**Parks Commission Report” May 6th 2023**

**Visitor Experience**

**Visitor Data**

Visitor Data for Quarter 1 of 2023 (January - March) will be provided at the June

Commission Meeting. Compilation of the visitor count data for this quarter was in

progress at the time of agenda publication. It is anticipated that visitors count data

during these months will be lower than typical, due to adverse weather conditions from

January through March, and ongoing closures as a result of storm damage – particularly

for Crystal Springs Regional Trail and Coyote Point Recreation Area. These parks have

historically been our most visited parks; both of these parks have had closures in place

during this quarter.

**Interpretive Events**

The Interpretive Program hosted twenty-eight events in April, including take a hike

event, earth day events, career days at several libraries, a tidepool tour of Fitzgerald

Marine Reserve with Casa Circulo Cultural, classroom programs, and participation at

the Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

**Facilities and infrastructure**

**Storm Impacts**

There were additional significant storm events that occurred in March that further

impacted park facilities and infrastructure, in addition to what was experienced in

January, in particular, there was additional rainfall, sustained soil saturation, and high

wind events impacting most County Parks, which resulted in temporary or ongoing

closures throughout the system.

At the time of agenda publication, the following parks, or portions of parks, remain

closed due to storm damage. Some of these closures are ongoing since January:

• Crystal Spring Regional Trail - Sawyer Camp Trail (full closure)

• Coyote Point Recreation Area (full closure)

• Devil's Slide Trail (partial closure - North Entrance)

• Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (partial closure - Dardanelle Bridge)

• Huddart Park (partial closure - portions of Richard’s Road, Toyon Campground

Road, Dean Trail, and Chinquapin Trail)

• Pillar Point Bluff (partial closure – section of Pillar Point Bluff Trail)

• San Pedro Valley (partial closure - Brooks Creek Trail and Trout Farm Trail)

• Wunderlich County Park (partial closure – portions of Alambique Trail and Skyline

Trail)

Parks staff have been working diligently to address the storm impacts and open parks

as soon as feasible, including addressing hazard trees, clearing debris from trails, fixing

drainage features, and removing minor land slips. However, in some areas the extent of

damage will require a much more extensive repair and will take time to perform this.

The repairs include significant road or trail washouts, bridge damage, stair or access

trail damage, sinkholes or undermined trails, etc.

Tunitas Creek Beach

The Tunitas Creek Beach Improvement project is currently out to bid for construction.

This competitive bid process is to award to a contractor for construction of the designed

park improvements, including a new parking lot at the top of bluff, a new loop trail as

well as an ADA accessible pedestrian pathway connecting the parking lot to the mid

bluff, improvements at the mid bluff including picnic areas, am amphitheater, a

restroom, and a ranger shed, as well as improved access to the beach.

**Natural Resource Management**

**Tree Risk Management Program**

The San Mateo County Parks Department has been allocated with an additional

$3,000,000 in one-time funding to develop and implement a parks-wide Tree Risk

Management Program. As a result of recent storm events, trees in the County’s parks

system were uprooted and dropped limbs causing damage to facilities and

infrastructure. Many trees in the parks system have likely had their root systems

compromised from high winds, leaving them vulnerable.

The Program would focus on mitigating hazardous trees and identifiable tree risk to park

visitors, staff, and neighbors by identifying high-use areas, managing the trees in these

areas that present threats, and determining how to restore these areas to a more

natural and safer condition. The Department defines high-use areas as picnic sites,

campsites, playgrounds, parking lots, restrooms, visitor centers, boundaries with private

residences, and other areas in the parks where people go, congregate, and stay. For

the purposes of this Program, CuriOdyssey would also be considered a high-use area.

The Program will be developed using a portion of the proposed funding; ongoing

funding will be provided by the Department’s annual allocation of Measure K. With the

initial allocation of funding, the Department would hire a limited term arborist to develop

the Program and complete the highest priority projects. Ongoing hazardous tree

remediation will continue to be part of the Department’s standard operation procedure.

**FY 2023-25 Recommended Budget**

**Capital Projects Summary**

**Parks Department (3900D)**

**Budget**

Unit Project/Program Name

2023-24

Adopted

Budget

3990B Coyote Point Park Modernization 655,992

3990B Coyote Point Sewer System 500,000

3990B Coyote Point Water System 843,843

3990B Memorial Facility Improvements 22,000

3990B Memorial Waterline Replacement 75,000

3990B Quarry Non-Potable Waterline 250,000

3990B Quarry Park Trails Improvements 111,069

3990B Realize Flood Park 1,503,448

3990B San Bruno Mountain Day Use Improvement 200,011

3990B Sanchez Adobe Building Repairs 20,000

3990B SBM Daycamp Improvement 500,000

3990B SPV Walnut Bridge Replacement 200,000

3990B Storm Repairs 250,000

3990B Tunitas Creek Beach 1,821,301

Total 6,952,664