, the District also has the responsibility to preserve important elements of our archaeological, cultural and historical heritage. These include Native American cultural sites, homesteads of the first European immigrants, the labor-intensive rock walls, bridges and buildings constructed primarily by Asian and Irish immigrants in the 1800's and early 1900's, and the remnants of resorts that thrived before the advent of the automobile. Currently, the District is protecting and restoring significant historical resources at the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park and Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, as well as significant cultural resources at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Suscol Headwaters Preserve.

In 1970 half of all Napa residents lived in rural areas; today, more than 80 percent live in one of the five municipalities within Napa county. With an increasingly urban population, deliberate and organized efforts at educating the next generation is necessary if people are to value the natural environment, and understand how to care for it.

Napa County currently has approximately 23,000 school-aged children (Kindergarten through 12th grade). To enable every student to have one outdoor education



Learning about Napa's history is both fun and tasty

field trip per year is estimated to cost about \$750,000 annually.

Objective: Support outdoor education programs that combine hands-on physical activity with teaching about the natural environment and how to be a good steward of the land, with a target of providing one additional outdoor education field trip annually for each K-12 student.

Goal: Pursue effective District management and interagency partnerships

Since the District was established in 2006, one of its guiding principles has been to focus on those needs that are not being met by other public agencies, non-profit



The District has launched a cooperative program with the City of Napa to reduce the amount of highly flammable French Broom from Westwood Hills Park

organizations or the private sector. The objective is to supplement, not compete with existing efforts. As a result, the District has relied extensively on working in partnership with others.

The District has already demonstrated the power of such partnerships. Together with the City of American Canyon, more than 5 miles of trails have been constructed that provide residents with their first legal public access to the Napa River. Together with the City of Napa, the District has been able to open for public use approximately 900 acres of beautiful oak woodlands north of Lake Hennessey. Together with the County of Napa, the District has been able to convert the abandoned Oat Hill Mine Trail into an 8+ mile recreational trail. Together with the Bureau of Reclamation, the District has been able to construct and now operate Ecocamp Berryessa, Napa County's only public youth-oriented group camp that is now being used by a variety of non-profit organizations and school groups.

The experience of the first 12 years of the District suggests there would be great value in expanding partnership with the cities within Napa County. Each of these municipalities has responsibility for urban parks and city-based recreation programs. None of the municipalities have sufficient financial resources to fully implement their own master plans.

Objective: Support joint funding with the four cities and one town within Napa County to provide a comprehensive and complementary set of parks, recreation facilities and related programs that seamlessly serve all Napa county residents.

I.

V. Long-Term Financial Planning

Historical Context

In 2004, the voters of Napa County approved increasing the Transient Occupancy Tax by 1.5 percent. While structured as a general purpose tax, the voters were promised by the Board of Supervisors that the new revenues would be used for parks and open space, visitor services and other special projects not then provided by the County. Since the District was formed in 2006, the Board of Supervisors has honored this promise and has granted approximately 60% of those revenues to the District (equal to \$916,000 for FY 2019-20). This grant has accounted for one-third of the District's overall revenues, with the District using the County grant to leverage other grants and donations, and to generate program revenue.

Even with impressive leveraging, the District is limited in what it can accomplish with the funding it has been able to obtain. For that reason, a community advisory committee was formed by the District in 2015, composed of representatives of each city, each Supervisorial district, and the general community. The advisory committee was asked three questions: (1) did the committee like what the District had done up to that point; (2) had the District done enough, or was there more to do; and (3) if there was more to do, how should that work be funded?

The citizen's advisory committee concluded that (1) they were impressed by what the District had accomplished, (2) there was a lot more that needed to be done, and (3) the District should propose a sales tax measure for voter consideration to fund the work.

Following the recommendation of the advisory committee, at the request of the District Board of Directors, the Napa County Board of Supervisors placed Measure Z on the November 2016 ballot.

Measure Z, a ¼ cent sales tax proposal, would have generated approximately \$8.5 million. Of that,

approximately \$5.5 million would have been available for land preservation. At the time, a funding stream of that size was estimated to be sufficient to be able to keep pace with the rate at which the most critically important open space lands were expected to come on the market over the 14-year term of the tax measure.

Measure Z fell just short of the two-thirds approval threshold required for dedicated tax measures. However, the public's interest in preserving our most important open space resources continues to grow.



The District is at a financial crossroads. If a dedicated and stable revenue stream can be obtained, the District will be able to significantly ramp up its open space preservation actions, and make substantial progress on the goals discussed in the previous section of this Update. Without additional revenues, the District will have little choice but to abandon most of its work protecting additional municipal and agricultural watershed lands, riparian and upland habitat, wildlife

corridors and viewsheds. In addition, no new parks and trails will be possible to serve an ever-increasing population; the District's capacity will be limited to completing the Committed Projects identified in this Update.

Future Funding Needs and Options

First and foremost, the District needs to complete and then maintain the parks, trails, campgrounds and restoration projects that it has already started. With that as its base, this Update then projects what would be needed to meet broader open space goals: watershed protection, ecosystem health, environmental education and outdoor recreation.

For long-term financial planning purposes, this Update presents three scenarios:

Scenario One: Maintenance of Effort for Committed Projects

Scenario Two: Enhanced Progress

Scenario Three: Accelerated Preservation and Implementation

Table One provides details related to Scenario One, while Table Two compares the three scenarios.

Scenario One: Maintenance of Effort for Committed Projects

Scenario One focuses on completing and then maintaining and operating Committed Projects. Committed Projects are those where the District has already made investments and has a physical presence on the ground, either through fee title ownership of the land or through operating agreements with other landowning agencies.

Scenario One assumes a continuation of the annual grant to the District that is derived from a portion of the County's Transient Occupancy Tax.

Table One presents current annual operating expenses and revenues for each of the District's Committed Projects. At present, the District spends \$1, 256,000 annually to maintain and operate the Districts

Committed Projects. Just under 50% of these expenses are to operate Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park. Because they have overnight accommodations, these two parks generate sufficient revenue to cover their current expenses as well as to gradually whittle away at the backlog of deferred maintenance the District inherited when assuming responsibility for the parks in 2012. Most of the District's other facilities do not have overnight accommodations and are available without user fees, so generate minimal revenues. Overall, current annual expenditures exceed operating revenues by \$545,000 (assuming no financial assistance from Napa County). Assuming the County's annual grant is \$1 million, after covering current expenses, the District has \$455,000 available annually for capital investments.

Table One also provides order of magnitude revenue and expense projections for each Committed Project at "buildout". "Buildout" is defined as the completion of planned capital improvements plus further land acquisitions necessary for the most efficient management of the Committed Projects. Finally, Table One estimates capital funding needs to reach Buildout.

As the District moves toward Buildout of the Committed Projects, each year more of the County grant funding that is currently available for capital projects will need to be dedicated for operations and maintenance, thereby slowing the rate of capital improvements. As a result, the completion of all of the Committed Projects is estimated to take as long as 60-plus years.

Under Scenario One, efforts to preserve Napa's natural landscapes will be severely limited. The 60-plus year estimate of the time needed to complete Committed Projects assumes the District undertakes no new projects. If new projects are started, less funding will be available to work on completing the Committed Projects.

Table One: Committed Projects: Financial Estimates

	current annual operating expenditures	current annual operating revenues	long-term annual expenditures	long-term annual revenues	buildout capital needs (construction)	buildout capital needs (land acquisition)
Napa River and Bay Trail	\$10,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$2,500,000	\$100,000
Napa River Ecological Reserve	\$11,000	\$0	\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Oat Hill Mine Trail including northern extension	\$12,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
Berryessa Vista Wilderness Park including access trails	\$1,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$300,000	\$500,000
Berryessa Peak Trail	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Moore Creek Park including Lake Hennessey	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$60,000	\$20,000	\$100,000	\$1,000,000
Camp Berryessa	\$25,000	\$16,000	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$2,500,000	\$0
Suscol Headwaters Preserve	\$5,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$0
Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats and Stone Corral	\$4,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$1,000,000	\$150,000
Smittle Creek Park	\$1,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$0
Vine Trail	\$1,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mt Veeder (including Amy's Grove and The Cove)	\$60,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
Wooddale	n/a	n/a	\$30,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
Other Projects (including administration, insurance, legal obligations, public involvement, elections, fundraising, other project planning and implementation)	\$400,000	\$0	\$550,000	\$0	n/a	n/a
Subtotal (not including State Parks)	\$581,000	\$36,000	\$872,000	\$60,000	\$8,650,000	\$3,750,000
Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and Bale Grist Mill SHP	\$675,000	\$675,000	\$700,000	\$725,000	\$4,000,000	\$0
Total (including State Parks)	\$1,256,000	\$711,000	\$1,572,000	\$785,000	\$12,650,000	\$3,750,000

Years to complete capital improvements (excluding State Parks)

Net Annual	-	-
Annual grant from Napa County	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
County grant available for use on capital projects	\$455,000	\$188,000
Years to complete capital improvements (assuming no new non-county grants)	36	87

36 62 YEARS 87

Notes:

"Annual operating expenses" only covers operations, and does not include staff time associated with one-time capital improvement projects

"Buildout capital needs (construction)" includes improvements to complete only existing known objectives; for State Parks, 50% of the capital needs identified by State Parks are assumed to be paid for by State Parks, with the remainder funded by park revenues and other non-County grants

"Buildout capital needs (land acquisition)" includes only those acquisitions which are needed to provide logical boundaries to existing properties and trails.

"Years to complete" is calculated by dividing build-out capital needs by net current annual revenues (after current operating expenses are deducted); to calculate net revenues, net current revenues are averaged with net long-term revenues, to reflect the fact that how much funding is available to pay for buildout capital costs will decline as Committed Projects are completed.

"Years to complete..." excludes State Parks, since the State Parks are operated as an independent financial unit, and the County grant to the District cannot be used for State Park purposes

Revenues and expenses are not adjusted for inflation

State Parks are tracked separately from other projects because by County policy none of the County grant to the District may be used to support state facilities

Table Two: Comparison of Financial Scenarios (estimated annual revenues and expenses)

Scenario	Revenues					Expenses						
	TOT grant	program income (1)	other grants (3)	Potential new tax (6)	Total	operations and maintenance (1)	capital improvements (7)	wildfire management	enhanced outdoor education	land protection	support for city projects (2)	Total
Scenario One: Maintenance of Effort (Committed Projects)	\$1,000,000	\$748,000	\$375,000	\$0	\$2,123,000	\$1,414,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$209,000	0	\$2,123,000
Scenario Two: Enhanced Progress	\$1,000,000	\$1,288,000	\$1,000,000	\$9,600,000	\$12,888,000	\$2,164,000	\$1,000,000	\$350,000	\$750,000	\$6,704,000	\$1,920,000	\$12,888,000
Scenario Three: Accelerated Preservation (5)	\$1,000,000	\$1,288,000	\$1,000,000	\$19,200,000	\$22,488,000	\$2,914,000	\$1,500,000	\$350,000	\$750,000	\$13,134,000	\$3,840,000	\$22,488,000

Notes

- (1) For Scenario One, assumed to be the average of current and long-term projected income and expenses to reflect phase-in of new improvements
For Scenarios Two and Three, O&M are calculated assuming the O&M cost for the current portfolio of projects plus an estimated \$50/acre for new acreage
- (2) For evaluation purposes only, assumed to be 20% of sales tax proceeds
- (3) Does not include value of donations of land, non-monetary goods and volunteer services. Other grants increase for Scenarios Two and Three because it's more feasible to obtain other grants for land acquisition than it is for operations and maintenance.
- (4) All numbers are in current dollars, with no adjustment for inflation
- (5) Additional lands aquired under Scenario Three over Scenario Two are assumed to be protected for habitat and watershed purposes but without active public use and facilities
- (6) Scenario Two assumes a 1/4 percent sales tax; Scenario Three assumes a 1/2 percent sales tax.
- (7) In Scenario One, the amount designated for capital improvements, extended over 15 years, will only complete about 40 % of existing known capital needs. The amounts indicated for Scenarios Two and Three would fund known capital needs over 15 years, and provide a setaside for potential future improvements.

Scenario Two: Enhanced Progress

The District's top priority is to complete the Committed Projects. However, as reflected in the earlier discussion in this Master Plan Update, just completing the District's Committed Projects would leave many unique and irreplaceable open space lands unprotected, and many of Napa's existing public lands would continue to be unavailable to the public.

Scenario Two includes not only completion of the Committed Projects, but also assumes funding to protect watersheds, habitat and other high priority open space lands. Scenario Two assumes new funding equal to revenues that would be generated by a countywide one-quarter percent sales tax, in addition to a continuation of the annual grant that is derived from a portion of the County's Transient Occupancy Tax.

Scenario Two reflects the fact that to effectively preserve the most important open space lands, the District must be flexible and responsive when opportunities arise to acquire unique and important parcels of land. The District has no power of eminent domain, so can only acquire land from willing sellers. Critical open space lands only rarely come on the market; when they do, the District needs to do everything it can to acquire them. **Ideally, the District should have an annual funding stream that generates sufficient money to keep pace with the rate at which the most critical open space lands become available for sale.**

Vacant land values in Napa County vary widely, from a low of under \$1,000 per acre for the most remote sites, to a high of \$100,000 or more per acre for land that is permitted for vineyard development but not yet planted. For big picture planning purposes, a figure of \$5,000 per acre is a reasonable assumption of average land values. Using this figure, every \$1 million in District funds equals the ability to acquire 200 acres of land. For \$5 million in annual District revenues, each year approximately 1,000 acres of open space can be acquired and preserved in perpetuity. Scenario Two would generate \$6.7 million annually for open space preservation, and over 15 years would protect an

estimated 20,000 acres of forest, meadows, chaparral and riparian areas.

In its first 12 years, the District has protected a little over 400 acres of open space annually. That compares to several thousand acres of irreplaceable open space that come on the market each year, which means many conservation opportunities are being lost. Scenario Two would increase the District's ability to respond effectively to many but not all ongoing preservation opportunities.

In addition to increasing District capacity to protect land, Scenario Two also assumes increased District capacity to fill three other needs:

- Comprehensive Invasive Weed Management and Fuel Reduction. At present, weed management and fuel reduction efforts are limited to just a few District properties. For an estimated \$350,000 annually, the District could expand these efforts to all of the District's current and proposed lands.
- Outdoor Education Program. Providing one outdoor education field trip per year for all students in Napa County is preliminarily estimated to cost \$750,000. This includes the cost of bus transportation as well as curriculum development and trained guides. One outdoor field trip per year per student, while a modest goal, would represent a dramatic increase compared to the present; currently most students have no outdoor education experiences.
- Cooperative Partnership with city park and recreation programs. Recognizing that city park and recreation projects and programs complement those of the District, and that the public would benefit from adequate funding for the work of both the cities and the District, the District is interested in exploring the feasibility of joint funding. Scenario Two assumes that 20 percent of the revenues (\$1.9 million annually) that would be generated by a countywide one-quarter percent sales tax would be distributed to the four cities and one town within

Napa County to help implement their individual park and recreation plans.

Scenario Three: Accelerated Preservation and Implementation.

Scenario Three includes the completion of Committee Projects as described in Scenario One as well as the enhanced acquisition, land management and outdoor education work described in Scenario Two. It also assumes an accelerated open space preservation and implementation program.

Scenario Three assumes revenues equal to a one-half percent sales tax, in addition to a continuation of the annual grant that is derived from a portion of the County's Transient Occupancy Tax. Under Scenario Three, \$13.1 million would be available annually for land preservation. The additional revenues would enable the District to protect and manage an estimated nearly 40,000 acres of additional open space, or about 2,600 acres annually, which would more than likely be sufficient to keep up with normal market availability, with little risk of losing unique and irreplaceable resources to inappropriate development. This scenario assumes 20 percent of the new revenues (\$3.8 million) would be made available to the four cities and one town within Napa County to help implement their park and recreation goals. This scenario would also fund the wildfire management and enhanced outdoor education programs included in Scenario Two.

The three scenarios presented in this Master Plan Update represent three vastly different futures for the District and for the residents and visitors to Napa County. In presenting these three scenarios, the District hopes to stimulate discussion about which path to pursue, and to galvanize energy to achieve our desired future.



Where there's a will there's a way

Appendix: Status of Other Projects and Programs

The District Master Plan adopted in 2009 contained four major goals and 61 projects for implementing those goals. The Plan noted that the list of projects was intended to demonstrate the full range of potential District activities, and that the list of projects would change as projects were completed, others were determined to be infeasible or of lower priority, and new opportunities and challenges presented themselves.

The Master Plan 2012 Update added seven new projects.

The 2019 Update classifies 14 of these projects as Committee Projects; these are discussed in the body of the 2019 Update. This Appendix provides a snapshot of the status of each of the other projects identified in the Master Plan and/or the Master Plan Update. Some of these projects have been completed, some have put on hold for various reasons, and some have not yet been initiated due to lack of financial and staffing capacity. Note that that project numbering and naming in this document generally follows the same structure as in the original Master Plan, but there is not always a direct correlation because some projects that were initially identified as separate projects have been revised and combined.

Goal A Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation through the development of a system of parks, trails, water resources, open space and related facilities.

A.2 Milliken Creek Trails and Picnic Area Development

The District completed a feasibility study for trails within the City of Napa's Milliken reservoir property. Subsequent negotiations between City and District staff

resulted in conceptual agreement that the District would first work on opening trails on the north side of Lake Hennessey, since this area poses fewer operational challenges and potential water quality issues compared to the Milliken reservoir property. The District opened the first trails on the north shore of Lake Hennessey in 2014.

Next Steps: In consultation with the City of Napa, re-evaluate the feasibility study for the Milliken Reservoir watershed after completion of the planned trail network at the Lake Hennessey Unit of Moore Creek Park (expected in 2019).

A.4 Rector Ridge/Stags Leap Ridge Trail Development

The project involves constructing a staging area and approximately 6 miles of Ridge Trail climbing Rector Ridge and past Stags Leap heading east from Silverado Trail near Rector Creek. This was designated to be part of the 550 mile planned Bay Area Ridge Trail, but with the Ridge Trail Council adoption of a "Go North" revision of the proposed alignment, this would be a spur trail to the main Ridge Trail. To move forward the project needs permission from the California Department of Veterans Affairs (the property owner) as well as California Fish and Wildlife Department (holder of an access easement to permit hunting). Staffing changes and internal challenges within the Department of Veterans Affairs have impeded past efforts.

Next Steps: Restart discussion with the Department of Veteran Affairs (and the Veterans Home in Yountville) after other higher priority projects are completed.

A.9 Newell Preserve Access Development

When the Master Plan was first adopted, there was no public access to the City of American Canyon's Newell Preserve. The District cooperated with the City in an attempt to develop a water source for the Preserve, and to obtain public access. The attempt to develop a water source has so far not been successful, but the City of American Canyon was successful in obtaining the necessary right of way and permits, and have

constructed a non-motorized pathway that provides public access.

Next Steps: No further District action is proposed at this time.

A.10 Lake Berryessa Trail Development

The District is broadly supportive of the Lake Berryessa Trail as proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation, and specifically those segments which will provide access to Berryessa Vista Wilderness Park as well as Camp Berryessa. In 2017 several miles of trail (the North Shore Trail) were constructed under the leadership of Tuleyome, a Woodland-based non-profit organization. This is a major benefit for Camp Berryessa, since the southern terminus of the trail is right at the entrance to the camp. The contractor who constructed the trail used Camp Berryessa as the staging area for equipment, staff and volunteers to work on the trail.

Next Steps: Continue to support efforts by Reclamation and Tuleyome to construct more sections of the Lake Berryessa Trail, especially those serving Berryessa Vista.

A.13 Pope and Putah Creek Trail Development

Development of a network of trails connecting existing Bureau of Land Management properties north of Pope Creek and west of Putah Creek was identified in the District Master Plan as an important goal. The value and feasibility of such a network increased dramatically with the District's acceptance of the 1,900 acre Spanish Valley property, which allows connections to multiple Bureau of Land Management parcels in the area.

Next Steps: When and if easements can be obtained where the proposed trails cross private property, complete construction of the trail network in this area.

A.15 Camp Berryessa to Knoxville Recreation Area Trail Development

Construction of a public trail between Camp Berryessa and the Knoxville Recreation Area would require the public acquisition of either fee title or trail easements

across several private parcels of land from willing sellers.

Next Steps: Continue to look for opportunities to obtain needed rights of way across private property that separates existing public land holdings.

A.16 Napa Crest Trail Planning

The concept of a Napa Crest Trail circumnavigating the Napa Valley was first proposed by the County in the 1970's. The concept was refined somewhat in the District Master Plan, and modified further to mirror the proposed alignment for the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The right of way for most of the 25 mile stretch between Lake Hennessey and Mt. St. Helena is under public or land trust ownership; open public access is already allowed on the public land sections, while "access after orientation" is allowed on the land trust section. The District is involved in intermittent discussions with Solano County and the City of Vallejo about the Vallejo Lakes section of the Napa Crest Trail straddling the Napa-Solano border.

Next Steps: Continue to look for opportunities to obtain needed connections between existing public lands along the proposed Napa Crest Trail alignment, including Vallejo Lakes, between Moore Creek Park and Angwin, and in the Mayacamas Mountains between Sugarloaf State Park and Bothe-Napa Valley State Park.

A.17 Napa River Access Planning

The District, in partnership with the City of American Canyon, has completed two river access points as part of the construction of the Napa River and Bay Trail west of American Canyon, as well as another river access next to the Highway 29 Butler Bridge. River access is also provided by the District at the Napa River Ecological Reserve on Yountville Crossroad.

Next Steps:

(1) Continue to seek opportunities for providing more public access to the Napa River north of the City of Napa.

(2) Investigate the feasibility of providing fishing access to the Napa River south of the Butler Bridge adjacent to Napa Sanitation District property.

A.19 Bay Area Ridge Trail Planning in Napa County

At the urging of the District and the Land Trust of Napa County, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council in 2013 amended the proposed alignment for the Bay Area Ridge Trail to “Go North”, making it more consistent with the alignment for the proposed Napa Crest Trail. Instead of crossing the Napa Valley at the Yountville Crossroad, the alignment is now proposed to extend on the east side of the Napa Valley all the way north to the Oat Hill Mine Trail, with a spur trail continuing to the peak of Mt. St. Helena. In addition, the alignment now also follows the Oat Hill Mine Trail into Calistoga, and the Vine Trail south to Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. From Bothe-Napa Valley State Park the proposed alignment continues south (with no specific route yet identified) to Sugarloaf State Park before heading west across Sonoma County.

Next Steps: Continue to monitor the proposed trail alignment for opportunities to obtain needed trail easements or fee title ownerships.

A.21 River to Ridge Trail Encroachment Resolution

In 2010, the District completed work on a lot line adjustment between Syar Quarry and the State of California in order to eliminate an encroachment of the River to Ridge Trail onto Syar property.

Next Steps: Project completed. No further action needed.

A.23 Napa River Water Trail Development

In 2010 plans for a Napa River Water Trail, advanced by Friends of the Napa River and others, were greatly expanded by the adoption of a regional San Francisco Bay Water Trail plan by the Association of Bay Area Governments and the State Coastal Conservancy. Since then, the District initiated an effort to construct a new river access and boat launch on the west side of the Napa River, just south of the Highway 29 Butler Bridge; that project has been transferred to the City of Napa for implementation. The City of Napa has also completed a new boat dock just south of the Third Street Bridge, and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife has opened

river access for hand launched boats at their Napa Plant Site off Green Island Road.

Next Steps: Continue to monitor and support the local and regional planning process, and be willing to take the lead on projects that need District involvement to succeed.

A.24 Napa Valley Greenway/Vine Trail Development

The non-profit Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition was formed in 2008 to advocate for a Class I bicycle and pedestrian path between the Vallejo Ferry Terminal and the City of Calistoga. The District has an MOU with the Coalition to partner and provide support where appropriate. One member of the District Board sits on the Vine Trail Coalition Board. The District has worked with the Coalition in securing the right of way for the combined Vine Trail and Napa River and Bay Trail through the Napa Pipe property. The District has also completed 0.7 miles of the combined Vine Trail and Napa River and Bay Trail in the vicinity of the Buttler Bridge.

Next Steps: Assist with obtaining permissions and constructing the Vine Trail segment that is proposed to run through Bothe-Napa Valley State Park.

A.25 Henry Road/Milliken Peak Area Trail Development

The Master Plan calls for a trail in the Henry Road/Milliken Peak area. Several possible routes have been investigated, but to date the District has not been able to securing the necessary right of way.

Next Steps: Be prepared to reactivate this project if the opportunity arises to secure necessary right of way

A.26 Countywide Trail Network Planning

A conceptual countywide trail network was adopted as part of the Napa County General Plan Update in 2008 and further detailed in the District’s Master Plan adopted in 2009. Since that time, the alignment for the Vine Trail has been determined. In addition, the alignment for the other major regional trail in Napa County—the Bay Area Ridge Trail, was revised by the

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council at District request, to “Go North” up the east side of the Napa Valley to the Oat Hill Mine Trail, across the valley at Calistoga, and then west to Sonoma County using Bothe-Napa Valley State Park.

Next Steps: Continue to implement the proposed trail network, and update the plan as circumstances dictate.

GOAL B Preserve, restore and protect open space lands, natural resources and habitats

B.2 Lake Berryessa Estates Open Space Preservation

In 2009 the District submitted an application to the Bureau of Land Management requesting the no-fee transfer of two parcels totaling 480 acres. The transfer has been delayed because BLM discovered a problem with the title to the land that needs to be corrected. The problem affects several parcels next to Lake Berryessa. Completion of the transfer is important because of the land’s connection to the District’s adjacent 1,900 acre Spanish Valley property.

Next Steps: Continue to encourage BLM to complete the transfer of the property.

B.4 Vallejo Lakes and Lake Curry Preservation

The City of Vallejo owns two reservoirs in Solano County (Lakes Madigan and Frey) along with approximately 2,000 acres of adjacent property (both watershed and non-watershed land), and one reservoir in Napa County (Lake Curry) along with approximately 7,087 acres of its watershed. The City over the past decade has been exploring options for selling the non-watershed lands, selling the Lake Curry property, and transferring the Madigan and Frey water supply obligations to a non-city water purveyor. The District has participated in discussions with the City of Vallejo, the Solano Land Trust, the Land Trust of Napa County and Solano County, with the goal of preserving the habitat and

water resources of these City properties, as well as providing appropriate public access.

Next Steps: Continue to participate in discussions about Vallejo Lakes and Lake Curry and seek solutions that preserve the resource values of these areas

B.5 South Napa Wetlands

This area immediately west of the Napa River, between the river and Highway 29, was acquired and restored as tidal wetland by the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District as part of the “living river” flood control project. Initially the Flood Control District planned to transfer ownership of the property to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. When that proved problematic, the Flood District and the Napa Open Space District explored the option of having NOSD own and manage the property for limited public access. After researching the issue, the two Districts concluded that it made sense for the Flood District to retain ownership and management responsibilities.

Next Steps: At such time as the City of Napa decides what to do with the upland property they own immediately northwest of the South Napa Wetlands, NOSD should investigate with them the potential for developing of a wetland overlook platform.

B.6 Linda Falls Conservation Easement

When the Land Trust of Napa County obtained ownership of the main parcel of land that includes Linda Falls in 2008, they donated a conservation easement over the property to NOSD. After the Land Trust subsequently obtained fee title to two adjacent parcels, the Land Trust revised the conservation easement to include all 176 acres owned by the Land Trust.

Next Steps: Continue to monitor the easement to ensure conservation values are preserved.

B.7 Palisades Cooperative Management Plan Development

The District participated in a process led by the Land Trust of Napa County to develop a cooperative management plan for the public properties in the

Palisades area between Angwin and Mt. St. Helena. The final plan provides a framework for future cooperative efforts involving the Land Trust, California State Parks, NOSD, the Bureau of Land Management and the State Lands Commission. In 2017 the Land Trust obtained a conservation easement over more than 7,000 acres of the adjacent private Montesol ranch, which dramatically expands the overall protected area.

Next Steps: Continue to work with partner agencies and the Land Trust to cooperatively manage the area.

B.8 Skyline Park Protection and Master Plan Development

The County adopted an updated Master Plan for Skyline Park in 2009, and at the same time revised the zoning to be consistent with the General Plan. Both actions strengthened legal protections for the park. At the request of the County, in 2010 the State authorized sale of the property to the County, but the State and County were unable to agree on a price.

Next Steps: Continue to advocate for permanent protection of all of Skyline Park as a public park through acquisition from the State.

B.10 Other High Priority Habitats Protection

NOSD worked with the Association of Bay Area Governments, the County of Napa, the Napa Valley Transportation Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to designate Priority Conservation Areas (PCA's) within Napa County. PCA's are areas of high biological or recreational value deserving of permanent protection through acquisition of fee title ownership and/or conservation easements. The Suscol Headwaters Preserve was NOSD's first major acquisition resulting from the PCA program, with funding from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Caltrans, Napa Valley Transportation Authority, Solano Transportation Agency and the State Coastal Conservancy.

Next Steps: Continue to monitor for opportunities to protect high priority conservation properties in Napa County.

B.12 Maple Springs Transfer

In 2009 the District applied for a no-fee transfer of Maple Springs from the Bureau of Land Management to the District pursuant to the federal Recreation and Public Purpose Act. District ownership of the parcel would facilitate management of the Oat Hill Mine Trail, as well as enable the District to provide back country camping. However, due to staffing shortages at BLM, this transfer has taken a back seat to the Lake Berryessa Estates BLM parcel transfer.

Next Steps: Restart the transfer application once BLM completes the Lake Berryessa Estates BLM parcel transfer.

B.15 Montesol Phase II

In 2016 the Trust for Public Land in partnership with the Land Trust of Napa County purchased a conservation easement over more than 7,000 acres of the Montesol property north and east of Mt. St. Helena, protecting a very diverse landscape of douglas fir forest, oak woodlands, grasslands, chaparral and unique rock outcrops. As part of the easement purchase, TPL also negotiated an option to purchase in fee title 1,254 acres of the conservation easement area, located west of Highway 29, with the intent of transferring ownership to the District, so that it could be managed in a coordinated way with Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

The District succeeded in obtaining a grant to close the funding gap needed to complete the acquisition. Unfortunately, the landowner, TPL and the District were unable to come to agreement on insurance details related to carbon credits that the landowner had previously sold to the State of California. As a result, the option expired. Going forward, the area's natural resources will be protected through the conservation easement, but there will be no public access.

GOAL C Provide historical, cultural and environmental education programs

C.2 Napa River Ecological Reserve Environmental Education Program Development

During 2010 and 2011, the District sponsored field trips for elementary, middle and high school students to visit the Reserve, learn about the ecology, and assist with the removal of invasive plants in the entryway meadow, utilizing a specific grant for that purpose. With the ending of the grant, these field trips ended. The District, in partnership with the Napa Country Resource Conservation District, used another grant to develop a curriculum guide keyed to California educational standards, so that individual teachers and their classes can visit and learn about the Reserve without the need for outside experts. In 2017 the District was able to obtain new grant funding to support field trips.

Next Steps: Continue and expand field trips and nature walks at the Napa River Ecological Reserve

C.3 Napa River to Ridge Trail Interpretive Path Development

Approximately 1,000 feet of the River to Ridge Trail, immediately east of Soscol Avenue, runs between parallel chain-link fences. To make this section of trail more inviting, the District had life-size silhouettes of animals that can be seen in Skyline Park fabricated and installed by an Eagle Scout candidate. In 2012 the District installed an information kiosk at the entrance to the River to Ridge Trail.

Next Steps: Consider developing a smart phone-based audio tour for the River to Ridge Trail, including information on the Bay Area Ridge Trail and SF Bay Trail.

C.4 Rector Ridge Trail Interpretive Path Development

When constructed, the Rector Ridge Trail will offer great potential for interpreting the history and development of the Napa Valley, including water supply, the Veterans Home and the wine industry.

Next Steps: No action needed until the District is able to secure permission to construct the trail.

C.5 Napa River and Bay Trail Interpretive Path Development

As part of the construction of the Napa River and Bay Trail in and near American Canyon, the District prepared and installed eight interpretive stations, discussing topics ranging from wastewater treatment, solid waste landfills, salt production, wetlands restoration and Native American use of the area. Then in 2014, in partnership with the SF Bay Trail Project and a private software developer, the interpretive information was turned into a smart phone-based app.

Next Steps: Publicize the availability of the smart phone interpretive app.

C.6 South Napa Wetlands Habitat Interpretive Facilities and Programming Development

With the decision of the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to retain ownership of the South Napa Wetlands, development of interpretive facilities and programming at this location has become a less pressing concern. The best location for a waterfowl observation deck is accessed from City of Napa property; until the City prepares a master plan for this site, the District cannot proceed with the observation deck.

Next Steps: No action is needed until the City of Napa completes planning for its property in this area.

C.7 Huichica Creek Wetlands Interpretive Path Development

This project is inactive because of uncertainty about the legality of the public access route to the Huichica Creek Wetlands, which are managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Next Steps: No further District action needed at this point.

C.8 Oat Hill Mine Trail Interpretive Path Development

The District has provided on its web page copies of a self-guided geology tour as well as two articles on native plants.

Next Steps:

- (1) Consider the feasibility of developing a smart phone-based interpretive app for the Oat Hill Mine Trail.*
- (2) If the Oat Hill Mine Trail is opened to the public north of Aetna Springs, design and install interpretive materials describing the history of the Twin Peaks, Corona and Oat Hill mercury mines.*

GOAL D Provide for District management and partnerships

D.1 Develop and Implement a Multiyear Budget and Service Plan

The 2012 Master Plan Update included the District's first look at multi-year service and budget projections. That analysis was refined as part of the work of the Park and Open Space District Advisory Committee, and presented in the committee's Final Report issued in 2015. The 2019 Master Plan Update further refines these projections.

Next Steps: Continue to update and refine the multiyear budget and service plan

D.2 Develop Public Information Program

The District completed a major overhaul of its web site in 2016, built around a trip finder mapping tool. In 2016 the District also launched a monthly newsletter. District

volunteers and staff also maintain a facebook page. In 2017 the District sponsored a series of articles in the local newspaper written by a high school student featuring District parks and trails. In the spring of 2017 the District received \$50,000 in grants to increase public outreach. Half of these funds have been allocated to expanded youth outdoor education, with the rest available for more traditional public information channels.

Next Steps:

- (1) Continue to maintain and upgrade the web site*
- (2) Continue and expand youth outdoor education*
- (3) Expand use of Instagram, Facebook and other social media*

D.3 Consider Establishing Non-Profit Foundation

Since 2012 the District has partnered with the Napa Valley State Park Association in raising donations and obtaining grants. The District continues to evaluate the merits of forming its own non-profit foundation to encourage more local giving. A foundation is not needed legally, since donations to the District are tax-deductible just like those to non-profit organizations, but having a foundation could potentially encourage more support. At the same time, foundations require considerable staff time, an active Board, and a unique positioning in the community if they are to be effective.

Next Steps:

- (1) Continue to partner with the Napa Valley State Park Association, the Land Trust of Napa County and other non-profit organizations where feasible.*

D.4 Consider Forming District Advisory Committee

Given the small size of the District and the direct involvement of staff and board members with volunteers and others in the community, the Board of Directors has concluded a formal standing advisory committee is not needed. That said, in 2014-15 the District convened a Park and Open Space Advisory Committee for the specific purposes of (a) evaluating the District's track record, (b) advising the District on what more it could and should be doing, and (c)

recommending strategies for funding the District's future. The committee was disbanded in 2015 after releasing its Final Report.

Next Steps: Consider establishing an oversight committee as part of any new ballot measure for funding the District.

D.5 Establish Partnerships with Public Art, Historical and Cultural Interpretation Organizations

In 2011 the District was awarded recognition by Napa County Landmarks for helping to preserve Napa County's historic landscapes. Starting in 2012 the District entered into a partnership to preserve and operate the Bale Grist Mill and the Visitor Center, pioneer cemetery and other resources at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park.

Next Steps: Continue to seek creative partnerships that can result in public art being incorporated into the District's parks.

D.6 Develop Volunteer Participation

Between its formation at the beginning of 2007 up through the end of 2018, the District organized 96,300 hours of volunteer support, valued at just over \$1.9 million. Volunteers work constructing, repairing and maintaining trails, installing fences and gates, repairing buildings, removing trash, controlling invasive weeds, planting native trees and shrubs, biological inventories, planning studies, boundary surveys, and serving as camp and mill hosts.

Next Steps: Continue to manage and expand volunteer programs.

D.7 Prepare and Adopt District Purchasing and Contracting Policies and Procedures

Contracting policies and procedures were adopted by the District Board in 2010. Since then minor changes have been made to keep current with federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Next Steps: Continue to monitor changes in federal, state and local laws and regulations and update District policies and procedures as appropriate.

D.8 Prepare and Adopt District Policies and Ordinances for Public Use of Facilities

As a public agency, the District has the authority to adopt and enforce ordinances establishing policies for use of District facilities. However, the District has so far not had the need to do so, instead successfully relying on information and education to protect District resources and maintain public safety. The exception is the State Parks operated by the District, where State Park regulations and policies apply.

Next Steps: Continue to evaluate the need for the District to adopt enforceable regulations that go beyond existing county, state and federal regulations.

D.9 Adopt Policies and Develop Partnership, Sponsorship and Donation Programs for the Use and Promotion of District Facilities

In 2008 the District adopted policies related to donations for the Oat Hill Mine Trail, but which applies to all District donations. The policy allows small acknowledgement plaques to be placed on benches, kiosks and other donated furnishings. The District has received a few inquiries from businesses potentially interested in partnering on "green burial" and memorial grove programs, but to date none have been sufficiently related to the District's core mission to be worth pursuing. At the State Parks, the District must follow State Park policies related to sponsorships and affiliations; these rules prohibit the placement in State Parks of most visible forms of acknowledgement for donations.

The District regularly donates to non-profit organizations throughout Napa County by offering free or discounted use of cabins, yurts and campsites as raffle and auction prizes at their fundraising events.

Next Steps: Continue to be open to proposals for partnerships, sponsorship and donation programs in conjunction with other agencies, organizations and businesses (ongoing).

D.10 Consider Development of Deputized Ranger Capacity

Having a deputized ranger program requires extensive organization, training and expense, as well as added liability. The District therefore decided to not pursue the establishment of a deputized ranger program as long as other approaches (education, monitoring, partnerships with various interest groups and cooperation with the County Sheriff) remain effective.

Between 2012 and the end of 2016, the District contracted with State Parks to keep one of the State Park rangers who had been working at Bothe for many years to be the District Park Manager for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park. During that time, having a deputized ranger was sometimes useful but never really essential, since the few times that there were issues the County Sheriff provided assistance.

Next Steps:

(1) Continue staff training in voluntary compliance and “verbal judo” techniques

(2) Continue to monitor park and trail use, and reevaluate whether to develop a deputized ranger capacity if needed for public safety or resource protection

D.11 Prepare and Adopt Green Standards for Buildings and Operations

The District has used the development of Moore Creek Park and Camp Berryessa as learning opportunities for developing and demonstrating green building practices. These have included such techniques as using composting toilets (the District got Napa County to revise environmental health standards to allow for composting toilets and gray water systems) and engineered septic systems to protect water quality, installing solar panels, milling fallen timber to make benches, and reusing a dismantled stone bridge.

The 2012 Master Plan Update included a plan to compile a Green Standards for Buildings and Operations. However, District experience since then

has been that each site is unique, and solutions that work at one site are not appropriate at another site. Therefore, rather than the District compiling formal Green Standards, it makes more sense to continue to rely on industry-wide approaches such as the LEED rating system, together with a conscious effort with every construction project to look for ways to increase use of local materials, reduce energy consumption and protect natural resources.

Next Steps: Continue to apply green building principles to all District projects, and adjust approaches as more experience is gained

D.12 Develop and Implement Cooperative Strategies for Habitat Restoration

The District has worked informally but closely with the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the Napa County Resource Conservation District, the City of Napa, the Land Trust of Napa County and Tuleyome. Projects have included native plant restoration along Moore Creek, invasive plant removal at the Napa River Ecological Reserve and at Moore Creek, removal of fish barriers on Ritchie Creek, and mercury mine remediation in the James Creek watershed.

Next Steps: Continue to work cooperatively with other local agencies and organizations to restore critical habitats in Napa County

D.13 Update Countywide Inventory of Protected Open Space Lands

Since 2009, the Countywide inventory of protected open space lands has been updated every 1-2 years. The current inventory was updated in early 2017.

Next Steps: Continue to update the inventory of protected open space lands every 1-2 years

D.14 Update District Master Plan

The District’s first Master Plan was adopted in January 2009. This plan called for periodic reviews and updates as needed to ensure the plan is current and useful for guiding the strategic direction of the District. An update to the Master Plan was adopted by the Board in 2012.

Next Steps: Adopt this update to the Master Plan in early 2019, and the next update in three to five years

D.15 Establish Partnerships with Land Conservation and Public Recreation Organizations and Agencies

The District has entered into several formal partnerships with other land conservation and public recreation organizations and agencies, including (a) an MOU with the Land Trust of Napa County that lays out ways the two entities will cooperate, (b) an MOU with the Vine Trail Coalition, (c) a partnership agreement with the Napa Valley State Parks Association for fundraising, events and operations at the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park and Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, and (d) membership in the Bay Area Open Space Council.

Next Steps:

(1) Complete backup easement for the District's Spanish Valley property, to be held by the Land Trust of Napa County (2019).

(2) Continue to seek new and strengthened partnerships with other agencies and organizations with compatible missions.

D.16 Prepare and adopt Habitat Stewardship Guidelines

The District Master Plan contains a list of principles for guiding District stewardship activities. Key among these is the concept of adaptive management. This approach to management recognizes that each location is different, and techniques that work in one location may not work as well in another location. At the State Parks managed by the District, habitat stewardship guidelines are dictated by State Parks. At the Suscol Headwaters Preserve, habitat management guidelines are codified in the grant agreement between the District, Caltrans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At the Napa River and Bay Trail, habitat management is the responsibility of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the City of American Canyon.

Next Steps:

(1) Develop baseline conditions and approve habitat management guidelines for Spanish Valley as part of a backup conservation easement to be held by the Land Trust of Napa County (2019).

(2) Develop a grazing plan for Moore Creek Park, if there is interest from one or more ranchers.



**NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Karen Bower-Turjanis
Director, Ward One

Tony Norris
Director, Ward Two

Brent Randol
Director, Ward Three

Dave Finigan
Director, Ward Four

Barry Christian
Director, Ward Five

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 11, 2019 at 2:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Directors present: Karen Bower-Turjanis, Barry Christian, Dave Finigan, Tony Norris and Brent Randol

Staff present: John Woodbury and Teresa Bledsoe

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Set Matters

- a. 2:00 pm Appointment of James Hudak as District Treasurer

Directors voted to approve appointment.

DF-TN-KBT-BC-BR

- b. 2:05 pm

1. Consideration and potential approval of Resolution regarding District's role with land use development projects under consideration for discretionary permits by other public agencies.

Directors voted to approve resolution.

TN-KBT-DF-BC-BR

2. Consideration and potential approval of comments on the Le Colline Vineyard Project Draft Environmental Impact Report

Public Comment:

Mike Hackett, of Angwin, and the Chair of Save Rural Angwin, spoke about his passion for Napa's beauty and referred to Angwin as "the jewel of Napa" and the Le Colline property as the most beautiful place in that "jewel". He said that the fact that it's next to NCRPOSD's property is significant. Due to the value and the uniqueness of it, he would like to see the Land Trust in correlation with NCROPSD purchase the property and put in a conservation easement in order to protect it "for people who live here 500 years from now".

Kellie Anderson of Angwin, on behalf of the Linda Falls Alliance, spoke about the importance of the Ponderosa Pine, and went through a list of items NCRPOSD might want to add to the EIR as she highlighted many impacts that this project could have and

encourages “this body” to call for the “no project” option as the desirable alternative in order to protect this resource.

Elaine De Man, a certified California naturalist, thanked the Board and John for the time he put into the response and mentioned her concern about the company that prepared the EIR as she feels their biological surveys and mitigations are totally inadequate. They fail to get to the depth of the diversity on the property. She’s concerned about the ripping of the soil 36 inches deep and said that when they rip out part of the forest, the surrounding forest, including NCRPOSD’s property will be impacted. She encouraged the board to take a more in-depth look at the report and encouraged those who haven’t visited the property to do so to understand what is at stake and “to see how it blends and merges with your property and for right now, I would say no project alternative.”

Directors voted to authorize the Board President to submit comments on the Le Colline Vineyard Project as proposed in the attached draft letter with minor changes as agreed upon.

DF-TN-KBT-BC-BR

4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors meetings on January 14, 2019.

Minutes for the January 14, 2019 meeting were approved.

BC-TN-DF-BR-KBT

Consideration and potential approval of contract for septic system services with De La Torre Septic and Pumping LLC.

Directors voted to approve a standing contract with De La Torre Septic and Pumping LLC for a not-to-exceed amount of \$24,500 on an annualized basis.

TN-DF-KBT-BC-BR

- b. Consideration and potential approval of Amendment No. 2 to Soluna Outreach Solutions, extending the term to June 30,2020 and increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$10,000
Directors voted to approve Amendment No. 2 to Agreement 18-01 extending the term to June 30, 2020 and increasing the total amount by \$10,000 and a total not-to-exceed amount of \$35,000.

TN-BC-DF-KBT-BR

- c. Consideration and potential approval of Amendment No.1 to Agreement 18-04 with Matt Greene Forestry and Biological Consulting increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$30,000 to a maximum of \$65,000.

Directors voted to approve Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 18-04 as recommended.

DF-TN-KBT-BC-BR

- d. Consideration and potential authorization for General Manager to sign letter to the Land Trust of Napa County expressing interest in purchasing 408 acres of real property (APN# 019-200-023).

Directors voted to authorize the Board President to sign a letter to the Land Trust of Napa County expressing interest in purchasing 408 acres of real property (APN# 019-020-023-000).

TN-KBT-DF-BC-BR

- e. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff.

Directors received report.

- f. Review of the District Projects Status Report.
John Woodbury gave reports on Berryessa Vista, Mt. Veeder, The Cove, Lake Hennessy, Oat Hill Mine Trail and Skyline Park.
- g. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park.
John Woodbury gave the report.

5. Announcements by Board and Staff

- Barry Christian said that it was announced at the Winter Dinner that the Fall Harvest Dinner will now be on August 24, 2019. He also mentioned the Bay Flyway Festival that took place at Mare Island this last weekend, Friday through Sunday (Feb 8-10th). He wasn't able to attend the other two days or have a booth this time but did attend Friday night and was able to make a small donation.
- John Woodbury mentioned that the California Invasive Plant Council hosted a workshop at Skyline Park yesterday (Feb 10th) on how to remove invasive plants. There were about 35 in attendance not including the presenters. Rick Fessenden was there to represent NCRPOSD and John was told he did a great job and feels this was a good opportunity to showcase what the District has been doing around invasive plants and trying to manage them.

6. Agenda Planning

None.

7. Closed Session

- a. Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Government Code Section 54956.8)
Property: Napa County APN 016-010-19 and -22, and Lake County APN 013-029-02, -03, -05, -09, and -27
Agency Negotiator: John Woodbury, NCRPOSD General Manager
Negotiating Parties: NCRPOSD and Sam Livermore
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment
No reportable action taken.
- b. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)
TITLE: General Manager
No reportable action taken.

8. Adjournment

Adjourned to the Regular NCRPOSD Board Meeting March 11, 2019.

BRENT RANDOL, Board President

ATTEST:

TERESA BLEDSOE, Acting District Secretary

Key

Vote: TN = Tony Norris; KBT = Karen Bower-Turjanis; DF = David Finigan; BC = Barry Christian; BR = Brent Randol

The maker of the motion and second are reflected respectively in the order of the recorded vote.

Notations under vote: N = No; A = Abstain; X = Absent



STAFF REPORT

By: John Woodbury
Date: February 11, 2019
Item: 4.B
Subject: Consideration and potential authorization to dispose of surplus property

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the disposition of a 1973 Chevrolet truck and a 1970 International Harvester Lodestar Boom Truck

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND

The District's Purchasing and Procurement Manual specifies the process for disposing of surplus property. To dispose of personal property (not land) the District may with Board approval consign the items to a professional auctioneer or auction house (which includes online auctions such as EBay).

The District has two vehicles that are no longer needed and should be disposed of. One is a 1973 Chevrolet pick-up that was donated to the District in 2015. Since then the District has been donated several other vehicles that are newer and get better mileage, so the District does not need the older vehicle. The other vehicle is a 1970 International Harvester Lodestar boom truck which the District acquired in 2012 for \$2,900. It was used to remove hazardous trees and branches at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. Without the truck the District would have had to hire a private tree company for this work. The truck more than paid for itself the first year of use. However, it is a very old vehicle and not worth the cost to make major repairs that are now needed.

Neither vehicle has much monetary value. Staff recommends listing both vehicles on EBay. If there are no bids, the Purchasing Manual authorizes the General Manager to discard the vehicles by any feasible method, and report this to the Board at least annually.



STAFF REPORT

By: Chris Cahill
Date: March 11, 2019
Item: **4.c**
Subject: Consideration and potential approval of Amendment N°2 to Agreement N° 18-04 with Matt Greene Forestry and Biological Consulting, increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$32,750 to a maximum of \$97,750.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Amendment N° 2 to Agreement N° 18-04.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND

Last month (February, 2019), the Board approved an amendment to the District's contract with Matt Greene Forestry and Biological Consulting to increase the contract maximum to \$65,000. Unfortunately, due to some confusion on the staff side, that revision did not account for a number of invoices already paid to Matt Greene for his forestry work at the Cove. As a result, we are asking the Board to further increase the contract not-to-exceed amount by \$32,750 to \$97,750. The revised figure gets us to even for the current work, including all of the road reconstruction and rocking, and includes a further \$7,000 for Matt Greene's support of our reforestation work going forward. As correctly stated in our February staff report, the Federal Government will reimburse approximately \$45,000 of the expenditures under this agreement, resulting in a net expense to the District of +/- \$53,000.

When all the dust settles, revenues from the salvage logging will have paid all of the tree removal, cleanup, road repair, and replanting. Expenses for Matt Greene's services, netting to the +/- \$53,000 figure noted above, will be paid out of the +/- \$95,000 insurance settlement proceeds already received by the District.



STAFF REPORT

By: John Woodbury
Date: March 11, 2019
Item: 4.D
Subject: Consideration and potential authorization for the General Manager to apply to the State Coastal Conservancy for an Explore the Coast grant

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to apply to the Coastal Conservancy for an Explore the Coast grant

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND

The State Coastal Conservancy recently released a Request for Proposals for another round of funding pursuant to their Explore the Coast grant program. The program is intended to facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast by increasing recreational, educational and stewardship opportunities particularly for people and communities that may face challenges getting to or enjoying the coast. The tidal portion of the Napa River is defined as part of the coast for purposes of this grant.

Several years ago Friends of the Napa River in partnership with a local kayak rental company sponsored a series of kayak trips on the Napa River designed to introduce more people to the river and its ecology and to help with its clean up. FONR was not able to continue the program for a variety of reasons, and that private kayak company is no longer in business. Currently, the Napa County Resource Conservation District, with support from the Flood District, is sponsoring some monthly shore-based cleanup events for this year. The Napa Valley Can Do-sponsored Waterways Keepers group has also been involved.

Representatives from the RCD, the Flood District and Waterways Keepers met on March 6th and agreed it would be very worthwhile to work together to establish a sustainable program of getting more people onto the Napa River to learn about river ecology and cleanup trash in the water, and to have fun while doing it. The group agreed the Napa Open Space District would be the best entity to sponsor this program. The Flood District has a riverfront location where the equipment could be stored and events launched. Both the Flood District and the RCD have educational materials about the river aligned to school curriculum guidelines that they can make available.

Because the deadline for applications is April 8, 2019, the District Board is requested to authorize the General Manager to apply to the grant program at this time, even though all of the details have not been worked out. The maximum allowable grant is \$50,000. There is no required local funding match.



STAFF REPORT

Date: March 11, 2019
Item: **4.e**
Subject: Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report.

BACKGROUND

Section III.A.(7) of the District By-laws authorizes the General Manager to bind the district for supplies, materials, labor, and other valuable consideration, in accordance with board policy and the adopted District budget, up to \$25,000, provided that all such expenditures are subsequently reported to the Board of Directors. Section III.A.(8) of the By-laws authorizes the General Manager to apply for grants and receive donations, subject to reporting such actions to the Board of Directors.

Attached is a report showing all District expenditures for February 2019.

In addition to these expenditures, the General Manager has authorized the following contracts using his signature authority:

Agreement 19-02, Oakville Pump Service, work at EcoCamp Berryessa, \$2,552.61
Agreement 19-03, REB Engineering, engineering services, \$25,000

PARKS & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT -FEBRUARY 2019 EXPENSE REPORT

General Admin - 85000-00

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
02/14/2019	January 2019 Invoice	RYBICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	\$ 355.50
02/14/2019	PARK180319 04/2018 bal adj	RYBICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	\$ (10.00)
02/25/2019	January 2019 Invoice	CJ YIP & ASSOCIATES	\$ 601.74

Moore Creek Dept - 85010-00

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
02/04/2019	Wood chipping/Hand labor	GOLDEN GATE LANDSCAPE	\$ 340.00
02/08/2019	PR2GL Pay End 1/25/19		\$ 213.16
02/08/2019	PR2GL Pay End 1/25/19		\$ 267.00
02/08/2019	PR2GL Pay End 1/25/19		\$ 3,936.05
02/08/2019	PR2GL Pay End 1/25/19		\$ 370.44
02/11/2019	January 2019 Invoice	HERITAGE SYSTEMS, INC.	\$ 367.67
02/11/2019	1/28-2/24/19 excavator rental	WOODBURY,JOHN ROBERT	\$ 2,279.20
02/12/2019	Chain saw, brush chipper	CENTRAL VALLEY BUILDERS	\$ 1,187.72
02/12/2019	CV Jan.19 supplies	CENTRAL VALLEY BUILDERS	\$ 756.18
02/22/2019	PR2GL Pay End 2/8/19		\$ 4,116.50
02/22/2019	PR2GL Pay End 2/8/19		\$ 278.17
02/22/2019	PR2GL Pay End 2/8/19		\$ 222.10
02/22/2019	PR2GL Pay End 2/8/19		\$ 370.44
02/25/2019	January 2019 Invoice	CJ YIP & ASSOCIATES	\$ 1,364.70
02/27/2019	Service call, septic alarm	MCCOLLUM GENERAL ENGINEERING	\$ 251.75
02/27/2019	Service call, drip line repair	MCCOLLUM GENERAL ENGINEERING	\$ 263.15

Oat Hill Mine Trail Dept - 85010-01

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
02/25/2019	January 2019 Invoice	CJ YIP & ASSOCIATES	\$ 567.53

Camp Berryessa Dept - 85010-03

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
02/06/2019	Trailer pump 12/31/18	BERRYESSA GARBAGE SERVICE AND	\$ 100.00
02/12/2019	PG&E 12/21/18-1/22/19	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO	\$ 10.84
02/12/2019	Garbage pickup Jan. 19	BERRYESSA GARBAGE SERVICE AND	\$ 85.80

NRER Dept - 85010-05

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
02/12/2019	CV Jan.19 supplies	CENTRAL VALLEY BUILDERS	\$ 3.86
02/25/2019	January 2019 Invoice	CJ YIP & ASSOCIATES	\$ 213.02

State Park - 85010-08

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
02/04/2019	1/15/19 MLK event at Bothe	WOODBURY,JOHN ROBERT	\$ 29.58
02/04/2019	707-963-2236 12/28/18-1/27/19	AT&T	\$ 19.91
02/04/2019	PG&E 12/13/18-1/13/19	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO	\$ 192.37
02/04/2019	PG&E 12/14/18-1/14/19	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO	\$ 659.88
02/04/2019	PG&E 12/14/18-1/14/19	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO	\$ 61.95
02/04/2019	Rain suit/jacket Bothe	GRAINGER INDUSTRIAL	\$ 116.62
02/04/2019	Sludge judge	FORESTRY SUPPLIERS INC	\$ 156.01

02/04/2019	Bale Grist bakery supplies	KEITH GIUSTO BAKERY SUPPLY LLC	\$	335.42
02/04/2019	port a potty Feb. 19	JOHNNY ON THE SPOT	\$	343.25
02/06/2019	trash dump run Jan.19	CLOVER FLAT LANDFILL	\$	75.25
02/06/2019	Garbage pickup Jan.19	UPPER VALLEY DISPOSAL	\$	1,025.52
02/08/2019	PR2GL Pay End 1/25/19		\$	363.12
02/08/2019	PR2GL Pay End 1/25/19		\$	545.05
02/08/2019	PR2GL Pay End 1/25/19		\$	7,410.70
02/08/2019	PR2GL Pay End 1/25/19		\$	269.44
02/08/2019	PR2GL Pay End 1/25/19		\$	1,111.32
02/11/2019	Pacific Bag, 2,000 poly bags	WOODBURY,JOHN ROBERT	\$	333.87
02/12/2019	Supplies Jan. 2019	BROWN'S AUTO PARTS	\$	2.70
02/13/2019	Heartland credit card fees-USB		\$	24.45
02/15/2019	PARK180919 01/2019	JONATHAN EHLERS	\$	750.00
02/22/2019	PR2GL Pay End 2/8/19		\$	310.89
02/22/2019	PR2GL Pay End 2/8/19		\$	474.19
02/22/2019	PR2GL Pay End 2/8/19		\$	6,536.99
02/22/2019	PR2GL Pay End 2/8/19		\$	1,111.32
02/25/2019	January 2019 Invoice	CJ YIP & ASSOCIATES	\$	157.48
02/27/2019	Internet 1/10/19-2/9/19	AT&T	\$	330.24
02/27/2019	Alarm/cc 1/13/19-2/12/19	AT&T	\$	73.12
02/27/2019	Alarm ins. Visitor Center	BAY ALARM COMPANY	\$	313.65
02/27/2019	Alarm/cc 12/13/18-1/12/19	AT&T	\$	73.13
02/27/2019	PG&E 1/14/19-2/12/19	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO	\$	888.51
02/27/2019	PG&E 1/14/19-2/12/19	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO	\$	75.05
02/27/2019	PG&E 1/15/19-2/13/19	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO	\$	78.37
02/27/2019	PG&E 1/14/19-2/12/19	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO	\$	32.50

Amy's Grove - 85010-10

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount	
02/20/2019	04/2018 Mileage	CAHILL,CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL	\$	15.26

Other Projects - 85010-90

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount	
02/01/2019	1/15/19 Staff meeting at Bothe	WOODBURY,JOHN ROBERT	\$	29.58
02/12/2019	Apraisal deposit for Berryessa	CORREIA-XAVIER, INC.	\$	2,000.00
02/25/2019	January 2019 Invoice	CJ YIP & ASSOCIATES	\$	2,812.50
02/27/2019	Anniversary event 1/31/19	NAPA RIVER INN	\$	358.98

Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

Projects Status Report

March 11, 2019

Name of Project Description

Status

<p>Amy's Grove Planning and permits for public use of Amy's Grove</p>	<p>The archaeological survey has been completed and did not find evidence of native American activity. The botanical survey has been completed and submitted for review. Much of Amy's Grove burned in the October 2017 fires, but the damage appears to be limited. In Sept 2018 the Board approved placing a restrictive covenant over a portion of Amy's Grove, accepting the donation of an adjacent 7 acres of land, approving an option to acquire 164 acres north of Amy's Grove, and applying for a grant to help fund the purchase. Grant awards are expected to be announced in mid-2019. <u>A legal description of the conservation area covering the meadow at Amy's Grove has been completed.</u></p>
<p>Bay/River Trail -- American Canyon to Napa An 8+ mile recreational trail generally following the Napa River and interior levees of associated wetlands. Phase 2-B--Pond 10 to Soscol Ferry Road</p>	<p>The design for the public crossing of the SMART tracks has been completed, and SMART, NRCA and the PUC have verbally agreed to allow the railroad crossing. A biological survey for the Fagan Marsh area has been completed; based on the results, CDFW has indicated they do not want the trail alignment to follow the levee on the north side of Fagan Marsh; District staff is reviewing the feasibility of an alternative alignment. At the request of the City of American Canyon, in August 2017 City and District staff met to discuss strategies for completing the trail and those discussions are ongoing. The Board President and General Manager met with CDFW staff on June 12, 2018 to discuss CDFW concerns. Senator Dodd organized a meeting in October with the City of American Canyon, County of Napa and the District in an attempt to move the project forward, and another meeting with District staff and CDFW staff on November 28, 2018.</p>
<p>Berryessa Estates Acquire 480 acres next to Berryessa Estates from BLM at no fee through their Recreation and Public Purpose Act procedure. Would connect Lake Berryessa Estates to the District's Spanish Valley holdings.</p>	<p>The District in 2009 applied to BLM for a no-fee transfer of this property to the District for the no-fee transfer of this property; while this transfer has received conceptual approval by BLM staff, the formal approval has been delayed because of property title issues between BLM and BOR. The District has completed the donation to the District of a small, 0.2 acre property that provides critical access to the northeast corner of the property. In 2015 Reclamation said they have done their work to clear up the title issue and it is now up to BLM to finish the transfer. BLM thought they would complete their work by the end of 2015, but this did not happen, and a new date for completion has not been set. BLM's timeline has been extended because BLM has determined that not only these but other federal lands in the same general area also need to have their revocation process completed, and they wish to resolve all at the same time. At a meeting on April 14, 2016, the new Superintendent for the Ukiah District of BLM committed to completing the transfer. Because of staffing changes at BLM, as of October 2018 no progress had been made.</p>
<p>Berryessa Vista Planning, stewardship and expansion of this wilderness park.</p>	<p>Volunteers working with the District have completed detailed GIS mapping showing all existing roads, creek crossings, vista points and potential campsites. The District sent a letter to all property owners in that area introducing the District, explaining the deed restriction prohibiting off road vehicles, and asking for their cooperation. Since then there has been less observed damage, although the problem is not resolved. Staff was planning on installing a gate to restrict OHV access, but this has proven infeasible. In 2014 the Land Trust acquired an 80 acre inholding between District and BLM land, based on a District Board action in November 2014 agreeing to acquire the property from the Land Trust at a later date when funding is available. District and Land Trust staff in April 2016 placed a camera on the property in an attempt to identify the off-road vehicle and motorcycle users who have been causing some damage to the property. Staff has been monitoring the cameras since spring 2016 and has noted a small decrease in illegal off road vehicle use; staff will continue to monitor the cameras. Staff is working on plans to create a formal boat-in backcountry camp at Berryessa Vista accessed from the BOR Capell Cove boat launch. <u>The District is now waiting on the Bureau of Reclamation to complete their environmental review of the planned trail work that would occur on Reclamation land.</u></p>

Camp Berryessa

Redevelopment of former Boy Scout Camp into a 64 bed group/environmental education camp with 8 tent cabins, 2 covered group activity centers, a canoe/kayak dock, a central amphitheater and campfire ring, and a shower and composting toilet restroom facility.

A grant for \$50,000 to help with construction was provided by the Mead Foundation, together with a \$1.7 million grant from the State Coastal Conservancy. Construction of Phase I, which includes beds for up to 64 campers was completed in June 2016. Jim Hankes, a Bureau of Reclamation maintenance employee and life-long Berryessa resident has moved his park unit trailer onto the property and become our first volunteer camp host. Tuleyome, the BOR, and Forest Trails Alliance are very close to completing the new North End Trail, running from +/- Camp Berryessa to the north end of the Lake, approximately 7 miles each way. In early October, 2017 Caltrans delivered (at no cost to the District) the disassembled and individually numbered pieces of a former Monticello Road stone arch bridge to Camp Berryessa for our eventual use somewhere. The County Fire, which ultimately burned 90,000+ acres on the east side of Lake Berryessa, spared the Camp but did lead to at least one cancellation. We have been working to resolve issues with the composting toilets that have lead to several water leaks and most recently failures of septic pumps. Plumbing issues with the composting toilets have been resolved and the system is again fully operating. With the help of the Bureau of Reclamation, historic bridge stones have been placed around the property to restrict vehicle access and add character. We are planning to complete a fresh fee survey in early 2019 and if we find that our rental rates need to be updated, we will be bringing those to the Board. As of late February 2019, the lake is full and spilling at the Glory Hole.

(The) Cove at Mt. Veeder

Reconstruction of campground and trails

The Cove was severely burned in the October 2017 fires; since then staff has been working on cleanup. Most of the trees in The Cove are dead or will be soon and will need to be removed before the camp can be reopened. Staff hiked most of the property in early January and confirmed that fire damage is severe and extensive. In early February the County Wildlife Commission toured the Cove to inspect fire impacts and discuss ways in which they might direct funding to fire recovery efforts County-wide. Staff is working with a forester to develop a plan for salvage logging after the rainy season is over to (a) remove hazardous dead trees in the campground area and (b) in the process also repair/improve the access road into the site. The Napa Girl Scout troops have already undertaken a number of projects to help restore the Cove, including new signage and rehabbing the campfire circle. Installation can, however, only happen once salvage logging is complete. Doug McConnell (NBC's Open Road) segment on The Cove (and Suscol Headwaters), comparing the effects of the fires in each location and lessons learned, was aired on Sunday June 24, 2018. Salvage logging commenced in late May, 2018 and is proceeding well. Active logging wrapped up during the week of July 23rd and the logger has completed hiw clean-up and erosion control operations. Road rebuilding is complete. Heavy rains in early 2019 (more than 5 inches in one day) happily did not wreak too much havoc at the Camp or on the new driveway. The State Employment Development Department will be funding a crew of 4 (using fire emergency job training funds) starting in March for 6 months; we will use them to complete cleanup of leftover fire and logging debris, replanting, and hopefully trail repair.

District Non-profit Foundation

Organize a non-profit foundation to raise funds for District projects

The District Board has approved the goals, objectives and basic structure for a non-profit foundation to assist the District with fundraising. Director Turjanis in early 2015 began the process of preparing articles of incorporation and identifying potential Board members, but plans have been postponed to ensure what the District does is coordinated with fundraising efforts of other organizations.

Lake Hennessey North Shore Trails

Would open up several miles of existing dirt access road, and construct approximately 1 mile of new single track trail, into a loop trail system on the north side of Lake Hennessey, and connecting to the planned Moore Creek Open Space Park trail system.

In November, 2009 the Napa City Council directed city staff to work with the District to finalize an agreement for the proposed Hennessey trails. The District approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration on February 14, 2011. A final lease agreement and operations plan was approved by the District Board in August 2012, and by the City Council in September 2012. Work was completed on the connector trail to Moore Creek in June 2013. Lake Hennessey North Shore Trails formally opened with a ribbon cutting on October 18, 2014. The Sam the Eagle Trail was completed in April 2015 and, in staff's opinion, turned out wonderfully. Forest Trails Alliance donated a hand carved wooden trail sign that was installed at the northern terminus of the new trail. District staff and volunteers installed the Harold Kelly bench in early June 2015 and constructed a short ADA-compliant access trail to it on July 11, 2015. The County Wildlife Conservation Commission awarded the District a +/- \$2,000 grant to fund installation of an interpretive birding trail developed in partnership with Napa Solano Audubon along the north shore of the lake, signage was installed in May 2015. A new bench along the shoreline was dedicated to former Director Harold Kelly on October 22, 2015. Napa Marble and Granite installed (well, carved) new trail signage for the Shoreline and Sam the Eagle trails in early September 2017. A new trail ("Old Man's Beard Trail") was completed in February 2018. In June 2018 we met with the City of Napa and received approval to modify several not-yet-built trail segments and discussed an alternate parking configuration for the Conn Valley Road terminus. In late August we flagged nearly 3 miles of new trail segments on the Hennessey Unit. Construction started in December 2018, and our trail crew is working hard in between the rain storms.

Moore Creek Park Development

Development of open space park on 673 acres acquired by the District adjacent to City of Napa watershed lands at Lake Hennessey to protect habitat, provide recreational trails, and overnight camping facilities.

The park opened on June 30, 2013. Many miles of trails have been constructed, fencing installed, emergency communications capacity set up, repairs made to the two houses on the property, and invasive french broom removal has been ongoing. The eastern boundary survey and fencing project was completed June 2014. The property owner to the east of Moore Creek filed suit in June 2017 claiming the District owed additional money for the boundary survey and fence separating his property from ours. After several interim victories, the judge in early April 2018 issued the final ruling in support of the District's position; the District will now seek attorney's fees from the losing party. The "Dry Foot" Trail, including three small stone arch bridges, was completed in late January; this trail parallels the Moore Creek Trail but bypasses three stream crossings. Staff hosted trail scouting and trailbuilding volunteer events focused on the Madrone Trail in late May and early June, 2018. We have finalized leases with a tenants for the Gate House (effective Aug 1) and the Ranch House (effective September 1). There was a small fire on Chiles-Pope Valley Rd on Aug 25th, which caused the precautionary evacuation of the park. The Gate House was re-roofed in November 2018 using the Moore Creek maintenance/repair reserve fund. Staff is working with a neighbor to do tree thinning on their property next to the ranch house to comply with Firewise regulations.

Montesol West

Acquisition of 1,254 acres west of Highway 29 north of Robert Louis Stevenson State Park

The District has the opportunity to purchase 1,254 acres west of Highway 29 adjacent to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park for a price of \$200,000. The area's conservation values have already been protected through an easement negotiated by the Trust for Public Land and now held by the Land Trust of Napa County. Purchase of fee title will permit the area to be used for public recreation. The District is preparing a Habitat Conservation Program grant application with assistance from TPL. A public presentation to the Middletown Area Town Hall was made on August 10, 2017, and to the Middletown Area Merchants Association on August 15 and September 14, 2017. With assistance from the Trust for Public Land, the District submitted a grant application to the State Habitat Conservation Fund for the remaining \$200,000 needed to complete the acquisition. We were awarded the grant in May, 2018; we attended a grant workshop in July 2018. We are working with the seller to work out final details. The option expired at the end of February without TPL exercising it. We were unable to provide the type of liability insurance the seller wanted to protect his interest in carbon credits that had been sold to the State for timber located on the property.

Oat Hill Mine Trail

Various improvements to the historic Oat Hill Mine Road

The District is continuing to work with Tuleyome on a project to clean up the Twin Peaks and Corona Mines, in the hopes this may enable the District to safely open the northern Oat Hill Mine Trail for public use. Staff and volunteers in February 2013 did a comprehensive evaluation of erosion issues on the trail, and experts from the RCD joined staff for another evaluation in early April. The Bay Area Ridge Trail did some cleanup and minor improvements in late October 2013 to the staging area, and the lower 4 miles of the OHMT was dedicated as part of the Ridge Trail on November 10, 2013. The 40 acre Randy Lee Johnson property donation was completed in December 2014. Volunteers made drainage improvements on the trail in late January 2015 and work parties to install drain dips to control erosion were held in January and April of 2016. A PG&E contractor attempted to drive an ATV up the OHMT in early June, and ended up going into a gully; they promptly removed the vehicle and repaired the trail damage. The first 1.3 miles of the trail was bulldozed as a result of CalFire efforts to suppress the October 2017 wildfires; one volunteer work party has already spent a Saturday remediating the damage. CalFire had agreed to come back to do more remediation, but subsequent fires in Southern California diverted their staff to help fight those fires. District staff and volunteers in February 2018 replaced the gate at the Calistoga trailhead that had been damaged by CalFire's fire fighting efforts. Staff has been tracking and participating in the City of Calistoga's trail and parkway redesign project at the Vine / Silverado/ OHM Trail intersection, which may result in parking improvements and general beautification of the area. The lower 1/4 mile of the trail was repaired in early January 2019 by staff and volunteers, with an improved inboard drain, culvert and waterbars, to correct problems created by CalFire's bulldozing of the trail during the 2017 fire emergency. Another landslide occurred due to the heavy rains in late Feb 2019; staff and volunteers have been working on repairs. There will be a volunteer workday on March 9th.

Rector Ridge/Stags Leap Ridge Trail

Construction of staging area and 6+ miles of Ridge Trail climbing east from Silverado Trail near Rector Creek.

CEQA on this project was completed several years ago--staff has prepared a draft update to the Negative Declaration due to the passage of time since the original approval. The project concept has been approved by the District Board, and was positively viewed by the Veterans Home administration. However, Veterans Home staff had been having difficulty figuring out what approval process is needed, because of ongoing discussions at the state level about the appropriate roles and future programs for the Veterans Home, and then key management staff at the Veterans Home retired in November 2010, so progress was delayed pending the filling of their vacant positions. The District will restart the process when other priorities are under control.

<p>Skyline Park</p>	<p>Permanent protection of Skyline Park</p>	<p>Three past legislative efforts to authorize sale to the County failed due to unrelated disagreements between the state legislature and administration. Separately, the County in September 2009 approved a new park overlay zone and an updated Master Plan for Skyline Park. A fourth legislative effort by Assembly member Evans in 2010, sponsored by Napa County and supported by the District, was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor. The County and State General Services were unable to agree on the fair market value of the property, negotiations stalled, and the legislative authorization expired. A Draft EIR was released in late September 2013 for the proposed expansion of the adjacent Syar Quarry. The District Board approved comments on the DEIR at its October 2013 meeting. The Final EIR was released in November of 2014; the Planning Commission certified the EIR on October 21, 2015. On October 22, 2015, the State applied to the county to rezone Skyline Park by removing the Skyline Wilderness park Combining District overlay, which would make it easier for the State to sell for development and at a higher price. The Planning Commission certification for the quarry expansion was appealed to the Board of Supervisors by two organizations. The District in February 2016 submitted two letters to the Board of Supervisors, one requesting the setback between the quarry and the park be protected through a permanent conservation easement, and the other expressing support for the changes to the quarry project that were recommended by the County Planning Department, with additional protection for Pasini Ridge. In April 2016 the District presented its position to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors rejected the appeals and approved the quarry expansion in July 2016. Legislation introduced by Senator Wolk in January 2016 stalled when the State announced it was opposed to any sale of Skyline Park to the District until completion of a state planning process for future health and welfare services. Senator Dodd in December 2018 introduced SB 20, which would again authorize the State to sell Skyline Park to the District and/or county for the sole purpose of it continuing to be a public park. Ryan Gregory has made the purchase of Skyline a priority item for his 2019 term as Chair of the Board of Supervisors. <u>In January 2019 the District sponsored the filming of a short feature for Doug McConnell's Open Road TV series to help build support for the purchase of Skyline.</u></p>
<p>Smittle Creek</p>	<p>Planning and permits to open this 411 acre holding for public use</p>	<p>The District completed purchase of this property in December 2015. The next step is to conduct resource surveys, complete CEQA, and obtain permits. A botanist was retained in early 2016 to do a reconnaissance level survey of plant resources as the first step in planning for the property; his report was received in January 2017; the report describes the property as one of the best locations in the County for native grasses. US Geological Survey has requested permission to place a seismic monitoring station on the property; staff has worked with them to identify an appropriate location. In July 2016 the placement request was submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for concurrence, which as the provider of the grant to acquire the property has the right to review such changes. WCB approved the request in August. An access agreement with USGS is before the District Board for approval at the September 2016 meeting. A group of 20+ people from Tuleyome were given a hiking tour of the property in December 2016, as a way to build interest in the property and build a pool of volunteers to help with restoration and improvement of the property. On March 4 2017, Tuleyome volunteers brushed the Iron Mountain trail (in the Cedar Roughts Wilderness, but accessed via Smittle Creek.) The State Fish and Wildlife Game Warden for this area has been most helpful in patrolling the property looking for illegal poaching. A well-attended volunteer clean up project was held on October 28th, more than filling a 30 yard dumpster with debris.</p>
<p>State Parks</p>	<p>Operate Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park and RLS State Park</p>	<p>The District, with assistance from the Napa Valley State Parks Association, took over management of the parks on April 1, 2012. Since then the District has obtained permits and done improvements to the pool, installed 7 yurts, instituted recycling in the campground and day use areas, pumped all septic system tanks annually, repaired the historic Wright House for use as a rental property, restored 5 cabins, constructed a new shower/toilet facility, and made a large dent in the backlog of deferred maintenance. District efforts to pass legislation allowing the sale of grain from the Bale Mill were unsuccessful. The District has de facto also taken on responsibility for Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, funding repairs to the Silverado House, working with State Parks to get a caretaker into that house to prevent vandalism. In 2014 the District started the process of extending the District's 5 year Operating Agreement and including RLS in the agreement; approval of that new agreement is still pending. The existing OA expired on March 31, 2017; the District is now operating the parks on a month-to-month basis until State Parks can complete the new agreement. The draft OA is now undergoing final review in Sacramento. The District is working with the Vine Trail on the proposed alignment of the Vine Trail through Bothe. More detail on current activities are contained in a separate Parks Report for Bothe and Bale. A storage area at the vacant Silverado House in RLS was broken into in May 2018; State Parks has agreed to let the District repair the house and place a camp host/caretaker on site to prevent further vandalism. The well and water tank was repaired in late 2018, and a District employee is now living on site and serving as the caretaker. <u>A tree fell on the Silverado House in the late Feb 2019 storms; this was cleaned up last week, but the roof which was already in poor shape is now leaking.</u></p>

Suscol Headwaters Preserve

Improvements to Suscol Headwaters Preserve

Having completed purchase of the Preserve in November, 2017 the District now needs to make improvements required by funders, acquire a Napa County Use Permit, and make improvements necessary to open and operate the eventual park. Improvements needed to satisfy funders include the construction of a California red legged frog (CRLF) breeding pond and various habitat improvements focused on, but not exclusively in, the pond area. Improvements necessary to open and operate the eventual park include in the planning and construction of a trail network, design and installation of signage, and the potential future construction of a parking lot and trailhead improvements off-property to the south, on or near Highway 12 in Jameson Canyon. On July 1st 2015 the board of the Napa Sanitation District approved an easement option agreement which may allow us to construct a trail and trailhead parking lot on their Kelly Road sprayfield property. Alternate off-site options are also being pursued. A portion of the property, mostly in Phase II, burned in the October 2017 firestorm; some trees were killed, and a perimeter grazing fence was destroyed, but otherwise damage was not catastrophic. Staff is working on a funding agreement with the County of Napa that would result in the District receiving the remaining \$196,000 needed to fund frog pond construction. We have installed **No Trespassing** signs adjacent to ranch roads descending off of Suscol Knob to further limit access to the lower portions of the preserve, where property lines are not necessarily well marked or fenced. As of November, Caltrans is once again working on plans and specs for the red legged frog pond. We plan to file a use permit to open the preserve to the public in early summer 2019, as soon as the biological survey update that is scheduled for this spring is complete.

Vallejo Lakes

Possible purchase of 1100 acres of surplus Vallejo Water District lands, of which 200 acres are located in Napa County, and Lake Curry which is entirely in Napa County

Discussions between the District, the Land Trust of Napa County, the County of Solano and the Solano Land Trust indicate a common desire to work together to purchase this property adjacent to Skyline Park. The City Council of the City of Vallejo has officially authorized staff to pursue surplussing of the property. The City of Vallejo has hired an appraiser to prepare an estimate of the property's fair market value, but this has not yet been released. The District GM, together with the County of Solano EO, in February 2012 each sent letters to the City of Vallejo formally expressing interest in the property and requesting notification per state law of any planned surplussing of the property. Sale of the property by the City has been delayed because of complications related to questions about how best to supply water to residents in Green Valley. The Trust for Public Land has expressed interest in assisting with the purchase of this area. Staff from the District and its partners met with the Vallejo City Manager in April 2014; the surplussing process has become more complicated and the City does not anticipate any action in the near future, but meanwhile the City Manager appears open to working with us to figure out a mutually beneficial outcome. Staff had a very interesting meeting with City of Vallejo water division staff and a tour of Lake Curry in late May. The Lake Curry property can only be described as a jewel, and the City of Vallejo would clearly like to divest it. District staff is presently exploring a broad array of options. The Solano County Board of Supervisors has meet in closed session to discuss the Lake Curry property. A meeting with Solano County representatives took place January 27, 2017. Solano County is seriously investigating the feasibility of acquiring the lakes and managing their water supplies; as part of this investigation they are also looking at the feasibility of partnering with the District to manage public recreational access.

Vine Trail

A Class I bicycle/pedestrian path extending from Calistoga to the Vallejo Ferry Terminal sponsored by the Vine Trail Coalition, of which the District is a participating member.

The District has entered into an MOU with the Vine Trail Coalition to provide assistance as requested by the Coalition in receiving funds, preparing plans and environmental documents, constructing and operating the trail. The District, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Vine Trail Coalition have prepared a joint Case Statement for the combined trail network for fundraising purposes. The District on February 5, 2010 submitted an appropriations request for FY 2011 to Senator Feinstein, and a similar request to Congressman Thompson on February 26, 2010 on behalf of the Vine Trail Coalition. The District in April 2013 approved and sent a letter of support for the City of Calistoga's request for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to plan the trail through Calistoga. The Board President in early June 2014 sent a letter of support for a Vine Trail federal "Tiger" grant to help construct the section of trail between Yountville and Napa. The District continues to coordinate with the Vine Trail on plans to route the Vine Trail through Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. A joint Vine Trail/Ridge Trail dedication event was held at Bothe on July 27, 2014. In March 2015 the Vine Trail initiated discussions with district staff about the possibility of the District providing maintenance for the entire Vine Trail, but in the end the cities and the county decided that each entity will maintain the section within their jurisdiction, rather than paying into a common fund for common maintenance. District staff joined with Vine Trail and State Parks staff in October 2016 to discuss the Vine Trail route through Bothe-Napa Valley State Park; the solution that State Parks is willing to accept will add an estimated \$600,000 to the cost of the Vine Trail. On behalf of the District, the GM in January 2017 wrote a letter of support for their application for funding from NVTA. Caltrans is proposing to replace the aging bridge over Mill Creek; since the construction as proposed could have significant adverse effects for both the Vine Trail and the Bale Mill, District and Vine Trail staff meet with Caltrans and NVTA to discuss ways to mitigate the impacts. In Sept 2018 the Vine Trail Coalition requested the District accept an easement to facilitate the trail connection between Kennedy Park and Napa Pipe. Staff met with the Vine Trail and Syar on March 6th to work out details related to the easement.

Completed Projects

Amy's Grove Donation of 50 acres along Dry Creek and Wing Creek	The donation of approximately 50 acres of open space from the Chamberlain family to the District closed in December 2015.
Bay Area Ridge Trail Realignment Amendment to the proposed alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail extend north to the Oat Hill Mine Trail	In December of 2012 the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council approved the proposed realignment of the Ridge Trail through Napa County as requested by the District.
Bay Area Ridge Trail Napa-Solano Ridge Trail Loop Assignment of Tuteur Ridge Trail easement from the Bay Area Ridge Trail to the District	The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council obtained a donated easement from the Tuteur family and constructed a section of Bay Area Ridge Trail adjacent to Skyline Park. In March 2018 the Ridge Trail Council transferred the easement to the District, and with the support of the Tuteur family revised the easement to facilitate an extension of the trail south onto the District's Suscol Headwaters Preserve.
Bay/River Trail -- American Canyon to Napa Phase I Phase One--Eucalyptus Drive to Green Island Road	Constructed approximately 5 miles of Class I bicycle and pedestrian path in the vicinity of American Canyon along the Napa River was completed in April 2012, in partnership with the City of American Canyon, Department of Fish and Game and Napa Vallejo Waste Management Authority. A formal opening ceremony was held June 2, 2012.
Phase Two-A Pond 10	DFW surfaced the existing levee with gravel and opened the gate to the public in spring 2015.
Phase Three--Soscol Ferry Road to Napa Pipe	Completed construction in spring of 2015 of 0.7 miles between Soscol Ferry Road and the Napa Pipe property in the Napa Valley Corporate Park. The contractor will need to return in the summer of 2015 to reapply stabilizer in those spots where it didn't set up due to cold and wet weather.
Berryessa Peak Trail Obtain right of way and construct trail to provide public access to extensive federal lands on Blue Ridge and to Berryessa Peak	Obtained donated trail easement from the Ahmann family to close gaps between existing public lands on Blue Ridge. A Negative Declaration and Use Permit hearing was approved December 16, 2009 by the County Planning Commission. An Operations and Management Plan has been approved by the property owner and the District. BLM's biologist inspected the alignment on September 17, 2011. There have been volunteer trail building work parties have been held numerous times between 2011 and the present, and the trail is now done except for signage and a fence crossing. District staff met with Fish and Game on June 15, 2012 to discuss signage at the trailhead on DFG property, and in November 2012 submitted signage language for DFG review. Staff contacted DFG (now DFW) in February of 2013, again in early April, and again in late summer to determine the status of their review. In January 2014 DFW staff responded with an alternative entry sign design, and accepted our fence stile design. Volunteers installed the fence stile in March 2014. DFW installed the trail sign in late June 2015, though the sign copy is missing some information required by the trail easement that the trail uses after leaving DFW property. See attached picture. Staff has prepared two new signs to be placed at the termini of the private land trail easement that clearly state the rules for using the easement; these were installed by volunteers in late December 2015.
Berryessa Vista Acquisition Purchase of 224 acres from the Land Trust of Napa County for use as a public park completed in early 2008 using State Prop 12 funds.	
Cedar Roughs/Smittle Creek Acquisition of 443 acres providing public access to Cedar Roughs from Smittle Creek Day Use Area	Purchase of the property closed in December 2015.
Connolly Ranch Construction of patio, restrooms and cooking facilities completed in 2008 using State Prop 12 funds.	
The Cove at Mt Veeder Acquisition of a 160 former Girl Scout Camp	The acquisition of The Cove was completed in December 2017.
Historic ROW Analysis Study to determine location and status of historic road Rights-of-Way and their value as non-motorized recreational trails	Staff has completed a comprehensive review of historic rights-of-way, and is now focusing attention on those which have greatest potential.
Linda Falls Conservation Easement Conservation easement accepted in spring 2008 from Land Trust of Napa County to provide additional protection for this 39 acre property, which is owned by the land trust	
Linda Falls Conservation Easement Expansion of conservation easement to cover all of the property at Linda Falls owned by the Land Trust of Napa County	The District previously obtained a conservation easement on one of several parcels owned by the Land Trust of Napa County. The land trust desired to expand this conservation easement to include all of the land trust's holdings at Linda Falls. The purpose is to provide an additional layer of protection for the property. This is a continuation of a long-term project for the district and land trust to hold easements over each other's properties to protect against unforeseen circumstances that could threaten the conservation values of the properties. The District Board approved acceptance of the easement at its October 2016 meeting, and the easement was finalized and recorded in December 2016.

Master Plan Development

The Master Plan for 2008-2013 was approved in January 2009

Master Plan Update

First scheduled update to the Master Plan adopted in January 2009

Board ad hoc committee appointed. Methodology for doing update has been agreed upon. Project was delayed due to competing demands on staff time (primarily the effort to keep Napa's state parks from closing). A draft update has been prepared by staff working with the Board ad hoc committee for the Master Plan update, and released by the Board at the April 9, 2012 meeting for public comment. The plan update was adopted by the Board at its June 2012 meeting.

Milliken Reservoir Trails and Picnic Area Feasibility Study

Would construct approximately 3 miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail plus additional feeder and loop trails, along with a staging and picnic area

The feasibility study has been completed, and accepted by the Board of Directors. The Napa City Council in November, 2009 approved city staff recommendation to hold off on the Milliken Reservoir trails project until the Hennessey trail project is up and running.

Moore Creek Open Space Park

Acquisition of 673 acres in the Moore Creek Watershed completed in December 2008.

Napa River Ecological Reserve Improvements

Parking area paved, and rock barrier installed to control vehicular access in 2007. Trash enclosure constructed and entry signs restored by volunteers in 2008. Deteriorated kiosk removed in 2008. The District in July 2008 assumed the County's role in managing the preserve under the joint management agreement with DFG. A new maintenance contract with the non-profit organization Options 3 was started in January 2009. The old deteriorated information kiosk, which had become a serious eyesore, was removed in November 2008.

Napa River Ecological Reserve Restoration

This multi-year project resulted in the removal of the bulk of the invasive teasel that had taken over the 5 acre meadow at the entrance to the Reserve, and the construction of a short native plant interpretive trail. Work was done by volunteers, students, and paid contractors. In doing this work, several thousand students received a day of environmental education about native and invasive plants and riparian ecology.

Napa River Flood Control Easement

Conservation easement accepted by District in 2007 to facilitate Flood District project and grant funding

Newell Preserve Improvements

Provide on-site water supply for group campground for cattle

As part of the arrangement with the land trust on the District's purchase of Berryessa Vista, the land trust was willing to use some of the proceeds from the transaction to fund a well pump and distribution system at the Preserve. However, the first well drilled by the City of American Canyon came up dry. The City has dropped plans for digging any more test wells.

Oat Hill Mine Trail

The Oat Hill Mine Trail was formally opened in May of 2008, after a major volunteer work party doing signage installation, brush removal and erosion control.

Oat Hill Mine Trail

Transfer of 40 acre parcel from BLM

The District in 2008 applied to BLM for a non-fee transfer to the District of a 40 acre parcel at Maple Springs on the Oat Hill Mine Trail; this application is pending. Staff met with BLM in February 2011 to discuss how to speed up this transfer; another meeting with the same topic was held August 5, 2011. The District is still waiting on BLM to process the application. BLM in April 2016 indicated they did not want to transfer this parcel, so the District's application will be dropped.

River to Ridge Trail Enhancements

Installation of animal silhouettes along the entryway fence illustrating the types of birds and mammals that can be found in the area completed by Eagle Scout candidate in 2008. In November 2008 five Valley Oak trees were planted at the Highway 221 entrance to the trail with the assistance of a volunteer from CNPS.

River to Ridge Trail

Deeds accomplishing the adjustment in property boundaries between Syar and the State have been recorded.

Lot line adjustment to legalize River to Ridge Trail as constructed (it currently encroaches on

River to Ridge Trail Entrance Enhancements

A new information kiosk was installed at the entrance in December 2008 as part of a Boy Scout project. Several Live Oak seedlings were donated by CNPS and have been planted at the entrance to improve its appearance.

River to Ridge Trail

Correct drainage problems to trail can be used year-round.

Two volunteer work weekends in March and April and two more in May of 2010 were organized by the District to clear brush, improve drainage, and surface about 300 feet of the trail with quarry fines to control problems with mud. Volunteers completed additional work in August 2011.

Skyline Park Road and Trail Improvements

Erosion control work on Lake Marie Road, and paving of campground loop road, completed in 2007 using State Prop 12 funds.

<p>Skyline Park Concessionaire Agreement Renewal District staff negotiated renewal of concessionaire agreement on behalf of the County. The renewal involved changes to the fee schedule and amendments to and approval of subagreements with three non-profit partner organizations.</p>	
<p>Skyline Park Trail Improvements Major volunteer event to reroute and repair trails</p>	<p>Staff worked with SPCA and V-O-CAL to sponsor a weekend work party on October 15-17, 2010. Approximately 110 volunteers worked to reroute and repair trails experiencing serious erosion problems. SPCA is donating \$1,000 toward expenses.</p>
<p>Skyline Park Facility Improvements Partner-sponsored improvement include a second greenhouse and a covered equestrian arena.</p>	<p>The proposals for a second greenhouse and a covered arena were approved by the Department of General Services and by the County Board of Supervisors. The sponsors of these projects are now raising funds for implementation.</p>
<p>South Napa Wetlands Habitat Area Transfer to the District those wetlands owned by the Napa County flood control district between the Napa River, Highway 29 and Newport Drive for use as habitat and nature-based recreation.</p>	<p>Transfer was approved in concept by the flood control district, and Park District staff prepared the first draft of a transfer agreement. Subsequently, attorney's for the flood district concluded it would be better from their perspective for the flood district to retain ownership of the property, due to their ongoing maintenance obligations.</p>
<p>Suscol Headwaters Acquisition of 709 acres of the former Kirkland Ranch</p>	<p>The acquisition was completed in November 2017.</p>
<p>Trinchero Open Space Acquisition Donation of 3,400 acres of open space to the District by Bob and Evalyn Trinchero</p>	<p>The donation was completed on December 29, 2010. A related granting of an access easement to the Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District was completed in mid-January 2011.</p>
<p>Wild Lake Ranch Assist land trust with planning and possible joint management.</p>	<p>The District participated in the development of a strategic plan for the property, together with other public lands in the area, that was led by the Land Trust of Napa County. The land trust has decided, at least for the near term, to manage the Wildlake-Duff property itself.</p>

Agenda Item 4.g**Bothe-Napa Valley State Park/Bale Mill Report**

February 2019

- ADA Construction Update: The lower restroom in the campground has been opened to the public! The contractor has some remaining punch list items and work to be done once the weather improves.
- Occupancy and day use has been low at both parks in February.
- Naturalists led the second of the 2019 hike series on February 16th at RLS. The Geology Hike had a lot of interest and 26 people braved the soggy Saturday! The weather mostly held with the exception of a light snow. Sarah explained the geologic history of Mt. St Helena and Palisades range.
- Staff and volunteers supported another wonderful Winter Dinner Fundraiser organized by the Napa Valley State Parks Association.
- Staff met with mill specialist Ben Hassett to look at strategies and options for water wheel replacement.
- A Project Evaluation Form was submitted to State Parks for the conversion of campsite 40 to a camp host, full hook up site.
- Stormwater management was the theme of February.
 - A large Black Oak fell on the Silverado house at RLS. Staff surgically removed the tree to minimize damage.
 - A large slide occurred on the Spring trail/road, past the Ritchey Creek crossing.