



**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, February 10, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.

Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

None

### 4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors meeting of January 13, 2020.
- b. Consideration and adoption of revised Board meeting calendar for 2020.
- c. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff.
- d. Review of the District Projects Status Report.
- e. 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 agendized, no action will be taken by the Board on these items unless specifically noted otherwise.*

### 7. Adjournment



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## MINUTES

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, January 13, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.

Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Napa, CA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

**Staff Present: John Woodbury, Chris Cahill, Rick Fessenden, Kyra Purvis and Alexandria Quackenbush**

2. Public Comment

**None.**

3. Set Matters

- a. Consideration and potential approval of the Suscol Headwaters Park Development Plan and adoption of the project CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration.

**Kyra Purvis gave presentation with discussion. Directors voted to adopt the project Mitigated Negative Declaration based on recommended findings 1-5 and approve the proposed Suscol Headwaters Park Development Plan.**

**DF-TN-KBT-BR-BC**

4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors meeting of December 9, 2019.

**Minutes for the December 9, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.**

**BR-KBT-DF-TN-BC**

- b. Consideration and adoption of Board meeting calendar for 2020.

**Directors voted to adopt the Board Meeting Calendar for 2020 as presented.**

**DF-KBT-BR-BC-TN**

- c. Consideration and potential approval of 20 year operating agreement with California State Parks for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

**Directors voted to authorize General Manager to execute a 20 year operating agreement with California State Parks for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.**

**DF-KBT-BR-BC-TN**

- d. Consideration and potential approval of a bicycle skills course at Skyline Park.  
**Directors voted to approve a bicycle skills course at Skyline Park with actions 1-4 as presented in the staff report.**  
**KBT-BR-BC-DF-TN**
- e. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff.  
**The Board received the report, no action taken.**
- f. Review of the District Projects Status Report.  
**Rick Fessenden gave the report on: Berryessa Vista, Oat Hill Mine Trail, and Moore Creek Park Development. Chris Cahill gave the report on: Camp Berryessa, Lake Hennessey North Shore Trails, and Suscol Headwaters Preserve.**
- g. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park.  
**The Board received the report, no action taken.**

5. Announcements by Board and Staff

- **Brent Randol – Received Grant Funding to aid in replacing the Sulphur Creek Fish Ladder.**
- **Karen Bower-Turjanis – Mentioned this Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Hike.**
- **Supervisor Gregory – Thanked the Board of Directors for their action on Skyline.**
- **Dave Finigan – Spent time with Calistoga Councilman Don Williams discussing the district and the role of the Board of Directors. Dave will also be out of town for the February 10, 2020 meeting.**
- **Barry Christian – Mentioned Bill Dodd is having an open house on South Campus this Friday, January 10, 2020. He commented on attending a Fish and Game meeting in Sacramento.**

6. Agenda Planning

**None.**

7. Closed Session

- a. Annual Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)  
 TITLE: General Manager

8. Adjournment

**Adjourned to the Regular NOSD Board Meeting February 10, 2020**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Barry Christian, Board President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alexandria Quackenbush, 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.



## STAFF REPORT

*By:* John Woodbury  
*Date:* February 10, 2020  
*Item:* **4.b**  
*Subject:* Consideration and adoption of revised Board meeting calendar for 2020

### RECOMMENDATION

Approve the revised Board meeting calendar

### BACKGROUND

Two of the meeting dates in the calendar of Board regular meetings for 2020 approved by the Board in January were incorrect. The attached calendar has the correct dates.



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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting Calendar 2020

Draft February 10, 2020

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monday	January 13
Monday	February 10
Monday	March 9
Monday	April 13
Monday	May 11
Monday	June 8
Monday	July 13
Monday	August 10
Monday	September 14
Monday	October 12
Monday	November 9
Monday	December 14

### Note

Board meetings are normally the second Monday of each month. Exceptions if any are noted in bold red type. All meetings start at 2:00 pm and are held in the County Board of Supervisors Chambers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of 1195 Third Street, Napa, California.



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

## **STAFF REPORT**

*Date:* February 10, 2020

*Item:* **4.c**

*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 January 2020.

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

None

## PARKS &amp; OPEN SPACE DISTRICT -JANUARY 2020 EXPENSE REPORT

## General Admin - 85000-00

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
01/03/2020	11/26/19-12/25/19 000723798	KAISER PERMANENTE	\$ 3,681.41
01/21/2020	160149B-20 FY19 Audit Pmt #3	BROWN ARMSTRONG ACCOUNTANCY CORP	\$ 2,000.00

## Moore Creek Dept - 85010-00

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
01/09/2020	Bar & Chain Oil, Chain Loop	CENTRAL VALLEY BUILDERS	\$ 66.39
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 313.02
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 166.75
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 2,406.40
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 283.14
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 168.10
01/23/2020	Porta Potty Rental 1/2020	JOHNNY ON THE SPOT	\$ 178.94
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$ 173.58
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$ 313.02
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$ 2,406.40
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$ 174.98
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$ 393.25

## Camp Berryessa Dept - 85010-03

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
01/16/2020	Waste Disposal Service 12/19	BERRYESSA GARBAGE SERVICE AND	\$ 185.90
01/16/2020	Coliform Test	CALTEST ANALYTICAL LABORATORY	\$ 50.00
01/16/2020	Fix Chlorinator & Meter	OAKVILLE PUMP SERVICE	\$ 642.45

## NRER Dept - 85010-05

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
01/23/2020	Porta Potty Rental 1/2020	JOHNNY ON THE SPOT	\$ 278.94
01/23/2020	Security Cam12/14/19-01/13/20	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 38.01
01/27/2020	Nov 2019 Invoice	NAPA VALLEY SUPPORT SERVICES	\$ 500.00
01/27/2020	Dec 2019 Invoice	NAPA VALLEY SUPPORT SERVICES	\$ 500.00

## State Park - 85010-08

Date	Journal Line Description	Name	Monetary Amount
01/02/2020	Heartland CC Fees - USB		\$ 36.57
01/09/2020	Phone Line 11/28/19 - 12/27/19	AT&T	\$ 20.27
01/09/2020	Waste Disposal Service 12-19	UPPER VALLEY DISPOSAL SERVICE, INC.	\$ 1,025.52
01/09/2020	Hose, Matts, Slip, Coupling	CENTRAL VALLEY BUILDERS	\$ 57.32
01/09/2020	Bayonet Outlet	SILVERADO ACE HARDWARE	\$ 8.61
01/09/2020	Office Depot supplies		\$ 231.44
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 1,281.46
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 727.72
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 8,549.04
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 3,254.19
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 733.59
01/10/2020	PR2GL Pay End 12/27/19		\$ 180.56
01/15/2020	11/20/19 Ketchie- MillCoasters	WOODBURY,JOHN ROBERT	\$ 282.31
01/16/2020	Nuts, Bolts, Auger Bit	STEVES HARDWARE	\$ 21.36
01/16/2020	Pallets	V&V FIREWOOD INC.	\$ 1,920.00
01/23/2020	Alarm 12/13/19-01/12/2020	AT&T	\$ 92.53
01/23/2020	Internet Line12/10/19-1/9/20	AT&T	\$ 330.27



01/23/2020	Photo SMK & CO Slim	SILVERADO ACE HARDWARE	\$	95.55
01/23/2020	Photo SMK & CO Slim	SILVERADO ACE HARDWARE	\$	76.18
01/23/2020	Photo SMK & CO Slim	SILVERADO ACE HARDWARE	\$	76.18
01/23/2020	Photo SMK & CO Slim	SILVERADO ACE HARDWARE	\$	76.18
01/23/2020	Photo SMK & CO Slim	SILVERADO ACE HARDWARE	\$	76.18
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$	706.71
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$	1,281.46
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$	180.56
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$	712.41
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$	2,873.97
01/24/2020	PR2GL Pay End 01/10/2020		\$	8,590.20

#### Amy's Grove - 85010-10

Date	Journal Line Description	Name		Monetary Amount
01/03/2020	PARK190320 Thru 11/30/19	REB ENGINEERING	\$	2,661.75
01/09/2020	Bar and Chain Oil	CENTRAL VALLEY BUILDERS	\$	22.76
01/09/2020	Oil, Fuel, Batteries, Files	CENTRAL VALLEY BUILDERS	\$	47.55
01/23/2020	Porta Potty Rental 12/19	JOHNNY ON THE SPOT	\$	26.94
01/23/2020	Engineer Site Evals	REB ENGINEERING	\$	618.75

#### Other Projects - 85010-90

Date	Journal Line Description	Name		Monetary Amount
01/03/2020	Nov 2019 Invoice	CJ YIP & ASSOCIATES	\$	3,190.78
01/27/2020	Dec 2019 Invoice	CJ YIP & ASSOCIATES	\$	2,761.60

Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

## Projects Status Report

February 10, 2020

### **Amy's Grove**

*Planning and permits for public use of Amy's Grove.*

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. A legal description of the conservation area covering the meadow at Amy's Grove has been completed. PG&E is marking trees for transmission line clearance trimming in the right of way adjacent to our property. We have attempted to limit the scope of that work, but ultimately we have little say in the process. In late July 2019 we learned that we did not receive the Habitat Conservation Fund grant we had applied for to assist with the purchase of the 164 acres to the north. As soon as State Parks releases the Prop 68 per capita grant funds (it was supposed to happen in mid-September) we will move immediately to complete the purchase.

### **Bay/River Trail - American Canyon to Napa**

*An 8+ mile recreational trail. Phase 2-B--Pond 10 to Soscol Ferry Road.*

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 CADFW 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 CADFW staff on November 28, 2018. Staff has been working with BCDC to determine whether CDFW plans to impose user fees for people walking on the trail along the edge of the wetlands would be allowed under DFW's permit from BCDC. Director Christian has been volunteering considerable time to remove weeds blocking the trail both north and south of Green Island Road. Staff has also been working with the Bay Trail Project and Director Christian to ensure the draft Countywide Bicycle Master Plan includes the trail connection from Green Island Road to Suscol Ferry Road. With assistance from Director Christian, staff has also been monitoring CDFW proposed policy changes for the Napa-Sonoma marshes, including use of bicycles on designated trails.

### **Beryessa Vista**

*Planning, stewardship and expansion of this 304 acre wilderness park.*

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 Beryessa Vista accessed from the BOR Capell Cove boat launch. Staff has been reviewing PG&E plans to grade and widen an access road to their high power lines that cross the property, to ensure the work does not cause future erosion nor increase vehicular trespass. The Bureau of Reclamation has completed environmental review and authorized the District to improve the trail leading from water's edge up into the District property and install directional signage. We have scheduled a boat-in volunteer workday for February 8th to hand build the new access trail.

### **(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 worked with a forester to develop a plan for salvage logging to (a) remove hazardous dead trees in the campground area and (b) 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 was completed during the week of July 23rd followed by the logger completing his 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. A State Employment Development Department funded crew of 4 (using fire emergency job training funds) started work on April 2, 2019; they will be available through the end of the calendar year; so far they have completed chipping of much of the remaining woody debris, and are well along with cutting larger logs into rounds for eventual splitting for firewood. In July 2019 we worked with our salvage logging contractor on improvements to the gravel driveway to make it more useable to visitors in 2WD vehicles. We met with a local engineer on site on Sep 5th to begin designing facilities for a rebuilt camp. Our EDD crew has been doing preliminary work clearing debris out of future camp site areas. We removed a very large standing dead oak tree adjacent to the parking area in mid-November for safety reasons. The EDD work crew wrapped up their season at the end of December. Staff is working with Enchanted Hills Camp on a proposal for a 13 week Americorps crew this spring to work on The Cove, Enchanted Hills Camp and other projects.

### **EcoCamp Berryessa**

*Redevelopment and operation of former Boy Scout Camp with 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 Hanks, 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. Tuleyme: the BOR, and Forest Trails Alliance have completed the adjacent 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. Issues with the composting toilets and water systems (the result of poor design and power failures) appear to have all been resolved. 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 completed a fresh fee survey in early 2019, the results of which we are now analyzing to see if our rental rates need to be updated, we will be bringing those to the Board. We are looking in to solar battery backups to provide more reliable power as rural blackouts on windy days have become the new normal. BOR has informed us of a new rule restricting open flames during red flag warnings making cooking in our pedestal barbecues impossible. We have been providing notice of the new regulation to all users. As of mid September, some of our septic system valving and wires have been damaged by denning animals. The septic system is now repaired, and the valve boxes have been hardened to make it more difficult for our furry friends to get into them in the future. It's quiet season at the Camp, so we have been focusing on (the many) maintenance and repair projects.

### **Lake Hennessy North Shore Trails**

*Would open up several miles of existing dirt access road, and construct a network of new single track trails on the north side of Lake Hennessy, and connecting to the 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 Hennessy 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 Hennessy 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. 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. The Whiskey Ridge and Conn Peak Trails (along with the Conn Peak Spur) are now complete and open to the public, nearly three miles of new singletrack all-in. We met with our partners at REMBA, Conservation Corps North Bay, and the Sonoma Co. Trails Council on Oct 23 to refine the Catacoula Trail alignment, slated to be built this spring. The park has been closed on five or six separate occasions in October and November due to Red Flag fire weather conditions. We have been informed that PG&E will be doing clearing around the high tension lines that cross the Hennessy Unit this spring; as the City of Napa owns the

underlying property the District doesn't have authority over any of that work. Corridor clearing in preparation for the construction of the Catacoula Trail began on February 4th; groundbreaking should happen in March if weather and permitting cooperate.

### **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 Hennessy 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 trail building 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 coordinated a meeting with CalFire and a neighbor to determine what level of tree trimming is needed on the neighbor's property next to the ranch house to comply with Firewise regulations and the trimming work is now underway. Staff repaired a malfunctioning chlorinator to get the Ranch House engineered septic system back up and running. Multiple Red Flag closures have occurred as noted above. We are working with the RCD to do a re-oaking project in the area of Julie Yip's bench this spring and are in the initial planning stages of a mid-summer Vo-Cal volunteer event to work on the Madrone Trail.

### **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. 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. 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 2017 bulldozing. Deer season trail closure signs were put up in early August. Staff investigated reports of an illegal campsite near the Oat Hill Mine Trail and is investigating reports that people in 4WD vehicles have been clearing vegetation and other obstructions along the trail between Calistoga and the Palisades Trail. The campsite was determined to be located on adjacent private property (the owners have been contacted) and the 4WD enthusiasts own property further up the trail so have the right to drive on the trail. As with Moore Creek Park, the trail has been closed repeatedly in October and November due to hazardous fire weather. Recent PG&E line-clearing work along the lower portion of the trail damaged it in several places and we are working with PG&E to motivate them to fix it themselves, if that doesn't happen it is likely to become a District volunteer project later this winter.

#### **Putah Creek Properties**

*Acquire 480 acres next to Berryessa Estates from BLM at no fee through their Recreation and Public Purpose Act procedure. Manage Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats and Stone Corral (2,500 acres) open space preserves.*

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 June 2019 no progress had been made. Per CalFire, the planned prescribed burn for Spanish Valley has been cancelled due to deteriorating weather conditions; we'll try again in 2020. We are in receipt of a conservation easement for Spanish Valley, drafted by the Land Trust, and are working with them to make edits and

finalize the document for Board review. Interpretive staff held a well-attended public hike at Spanish Valley in early November focusing on native plants and the areas interesting geology.

### **Skyline Park**

#### *Permanent protection of Skyline Park and support for Skyline operations.*

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 it's 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. 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. 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. The District is working with SPCA to utilize a TBID grant obtained by the District to upgrade their web site including an on-line reservation system, improve their park map and brochure, and install an automatic pay machine on the River to Ridge Trail. As of early August 2019, a new Skyline map has been completed, the new web site is up and running, the on-line reservation system is operational, and the automatic pay station should be installed any day now. The Governor has signed legislation authorizing the sale of the park to the District or the County, but separately the State has also released plans to potentially lease 20 acres of Skyline Park for the development of housing, complicating matters. Staff has been working with bicycle advocates and Skyline Park Citizens Association to plan and develop a bicycle skills course on a 1/4 acre portion of Skyline Park. It turns out the approach approved by the Board in January will need to be revised; staff will come back to the Board as soon as a revised approach has been reviewed by Counsel.



## **Smittle Creek**

*Planning and permits to open this 411 acre holding for public use.*

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 Roughs 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. In late May, field staff met with the US Geological Service to assist with the placement of a remote seismographic station on the property. Our volunteer caretaker for this property has made repairs to the dirt roads and the perimeter fencing. Staff in January 2020 flagged a route for the proposed new trail access into the property from Reclamation's Smittle Creek Day Use Area parking lot, so that it can be investigated by a botanist this spring.

## **State Parks**

*Operate Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and RLS State Park.*

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. 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. We have been attempting, but so far with no success, to get State Parks approval to repair the roof. District and State Parks staff are very close to having a new Operating Agreement ready for Board consideration.

### **Suscol Headwaters Preserve**

*Improvements to Suscol Headwaters Preserve and opening the property as a public park.*

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 (CARLF) 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. 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 as soon as the biological survey update that is scheduled for spring/summer 2019 is complete. As of early April 2019 we have begun actively assembling a trail development plan and working on final CARLF pond plans and specifications with Caltrans. We have hired Kevin Smallman, to help with trail corridor planning and spent May 10 and 11 hiking and flagging the property. In late June we met on site with Caltrans and USFWS biologists and geologists to refine preliminary pond plans. Negotiations with the City of American Canyon and an adjacent property owner regarding the potential to relocate the access easement to our property from Highway 12 did not work out because of a change of mind by the property owner. The District has submitted a Use Permit application to the County covering the northern portion of the Preserve, which is scheduled to be heard by the County Planning Commission on February 19th.

## 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 NVTAs. 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 NVTAs 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 6, 2019 to work out details related to the easement. A revised version of the easement, and an associated agreement allocating responsibilities is still being negotiated. District staff is continuing to support Vine Trail plans for developing the Vine Trail through Bothe-Napa Valley State Park.

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 - 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 that have greatest potential.

**Linda Falls Conservation Easement**

*Conservation easement to cover all of the property at Linda Falls owned by the Land Trust of Napa County.*

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. 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 adhoc 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 Hennessy 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 & Restoration**

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. 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 and 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. 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**

Lot line adjustment to legalize River to Ridge Trail as constructed (it currently encroaches on private property in two locations). Deeds accomplishing the adjustment in property boundaries between Syar and the State have been recorded. 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. 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. 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. 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.

**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 sub agreements with three non-profit partner organizations.

**Skyline Park Facility Improvements**

*Partner-sponsored improvement include a second greenhouse and a covered equestrian arena.*

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.

**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.*

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.

**Suscol Headwaters Preserve Acquisition**

*Acquisition of 709 acres of the former Kirkland Ranch in two phases.*

The acquisition was completed in November 2017.

**Trinchero/Putah Creek Open Space Acquisition**

*Donation of 3,400 acres of open space to the District by Bob and Evelyn Trinchero.*

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.

**Wild Lake Ranch**

*Assist land trust with planning and possible joint management.*

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.

## Deferred Projects

### **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. Plans have been postponed while the District first focuses on increasing fundraising and outreach capacity without the challenges of establishing and supporting another legal entity, and to ensure what the District does is coordinated with fundraising efforts of other organizations.

### **Montesol West**

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

The District had the opportunity to purchase 1,254 acres west of Highway 29 adjacent to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. 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 would permit the area to be used for public recreation. The District prepared and obtained a Habitat Conservation Program grant that, together with a Moore Foundation grant obtained by the Trust for Public Land, would fully fund the purchase. 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. Unfortunately, the option expired at the end of February without TPL exercising it, because 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. Staff has begun discussions with other conservation partners about a strategy for changing the ARB carbon project rules so they don't prevent public ownership and access.

### **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, though it would need to be updated given the passage of time. The project concept was approved by the District Board, and was positively viewed by the Veterans Home administration. However, there were subsequently a series of changes and controversies within the Department of Veterans Affairs, which undid the progress we had made. The area in question also involves

the Department of Fish and Wildlife, since they have an easement to allow hunters to use the area; the Department was initially supportive of the District pursuing a formal trail through the property, but personnel changes within their Department means their review also needs to be restarted. Finally, with the approval of the Go North alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, this segment of trail is no longer part of the officially proposed alignment for the Ridge Trail. For all three reasons, this project is deferred until other District priorities are under control.

### **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 met in closed session to discuss the Lake Curry property. A meeting with Solano County representatives took place January 27, 2017.

Solano County is 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. Further progress on this project depends on the City of Vallejo and Solano County; the District cannot do more until they decide what direction to head.



*By:* Jason Jordan  
*Date:* February 3, 2020  
*Item:* **4.e**  
*Subject:* January 2020 State Park Report for Bothe- Napa Valley SP and Bale Grist Mill SHP

- Park use remained slow in January
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday hike this month was held on January 18<sup>th</sup> at Skyline Park and was focused on geology of the area. Clear but cold temperatures brought out a good crowd of 46 adults and 6 children for a total of 52 participants. Skyline was generous to waive the day use fee for hike participants.
- Two mill field trips were scheduled in January with approximately 120 participants in total.
- Staff completed fabricating and installing 12 new arms for the waterwheel as well as fabricating 2 additional replacement arms for back up. We met with Ben Hasset to go over final details on additional pieces as he prepared to start cutting. Phase 2 of the project will resume in April when the rest of the lumber arrives.
- Staff is working on replacing floors in the Yurtville shower units and seeking bids for linoleum. Demo and repair of old floor completed.
- New smoke/ CO2 alarms were replaced and installed in all of the yurts.
- An emergency eye wash station was installed at the pool in addition to other safety items being completed.
- The Bothe Park brochure was reviewed and edited with recommended changes and reprint order sent to State Parks.
- A meeting with millers was held to review and discuss interpretive plan and tour components.
- Dealing with and trying to get several reservation system issues resolved.
- Promoting and recruiting volunteers for Winter Dinner Fundraiser.
- Draft cemetery interpretive panels were resubmitted to State Park Interpretive Specialist for review.