

Andrew Brooks
Director, Ward One

Tony Norris Director, Ward Two Patricia Clarey
Director, Ward Three

Nancy Lewis-Heliotes
Director, Ward Four

Barry Christian Director, Ward Five

# **AGENDA**

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.
Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3rd floor, Napa, Calif.

**Note**: this is an in-person meeting, however, the public may also attend and provide comments via Zoom Conference Call.

# **Instructions for Joining Zoom Meeting**

#### Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87342982956?pwd=ZjVUL2VvcWlUS09NVHhEUWRVcmVXQT09

Dial by your location +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose) +1 669 444 9171 US

Meeting ID: 873 4298 2956 Passcode: 826469

Find your local number: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kfX03lMrL">https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kfX03lMrL</a>

#### **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 707.299.1377.

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

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

#### 2. Public Comment

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

#### 3. Set Matters

None.

#### 4. Administrative Items

telephone: 707.299.1335

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for the Board of Directors regular meeting of February 13, 2023.
- b. Consideration and potential approval of a proposal by the Land Trust of Napa County that the District accept the assignment of an existing conservation easement on the Mead Ranch, located at 3023 and 3029 Atlas Peak Road, Napa (Napa County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 032-550-030, 032-550-031, 039-010-001, 039-010-003, and 039-080-004).
- c. Consideration and potential revision of the District salary table to add the Operating Engineer (Landscape) job classification.

- d. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for February 2023.
- e. Review of the District Projects Status Report.
- f. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

#### 5. Announcements by Board and Staff

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

#### 6. Agenda Planning

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

#### 7. Adjournment



Andrew Brooks
Director, Ward One

Tony Norris Director, Ward Two Patricia Clarey Director, Ward Three Nancy Lewis-Heliotes Director, Ward Four Barry Christian Director, Ward Five

### **MINUTES**

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 13, 2023 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: Andrew Brooks, Tony Norris, Patricia Clarey, Nancy Heliotes, Barry Christian Staff Present: Chris Cahill, Kyra Purvis, Chris Apallas, 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 January 9, 2023.

Minutes for the January 9, 2023 regular meeting were approved as presented.

BC - NH - AB - TN - PC

telephone: 707.299.1335

b. FY 2022-23 midyear budget review.

Presentation of the FY 2022-23 midyear budget review by Kyra Purvis. Informational item only; No action taken.

c. Presentation from District Counsel on conflicts of interest, incompatible offices, and the Brown Act.

Presentation on conflicts of interest, incompatible offices, and the Brown Act by Chris Apallas. Informational item only; No action taken.

d. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for January 2023.

Report presented by Kyra Purvis; No action taken.

e. Review of the District Projects Status Report. Report presented by Chris Cahill; No action taken.

f. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

Report received; No action taken.

#### 5. Announcements by Board and Staff

 Ryan Ayers announced that the date of the annual District Celebration is May 18, 2023 at the social hall at Skyline Wilderness Park.

#### 6. Agenda Planning

- Chris Cahill noted that the finalized maintenance agreement with the Napa Valley Vine Trail will come before the board for approval in spring.
- Chris Cahill noted that there may be an agenda item in March related to a conservation easement on the Mead property for the Land Trust of Napa County.

#### 7. Adjournment

SIGNED	
Ton	y Norris, Board President
	•
ATTEST	
	Ryan Ayers, District Secretary

**KEY** 

Vote: AB = Andrew Brooks; TN = Tony Norris; PC = Patricia Clarey; NH = Nancy Heliotes; 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: March 13, 2023

*Item:* **4.b** 

Subject: Consideration and potential approval of a proposal by the Land Trust of Napa

County that the District accept the assignment of an existing conservation easement on the Mead Ranch, located at 3023 and 3029 Atlas Peak Road, Napa (Napa County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 032-550-030, 032-550-031, 039-010-

001, 039-010-003, and 039-080-004).

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1. Find the proposed actions categorically exempt under CEQA.
- 2. Authorize the General Manager to accept the Land Trust of Napa County's assignment of their conservation easement over the Mead Ranch.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

**Categorically Exempt**. The proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations 15325 (State CEQA Guidelines): Class 25, Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The 1,310-acre Mead Ranch is located roughly half way up Atlas Peak Road and consists of five parcels that burned in the 2017 Atlas Fire. Prior to the fire, the property included 61 acres of producing vineyard, three residences, three cottages, and several barns/garages. Ten acres of vineyard and all structures burned in 2017. Since that time, the vineyard has been rehabilitated and one tiny-home has been constructed on the property, along with a pad for one RV.

#### According to a recent Land Trust report:

The property is a mosaic of recovering vegetation communities, most notably oak woodlands, manzanita chaparral, annual grasslands, and vernal pools. Several rare plant species have been identified on the property, including the discovery of 2 new species by Jake Ruygt (Trichostoma ruygtii, Napa bluecurls; Castilleja ambigua var. meadii, Mead's owls' clover). The western edge of the Mead Ranch is visible from the Napa Valley floor, providing a prominent vista along the eastern side of the valley (just south of the Stag's Leap AVA).

The Mead Ranch has been protected, in some form or another, by conservation easements held by the Land Trust since 1989. Jane Mead, who passed in 2019, directed her trust to gift the property to the

Land Trust in fee. She also requested that the conservation easement, which covers the entire property, continue in effect and that developable vineyard acreage allowed on the property be significantly reduced. The entity which controls the long-term vineyard lease on the property, Mead Vineyard Management, LLC, was also bequeathed to the Land Trust in Jane Mead's trust documents.

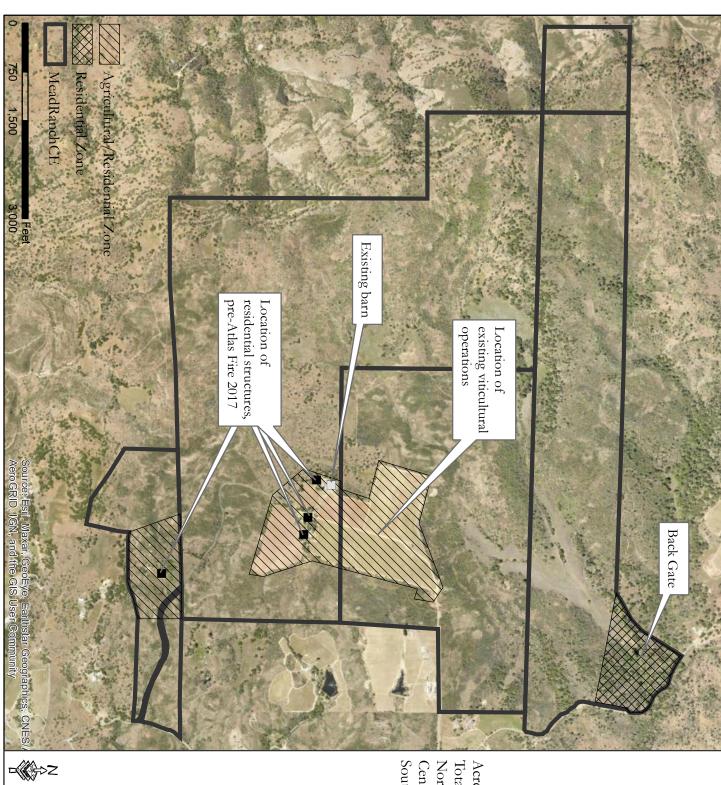
Once again quoting a recent Land Trust staff report:

Jane included the gift of the Ranch to the Land Trust in her trust language in 2017, after her diagnosis of cancer. She had expressed interest in the Land Trust managing and further protecting the Forever Wild portions of the property she loved to hike through when in Napa. Her trust language allows for reconstruction of all then-existing structures, as needed for the Land Trust's management and use of the property. She also indicated an interest in the property being used to further educational opportunities within the Napa community.

As we recently noted regarding the Spencer Ranch conservation easement/property acquisition, it is not legally possible to hold a conservation easement on a property that you yourself own in fee. As a result, the Land Trust needs to pass the Mead Ranch conservation easement on to some third party prior to taking possession of the property. As previously done at Linda Falls, and as the Land Trust has done for us at the Woodbury Preserve, the Land Trust has asked the District to accept the Mead Ranch conservation easement.

Accepting the Mead Ranch conservation easement is consistent with our Memorandum of Understanding with the Land Trust, which calls for our two organizations to transfer conservation easements amongst ourselves where such transfer accomplishes better protection of a conserved property. It is likewise consistent with the mission and goals of the District.

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the General Manager to accept the Land Trust of Napa County's assignment of their conservation easement over the Mead Ranch and to execute any and all associated documents.



# Project Summary

# Mead Ranch Bequest

Acreage of Zones Total = 145 acres South =Central = 88 acres North = 30 acres27 acres

Data sources Napa County GIS

Map is approximate only. Use for reference purposes. Created LTNC 03/2023



#### STAFF REPORT

By: Chris Cahill Date: March 13, 2023

*Item:* **4.c** 

Subject: Consideration and potential revision of the District salary table to add the Operating

Engineer (Landscape) job classification.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Approve the requested amendment to the Salary Table.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

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

#### **BACKGROUND**

Under the District's Personnel Manual, the Board approves any permanent regular positions, by title, through the allocation process and is responsible for adopting salary schedules for all District job classifications. The development and approval of job descriptions, the approval of any temporary (non-permanent regular) positions, and the ultimate hiring of employees into permanent regular or temporary positions occurs at the discretion of the General Manager.

In this particular case, the General Manager has created a new job classification, Operating Engineer (Landscape), which is defined in the attached position description as a single step temporary position. As crafted, the Operating Engineer (Landscape) position is designed to allow the District to temporarily hire skilled and experienced trailbuilders on a project basis to build or maintain singletrack trails as employees of the District. The single step salary scale is keyed to the 2023 Napa County prevailing wage for employees with the same job title, as established by the State Department of Industrial Relations.

In recent years we've had tremendous success using skilled temporary employees in a force account capacity to build trails at Moore Creek Park. As we pivot to the Proposition 68 Regional Park Program grant-funded work at Suscol Headwaters Park, where contracted trail construction will occur at prevailing wage rates, the Operating Engineer (Landscape) position will allow us flexibility to build the best trails at the best price, as the project demands.

## **Operating Engineer (Landscape)**

Payroll	Job	Code -	•

#### **SALARY RANGE**

Single Step

\$75.77

#### **DESCRIPTION**

The Operating Engineer (Landscape) operates specialized light and medium construction equipment in the construction and maintenance of trails and other landscape improvements in regional parks and open space preserves. A variety of equipment is operated including excavators, dump trucks, trailers, water trucks, powered carriers, and tractors with a variety of attachments. Work involves such projects as construction and maintenance of trails and fire roads, grading and/or sloping of terrain; trenching and/or augering soil to excavate water/irrigation lines and to plant trees or other plants; and clearing debris and preparing the soil according to user needs. Employees in this class operate, monitor and control, maintain, repair, modify, assemble, erect, and/or service power-operated landscape construction equipment of the types above-described. The Operating Engineer may also do incidental manual labor in the construction of trails and other landscape improvements. Work is normally subject only to occasional review and inspection.

#### **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

This is a single salary step FLSA exempt extra help classification in the service of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. An employee in this class is expected to work independently with minimal supervision, ensure personal and job site safety, exercise substantial independent judgement, and perform the full range of duties in trail and landscape construction including the supervision of volunteers as assigned.

#### SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Supervision is provided by the General Manager, functional supervision may be provided by the Park and Open Space Planner.

While this position is not Supervisory, it may provide functional supervision to volunteers and other employees on a project basis, as assigned.

#### EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge, skills, and abilities would be:

#### Experience:

The right candidate will have experience (500+ hours) building trail with a mini excavator and other specialized powered equipment. They will also have a strong background in general trail construction and maintenance, knowledge and understanding of mountain bike trail design and construction techniques, and principals of grading and excavation as well as watershed hydrology and soil erosion.

#### **Education:**

No specific requirements.

#### *License or Certificate:*

Possession of a current California Driver's License, adequate to trailer and haul equipment as required to do the work described herein.

#### **EXAMPLE OF DUTIES:**

The following duties are typical for this classification. Incumbents may perform some or all of the listed duties and may be required to perform additional duties as assigned to address business needs and changing business practices.

Operation of light and medium weight landscape construction equipment.

All finish grade work regardless of the equipment used, and operation of equipment with a horsepower rating of more than 65.

Trail tread excavation, grading and compaction.

Drainage location and construction.

Sawyer work to trim and clear brush.

Hand work such as raking, shoveling, rock work, and operation of a vibratory plate compactor.

May lead and train others on a project basis.

#### **TYPICAL QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

Ability to operate heavy machinery in a safe and efficient manner, often in challenging terrain.

Experience building multi-use trails with mini excavators; dozer work a plus.

Knowledge of trail design and construction principals.

Knowledge and experience with rock work.

Knowledge and experience with proper berm and jump construction.

Current First Aid / CPR, Wilderness First Responder preferred.

Ability to identify changes in natural resource conditions, such as vegetation types, soil and geology, and landforms.

Ability to read and use a clinometer.

Providing functional supervision to others and working well in a team setting.

Use of GIS, GPS, and related software and hardware to collect data, perform analyses, and prepare maps and reports.

#### SKILL TO:

The right candidate will have experience (500+ hours) building trail with a mini excavator and other specialized powered equipment.

Can safely reinstall a thrown track, while in the field, using minimal tools.

They will also have a strong background in general trail construction and maintenance, knowledge and understanding of mountain bike trail design and construction techniques, and principals of grading and excavation as well as watershed hydrology and soil erosion.

Oversee multiple projects and organize and prioritize work assignments with limited day-to-day supervision.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with others both within the District and externally.

Set aside ego and self-regard in service of the District's mission and values.

Work effectively under pressure, meet deadlines, and adjust to changing priorities.

#### **ABILITY TO:**

Make proper corrections and adjustments of trail alignment when changing conditions dictate.

Interpret landform changes and natural drainages, and understand and identify the difference between organic and mineral soils.

Work safely with machinery in treacherous and difficult terrain.

Work outdoors in all types of weather conditions including in and around potentially hazardous conditions.

Abide by the District Standards of Conduct, which require that we treat coworkers and the public with respect and courtesy at all times.

#### NOTE:

The individual(s) chosen for hire must be able to pass a criminal background check. A District medical examination may additionally be required.

The Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply.



#### STAFF REPORT

By: Kyra Purvis
Date: March 13, 2023

Item: 4.d

Subject: Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by

District staff for February 2023

#### 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 \$51,000, provided that all such expenditures are subsequently reported to the Board of Directors. Section III.A.(8) of the By-laws authorizes the General Manager to apply for grants and receive donations, subject to reporting such actions to the Board of Directors.

Attached is a report showing all District expenditures for February 2023. Also included with the report is the District credit card statement.

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

Agreement 23-01 Contract with Blacard Pool Construction and Remodeling to

resurface and repair swimming pool at Bothe (not to exceed

\$46,850)

Agreement 23-02 Contract with Kevin Smallman for trail design services at Suscol

Headwaters Park (not to exceed \$20,000)

Agreement 23-03 Contract with Colliers Valuation & Advisory Services for appraisal

access easement adjacent to Suscol Headwaters Park (not to exceed

\$6,000)

Grants and donations for February:

Online donations \$81
Iron Ranger Donations \$597

#### PARKS & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT -FEBRUARY 2023 EXPENSE REPORT

		Gen Admin Dept - 85000-00		
Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
2/1/2022	Computer Software	Google Dec 2022	Us Bank National Association	\$ 18.0
2/1/2022 2/15/2022	Computer Software Health Insurance	Constant Contact-Annual Email service Cust #9756163204 3/22 Kaiser	Us Bank National Association Kaiser Permanente	\$ 346.5 \$ 2,718.3
2/15/2022	Office Supplies	UPS - Cust #2R2861	Ups Freight	\$ 2,718.3
L, 13, 2022	omee supplies	013 Cust #21/2001	ops reight	φ 23.0
Date	Account Name	Moore Creek Dept - 85010-00 Description	Vendor Name	Amount
2/1/2022	Rents/Leases	#PARK 20-03 1/22 Portable Toilet	Johnny On The Spot	\$ 203.74
2/15/2022	Other Professional Services	#PARK 14-02 2/22 Monthly Sampling	Heritage Systems, Inc	\$ 128.3
2/22/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Traffic cone	Central Valley Builders	\$ 106.0
2/22/2022	Maintenance Supplies	WD-40, Shop towels	Central Valley Builders	\$ 19.2
		CAMP BERRYESSA 85010-03		
Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
2/1/2022	Other Professional Services	Septic service-Camp Berryessa	Mccollum General Engineering	\$ 497.13
2/10/2022 2/10/2022	Other Professional Services Other Professional Services	Water Sampling Lab Order # X010936 Water Sampling Lab Order # X010937	Caltest Analytical Labs Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 50.00 \$ 50.00
2/10/2022	Other Professional Services	warei sambiing ran Oldei # vo1032)	Callest Allalytical Labs	Ş 50.0
Date	Account Name	NRER - 85010-05	Vendor Name	Amount
2/15/2022	Other Professional Services	<b>Description</b> #PARK 18-02 1/22 Litter Abatement	Napa Valley Support	\$ 500.00
2/16/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Chainsaw oil, Autocut	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 150.74
Date	Account Name	State Park - 85010-08 Description	Vendor Name	Amount
2/1/2022	Utilities-Electric	12/14/21-1/11/22 Acct #1869012498-9	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 1,001.74
2/1/2022	Utilities-Electric	12/14/21-1/11/22 Acct# 2172831822-7	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 151.73
2/1/2022	Utilities-Electric	12/14/21-1/11/22 Acct #6765403114-4	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 42.3
2/1/2022	Other Professional Services	Bothe water sampling-Lab Order #X010981	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 50.00
2/1/2022	Other Professional Services	Bothe water sampling-Lab Order #X010982	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 70.00
2/1/2022	Other Professional Services	Bale Mill water sampling- Lab Order #X010983	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 70.00
2/1/2022	Other Professional Services	Bale Mill water sampling-Lab Order #X010980	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 50.00
2/1/2022	Communications	12/10/21-1/9/22 Internet BAN #9391064527	At&T	\$ 333.2
2/1/2022	Other Professional Services	2/1/22-4/30/22 Visitors Center Alarm	Bay Alarm Company	\$ 233.1
2/1/2022	Office Supplies	Office supplies	Us Bank National Association	\$ 8.0
2/1/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Fee sign board-kiosk	Us Bank National Association	\$ 277.1
2/4/2022	Utilities-Electric	12/14/21-1/11/22 #9051730227-0	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 159.2
2/4/2022	Utilities-Electric	12/14/21-1/11/22 Acct #6781840750-03	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 179.3
2/4/2022	Communications	12/28/21-1/27/22 Bale Mill Phone BAN#	At&T	\$ 21.1
2/4/2022	Goods for Resale	Firewood pallet bundes	V&V Firewood Inc.	\$ 1,920.0
2/4/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Bale Mill supplies	Keith Giusto Bakery	\$ 553.6
2/4/2022 2/4/2022	Maintenance Supplies  Maintenance Supplies	PVC cap, adapter, ball valve	Silverado Ace Hardware Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 100.5 \$ 15.8
2/4/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Copper tubing Copper tube	Steves Hardware	\$ 7.5
2/10/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Hillman Fasteners	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 14.1
2/10/2022	Utilities-Electric	12/15/21-01/12/22 4831406953	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 967.0
2/10/2022	Waste Disposal Service	Garbage Service 01/22 Acct#01-0013452-7	Upper Valley Disposal	\$ 1,966.00
1/15/2022	Health Insurance Premiums	Cust #9756163204 3/22 Kaiser	Kaiser Permanente	\$ 2,352.6
2/15/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Builder's supplies	Central Valley Builders	\$ 0.2
2/15/2022	Maintenance Juppnes		Control Valley Buildons	് വാര
	Maintenance Supplies	Builder's supplies	Central Valley Builders	\$ 23.8
2/16/2022	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Builder's supplies Builder's supplies	Central Valley Builders	\$ 23.8 \$ 7.1
2/16/2022 2/16/2022 2/16/2022 2/16/2022	Maintenance Supplies Maintenance Supplies Maintenance Supplies	Builder's supplies Builder's supplies	Central Valley Builders Central Valley Builders	\$ 7.1 \$ 59.6
2/16/2022 2/16/2022	Maintenance Supplies Maintenance Supplies	Builder's supplies	Central Valley Builders	\$ 7.1

2/16/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Ratx, Bait Station	Steves Hardware	\$	60.60
2/16/2022	Consturction Supplies	Seametrics Flow sensor Paddlewheel PVC body	Usa Bluebook	\$	420.13
2/22/2022	Consturction Supplies	Assorted Hardware	Central Valley Builders	\$	46.30
2/22/2022	Consturction Supplies	Credit inv# 2043849	Central Valley Builders	\$ (	(221.87)
2/22/2022	Consturction Supplies	Assorted Hardware	Central Valley Builders	\$	138.92
2/22/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Wheel Barrow Wheel	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$	133.59
2/22/2022	Vehicle Repair Supplies	CA Battery Environmental Fee	Brown's Auto Parts	\$	1.00
2/22/2022	Vehicle Repair Supplies	Battery SP40	Brown's Auto Parts	\$	81.13
2/22/2022	Maintenance Supplies	4AA84 Vinyl Door Sweep 36	Grainger Industrial	\$	54.23
2/22/2022	Consturction Supplies	Galv nipple, pipe threading compound	Central Valley Builders	\$	226.78
2/22/2022	Communications	01/13/22-02/12/22 ALARM	At&T	\$	99.69
2/22/2022	Communications	01/10/22-02/09/22 Internet	At&T	\$	337.50
2/23/2022	Office Supplies	Clipboard, OD, 3/pk, wood	Office Depot	\$	204.81
		MAYACAMAS 85010-10			
Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amo	ount
2/16/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Marking Stake Flag	Central Valley Builders	\$	9.32
2/16/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Handi-Clamp	Central Valley Builders	\$	5.81
2/16/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Flagging tape	Central Valley Builders	\$	6.66
		Other Projects 85010-90			
Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amo	ount
2/4/202	2 Maintenance Supplies	Goo gone remover, utility knife, utility scraper	Zeller's & Clarks Ace Hardware	\$	20.44



P.O. BOX 6343 FARGO ND 58125-6343



ACCOUNT NUMBER STATEMENT DATE AMOUNT DUE \$1,021.21 NEW BALANCE \$1.021.21

PAYMENT DUE ON RECEIPT

# լԱլՄիլիկին Ալաբիրիի իրկարինի միլիան Սուլի

000000539 01 SP 0.600 106481652202461 P

NAPA OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ATTN CHRISTOPHER CAHILL 1195 THIRD STREET SECOND FLOOR NAPA CA 94559-3048

AMOUNT ENCLOSED	
\$	

Please make check payable to"U S. Bank"

U.S. BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS P.O. BOX 790428 ST. LOUIS, MO 63179-0428

000105757 000105757

Please tear payment coupon at perforation.

		CORPOR	łA:	TE ACCO	UNT SUN	MARY			
NAPA OPEN SPACE DIST	Previous Balance	Purchases And Other + Charges	+	Cash Advances +	Cash Advance Fees +	Late Payment Charges	- Credits	- Payments	New = Balance
Company Total	\$2,170,76	\$1.021.21		\$0.00	\$.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,170,76	\$1.021.21

		<b>40</b> 8	PORATE ACCOUNT ACTI	<b>VIX</b>	
NAPA	OPEN	SPACE DISTRICT	т	OTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY \$2,170.76 CR	
	_				
Post Date	Tran Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description		Amount

CHRISTOPHE	ER M CAHILL	\$0.00	PURCHASES \$1,021.21	\$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$1,021.21	
Post Tran Date Date	Reference Number	er Trans	saction Description	1		Amount
01-02 01-01 01-06 01-05 01-12 01-11 01-13 01-12 01-13 01-12	242042930010032 242476030060009 246921630111004 246921630121009 246921630121011	976099786 2ND 116595266 AMZI 919777196 AMZI	GLE LLC GSUITE N WIND PRINTING IN N MKTP US*TI11J75 N MKTP US*M99CS ZON.COM*RK8ZS55	C 707-578-9463 CA 5T3 AMZN.COM/BIL 59U3 AMZN.COM/E	L WA BILL WA	18.00 24.61 269.35 53.80 118.51

CUSTOMER SERVICE CALL	ACCOUNT	NUMBER	ACCOUNT SUMM	IARY
COOTOMER SERVICE CALL			PREVIOUS BALANCE	2,170.76
800-344-5696			PURCHASES & OTHER CHARGES	1,021.21
	STATEMENT DATE	DISPUTED AMOUNT	CASH ADVANCES	.00
	01/25/23	.00	CASH ADVANCE FEES	.00
			LATE PAYMENT CHARGES	.00
SEND BILLING INQUIRIES TO:	AMOUL	IT DUE	CREDITS	.00
U.S. Bank National Association	AMOUN	II DUE	PAYMENTS	2,170.76
C/O U.S. Bancorp Purchasing Card Program P.O. Box 6335 Fargo, ND 58125-6335	1,02	1.21	ACCOUNT BALANCE	1,021.21



Company Name: NAPA OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Corporate Account Number:

Statement Date: 01-25-2023

Post Tra Date Dat		Transaction Description	Amount
)1-16 01- )1-19 01- )1-24 01- )1-25 01-	19 24943003019206694601945 22 24943013023010190268644	BUGGIES UNLIMITED 904-421-3003 FL THE HOME DEPOT #0637 FAIRFIELD CA	59.01 137.89 312.12 27.92

Department: 00000 Total: \$1,021.21 Division: 00000 Total: \$1,021.21



# **Projects Status Report**

March 13, 2023

#### 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. At the request of the City of American Canyon, in August 2017 City and District staff met to discuss strategies for completing the trail. The Board President and General Manager met with CADFW staff on June 12, 2018 to discuss CDFW concerns. Senator Dodd organized a meeting in October with the City of American Canyon, County of Napa and the District in an attempt to move the project forward, and another meeting with District staff and CADFW staff on November 28, 2018. Staff has been working with BCDC to determine whether CDFW plans to impose user fees for people walking on the trail along the edge of the wetlands would be allowed under DFW's permit from BCDC. Director Christian has been volunteering considerable time to remove weeds blocking the trail both north and south of Green Island Road. Staff has also been working with the Bay Trail Project and Director Christian to ensure the draft Countywide Bicycle Master Plan includes the trail connection from Green Island Road to Suscol Ferry Road. 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 plague 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. Their contractor has committed to repairing the trail to at least the preexisting condition at project completion. 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. Staff cleaned wasps out of viewing pipes and bird poop off of interpretive signs on the Wetlands Edge Trail. On July 29th 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. We will be keeping an eye on the interests of future trail development in the area.

#### **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 late 2021 indicated there is still some OHV trespass happening on the property.

#### The Cove at Mt. Veeder

Reconstruction of campground and trails.

The Cove was severely burned in the October 2017 fires; since then staff has been working on cleanup. Staff hiked most of the property in early January and confirmed that fire damage is severe and extensive. In early February the County Wildlife Commission toured the Cove to inspect fire impacts and discuss ways in which they might direct funding to fire recovery efforts County-wide. Staff worked with a forester to develop a plan for salvage logging to (a) remove hazardous dead trees in the campground area and (b) repair/improve the access road into the site. 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. We met with a local engineer on site on Sep 5th to begin designing facilities for a rebuilt camp. Staff hiked the property extensively in February of 2019, trying among other thing 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 Board hopefully saw the excellent article on the Cove in the Napa Register on July 31, in which Rick and Ryan featured prominently. Staff and volunteers have been working on route-finding and extending flagging on the summit trail. We have been in contact with mountain lion researchers from Audubon Canyon Ranch and given them permission to access sites through the Cove. In mid-November Rick dropped a large Douglas fir located near the previous camp fire area which survived the fire then gave up the fight this summer. Staff visited the property during the height of the December/January storms and were glad to find that erosion was mostly in check, probably due to the soaking but not flashy nature of the weather systems. We saw a significant amount of wet snow in late February/early March, which resulted in major impacts to standing dead trees, along with those that have been limping along since the fires. Thankfully our post-fire salvage logging operation removed most of the damaged trees from the more target rich center of the property.

#### **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. Issues with the composting toilets and water systems (the result of poor design and power

failures) appear to have all been resolved. We are looking into solar battery backups to provide more reliable power as rural blackouts on windy days have become the new normal. Some of the septic system valving and wires was damaged by denning rodents; they have been repaired, and the valve boxes have been hardened to make it more difficult for our furry friends to get into them in the future. The hard water at the camp is causing backflow prevention devices to leak, and repairing them continues to be a challenge. The EcoCamp has been closed to the public since mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic. We have been taking the opportunity of this downtime to get on top of spring mowing and other projects and Sarah Clark has been inspecting the property at least once a week. Staff has completed a survey of rates and policies for other group camps in the region, and will be developing a proposal for expanding camp use to include a broader range of group and family campers, for when the camp is not needed by the non-profit and youth organizations which are the primary target audience for the camp. 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. Power has now been restored and the water system seems to be working. We have had the water tested for VOCs (which can be created when plastic pipes melt) and the tests came back negative. We have filed for a Right of Entry with the County of Napa, which should mean fire debris are removed as a part of the County/FEMA fire cleanup operation. While the camp is closed due to COVID, we have on three occasions allowed USGS researchers doing post-fire investigations to use the site while working in eastern Napa County. We are starting to take reservations for group camping events starting this summer, contingent on continued improvement in COVID 19 conditions. FEMA ultimately refused to complete the cleanup of the caretaker site at Camp Berryessa under their ROE program, and the County is now appealing that determination. We will either win that appeal and be included in the federal cleanup or will have to rush (and spend) to do it ourselves this summer. Sarah Clark has begun booking new events at the camp effective June 15. The County's thoughtful and carefully worded appeal was submitted to FEMA in late June. Staff from the Bureau of Reclamation have reached out to say they have some money available for post-fire cleanup that they may be able to use to help us with the remains of the caretaker's cottage. Details on that are light at this point, but it's a promising turn of events. We will be meeting with local BOR management in late March to discuss the rebuilding of the camp host location as well as potential federal funding opportunities for the work. As the world opens back up, spring and summer bookings are coming in hot and heavy. We have three bids for cleaning up the burned caretaker site, ranging from \$17,500 to \$33,750. BOR has indicated that they can contribute +/-\$20K to the cleanup effort, we await their internal review for approval to proceed. The BOR has secured funding to remediate some, or maybe even much, of the camp host site as part of a project to upgrade electrical infrastructure around the Lake post-fire. They will even be project managing the construction work itself and construction is slated to begin this month. It has yet to be determined how much site cleanup will be included in that project. One of our employees was trapped behind a large Grey pine which dropped across the access driveway while she was at the camp, Rick Fessenden and his chainsaw once more to the rescue. Sarah Clark took it upon herself to source and install two replacement tent cabin storm doors in late January. Bookings for the spring and summer are coming in at a good clip.

#### 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. A legal description of the conservation area covering the meadow at Amy's Grove has been completed. PG&E is marking trees for transmission line clearance trimming in the right of way adjacent to our property. We have attempted to limit the scope of that work, but ultimately we have little say in the process. In late July 2019 we learned that we did not receive the Habitat Conservation Fund grant we had applied for to assist with the purchase of the 164 acres to the north. The purchase has been completed using District reserve funds. State Parks in June 2020 released the announcement of the per capita grant funds, which the District will use to reimburse about half the cost of the 164 acre purchase. 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. Staff submitted a proposal in partnership with Enchanted Hills Camp to share an AmeriCorps team next January through March, which was approved on December 8th. The team arrived in mid-January and cleared brush from the future staging area on Dry Creek Road. Several volunteer work parties have since made even further progress on tearing down old buildings and salvaging the materials that can be reused. We have paused delivery of debris boxes and work on cleaning up the staging area pending the outcome of the June Board of Supervisors budget hearings as part of our broader campaign to limit spending until the budget issue is resolved. Ryan facilitated ICARE/SFBRWQCB fish surveying and creek assessment in Dry Creek at the Chamberlain acquisition in late May. 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. As of early July we have recommenced demolition and cleanup activities at the Kateley donation. We have been working on clearing downed trees and brush blocking ranch roads to improve fire access and prepare for the eventual opening of the park. Unfortunately, in late July we discovered that a trespasser had been practicing their chainsawyering on the property and dropped at least one living tree. Staff has been doing extensive vegetation management and fuels reduction, along with scouting and mapping in support of the development of an eventual park plan. Rick and Ryan hosted a number of additional volunteer projects focused on clearing remaining debris on the Kateley donation. 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. Also, the location of the proposed parking lot on the Kateley donation has gotten quite mucky, so drainage improvements of some kind will be necessary there if we are going to develop it into a parking lot. The January and early February Diablo wind events resulted in extensive tree fall in previously burned areas, with Bay laurel seeing the brunt of the damage. We have begun initial planning work on opening the Mayacamas Preserve and Amy's Grove to the public; the trailbuilder who did the initial alignment work for the Suscol Headwaters trail system has contracted to do similar work at Mayacamas, which is a great outcome. 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. We had 15 volunteers from Opus One out to pull broom at Mayacamas on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chris and Kyra completed a full wetfoot survey of Dry Creek from property boundary to property boundary in late May and discovered a number of useful and interesting things, including pools as deep as 8 feet and the remnants of a creek-spanning suspension bridge. We also did an initial planning survey of Amy's Grove and Mayacamas with trail guru Kevin Smallman. John Woodbury (as a volunteer) and Chris spent some time in the creek in late June working on engineering questions related to bridge construction. Rick and Ryan hosted a volunteer project to clear invasive broom near the potential suspension bridge site on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 volunteers attended. On October 8 we once again hosted volunteers on the Kateley finger, removing woody debris and doing fuels management. Kevin Smallman made a last visit to the property to finalize our trail planning project. We had a substantial number of tree blowdowns in December and January and are just beginning the work of cleaning up.

#### **Moore Creek Park Development**

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. Staff coordinated a meeting with CalFire and a neighbor to determine what level of tree trimming is needed on the neighbor's property next to the ranch house to comply with Firewise regulations and the trimming work is now underway. 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. The first weekend in April 2021 staff and volunteers installed a new iron ranger and signage at the main parking lot to encourage donations. A second iron ranger will soon be installed at the Conn Valley entrance. Initial response to the new

voluntary donation system has been excellent. Our first collection netted +/- \$2,000 in small denomination donations and may collections once again totaled approximately \$2,000. 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 Dan's Wild Ride use permit application was filed with the County in early September 2021. We hope to get to County approval this calendar year. As noted in their recent comment letter, CalFire is concerned that a portion of the proposed trail (this is a section that uses an existing deeded access drive) is located on Las Posadas property. We are working with the Land Trust to survey or otherwise establish that the trail and driveway are not located on State land. We have completed inspections of the trail network at Moore Creek after the 100+ year storm of October 24<sup>th</sup> 2021 and though there are a number of trees down, the trails themselves held up remarkably well. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> Rick, Kyra, and Chris met with staff of the RCD to begin work on a Vegetation Treatment Plan funded by a major Coastal Conservancy fire readiness grant. The North Bay Bohemian annual readers' poll has named Moore Creek Park the best hiking park in Napa County for 2022. We have closed the Conn Peak Spur Trail until at least mid-June, due to its proximity to an active Bald eagle nest. The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing new no-parking zones at the end of Conn Valley Road in late July, 2022. Conn Peak Trail has been reopened as our neighborhood eagle family finally finished nesting and Ryan and a crew of volunteers installed a new bench. We have been getting a lot of fire mitigating vegetation management done up-canyon from the Ranch House, averaging more than 40 person-hours a week, all funded by the RCD/Coastal Conservancy fire grant. Construction of the Redux Trail is well underway, with all construction work completed by Redwood Trails Alliance and funded by private donations; construction on Redux, up slope of the Moore Creek ranch road has been requiring the occasional closure of the road for safety reasons. Heavy rain and winds throughout the holiday period have kept Rick and his chainsaws busy through December 2022 and into the New Year. Construction of Redux Trail, and the associated occasional closure of the ranch road (Moore Creek Trail) continues. The Moore Creek/Dan's Wild Ride use permit minor modification is scheduled to go before the Zoning administrator for a public hearing on March 22, 2023.

#### 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. Volunteers collected and properly disposed of fully nine 50-gallon contractor garbage bags of spurge. Mowing season has arrived, Rick reports needing to mow/weed whip the property every few

weeks due to the heavy grass growth this winter. The recent wind event resulted in some oak damage that we have been working to buck and clear. 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.

#### **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. Staff has cleared the trail of downed trees and the trail is open between Calistoga and Holm's place. 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. Field staff has been focusing on removing dead standing trees that could fall and potentially impact the trail. 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. Rick is beginning work on the wintertime replacement of the burned trail signage on the Aetna side of the OHMT. We are aware that there are a number of trees down blocking the upper section of the OHMT. District State Parks staff are working diligently through the backlog of tree work they've been confronting and hope to get the trail cleared in the near future. Staff has not had a chance to make it to the top of OHMT for a post-snow inspection, but based on what we've seen elsewhere on the eastern ridgetops (for instance in Angwin and the PUC Forest) we expect a mess.

#### **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 Lake Berryessa Estates Property Owners Association in June 2020 retained an attorney to help them develop an agreement between the District and the Association authorizing the Association to manage and enforce regulations for use of the campground and boat launch areas of Crystal Flats and Stone Corral. 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. Less tree mortality than would be expected thus far. 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? The Berryessa Estates Fire Safe Council reached out to the General Manager and was given permission to burn a number of debris piles in and around the marina, all with required CalFire and BAAQMD approvals. 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. We have likewise given the local Fire Safe Council permission to access our properties to complete planning work on various fuel reduction projects. A two-person experimental aircraft crashed directly adjacent to our Stone Corral property in mid-July, starting a several acre fire. Unfortunately both occupants of the plane perished. 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. Senator Dodd-funded veg management on our property, planned and undertaken by the local Berryessa Estates Fire Safe Council, is complete for the season. We have been informed that vegetation management across the top of an easement on our property owned by LBRID will be undertaken this winter, the work should have the effect of creating a significant fire break on the east side of the Berryessa Estates development. The County continues water exploration, in some cases on our properties, in hope of finding a viable backup water source for the community. Annual Land Trust conservation easement monitoring of the Woodbury Preserve occurred in early December.

#### **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. In October 2015, the State applied to the county to rezone Skyline Park by removing the Skyline Wilderness Park Combining District overlay, which would make it easier for the State to sell for development and at a higher price. However, the State never completed the application. Legislation introduced by Senator Wolk in January 2016 to authorize us to purchase the property stalled when the State announced it was opposed to any sale of Skyline Park to the District until completion of a state planning process for future health and welfare services; that planning process has apparently not progressed. 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. District staff began meeting with the State of California (Departments of General Services and State Hospitals) in July 2020 to discuss the purchase of Skyline Park pursuant to SB 20, but in October DGS informed the District they were too busy to work on this until early 2021. 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. Staff has been working with bicycle advocates and Skyline Park Citizens Association to plan and develop a bicycle skills course on a 1/4 acre portion of Skyline Park; despite repeated efforts over two years, this project is still waiting for DGS approval and there has been no movement. Skyline Park staff in the fall of 2020 completed the repair and hardening of a stretch to the Skyline Trail above Lake Marie so that it can be used year-round. This trail is currently the only way to access Suscol Headwaters Park. The reconstructed trail is now largely done and it is a truly impressive piece of work. Newly appointed County Assistant Executive Officer Becky Craig has been tasked with overseeing the Skyline purchase on the County side and we had a productive discussion with her in late June including John Woodbury, who continues to manage the Skyline appraisal and purchase project for the District as a volunteer. Kyra, Chris, and Rick spent a day assessing recent overuse damage to the River to Ridge Trail including some trail widening and erosion that is clearly being caused by the growing number of e-bikes. We are working on plans for minor trail improvements that might mitigate the damage going forward and look forward to pulling Skyline Park's extremely competent trail staff into that conversation. 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. In early November we co-hosted a Ridge Trail work day on the River to Ridge Trail with partners at Skyline Park. 40 volunteers attended. County of Napa/State of California acquisition negotiations and work continue at a furious pace. 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 was on-site completing a Phase 1 environmental analysis (required to complete the sale to the County) in early February, 2023.

#### **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 Roughs 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. Kyra Purvis is working on the CEQA analysis and on putting together a use permit application to the County of Napa to open Smittle Creek to the public. Kyra also continues to work with Reclamation on an agreement to authorize the public to use their Smittle Creek Day Use Area parking lot to access our property. 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). The County expects to hear whether or not it has been shortlisted for the grant sometime in mid to late summer 2021. 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.

#### **State Parks**

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

The District, with assistance from the Napa Valley State Parks Association, took over management of the parks on April 1, 2012. Since then the District has obtained permits and done improvements to the pool, installed 7 yurts, instituted recycling in the campground and day use areas, pumped all septic system tanks annually, repaired the historic Wright House for use as a rental property, restored 5 cabins, constructed a new shower/toilet facility, and made a large dent in the backlog of deferred maintenance. District efforts to pass legislation allowing the sale of grain for human consumption from the Bale Mill were unsuccessful. 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. The District repaired the Silverado House at RLS, which a District employee now rents and maintains. The District is working with the Vine Trail on the proposed alignment of the Vine Trail through Bothe. As noted elsewhere, visitation at Robert Louis Stevenson State Park has been very high in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Between March and June of 2020 staff and volunteers monitored the parking lot off Highway 29 during peak times to assist the influx of new users. The majority of Bothe State Park burned in September's Glass Fire, though none of the buildings were damaged. Ridge Trail Day occurred on Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup>; volunteers worked to delete and restore a number of switchback-cutting social trails on Mount St Helena. Construction of the Vine Trail section in and near the State Park has been proceeding at a fast clip, with the main struggle being keeping the public off the half-built trail.

#### **Suscol Headwaters Preserve**

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. In July of 2015 the board of the Napa Sanitation District approved an easement option agreement which would allow us to construct a trail and trailhead parking lot on the eastern and southern edges of their Kelly Road treated water spray field property. However, that alignment is not ideal, so alternate access routes and staging areas have been pursued. Negotiations with the City of American Canyon and an adjacent property owner regarding the potential to relocate the access easement to our property from Highway 12 did not work out because of a change of mind by the property owner. Kyra has obtained conceptual agreement from another property owner on revising the access easement through their property to facilitate construction of a staging area on North Kelly Road rather than along Kirkland Ranch Road, and has drafted a grant deed that will accomplish this. The Napa Sanitation District Manager has indicated support for the location and design for such a staging area off North Kelly Road and a trail leading to the park following the western and northern edge of their treated water spray field. District staff has prepared and submitted to Napa San draft easement language for their review and approval. Chris met with REMBA's Executive Director on the property in early July 2020 to discuss funding opportunities and partnerships that may allow some new singletrack trails to be constructed at Suscol Headwaters. Rick and Ryan in spring 2020 installed signage in hopes of dissuading the public from riding off trail, especially in the area of the knob at the very top of the park, because of the erosion that it causes. Our partners at REMBA have been on-site, beginning to tight flag some of the trail alignments in hope of beginning construction this winter/spring. REMBA has also been fundraising to support their work, as the District unfortunately has no funds available for trail building at Suscol at this time. We have begun installing the Park Boundary signs promised to the adjoining property owner along our eastern property line. Kyra and Supervisor Ryan Gregory were interviewed on site by Doug McConnell in late May as part of his Open Road series on NBC Bay Area. The segment focuses on the ongoing expansion of the Ridge Trail and is expected to air on July 18th. District staff and volunteers were trained on safe chainsaw use by Rick in an all-day colloquium in mid-July. Kyra did a starring turn along with Supervisor Gregory in an Open Road segment on the Ridge Trail and Suscol Headwaters which aired on NBC Bay Area. Our friends and partners at the Redwood Trails Alliance (formerly REMBA) are currently at work on the property doing corridor clearing in advance of trail construction that may begin as early as this winter. Staff repaired the latch system on the gate between the Tuteur Loop and Suscol headwaters, which sees heavy and sometimes rough use. John Woodbury was out in the field in early February, and again in March and April, working on the design and (hopefully) future construction of the red legged frog pond. Jeff Alvarez, a renowned Redlegged frog specialist has been working with John on the plans. Kyra finalized and submitted a \$1.2M Prop 68 Regional Park Program grant application to fund development of a N Kelly Road trailhead and the complete Suscol Headwaters trail network. Kyra and Chris conducted a site visit with State grant reviewers on May 24<sup>th</sup> and it went extremely well. They expect to announce grant awards late this summer. 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. Kyra has begun planning work on the Phase 2 project, Chris has been in extensive conversations with trail building professionals about the site, and it seems like we may be inching towards actually finalizing the easement with NapaSan. Thanks to John Woodbury and the Skyline crew the frog pond is also very near completion. Napa San has approved our trail easement, trail planning work on the property has begun in earnest, and the frog pond has been

completed with help from John Woodbury and the Skyline crew. Kyra and Chris (but mostly Kyra) have been working on Suscol with singular focus over the last month: trail and park planning, visiting the site with our consulting trail boss, working on the ins and outs of contracting to complete the trail work, completing a successful RFQ for civil engineering services, working on an RFQ for appraisal services, meeting with permitting agencies, and pushing the grant managers at the State on funding timelines. We have signed a contract with Applied Civil Engineering for design and engineering services for the new Suscol Headwaters parking lot. Trail planning also continues; staff met with Kevin Smallman to check out proposed Phase 2 trails, and Redwood Trails Alliance has been scouting Phase 1 trails. Chris and Kyra met onsite with Applied Civil Engineering to review parking lot design and subsequently received preliminary designs from them. Chris and Kyra also walked some proposed Phase 1 trail alignments with Redwood Trail Alliance. We have contracted with an appraiser to appraise the fair market value of the parking lot and trail easement across the Napa Sanitation District Lands; the appraisal is expected in April. The informal request for bids for construction of the Perdida Trail (in the northern part of the property) went out in February and we will select a contractor in the coming weeks. Napa Sanitation District is currently reviewing the draft parking lot plans. Jake Rugyt will conduct his spring botanical survey on the southern portion of the property this month and deliver a complete botanical report in April as well.

#### **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. Jason, Chris, and Kyra 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. We are continuing to scope the initial capital outlay for tools and equipment, which will not be insignificant, and are finalizing the terms of a draft 5-year management agreement between ourselves, the County of Napa, and the Vine Trail Coalition. If that proceeds to agreement at the staff level, the Board should expect to see it this fiscal year sometime. A District draft of the proposed management agreement was submitted for County and Vine Trail review in late March. 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. Chris provided the County and the Vine Trail Coalition with edits on what may well be the final draft of a maintenance agreement for the St Helena to Calistoga Vine Trail section just before Thanksgiving. That agreement will proceed to the NCRPOSD Board for review and potential adoption once staffers at the three agencies have come to final terms. We expect to bring the District-County-Vine Trail Up Valley maintenance agreement to be before our Board for action in April and at the Board of Supervisors on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **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 0f 2008, after a major volunteer work party doing signage installation, brush removal and erosion control. The District in 2008 applied to BLM for a nonfee 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.

#### **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.



#### **STAFF REPORT**

By: Jason Jordan
Date: March 13, 2023

Item: 4.f

Subject: February 2023 State Park Report for Bothe- Napa Valley SP, Robert Louis Stevenson SP, and

Bale Grist Mill SHP.

#### PARK STATUS

**Bothe Napa Valley SP**- Overnight occupancy and trail use was minimal during February with weather and cold temperatures. The exception was Presidents' Day Weekend which was busy.

Bale Mill SHP- Visitation remains slow at the Mill.

**Robert Louis Stevenson SP**- Visitation picking up on clear dry weekends. A lot of interest in snow access from recent storm.

#### PARK UPDATES

- There were two field trips at the Mill this month from St Helena Elementary. 108 students and 15
  adults were in attendance.
- The 3rd Saturday Hike this month was at Bothe, with the topic of mushrooms. The program covered composition, identification, and locating species along several trails and use areas in the park. There were 23 attendees for this program.
- A contract was completed and signed for resurfacing and drain modification for the Bothe Swimming Pool.
- Maintenance staff continues construction of a shed at the water tanks to protect the manifold and valves.
- Staff met with State Parks trails supervisor to develop a scope of work for the Bale Mill Bridge repair
  project. We are awaiting additional site visit from SP staff to finalize scope and submit a PEF for
  conceptual review.
- Napa County Firewise Foundation was approved to use CCC crews to cut and clear vegetation 15
  feet from either side of Lyman Canyon Road and around Bale Mill Parking area. They have moved on
  to clearance around the Tucker Summit community.
- NVSPA hosted a dinner from this year's auction fundraiser at the Mill/Granary on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>.

- Several fallen trees from January storms were cut up and removed and a chipper was rented for a few days to clean up.
- We are continuing efforts to recruit, interview, and hire staff for Park Aide and Miller positions before the busy season.
- Staff and volunteers cleared many down trees on the Table Rock Trail from winds in January. With
  recent storms bringing high wind and heavy snow, more work will be needed on all trails. District
  and State Park staff are planning a larger group of volunteers to work on Palisades trail on March
  11<sup>th</sup> although recent weather may cause a project shift.
- Jessica Ardizzone, from our staff, participated in ACCPF Watershed Explored program in American Canyon on February 24<sup>th</sup> in cooperation with Napa RCD, Napa Solano Audubon, Suscol Intertribal Council, and American Canyon Wastewater Treatment.
- Staff is coordinating and meeting with PGE on upcoming gas line work and impacts to park and residents. Most approved PGE tree work has been completed. One tree remains delayed by weather and some wood removal cleanup is outstanding.