



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

Brad Wagenknecht  
*Director, Ward One*

Ryan Gregory  
*Director, Ward Two*

Patricia Clarey  
*Director, Ward Three*

Nancy Lewis-Heliotis  
*Director, Ward Four*

Barry Christian  
*Director, Ward Five*

## AGENDA

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.

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

This is an in-person meeting.

You may also attend and provide comments via Zoom Conference Call.

**Please Note:** Remote participation for members of the public, whether by telephone, Zoom, or any other technology, is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Zoom or other connection is disconnected or malfunctions for any reason, the Board of Directors reserves the right to conduct or to continue a meeting without remote access.

### Instructions for Joining Zoom Meeting

**Join Zoom meeting online:**

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**Or by phone:**

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+1 669 900 6833

**Meeting ID: 869 8015 4570**

**Passcode: 869875**

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## 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.

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 [info@ncrposd.org](mailto:info@ncrposd.org).

Prior to action on any item, the Board President will ask for comments from any member of the audience. 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, by appointment in the NCRPOSD Office at 1443 Main Street, Suite 135, Napa, California 94559, and generally Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except for District 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.

*The Board of Directors of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District encourages a respectful dialogue that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. The Board, staff, and members of the public are expected to be civil and courteous, and to refrain from questioning the character or motives of others participating in the meeting. The District requests that speakers not use threatening, profane, or abusive language which disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of a Board meeting. Members of the public may comment on any item on the agenda during Board consideration of the item. The Board President will invite public comment following the staff presentation and prior to final Board deliberations. Each speaker will be allotted time for comment as set by the Board President (generally 3 minutes).*

### 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 regular meeting of March 9, 2026.
- b. Introductory presentation by Melanie Parker, recently appointed CEO of the Land Trust of Napa County.
- c. Consideration and potential approval of a budget adjustment for FY 2025-2026 to track one electronic payment kiosk at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park as a Capital Asset.
- d. Receipt of report on staff reportable actions including expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for March 2026.
- e. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.
- f. Review of the District Projects Status Report.

#### 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.*

#### 7. Closed Session

- a. Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Government Code Section 54956.8)  
Property: Napa County APN Nos. 047-080-048 and portions of 047-080-059  
Agency Negotiator: Chris Cahill, NCRPOSD General Manager  
Negotiating Parties: NCRPOSD, Land Trust of Napa County, Rene and Veronica di Rosa Foundation  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

#### 8. Adjournment



**NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &  
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Director, Ward One

Ryan Gregory  
Director, Ward Two

Patricia Clarey  
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Nancy Lewis-Heliotis  
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Barry Christian  
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# MINUTES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

**Directors Present: Brad Wagenknecht, Ryan Gregory, Patricia Clarey, Barry Christian, Nancy Heliotis (Arrived during Item 4-c)**

**Staff Present: Chris Cahill, Andrew Brooks, Jason Jordan, Sabrina Wolfson, Ryan Ayers**

2. Public Comment

**None.**

3. Set Matters

**None.**

4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors regular meeting of February 9, 2026.

**Minutes for the February 9, 2026 regular meeting were approved as presented.**

**BC - BW - RG - PC - NH**

**Ab**

- b. Consideration and potential approval of Resolution 26-01, adopting *California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience*.

**Report presented by Chris Cahill. Directors approved Resolution 26-01, adopting California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience as presented.**

**RG - BC - BW - PC - NH**

**Ab**

- c. Consideration and potential approval of a CAL FIRE Forest Health program grant application for vegetation management projects at Moore Creek Park as detailed in the *Public-Private Partnerships to Improve Forest Health and Watershed Resilience in Napa and Lake Counties* project proposed by the Napa and Lake County Resource Conservation Districts.

**Report presented by Chris Cahill. Directors found the proposed action categorically exempt under CEQA, and approved submission of the CAL FIRE Forest Health program grant application for vegetation management projects at Moore Creek Park as presented.**

**NH - RG - BW - PC - BC**

d. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 midyear budget review.  
**Report presented by Chris Cahill; No action taken.**

e. Consideration and potential approval of a budget adjustment for FY 2025-2026 increasing appropriations for Salaries & Benefits in the amount of \$225,000.  
**Report presented by Chris Cahill. Directors approved the budget adjustment for FY 2025-2026 increasing appropriations for Salaries & Benefits in the amount of \$225,000 as presented.**  
**BW - RG - PC - NH - BC**

f. Consideration and potential revision of the District allocation and salary tables to add the Park Steward job classification.  
**Report presented by Chris Cahill. Directors approved the revision of the District allocation and salary tables to add the Park Steward job classification as presented.**  
**RG - BC - BW - PC - NH**

g. Consideration and potential approval of Amendment Number 2 to Agreement 25-02 with Monk & Associates, Inc. for biological surveying services at Suscol Headwaters Park, increasing the not-to-exceed contract maximum to \$98,590.20.  
**Report presented by Andrew Brooks. Directors approved Amendment Number 2 to Agreement 25-02 with Monk & Associates, Inc. for biological surveying services at Suscol Headwaters Park, increasing the not-to-exceed contract maximum to \$98,590.20.**  
**NH - PC - BW - RG - BC**

h. Receipt of report on staff reportable actions including expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for February 2026.  
**Report presented by Chris Cahill; No action taken.**

i. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.  
**Report presented by Jason Jordan; No action taken.**

j. Review of the District Projects Status Report.  
**Report presented by Andrew Brooks; No action taken.**

5. Announcements by Board and Staff  
**None.**

6. Agenda Planning

- **Chris Cahill noted that an agenda item detailing a conservation easement on a Land Trust of Napa County property adjacent to the Woodbury Preserve should be coming before the Board in April.**

7. Adjournment

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Clarey, Board President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Ayers, District Secretary

Vote: BW = Brad Wagenknecht; RG = Ryan Gregory; PC = Patricia Clarey; NH = Nancy Heliotas; BC = Barry Christian

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 = Excused; Ab=Absent



## **STAFF REPORT**

*By:* Chris Cahill  
*Date:* April 13, 2026  
*Item:* **4.b**  
*Subject:* Introductory presentation by Melanie Parker, recently appointed CEO of the Land Trust of Napa County.

### RECOMMENDATION

Informational item. No action required.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

**Not a project.** This item does not constitute a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### BACKGROUND

In January of 2026, the Land Trust of Napa County appointed Melanie Parker as its new Chief Executive Officer, following a national search and at a pivotal moment as the Land Trust marks its 50th anniversary. Melanie succeeds longtime CEO Doug Parker (no relation) and assumes leadership of one of Napa County's most significant conservation organizations, dedicated to the permanent protection of the region's natural, agricultural, and scenic lands.

Melanie brings more than two decades of experience in land conservation and natural resource management. Most recently, she served as Deputy Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks, where she oversaw a substantial operating budget and a large multidisciplinary staff, and led strategic planning, interagency coordination, and successful regional funding initiatives. Her career also includes nonprofit leadership in Montana, where she contributed to large-scale conservation efforts including the protection of hundreds of thousands of acres of working forestland and wildlife habitat.

Melanie will introduce herself to the Board, share her personal and professional background, and offer initial thoughts on her vision and priorities for the Land Trust going forward.



## **STAFF REPORT**

*By:* Barb Ruffino and Chris Cahill  
*Date:* April 13, 2026  
*Item:* **4.c**  
*Subject:* Consideration and potential approval of a budget adjustment for FY 2025-2026 to track one electronic payment kiosk at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park as a Capital Asset.

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the adjusted budget for FY 2025-2026.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

**Not a project.** This item does not constitute a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### BACKGROUND

Based on changes that have occurred since adoption of the current year’s budget, the District Auditor and our accounting staff are proposing an amendment to the FY 25-26 budget as outlined below:

In December 2025, an electric payment kiosk was installed at the main vehicular entrance to Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. The electronic kiosk, sometimes referred to within our organization as a “robo-ranger,” accepts electronic payments for both day use and camping.

Expenses related to the electronic kiosk, including the cost of installation and the first full year of licensing and software fees, were originally budgeted in account **53410 Computer Equipment/Accessories**. As the price of the kiosk is over the Auditor’s threshold for a Capital Asset, we are requesting a budget adjustment to move that budget from the Computer Equipment account into the **Capital Asset-Equipment (55400)** account. The proposed budget adjustment would result in no additional revenues or expenses and no change in our bottom-line.

Staff requests the following adjustments to the FY 25/26 (present year) budget.

- Move \$14,410 within the **State Park (8501008)** budget to account for the cost of the electronic kiosk, installation fees, and first-year licensing and software fees.

<b>Capital Asset-Equipment (55400)</b>	<b>\$14,410</b>
<b>Computer Software (53410)</b>	<b>(\$14,410)</b>



## **STAFF REPORT**

By: Chris Cahill and Barb Ruffino  
Date: April 13, 2026  
Item: **4.d**  
Subject: Receipt of report on staff reportable actions including expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for March 2026.

### RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report, no action required.

### 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 \$55,204.03, 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 **March 2026**. All Cal-Card purchases are itemized in the financial report.

### Advocacy

#### Agreements

- |                        |                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Agreement 26-09</b> | With AP Earthworks for construction of Rocket Sled Trail at Moore Creek Park (not to exceed \$49,000).                            |
| <b>Agreement 26-10</b> | With Nimbus Arts for Nature Camp at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park (no cost to District).                                           |
| <b>Agreement 26-11</b> | With Complete Wildfire Defense, LLC for Photography and Video Services of the Drone Piloting Variety (not to exceed \$1,000).     |
| <b>Agreement 26-12</b> | With TOPO Collective Benefit Corporation for Photography and Video Services of the Video Editing Variety (not to exceed \$3,000). |

**Grants and Donations**

**Large Donations (≥ \$1,000)**

Anonymous Superhero Volunteer \$1,000

**Online Donations**

ReLeaf \$425

**Iron Ranger Donations**

Moore Creek Park \$618.01

Oat Hill Mine Trail \$138

**PARKS & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT -MARCH 2026 EXPENSE REPORT**

**Gen Admin Dept - 85000-00**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
3/3/2026	Computer Software	2/26 Google	Us Bank National Association	\$ 8.40
3/3/2026	Computer Software	2/26 Zoom	Us Bank National Association	\$ 16.99
3/3/2026	Communications/Telephone	2/26 Internet-Main St	Us Bank National Association	\$ 74.90
3/3/2026	Fleet Charges	Car Wash/Charging-Lighting	Us Bank National Association	\$ 24.52
3/3/2026	Books/Subscriptions	Doodle subscription	Us Bank National Association	\$ 14.95
3/3/2026	Minor Equipment/Small Tools	Maint Kit-Excavator	Us Bank National Association	\$ 269.36
3/3/2026	Fleet Charges	Battery-Suburu	Us Bank National Association	\$ 219.49
3/9/2026	Rents/Leases-Equipment	3/11/26-4/10/26 Printer Lease	Kyocera Document Solutions	\$ 62.06
3/9/2026	Training/Conference Expenses	CPR Wilderness First Aid Training	Redwood Trails Alliance	\$ 280.00
3/9/2026	Training/Conference Expenses	Wilderness First Aid Training	Redwood Trails Alliance	\$1,743.00
3/10/2026	Rents/Leases-Buildings/Land	4/26 Rent-1443 Main St, Ste 135	Knm Properties, Inc.	\$2,173.50

**Moore Creek Dept - 85010-00**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
3/3/2026	Other Professional Services	3/26 Monthly Wastewater Sampling	Heritage Systems, Inc	\$ 128.33
3/9/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Trimmer head, gloves, detail brush	Central Valley Builders	\$ 67.22
3/9/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Flap disc, Shovel handle, sandpaper	Zeller's & Clarks Ace Hardware	\$ 60.86

**Camp Berryessa 85010-03**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
3/3/2026	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #B021065-Camp Berryessa	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 61.00
3/3/2026	Waste Disposal Services	2/26 Garbage Service	Berryessa Garbage Service	\$ 228.70

**NRER - 85010-05**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
3/9/2026	Other Professional Services	2/26 Litter Abatement	Napa Valley Support	\$ 500.00

**State Park - 85010-08**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
3/3/2026	Waste Disposal Services	2/26 Garbage Service	Upper Valley Disposal	\$2,604.39
3/3/2026	Utilities - Electric	1/14-2/12/26 Acct #4831406953-4	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 801.36
3/3/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Chain oil, rake, cleaning cloth	Steves Hardware	\$ 80.07
3/3/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Paper Towel Dispensers	Us Bank National Association	\$ 145.67
3/3/2026	Vehicle Repair Supplies	Tire-Ford Lightning	O.K. Tire Store	\$ 396.84
3/9/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Engine oil, drill bit, chain, hardware	Central Valley Builders	\$ 177.00
3/9/2026	Vehicle Repair Supplies	Chipper battery	Brown's Auto Parts	\$ 220.81
3/9/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Hillman fasteners	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 3.01
3/9/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Chlorine	Leslie's Swimming Pool	\$ 221.26
3/9/2026	Communications/Telephone	1/28/26-2/27/26 Phone	At&T	\$ 31.85
3/12/2026	Janitorial Supplies	Bleach, Dish Soap, sponges	Little Joe Janitorial	\$ 85.79
3/12/2026	Goods for Resale	Wheat Berries, Buckwheat, Yellow Corn	Keith Giusto Bakery	\$ 839.22
3/12/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Pulley	Brown's Auto Parts	\$ 70.50

**Suscol Headwaters - 85010-09**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
3/12/2026	Construction Services	Cattle Guards (3)	Easy Fence Llc	\$5,464.69

**Mayacamas - 85010-10**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
3/9/2026	Construction Services	Trail Design-The Cove	Smallman, Kevin	\$6,000.00

**Other Projects - 85010-90**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
3/3/2026	Special Department Expense	Stickers	Us Bank National Association	\$ 114.19
3/9/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Sandpaper, bolts	Zeller's & Clarks Ace Hardware	\$ 17.17



## **STAFF REPORT**

By: Jason Jordan  
Date: April 13, 2026  
Item: **4.e**  
Subject: Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

### PARK STATUS

**Bothe Napa Valley SP-** Campground use has picked up during the week with warm weather and spring breaks.

**Bale Mill SHP-** Visitation typical for this time of year.

**Robert Louis Stevenson SP-** Use increasing on weekends.

### PARK UPDATES

- Vine Trail Update:
  - Continuing to keep up on mowing, weed eating, and blowing.
  - Estimating requests from County and Vine Trail Coalition to repair non-routine maintenance.
  - Awaiting receipt of payment for FY25/26 Q1 and Q2 from Vine Trail Coalition.
- Interpretive Plan Draft: The committee is scoping short-term, high return-on-investment projects with remaining funding.
- The landscape improvement project at the Visitor Center started in February has been idle. Pavers are set, awaiting completion of the paving and a planting plan.
- Enviroports Inc held their bi-annual trail marathon at Bothe on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The event includes a 10K, half marathon and full marathon utilizing park trails. There were approximately 150 participants in the race. A Special Event Permit was issued for this event.
- Kerry Brackett's Eco fitness hike was held on March 14<sup>th</sup> with 11 participants.
- Volunteer Update:
  - A joint volunteer event was held March 6<sup>th</sup> with the Vine Trail Coalition to remove Scotch broom from a section of the Vine Trail. There were 10 participants including staff and all broom and some blackberry was removed from that section of trail.
  - Regular trail volunteers supported getting trails ready for the marathon.
  - One volunteer assisted staff with brushing and downed tree removal on the Homestead Trail.

- The CA State Parks trail crew and Civilian Conservation Corps continue working on clearing and tread improvements on the Palisades and Table Rock Trails in RLS State Park. They are camping at Bothe and will work into April on this project.
- NVSPA organized a Mill tour for the Western Chapter of the Association of Preservation Technology Annual Conference on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Sixty-five attendees were treated to a mill tour and a social function at the mill.
- Environmental Education:
  - One Field Trip occurred at Bothe in February for 45 students.
  - Two field trips occurred at Bale in February for 51 students.
  - Staff supported four dates in April for the American Canyon Parks Foundation's Watershed Explorers program. NOSD provided a booth and activity station. A total of 210 students participated over the four dates.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday hike in February was held on the Oat Hill Mine Trail on the 21<sup>st</sup>, with a geology theme. Participants learned about the formation of the Palisades range as well as the rich mining history of this region. Fourteen participants attended the hike.
- An agreement was completed with Nimbus Arts to hold their annual Nature Camp at Bothe in June.
- New park signage was created and an order has been sent to sign fabricator.
- Seasonal Park Aide interviews were conducted, and one offer has been made.
- Staff continues to meet and plan the Arts in Parks event on June 13<sup>th</sup> in support of CA State Parks Week.
- An additional point-of-sale system was installed at the Visitor Center to improve functionality and efficiency when checking-in guests.
- A Special Event Permit was issued to Wilder Walks for a guided hike at Robert Louis Stevenson SP on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff reviewed the condition assessment report from Summit Engineering of the flume at the Bale Mill. The report is being used to refine our materials estimate and scope of work for repair of the structure.
- A new merchandising design was implemented at the Bale Mill Granary to better utilize space and provide a more attractive display.



## Projects Status Report

April 13, 2026

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

*An 8+ mile recreational trail. Phase 2-B--Pond 10 to Napa Pipe.*

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. 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. CDFW in April approved policy changes for the Napa-Sonoma marshes, including use of bicycles on designated trails. The District and the City of American Canyon have been developing new and improved signage for the Wetlands Edge trailhead. The commemorative plaque for former Director Myrna Abramowicz was vandalized in June or July of 2020; Director Christian has taken the lead in getting a replacement plaque and the finished product is now installed and turned out excellent. Rick and Chris inspected the segment north of Soscol Ferry Road in mid-June and noticed some damage to the stabilized quarry fines tread due to work by Napa San in their easement. Because the construction project requires excavation in and around a manhole in the middle of the trail, the Butler Bridge segment is currently closed to protect public safety. Post-construction work on rehabilitating the tread of the trail was completed shortly after Thanksgiving and it is once again open and useable. On July 29<sup>th</sup> the Napa StoryWalk had its grand opening in American Canyon, turnout was light, probably due to the 4:00PM on Friday afternoon timing, but those who attended had a wonderful time. In early February 2023 the County of Napa began the extended process of updating its Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (or ALUCP), a document that is relevant to the District because adopted policies could impact our ability to someday complete the Napa River Trail, which would run through the Airport Land Use Compatibility planning area. District staff inspected the entire trail from American Canyon to Fagan Marsh in late January and has had initial conversations with the County planners running the project. Chris, Ryan, and Jessica toured the Am Can Parks Foundation's

Napa River Eco Center project in late April and had fruitful conversations with ACCPF and Napa RCD staff about the facility and outdoor education generally. The Napa StoryWalk will be in residence in American Canyon at Wetlands Edge Park for the month of August. Staff inspected the segment between Suscol Ferry Road and Anselmo Court in August 2024 in response to a Vine Trail request for \$167k in planning funds and found the segment to be not only planned but constructed and in good, operable, ADA-compliant shape. King tides in December resulted in flooding and significant debris accumulation along parts of the trail. Rick Fessenden and super-volunteer Wayne Grout got the trail cleaned up along with some help from an anonymous local who had raked much of the debris into piles.

### **Berryessa 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 Berryessa 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 had tremendous success at the volunteer trail building event in early February, building +/- 900 feet of new trail. Berryessa Vista burned in the August 2020 fires; once the ashes settle staff will need to assess damage and come up with a repair and restoration plan. Land Trust conservation easement monitoring which occurred in early 2023 indicated the property is in good shape. Staff has lifted the closure on the property we put in place after the LNU Fire. With lake levels being what they now are the property is only accessible by boat.

### **The Cove at Mt. Veeder**

*Conversion of a former Girl Scout camp into a park and trails.*

The Cove was severely burned in the October 2017 fires; since then staff has been working on cleanup. Staff hiked most of the property in early January and confirmed that fire damage is severe and extensive. 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. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by the logger completing his clean-up and erosion control operations. Road rebuilding is complete. A State Employment Development Department funded crew of 4 (using fire emergency job training funds) started work on April 2, 2019 and continued through the end of 2019 chipping of much of the remaining woody debris and 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. Staff hiked the property extensively in February of 2019, trying among other things to relocate the old trails, but most have been destroyed by the 2017 fires and resulting erosion. The Mt Veeder Fire Safe Council secured a grant to fund fuel reduction work along the Mayacamas ridge on and near the Cove, and cleared downed and standing-dead trees along our ridgetop fire road. We have paused work on developing a new potable water system and septic system on the site while we reconsider our priorities in light of District finances, and the timeframe in which we think regular ongoing (as opposed to occasional special event-style) public camping will actually be desirable on the property once again. The Americorps team in January and February of 2021 constructed just under a half mile of new trail running up the ridge and towards Mount Veeder from the Cove bowl; it is much more gradual than the old trails (the old trail was 25-30%, new trail is about 9%). The Turkovich acquisition (Hirth/Turkovich to Land Trust) closed in August and the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Land Trust and the District was executed on August 30, 2023. We have three years to complete the purchase. Staff filed a General Plan Consistency Determination request with the Napa County Planning Director on November 29 regarding the Turkovich acquisition. While the District no longer needs to secure County land use approvals for our parks, we are still obligated to check in with the County on General Plan consistency. The County formally determined that the Turkovich acquisition was consistent with the General Plan on December 12, 2023. Trail planning work is now significantly underway at the Cove despite very challenging conditions (lots of brushy regrowth). Staff discovered a small slide on one of the roads in Turkovich which will need to be cleaned up to make it passable by vehicles. The property has otherwise handled the winter weather well. Turkovich acquisition closed as of 5/8/25 and marks a significant step in opening the Cove to the public. Thanks again to our partners at the Land Trust for making this acquisition possible. Our neighbor did significant slide clearing/road repairs on one of the Turkovich roads (which he uses via an easement to access his water supply) and it's much improved. Staff worked with PG&E to position underground power equipment in such a way as to not impact any future parking lots in Turkovich and came to an acceptable plan for locating the underground boxes. Staff met with the neighbors immediately east of Turkovich to discuss PG&E and vegetation management near the property line and scheduled a discussion with Firewise to discuss fire preparedness at Turkovich/The Cove. Staff met with Napa Firewise staff to discuss fire access at The Cove and to examine the federally-funded ridgetop fuel break along the top of Cove property. Turkovich neighbor Ian Leggat placed some erosion control measures on our access road and did a nice job. Staff discovered and pulled a patch of French Broom at the Cove. NCCFF work along the Hogback Ridge firebreak is complete on Cove property and District staff continues to interface with Firewise around vegetation management and wildfire readiness on The Cove. Staff is researching grazing with goats and/or sheep for vegetation management at The Cove and possibly on other District properties as well. Staff completed a ten-foot-wide fuel break along the southern border of Turkovich at the request of the southerly neighbor.

## **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. Tuleyome. 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 EcoCamp Berryessa; some have been placed around the property to restrict vehicle access and add character. The EcoCamp has been closed to the public since mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic. Camp Berryessa suffered some damage in the August 2020 fires; the camp itself mostly escaped damage, but the power line to the camp was destroyed as was our camp host's mobile home and belongings. Reclamation has begun work on the camp host site electrical rehabilitation and Sarah has been working to repair tent cabins, which are starting to show some signs of age in what is a tough environment. Napa County 4H successfully hosted their summer camp July 9 – 14, 2023 and campers reportedly thoroughly enjoyed the new location. This was one of the largest groups to utilize the facility for this duration and staff is evaluating infrastructure needs for groups this size at the camp. 4H summer camp will be relocating to Enchanted Hills for the 2024 season, keeping the Bay Area 4H camp tradition alive and located in Napa County. This is a great outcome and staff is very thankful to Lighthouse for the Blind for their help and support in making the move work. September 2024: Repair for failed electrical panel is contracted and should be completed this month. A couple slight water quality issues at Camp in June, resolved by staff without any impact to guests. Some evidence of uninvited guests in the camp, staff requested support from Bureau of Reclamation as well as Napa Sheriff's Office to keep extra eyes on the camp for visitors without reservations. March Income: \$1900. Number of Users: 94. There were two LARPing groups, 1 scout troop and a Napa County Sheriff Search and Rescue training this month. (This is a rescheduling of the training that was cancelled due to the Pickett Fire last fall.)

## **Mayacamas Preserve and Amy's Grove**

*Planning and permits for public use of the Mayacamas Preserve, of which Amy's Grove is part.*

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. 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. The purchase has been completed using District reserve funds. An application for \$400,000 from the Prop 68 per capita grant program has been submitted, the grant agreement has been signed by the District, and a \$400,000 check from the State finally arrived in

mid-February. Several volunteer work parties have since made even further progress on tearing down old buildings and salvaging the materials that can be reused. To clarify project boundaries, sometime in the new fiscal year we will be renaming the Chamberlain and Kateley acquisitions the Mayacamas Preserve; Amy's Grove will be a named part of the park. Rick reports that the water in Dry Creek has been running very high, which is a good reminder that without some sort of bridge Mayacamas and Amy's Grove will be seasonally inaccessible. We are scouting for bridge locations and beginning to think about permitting and costs if we went that route. Staff met with Ryan Gregory on-site in early April to get his experienced civil engineer's advice on parking lot logistics and the possibility of building a pedestrian bridge over Dry Creek. Neighboring property owners have been mowing the meadow portion of the Amy's Grove property with District permission to mitigate fire risks this summer and fall. The heavy rains of the winter of 2022/2023 evidenced significant drainage issues in the Kateley Finger staging area; it now appears that drainage improvements, potentially even engineered drainage improvements, will be necessary if we are ever to allow regular wintertime vehicular traffic in and out of that area. The local Napa Firewise council is conducting fuel reduction along Dry Creek Road abutting the Mayacamas and Amy's Grove properties and requested authorization from the District to do significant clearing 110 feet from the center line of the road. The District was not comfortable with the level of planned tree removal, so has agreed to a reduced project, which includes removing brush, trees that pose a hazard to the road, and trees </- 6" dbh, and limbing up of trees >6" dbh to reduce ladder fuels. Staff hosted the first public opening of the Mayacamas Preserve/Amy's Grove on September 16, and the event was a success. Francis and Beth Chamberlain sponsored two cameras to be placed on property for mountain lion tracking (via Audobon Canyon Ranch's program out of Sonoma County). Napa RCD continues to use Mayacamas as a base of operations for fish studies in Dry Creek. Staff hosted a volunteer day at Mayacamas in preparation for this year's guided hike. Data from the mountain lion tracking cameras was retrieved and we're eagerly awaiting the results. November's 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday hike in Mayacamas Preserve was canceled due to impassable crossing at Dry Creek due to high water level, which serves as a good reminder that we will ultimately want to construct some kind of bridge there. Staff met with representatives from the Napa County RCD and Flood District as well as the Federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA... a major funder of this sort of work) to discuss a potential project to remove a fish barrier in Dry Creek at Amy's Grove. The project would be managed by the RCD and funded by NOAA and has been approved in concept by District staff. Work would be completed when Dry Creek is at its lowest flow state, probably mid- to late-summer.

## **Moore Creek Park**

*Improvements and operations at our 1,500 acre regional park in the Lake Hennessey watershed. Includes the Moore Creek unit on land owned by the District and the Lake Hennessey Unit on land owned by the City of Napa.*

The District's Moore Creek property (Moore Creek Unit) was expanded in 2012 through a lease agreement and operations plan with the City of Napa (Lake Hennessey Unit). The combined 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. Work was completed on the Conn Creek connector trail between the Moore Creek and Lake Hennessey units in June 2013. Lake Hennessey North Shore Trails formally

opened with a ribbon cutting in October 2014. The Sam the Eagle Trail was completed in April 2015. The Gate House was re-roofed in November 2018 using the Moore Creek maintenance/repair reserve fund. 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. The Whiskey Ridge and Conn Peak Trails (along with the Conn Peak Spur), nearly three miles of new singletrack all-in, was completed in 2019. To help ensure public safety in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, staff and volunteers monitored both entrances to Moore Creek Park for most Fridays and weekends in March through July of 2020. The two tenants at Moore Creek Park had to evacuate for about two weeks as a result of the August 2020 fires, but were able to return just before Labor Day. They then had to evacuate again on September 28 due to the Glass Fire. Despite a number of additional autumn red flag days and closures, and a rare December red flag event, Moore Creek Park is unburned and in good shape. In March 2021 volunteers installed striping for the main parking lot (marked with pinned used fire hose segments) to make parking more efficient. Fuel management activities, focused on removing invasive broom and funded by a grant by the County Ag Commissioner are ongoing in the upper reaches of the park. The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing new no-parking zones at the end of Conn Valley Road in late July, 2022. The Dan's Wild Ride use permit modification was approved on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, against the objections of two neighbors (one of whom was a representative of CalFire's Las Posadas forest) who were concerned about the adequacy of our parking lots on busy weekend days. We have launched a social media campaign to alert visitors about the full parking lots and busy trails they can expect to experience at Moore Creek in a superbloom spring. Staff met with the Napa County DPW and their landscape architect to discuss tree planting in the area of the main parking lot to mitigate off-site tree removal resulting from a County bridge replacement project on Chiles Creek. The County would be responsible for watering the trees and would cover all costs. A native plant garden is being developed adjacent to the main parking lot in partnership with Napa County First 5 and with funding from First 5's climate initiative. Volunteers built a split-rail fence around the native plant garden at the March workday and it really adds a sense of place to the entrance. RTA hosted a ribbon-cutting event for donors and users for the recently-completed Washing Machine Trail on 8/3/24. Electrical panel at the Bussey house has been replaced by Buzz Electric, not only very expediently but also slightly under his quoted price. Both State Coastal Conservancy and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission awarded us grants and the Phinney acquisition will add 523 acres to Moore Creek Park. The Phinney acquisition is complete and Moore Creek Park is now 523 acres larger! Seismic monitoring equipment was installed along the road to the caretaker house on 7/7/25. Napa RCD is intending to resubmit its Forest Health Grant solicitation for work in Moore Creek Park (as well as in several other locations around the county). Ongoing fall maintenance work continues at Moore Creek and elsewhere: clearing trail drainage, working to improve sight lines, getting ready for winter. Redwood Trails Alliance (with help from Grasshopper Adventure Series) held a fundraising group ride on November 9<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the Pay the Piper trail in Moore Creek. Construction bid requests for approximately three miles of new trail in Moore Creek Park are live and we're awaiting bids for those trails with an aim towards constructing them this spring. Volunteers made good progress on Yip Trip trail at December's volunteer day; only a few hundred feet remain to complete the trail. Lots of winter maintenance in January: downed trees, slides (mud and rock, and debris. Volunteers and staff continue to make progress on Yip Trip and have completed approximately 500ft of trail and connected the two sides; two more workdays should have the trail totally completed. Bids for three trails on the Phinney Unit of Moore Creek have been awarded and should be completed this spring. Yip Trip Trail is very close to completion; any

(volunteer) day now. Trees were planted and a water tank and other irrigation infrastructure were installed in the parking lot as part of the mitigation for the Chiles Creek bridge replacement. Contractors are onsite for planning work for trail construction on the Phinney Acquisition. Volunteers and staff connected Yip Trip Trail through and are maybe one more project away from finished. It just needs a final touch-up and cleanup along the length of the trail. RTA has started construction in the north end of Moore Creek Park. Trail signs, including Bay Area Ridge Trail medallions, for Dan's Wild Ride have been installed along the northern portion of the trail.

## **Napa River Ecological Reserve**

*Manage public access and improve habitat for this State-owned property*

The District has been maintaining the parking lot and front meadow since 2008, after assuming a responsibility that had previously been handled by the County. Staff recently discovered that the agreement between the District and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, authorizing this partnership, expired at the end of 2017. Staff has approached CDFW about renewing the agreement, and continues to wait patiently for a decision from CDFW. In a telling sign of what can happen in unmanaged public open spaces, someone attempted to fell a young oak tree with a shotgun and perhaps a dozen rifled slugs in late December 2021. We have retained a number of casings as evidence. We have removed the porta-potty from the parking lot, both to reduce management costs (on a property that we no longer have an agreement to manage) and to mitigate some of the ongoing trash issues that have been associated with it. In early August we hosted an in-service day for the Justin Siena High School teaching staff in partnership with Chip Bouril focusing on removing invasive oblong leaf spurge. Rick has been working with Chip Bouril on rehabbing the nature trail and plant signage at the reserve, as well as dealing with a fresh crop of graffiti. Staff has purchased and installed new metal native plant signs. A member of the public was concerned about cyanobacteria at NRER, staff confirmed with State Water Board that the site has tested negative several times and the water is free of harmful algae blooms.

## **Oat Hill Mine Trail**

*Various improvements to the historic Oat Hill Mine Road.*

The District opened 8 miles of the historic Oat Hill Mine Road as a non-motorized trail in 2007 with the assistance of 130+ volunteers from Volunteers for Outdoor California. Cleanup of mercury contamination north of the opened section of trail, led by Tuleyome, was partly but not fully successful, delaying when the northern section of the road leading to Lake County can be completed. A 40 acre Randy Lee Johnson property along the route of the trail was donated in December 2014. Volunteers have over the years done extensive erosion control and vegetation clearing projects. The first 1.3 miles of the trail was bulldozed as a result of CalFire efforts to suppress the October 2017 wildfires, and this was extended further while fighting the 2020 Glass fire. Nearly all of the forest along the first 4 miles of the trail out of Calistoga burned in the Glass fire. Visitation at OHMT has been very high since mid-March of 2020. We staffed the trailhead on weekends in late March and early April, but have determined that the dispersed nature of the parking in Calistoga means that it handles the higher level

of traffic well and we have since reduced monitoring to occasional check-ins. Repairs to the Aetna Springs trailhead kiosk as well as replacement of wayfinding signs that burned in the 2020 fires are now underway. John Woodbury (as a volunteer) and Rick have repaired the Aetna side kiosk and replaced the trail map, all of which were damaged in the 2020 fires. Tree mortality seems to be increasing as we near a year from last year's fire. The County and the District have been receiving calls from an adjacent property owner who would like to "improve" the trail to make it easier to drive to his property by Jeep. Replacement trail signs for the Holms-to-Aetna segment of the trail have been ordered to replace the ones lost to fire in 2020. Eagle Scouts installed new (and more accurately measured!) trail markers between Calistoga and Holm's Place. Staff brushed/scouted Palisades trail and inventoried projects for fall trailwork on Palisades. Two rescues took place on OHMT/Palisades trail in late July. Significant slide in the bottom quarter mile of the trail took place on 2/4/25. Staff will be tending to it as soon as the rains subside somewhat. Staff hosted volunteer workdays on Palisades Trail and OHMT on 3/1 and 3/8 to address trail issues and ensure access. Staff continues to hold volunteer days to maintain OHMT and palisades trail. The Pickett fire burned in the vicinity of Oat Hill Mine Trail and the trail served as both firebreak and critical access for CalFire. We won't know the extent of the impacts until firefighting operations cease and staff can get in to assess. Staff inspected OHMT as soon as conditions would allow and found (mostly) good news, as reported elsewhere in this agenda. Staff inspected Oat Hill Mine Trail in late December and found it to be in good shape and weathering the storms without incident.

### **Old Howell Mountain Trail**

*Operations and Management of three miles of County public trail on a closed section of Old Howell Mountain Road*

The District assumed management responsibility for the trail as of 9/23/25 and staff has been meeting with neighbors, the County, and interested community members to resolve final details of parking, access, and maintenance of the trail. Jim Gamble hired Pina Vineyard Management to restore drainage along Old Howell Mountain Road and they've done a nice job clearing culvert inlets and restoring gate functionality on the North end of the road. Staff met with neighbors at the north end to discuss parking and other issues and has been making (as of yet unsuccessful) attempts to meet with City of St Helena officials to discuss additional details around opening Old Howell Mountain Trail to the public. The local volunteer "Friends of Old Howell" crew graveled/hardened the south slide bypass and it seems to be holding up to use and rains nicely. Culverts appear clear and the trail seems in good, clear shape. Staff met with neighbors who live at the north end of Old Howell Mountain Trail to discuss trailhead improvements off of Deer Park Road. We are working on a plan to utilize rock from a decommissioned bridge that we have been storing at EcoCamp Berryessa to beautify and control access in the area.

### **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, but 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. SB 20 by Senator Dodd was approved in 2019, which again authorizes the State to sell Skyline Park to the District and/or county for the sole purpose of it continuing to be a public park. The Governor in late 2019 issued an Executive Order directing the State use surplus State Lands to develop affordable housing, and included 20 acres of Skyline Park as surplus land that could be used for this purpose, which complicates our efforts to purchase the 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. DGS in February 2021 assigned state staff to work on the appraisal of the property in anticipation of selling it; District staff is now in receipt of proposed appraisal instructions and has asked that they be revised to include a whole-park option. The District in 2019 obtained a TBID grant of \$20,000 to assist Skyline Park 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; the work was completed in the fall of 2019. The bicycle skills course was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 11 and was fully executed in late February. The Redwood Trails Alliance has begun fundraising for the project and the plan is for them to construct the skills course as a voluntary cooperator at no cost to the District. The County of Napa Assistant CEO has taken lead on negotiating the Skyline purchase appraisal with the Department of General Services. Chris participated in an extensive site tour (interestingly including Camp Coombs and the Coombs Ranch Dam canyon) in late March with the appraiser and representatives from the Department of General Services, the State Hospital, and Skyline. The final appraisal is slated to be completed in June. In early May, +/-5 acres of the flat lower portion of Skyline Park was included in a list of potential affordable housing sites presented to the Board of Supervisors by the County's Planning Director. On July 11 the Planning Commission hosted a hearing on the Housing Element that featured much discussion of the Skyline (County staff prefers the term "Imola") public housing site. Ryan has been collaborating with a number of individuals and community organizations to develop a StoryWalk that will be hosted by Skyline Park and Wetlands Edge Park over the next several months. Opening day was at Skyline on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and was attended by many well wishers and dignitaries. Surveyors have been on the property since the week before Thanksgiving and the County has contracted with a geologist to complete a mineral resources report in support of a potential State Lands Commission action to surplus the mineral rights to the County along with fee title. The State Phase 1 environmental analysis is complete and did not identify any serious issues. The pump track grand opening was held on December 16, with a great turn out of adult cyclists, kids, and dignitaries. Senator Dodd introduced SB 958 which deletes the specific exemption of Camp Coombs from the Skyline Park purchase authorization, which would make Camp Coombs eligible for purchase as part of Skyline Park. Governor Newsom signed SB958 and final work now begins to complete the purchase of Camp Coombs immediately following the purchase of Skyline Park. Construction work on the "jail trail" happened on River to Ridge in late September and left the side entrance to Skyline looking much nicer and more welcoming. Skyline Park Citizens Association signed a revised concessionaire's agreement and it's headed to Napa County Board of Supervisors for signature on 12/17/24. Board of Supervisors approved the PSA for skyline park on 12/17 and we're in the due diligence period. Final payment is scheduled for Spring 2025. County and Department of State Hospitals staff met and set a mid-March date for an operational overview of Lake Marie dam and other Skyline-related day to day operational issues related to park purchase. Escrow closed on 4/4/25 and Skyline Park is permanently protected as

parkland! Camp Coombs to follow later this year. Many thanks to all involved. Staff worked with DSH fire department to remove homeless encampments along River to Ridge Trail and did brushing work to reduce fuel loads in the area. Surveyors marked the western boundary of Camp Coombs on 10/15 as things continue to proceed towards purchase. Staff and volunteers hosted a volunteer workday on Skyline's pump track to provide routine maintenance to the track surface. November 8<sup>th</sup> was the annual Ridge Trail Service Day (in partnership with Bay Area Ridge Trail and Skyline Park) and volunteers and staff made improvements to River to Ridge Trail where it's often wet in the winter and spring. A recent Napa Valley Register article provided updates about housing in Skyline Park as well as the potential purchase of Camp Coombs. County Flood Control is working on repairs to the gate valve mechanism at Lake Marie Dam. The Camp Coombs appraisal is complete and County staff is working diligently to complete the purchase. Skyline Park staff and County Flood Control are working together to repair the valve mechanism at the Lake Marie Dam. Flood Control and Skyline Staff drained Lake Marie in order to make repairs to the outlet valve mechanism and maintain insurance coverage for the dam.

### **Smittle Creek**

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

The District completed purchase of this property in December 2015. 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. 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.) US Geological Survey in 2017 placed a seismic monitoring station on the property. 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 cleanup project was held in October of 2018, more than filling a 30 yard dumpster with debris. 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, and a botanist has been retained to conduct a floristic survey this winter and spring. All of Smittle Creek burned in the August 2020 fires. The entry gate and fence the District shares with Reclamation was burned; a temporary fix has been made, but further work will be needed. Staff has had initial discussion with County Public Works about including access improvements at Smittle in a larger grant application aimed at funding work on Knoxville-Berryessa Road. It would apparently make the County's road grant application more attractive to funders and would of course mean new District money for opening the park (if the grants come through). If award of the grant seems likely we would potentially have most of our development costs funded, but would unfortunately need to slow progress on the property to mesh up with the more measured pace of Federal funded transportation projects. Federal DOT funding officials completed a site visit of the Smittle Creek parking area and potential trail improvements in late April, preliminary reports from County DPW indicate it went well and we may be on a path to funding. It appears that there has been some trespassing and poaching on the property during the 2022 deer season, we are in communication with CaDFW wardens about the situation. Rick has posted a new closed to the public sign on the front gate, replacing the one that was stolen during deer season. Rick and the Napa County Sheriff ran an armed trespasser (who purported to be hunting quail) off the property in early November.

Great heads-up work by Rick in what was otherwise a fairly iffy situation. The Federal Highway Administration has approved Napa County Public Works' application for the California Federal Lands Access Program to fund work on Knoxville-Berryessa Road near Smittle Creek. Public Works' project includes funding for the Smittle Creek trail, the crossing of Knoxville-Berryessa Road from the existing BOR parking lot, and parking lot rehabilitation. We continue to see some trespassing and illegal camping on this property. Staff met with CalFire on-property in early March to discuss the use of Smittle for CalFire aviation night training exercises. CalFire/Napa County Fire has volunteered to do some grading and road improvement on the property in support of that use. Calfire has completed the grading on existing fire roads at Smittle in advance of training operations this month. Staff reports the work looks top-notch. There was a fire at Smittle Creek on 8/13/25. The fire burned approximately six acres of steep ground, about half of which on our property and half on Federal land. Damage was not significant; Bureau of Reclamation is going to tackle some minor fence repairs and Rick estimates that the burned area will revegetate quickly. CalFire will repair erosion damage on roads they graded last summer; they'll complete that work once the rain has subsided later this spring.

### **Suscol Headwaters Park**

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

The purchase of the Preserve was completed in November, 2017. The one remaining improvement to satisfy funding requirements is the construction of a California red legged frog (CRLF) breeding pond and various habitat improvements focused on, but not exclusively in, the pond area. A reserve fund has been set aside to do the work, but the actual work has been delayed while design and construction details are worked out. Most of the property 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. The District hired local trail builder Kevin Smallman to help with trail corridor planning and spent May 10 and 11 of 2019 hiking and flagging the property. A Use Permit for Suscol Headwaters Park was approved by the County Planning Commission in February 2020 and the northern portion of the property is now officially open to the public via Skyline Park. We have been awarded the \$1.17M Prop 68 grant to fund the development and opening of Phase 2 of Suscol Headwaters! Now the real work begins. We have signed a contract with Applied Civil Engineering for design and engineering services for the new Suscol Headwaters parking lot. We are hoping to have initial parking lot plans and a legal description of the parking lot and trail easement done in draft and ready for Napa San approval in April. RTA returned to Suscol Headwaters to finish work on Chance the Cowboy and to complete Perdida Connector. Staff submitted requests for bids for three additional trail segments, Chance West, Suscol Ridge South, and Amphitheater. RTA is building in Suscol and was awarded an additional bid for Chance West Trail. Two additional bids were awarded to Johnson Trails. Additional construction is complete on Amphitheater and Suscol Ridge South trails and RTA is wrapping up Chance West. On June 24<sup>th</sup>. Staff installed temporary directional signage to help users navigate the newly opened trails which are already proving to be very popular. Construction and planning work continues at Suscol with RTA slated to wrap up construction on Chance West Trail this month. Frog pond liner is slated to be installed by staff and volunteers this month. Frog pond liner is installed thanks to staff and volunteers and our partners at

Skyline Park. Escrow is opened on the easement purchase, CEQA is launched for phase 2, another invoice went to OGALS and a slate of bids is queued and ready to send to potential contractors for this season's trail construction. Planning work for parking lot construction is underway and we expect to launch formal bid for that work around the new year in anticipation of summer 2025 parking lot construction. Staff received comments from Ca Dept of Fish and Wildlife on Phase 2 CEQA and integrated those comments into a revised document whose comment period ends 12/7/24.

Trailbuilding work in phase 1 continues while staff and volunteers are keeping existing trails clear and in good shape. Escrow closed on the acquisition of the Napa San trailhead easement on December 2 and we are now the proud owners of .75 acres of sprayfield, or sprayfield easement. Staff removed several trees along North Kelly Road in December and a final Eucalyptus is slated for removal in January in anticipation of a summer 2025 parking lot build. Biosurveying is slated to begin in spring in advance of parking lot and trail construction in phase 2 this spring and summer. Preconstruction surveys are under contract and we're on track to get bid out for parking lot construction in advance of this summer's construction window. Staff and volunteers addressed cattle damage on recent trails and met with ranchers to mitigate future trail damage. Additional trail construction bids are out for this spring's builds. One trail construction contract was awarded, several others for summer construction are imminently out to bid, and pre-construction surveys are underway in advance of parking lot and further trail construction in Suscol Headwaters. Staff has been busy maintaining existing trails and visitation at the park is high with the good weather. Existing trails have been string trimmed. Buckaroo trail construction is nearly complete (as of 5/7/25). Biosurveys are in progress, including the first round of bumblebee surveys. Bids for parking lot construction are still on track for build this summer. Buckaroo Trail is complete and open after hard work by both contractors and staff to complete it. Parking lot bid is in progress. Biologists found Crotch's bumblebee and have asked CDFW to cease surveys and proceed with a bumblebee avoidance plan so that trail and parking lot construction can commence in Phase 2. Final touches are being placed on parking lot bid and upcoming Phase 2 trails bids while we await approval from CDFW for Crotch's bumblebee avoidance plan. Still awaiting final approval from CDFW on bumblebee avoidance plan which will surely arrive shortly. Suscol headwaters continues to be heavily used and the parking lot bid is ready to launch save for final word from CDFW about our bumblebee avoidance plan. Staff is continuing to build trail in the Phase 1 area of Suscol and maintenance operations continue as well with support from our partners at Skyline Park. Fall building in Suscol continues and staff has tackled trail maintenance issues as they've started to appear. Bids for two additional trails in Suscol Headwaters are live as of 10/22 and two more are expected to go out shortly. Connection to the North Kelly Road parking lot should be complete this winter/spring in advance of next summer's parking lot construction. Bids were awarded to Johnson Trails for two more trails, commencing building in Phase 2 of Suscol Headwaters Park. Staff continues to chip away at builds in Phase 1 as well as tackling maintenance issues as they arise. Two more requests for trail construction bids are live in Suscol Headwaters Phase 2. District trailbuilding staff has almost completed Little Bend Trail in Phase 1. Formal bid for the parking lot is undergoing legal review prior to launch later in January for construction in summer 2026. Little Bend Trail in Phase 1 is complete and open to the public. Construction contracts were awarded to Johnson Trails for two additional trails in Phase 2 and will be constructed this spring. Parking lot construction is on track for this summer. Biosurveys in advance of trail construction is scheduled for February. Johnson Trails is onsite constructing trails in Phase 2. District excavator was repaired under warranty and is headed back towards Suscol to continue building trail in Phase 1. Staff continues building trail in phase 1 and spring maintenance is underway as well.

Johnson Trails has been working diligently to complete four miles of new trail in phase 2. Parking lot build is on track for summer completion pending an engineer's estimate for the construction and release of formal bid documents.

## **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 an MOU with the Vine Trail Coalition to provide assistance as requested by the Coalition in receiving funds, preparing plans and environmental documents, and constructing and operating the trail. The District, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Vine Trail Coalition prepared a joint Case Statement for the combined trail network for fundraising purposes. Over the years the District has submitted numerous letters of support for Vine Trail grant applications. 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 in 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. 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 in March 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. At the request of the Vine Trail Coalition, staff is exploring with the County whether to take on the eventual maintenance of the section between Calistoga and St. Helena, with the costs to be paid 50/50 by the County and the Coalition. A similar agreement between the County, the City of Napa and the Vine Trail was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in January 2021. Staff met with Philip Sales in early July to inspect the St Helena – Calistoga segment and recommence discussions about the District potentially taking over maintenance responsibility for that section. After much thought and research staff has reached a point where we believe we may be able to take over maintenance of the St Helena to Calistoga section without committing to potentially subsidizing the work out of District funds. Groundbreaking for the St Helena to Calistoga Vine Trail segment took place on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the State Park. Tony Norris and Jason Jordan represented the District. The NCRPOSD/Vine Trail/County of Napa Up Valley Vine Trail maintenance agreement was approved by the Board of Supervisors in June and is now (finally) fully executed. Celebrations for the opening of the St. Helena to Calistoga segment are planned for the 8/17 weekend. Vine Trail St. Helena to Calistoga segment is opened and traffic through Bothe has been a steady stream both on weekends and weekdays. Staff is slated to begin maintenance on the St. Helena to Calistoga segment in January and final preparations are underway to complete punchlist and identify any last construction-related issues. Discussions about Vine Trail construction and ongoing maintenance continue as the last construction punch list items are debated. Winter rains exposed several design-related drainage issues

and other challenges with the trail surface. Invoices for the first two quarters of maintenance have been issued and we're awaiting payment for Vine Trail maintenance.

## **Woodbury 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; while this transfer was supported by BLM staff, the formal approval was delayed because of property title issues between BLM and BOR. By the time these issues were resolved personnel and priorities had changed at BLM, and the transfer application is stalled. The District completed the donation to the District of a small, 0.2 acre property that provides critical access to the northeast corner of the property. Prescribed burns were attempted for Spanish Valley in 2019 and 2020, but both had to be cancelled due to a combination of permit delays and uncooperative weather. Shortly after the 2020 prescribed burn was cancelled, the LNU Fire burned the entire valley. The district in the spring of 2020 completed the donation of a conservation easement over Spanish Valley to the Land Trust. The current President for the Association reached out to District staff just before the LNU fire, indicating a willingness to restart discussions about an agreement between the two. However, the LNU fire put those discussions on hold, and staff efforts in February and March of 2021 to reach out to the Association have not been responded to. Field inspection completed on August 30<sup>th</sup>; Spanish Valley looks surprisingly good given burn intensity. We have discovered what looks to be an illegal small scale mining operation on one corner of the Crystal Flats property. Staff removed all of the mining material in early December. Inexplicably, it had already been smashed by some unknown party, perhaps a claim jumper? District staff has been contacted by LBRID staff, who are concerned that a lack of rainfall this spring could leave Berryessa Estates without a source of drinking water. The General Manager has preliminarily ok'd the use District-owned properties to do hydrogeological assessments in hopes of finding alternate emergency water sources. Proposed exploratory work is focused on the Marina and adjacent to the Crystal Flats access drive. The GM has given Napa County permission to do additional exploratory drilling in hopes of finding reliable emergency water for the community of Berryessa Estates. We were contacted by a neighboring property owner who had concerns about a large Gray pine on our property in mid-May. Staff is getting bids to have it removed. In the last months we've additionally been contacted about two large oaks located on our property that neighbors have concerns about, we'll be up to inspect those as well. Staff is securing quotes for the removal of the trees, the large Gray pine will likely be expensive. We received a weed abatement notice from Napa County Fire for a small undeveloped residential property in Berryessa Estates, which served as a useful reminder to current staff that we owned such a property. The Fire Marshal retracted the abatement notice, which was issued pursuant to Napa County Code Sec 8.36.060, following a conversation about the District's *Save Lafayette Trees* exemption. District staff weed whipped the abated parcel in mid-November. Two large hazard trees adjacent neighboring properties were removed in May 2024. Staff is in discussions with the Land Trust's stewardship team about a prescribed burn for veg management/invasives control on the Woodbury properties for May/June 2026. With extensive support from the Stewardship team at the Land Trust, preparations continue for a prescribed burn in May/June 2026 in partnership with CALFIRE.

Staff met with FireWise to inspect fuels work on NOSD property near Berryessa Estates. They're prescribed 15 acres a year and no removal of live trees, with some standing dead snags to be preserved as habitat. Staff also met with BOR, LBRID, and Solano Irrigation district to address uncontrolled boat launches into Lake Berryessa with Golden Mussel inspection. Restricting access by means of a sliding gate seems most likely at this point.

### **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**

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**

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.

#### **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 was approved by the property owner and the District. BLM's biologist inspected the alignment on September 17, 2011. The trail was constructed over the course of two years using volunteer crews, and continues to be maintained by volunteers (mostly provided by Tuleyome and Yolo Hiker)

### **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**

Purchase of 443 acres of land that will provide public access to Cedar Roughs from the Smittle Creek Day Use Area 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**

The acquisition of 164 acres from the Girl Scouts was completed in December 2017.

### **Historic ROW Analysis**

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 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 easement was revised and expanded in 2016 to cover the entire Linda Falls property owned by the Land Trust. 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.

### **Master Plan Development and Updates**

The Master Plan for 2008-2013 was approved in January 2009. It was updated in 2011 and again in 2019.

### **Moore Creek Open Space Park**

Acquisition of 673 acres in the Moore Creek Watershed completed in December 2008. The City of Napa subsequently approved an agreement with the District to incorporate approximately 900 acres of City of Napa Lake Hennessey watershed lands into Moore Creek Park.

### **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 and interpretive panels 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. A 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. 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**

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, which is owned by the City of American Canyon. 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; BLM in April 2016 indicated they did not want to transfer this parcel, so the District's application has been dropped.

### **River to Ridge Trail**

Lot line adjustment to legalize River to Ridge Trail as constructed (it had encroached on private property in two locations). Animal silhouettes along the entryway fence illustrating the types of birds and mammals that can be found in the area were installed by an Eagle Scout candidate in 2008. A new information kiosk was installed at the entrance in December 2008 as part of a Boy Scout project. In 2011 volunteers made some drainage improvements.

### **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. The District and the Skyline Park Citizens Association have continued to cooperate on various trail maintenance projects.

### **Skyline Park Concessionaire Agreement Renewal**

District staff negotiated renewal of concessionaire agreement on behalf of the County in 2010, 2015 and 2020. 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**

The proposals for a second greenhouse (from CNPS) and a covered equestrian arena (from Skyline Riders) were approved by the Department of General Services and by the County Board of Supervisors. The sponsors of these projects however ended up not pursuing either project.

### **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. In 2014 the District started the process of extending the District's 5 year Operating Agreement and including RLS in the agreement, that new 20 year agreement was signed in April 2020.

#### **Suscol Headwaters Preserve Acquisition**

Acquisition of 709 acres of the former Kirkland Ranch in two phases was completed in November 2017.

#### **Trinchero/Putah Creek Open Space Acquisition**

The donation by the Trinchero family of 2,500 acres of open space (Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats and Stone Corral) 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**

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/Cancelled Projects**

#### **Milliken Reservoir Trails and Picnic Area Feasibility Study**

The feasibility study to *construct approximately 3 miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail plus additional feeder and loop trails, along with a staging and picnic area* within the City of Napa's Milliken Watershed was completed and accepted by the Board of Directors in 2009. The Napa City Council in November, 2009 approved city staff recommendation to hold off on considering the Milliken Reservoir trails project until the Lake Hennessey Unit of Moore Creek Park is completed.

#### **Montesol West**

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 were 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. Public outreach to Middletown area residents in 2017 were positively received. 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 they had sold to the State over timber located on the property.

### **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, the project concept was approved by the District Board, and was positively viewed by the Veterans Home administration. However, subsequent changes and controversies within the Department of Veterans Affairs 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 these 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 officially authorized staff to pursue surplussing of the property, and hired an appraiser to prepare an estimate of the property's fair market value, but this was never 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. 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. 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, but doesn't know how to do this. Solano County in 2015 investigated the feasibility of acquiring the lakes and managing their water supplies; as part of this investigation they expressed interest in partnering with the District to manage public recreational access, but no decisions were made. 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.



Brad Wagenknecht  
*Director Ward One*

Ryan Gregory  
*Director Ward Two*

Patricia Clarey  
*Director Ward Three*

Nancy Heliotes  
*Director Ward Four*

Barry Christian  
*Director Ward Five*

March 20, 2026

Mike Wilson  
Senior Program Director  
Napa Communities Firewise Foundation  
Post Office Box 2336  
Napa, Calif. 94558  
*By email*

*As regards:* Your proposal of March 17, 2026 regarding mechanical mulching on the Stone Corral Unit of our Woodbury Preserve (Napa County APN's 016-120-037 and 015-070-036)

Dear Mike,

Your proposal to undertake mastication/mulching operations on Napa County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 016-120-037 and 015-070-036 is approved, subject to the following conditions:

1. All work to be as described in your memorandum of March, 17 2026 and email of March, 18 2026, attached, except as modified hereby.
2. Thirty acres total approved for mechanical mulching, with no more than fifteen acres mulched per water year (October 1-September 30).
3. No living tree greater than 4" dbh to be damaged or removed.
4. Standing dead oak and/or gray pine snags greater than 6" dbh shall be preserved at a minimum ratio of one snag per acre, with a goal of three snags per acre wherever possible. Large diameter standing dead trees with cavities, woodpecker holes, and/or broken tops shall be prioritized for preservation, as shall those near live canopy patches or drainages.
5. By September 30 of each year, Napa Communities Firewise Foundation shall provide a map and shapefile to NOSD depicting the areas mechanically mulched that water year. Please consider also including polygons for areas subject to other treatment regimes such as clearing by hand crew and/or grazing at the same time.

This determination, and the work undertaken by the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation consistent with same, is **Categorically Exempt from the application of the California Environmental Quality Act** (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines, Class 4 (*Minor Alterations to Land*) and the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District's Local CEQA Guidelines, Class 4, Sub 2 (*Minor Alterations to Land - Mechanical or Chemical Control of Invasive Plants*), Class 4, Sub 3 (*Minor Alterations to Land - Routine Vegetation Management to Reduce Wildfire Hazard*) and Class 4, Sub 4 (*Minor Alterations to Land - Grazing, Prescribed Fire, and Vegetation Thinning to Reduce Wildfire Hazard*). There are no unusual circumstances associated with either the proposed project or with its location which would cause it to have a significant effect on the environment.

Thank you for the critical work you and your colleagues do to protect the Berryessa Estates community, along with ecosystem health and water quality countywide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Cahill', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Christopher M. Cahill  
General Manager

**From:** [Mike Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Cahill, Christopher](#)  
**Cc:** [Jonathan Niksa](#); [Brooks, Andrew](#)  
**Subject:** Mulching Prescription- East Side Berryessa Estates  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 4:49:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-xhzkpd1h](#)  
[Outlook-vmvumqek.png](#)  
[Outlook-dn4bb24n.png](#)  
[Outlook-ebizp5ml.png](#)  
[Outlook-r1pqzxez](#)  
[Outlook-mepnthqi.png](#)

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[External Email - Use Caution]

 [CF24 East Side Open Space Mulching Rx.docx](#)

Hi Chris.

It was great to see you out in the Estates Monday and we appreciate the opportunity to share perceptions and perspectives regarding mechanical mulching.

We drove down into the unit after you left, and we regret not taking you and Rick down there. It gave a good view of the different stages of regrowth and did not look as stark as the view we had from the top.

We did take your advice to continue in different areas not adjacent to each other. So, we bumped down to more of the center of the project area nearest the homes. Our goal is to treat about 14 acres on this round then return next winter to do the remainder of the 28 acres.

The tractor should be out of their late next week.

Attached is a write-up and some maps. As you can see, I have requested input from our Battalion Chief and wanted to get this over to you now for any questions and input from your shop.

We will remain vigilant to any complaints or concerned from the homeowners, but we really do not anticipate any. If for some reason there is, we will reach out to the person/s and I am sure our Cal Fire partners will assist as well.

Thanks so much, Mike

---

**From:** Wettstein, Robert@CALFIRE <Robert.Wettstein@fire.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 4:10 PM  
**To:** Mike Wilson <mike@napafirewise.org>; Freyer, Jason@CALFIRE <Jason.Freyer@fire.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Review

[External Email - Use Caution]

Mike,

This looks great and no changes needed from me. Thanks for your hard work on this project!



**Robert Wettstein - B1415**  
Battalion Chief - Lake Berryessa  
Sonoma Lake Napa Unit  
1199 Big Tree Road,  
St. Helena, CA 94574  
(707) 217-9278 Cell

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**From:** Mike Wilson <mike@napafirewise.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 1:40 PM  
**To:** Wettstein, Robert@CALFIRE <Robert.Wettstein@fire.ca.gov>; Freyer, Jason@CALFIRE <Jason.Freyer@fire.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: Review

[CF24 East Side Open Space Mulching Rx.docx](#)

Rob or Jason.

Can you have a look at this doc I will be sending to Open Space and see if it covers what you would like for our mulching we are doing on the east side of Berryessa Estates?

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** Mike Wilson <mike@napafirewise.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 10:36 PM  
**To:** Jonathan Niksa <Jonathan@napafirewise.org>; Massi Boldrini <massi@napafirewise.org>; Steven Burgess <steven@napafirewise.org>  
**Subject:** Review

[CF24 East Side Open Space Mulching Rx.docx](#)



**Mike Wilson**  
Director, Land Resilience Dept.  
Cell: 707 292-4273

[napafirewise.org](http://napafirewise.org)

To: Chris Cahill, Napa Open Space

From: Mike Wilson, Napa Firewise (NCFE)

Subject: Mechanical Mulching Prescription- Berryessa Estates

Date: 3/17/26

As discussed, NCFE currently has a Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention grant that includes fuel reduction on Napa Open Space lands adjacent to and east of the Berryessa Estates subdivision.

The project focuses on thinning understory vegetation and breaking up continuous shrub fuel beds to reduce potential fire intensity as wildfire approaches the residential edge of the subdivision.

By disrupting continuous fuel continuity, the treatment is intended to improve the effectiveness of aerial fire suppression and increase firefighter access and safety for ground-based operations. A lower intensity of fire via reduced fuel loads will result in decreased ember production to ignite fuels within the community as well.

This project has been environmentally assessed via the Cal Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP) and assessed by tribal cultural monitors to ensure effective environmental protections and wildfire mitigation.

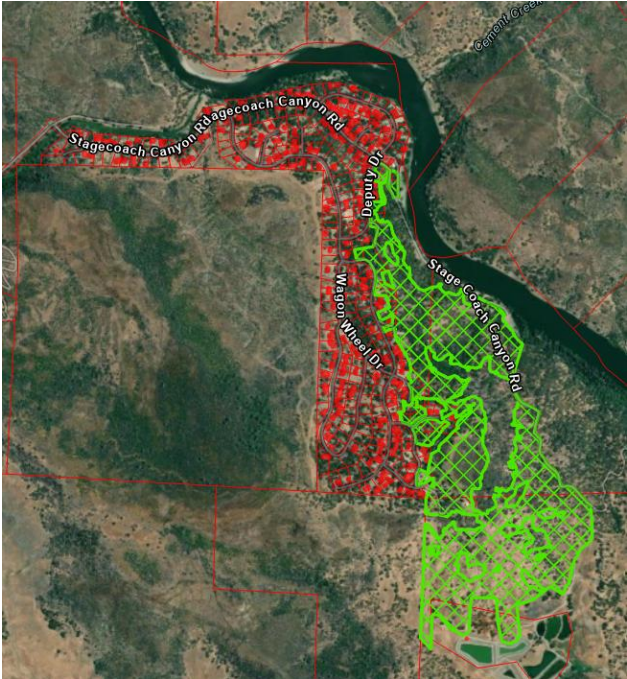
This grant-funded work will prioritize areas closest to homes where topography, slope, and soil conditions allow for effective mechanical mulching treatment. Due to natural constraints such as rockiness and steep terrain, the treatment will result in a mosaic fuel pattern, increasing landscape heterogeneity while reducing overall wildfire spread potential across the east side of the estates.

#### **Actions Completed (to date)**

- Identified approximately **134 acres** on the east side of Lake Berryessa Estates as mechanically treatable using GIS analysis of **slope and soil stability completed by a registered professional forester.**
- Developed a **CalVTP compliant prescription** with a registered forester as part of an active **CAL FIRE grant.**
- Conducted **tribal outreach and consultation** under CalVTP, including engagement with the **Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation**, who reviewed the proposed work and expressed comfort with the treatment plan.



Green Hashed Area: Mechanically treatable- 134 Acres



Test plot Mulched- 4 Acres

