

# **SAN MATEO COUNTY: RECREATION GOALS, NEEDS, AND TRENDS; FACILITIES INVENTORY**

## **BACKGROUND**

### **California SCORP (2002)**

San Mateo County is the 5<sup>th</sup> most urbanized county in the state at 1,575 people per square mile. San Francisco is the most densely populated at 16,526 people per square mile.

The *Public Opinions and Attitudes Survey* (1997) showed that Californian's top two recreational activities (in terms of participation) were walking for fitness and fun and visiting museums and historic sites. Picnicking and trail hiking were ranked 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Camping in developed sites and camping in primitive areas were ranked 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> (out of 20), respectively. However, when asked if they would increase their participation if good recreational opportunities became available, latent demand for camping in developed sites and trail hiking was extremely high, followed by wildlife viewing. People also showed support for government spending on those same activities. The results of the same survey administered in 2002 showed very similar results. When the participation data are combined with data on latent demand and public support, the top five most important recreational activities were 1) walking for fitness and fun, 2) beach activities, 3) wildlife viewing, 4) driving for pleasure, and 5) trail hiking.

### **California State Parks**

McNee Ranch State Park contains 2 parking spaces as well as on-street parking, 1 portable restroom, and multi-use trails with 1 bench.

Graywhale Cove State Beach contains 40 parking spaces, pedestrian trails, 2 portable restrooms, and 1 concession stand.

### **San Mateo County Parks & Recreation**

#### **Mid-Coast Recreational Needs Assessment (2002)**

The Mid-Coast area of San Mateo County encompasses an area of 6.1 square miles to the north of the City of Half Moon Bay. It includes approximately 11,000 residents living in five distinct communities. While some local recreational opportunities exist, many residents have expressed a need for significantly more facilities and programs. The top local recreation facility needs are as follows: community center (recreation building), roller sport facility, playgrounds, sports fields and courts, open turf fields, dog areas, picnic areas, walking areas, and a trail system.

The County Trails Plan (2001), as well as the 1977 Community Plan, calls for trail corridors along Denniston and San Vicente Creeks that would connect to the Mid-Coast Foothill Trail that traverses through Rancho Corral de Tierra and into SFPUC watershed lands.

### **County Park Activities & Facilities (Website 12/28/07)**

#### North County

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve - 39 parking spaces, a visitor center with restrooms, pedestrian trails, drinking fountain, and a picnic area with 4 tables.

Pillar Point Marsh & Shoreline - 34 parking spaces, pedestrian trails with 8 benches and 1 portable restroom.

Junipero Serra – daycamp, family and group picnicking (capacity 775), hiking trails

San Bruno Mountain – youth group camping, family picnicking, multi-use trails

San Pedro Valley Park – daycamp (capacity 15), family and group picnicking (300), multi-use trails

El Granada/Vallejo and Miramar Beaches - 15 parking spaces (plus on-street parking), playground, and a pedestrian trail with 3 benches.

#### Mid-County

Edgewood Park – youth group camping, family picnicking, hiking and equestrian trails

Huddart Park – youth group camping (capacity 150), daycamp (300), family and group picnicking (1275), hiking and equestrian trails

Wunderlich Park - hiking and equestrian trails

#### South County

Memorial Park – family camping, youth group camping (capacity 50), family and group picnicking, hiking trails

Pescadero Creek – multi-use trails

Sam McDonald – youth group camping (capacity 150), horse camp (58), hiking and equestrian trails

### **Mid-Peninsula Regional OSD**

El Corte de Madera Creek OSP – 36 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, limited parking

La Honda Creek OSP – 3.7 miles of hiking and equestrian trails (access permit required)

Pulgas Ridge OSP – 6 miles of hiking trails, wheelchair access, 21 parking spaces and restrooms

Purisma Creek Redwoods OSP – 21 miles of multi-use trails, wheelchair access, 35 parking spaces and restrooms

Teague Hill OSP – 0.8 miles of hiking and equestrian trails

Thornewood OSP – 0.6 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, 12 parking spaces

Windy Hill OSP – 12.2 miles of multi-use trails, wheelchair access, ample parking, restrooms

## **ANALYSIS & GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GGNRA LANDS**

### Park Sites

- Connection to communities
- Adequate parking
- Picnic areas
- Overnight accommodations - including developed camp sites and a network of urban hiking huts with resources for a variety of environmental education purposes, while showcasing sustainable living concepts and practices
- Rancho Corral de Tierra can serve to better distribute equestrian riding and camping opportunities since most of the access and longer distance trails seem to be in the southern portion of the county

### Trails

- Multi-use trails, as well as single user trails to avoid conflict and improve visitor experience/solitude
- Connections to local and regional trail systems (including across or around the watershed)
- Safe street crossings
- Long-distance equestrian and mountain biking
- Amenities such as benches and interpretive signs; scenic overlooks and wildlife viewing areas

### Management

- Collaborate with State Parks, County Parks, MPOSD, and POST on coordinating resource stewardship activities/events