



San Mateo County Parks & Recreation Foundation

Benefiting County Parks

Issue 2 No. 5

Winter 2002



The undeveloped coastal bluffs, with open grasslands and scattered stands of coyote brush, provide good bird habitat and extraordinary views.

Foundation joins effort to purchase Mirada Surf

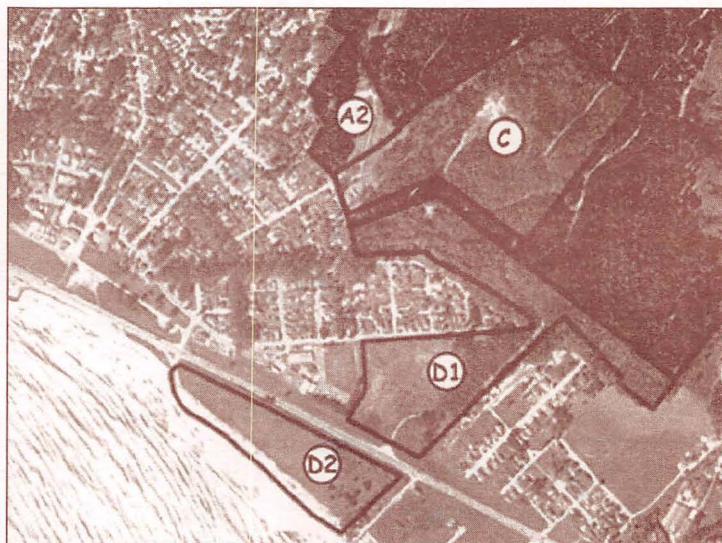
In mid January, the County of San Mateo authorized half the required funds, approximately 3 million dollars, towards the purchase of a key piece of undeveloped coastal property, known as Mirada Surf. The site has been identified for open space and public recreation on the General Plan maps for over 20 years.

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation has accepted the challenge of raising the remaining 3 million dollars by Dec 2002 for this acquisition. Though much of the funding is expected to come from founda-

tions or state agencies, this long held community vision will only be realized with generous contributions from the community.

The 49-acre parcel, located at the south end of El Granada, lies on both sides of Highway 1. The mixed terrain supports numerous habitats, including coastal bluff, a creek with healthy native willows, seasonal wetlands, grasslands, and forested hillsides.

Nestled between the northern boundary of Half Moon Bay and the southern edge of El Granada, this property is a natural greenbelt. The bluff, just south of

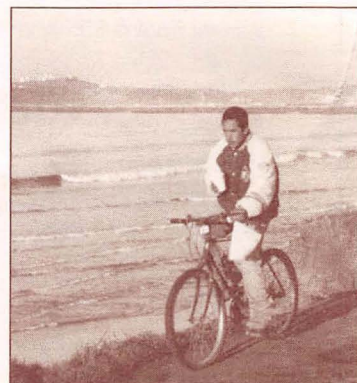


The natural greenbelt from ocean to hills is shown in this aerial view. Parcels D1 and D2 make up Mirada Surf. Quarry Park is parcel C.

Surfers' Beach, is the only undeveloped coastal bluff in the area. The curve of the shoreline in this area provides expansive views of the harbor to the north and beaches to the south. The bowl shaped terrain of the eastern portion of the property provides hillside views from both north and south bound Highway 1, the coastal bluffs and beach.

Coastal Trail advocates are ecstatic about the proposed purchase. Once funding is secured, planning can begin to complete this segment of the trail, the missing link between Pillar Point harbor and the City of Half Moon Bay.

The property also provides other opportunities for improved access and recreation. A section of a proposed regional trail, the Mid-Coast Foothill Trail, and the proposed 2.3-mile Scarper View Trail would be located on this property. The Scarper View Trail could provide access and linkage with Quarry Park, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and future Golden Gate Natural Recreation Area lands.



An early morning rider commutes on the unimproved bike path.



Until the coastal path is completed, joggers also get to do a bit of rock climbing. This is much more dangerous at high tide or with young children.

Benefits of the Mirada Surf purchase

- establish a permanent greenbelt
- preserve coastal and hillside views from Highway 1
- protect sensitive wetlands and arroyo willows
- public ownership of proposed regional trail segments
- linkage to Quarry Park and other public lands
- opportunities to improve safety and parking for coastal access

(continued on next page)

Your donations support

- Volunteer recruitment
- Volunteer recognition
- Special tools and equipment
- Unique training opportunities
- Interpretive materials
- New play equipment
- Environmental Education
- Habitat protection
- Restoration planning for Sanchez Adobe Historical Site

San Mateo County Parks

Coyote Point Recreation Area

Crystal Springs Trails
Sawyer Camp Trail

Edgewood Park & Preserve

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
Pillar Point Marsh

Flood Park

Junipero Serra Park

Huddart Park

Pescadero Creek Park

Memorial Park

Heritage Grove

Sam McDonald Park

San Bruno Mountain Park

Sanchez Adobe

San Pedro Valley Park

Woodside Store

Wunderlich Park

Contact information

San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation

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650/321-5813 fax

info@supportparks.org
www.supportparks.org



Putting your donations to work

Thanks to the generous donations of our members, over 800 people now, and grants from businesses and foundations, the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation has been able to support a variety of programs and projects in the San Mateo County Parks. Here are a few ways that your money is being spent.

Vegetation Assessment and Management Plan

Over the past year, volunteers, rangers and consultants have been working on an effort, funded by the Foundation, to inventory and map vegetation communities and habitats. The project also included starting a database to record the health and conditions in these habitats. Drafts of these projects are currently under review. Look for the information to be posted on the county's web site www.sanmateocountyparks.com later this spring.

As this phase of the project ends, the Foundation is seeking funds for the next phase of the Vegetation Management Plan. This phase will develop applicable Best Management Practices, a ranking system for project management and identify potential pilot projects, collaborative efforts and community involve-

ment opportunities to preserve and restore the parks' many habitats.

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve Interpretive Center

The Acorn Group and Ron Yeo, FAIA Architects, Inc, firms with extensive experience in interpretive activities and design, have been hired to lead the community planning and design process for the proposed interpretive center. Over the next year, working with a local steering committee, they will seek input through surveying park users and facilitating design workshops. This input will guide development of a conceptual plan addressing parking, circulation, trails, building footprint, outdoor improvements and interpretive concepts for the proposed center.

Environmental Education

Thanks to the generous support from the San Francisco Foundation, we are starting a project to bring the County Parks to the schools. Over the next year, teacher's guides and resource kits using the County Parks as a theme will be developed and tested. If you are a



Not all schools have the luxury of a field trip to the County Parks. Our environmental education effort will bring the County Parks to the classroom.

teacher, or know of a teacher, interested in helping with this effort, please let us know.

Sanchez Adobe Historical Site

Recent contributions from the Foundation will be used to update the Master Plan for the Sanchez Adobe Historic Site and for a new roof and seismic upgrades on the adobe building, which is over 150 years old. The goal of the master plan update is to improve the experience for the over 4000 students visit that visit the site every year.

For More Information

For more information about any of these efforts, please contact Julia Bott, Foundation Executive Director, at 650-321-5812 or Julia@SupportParks.org.

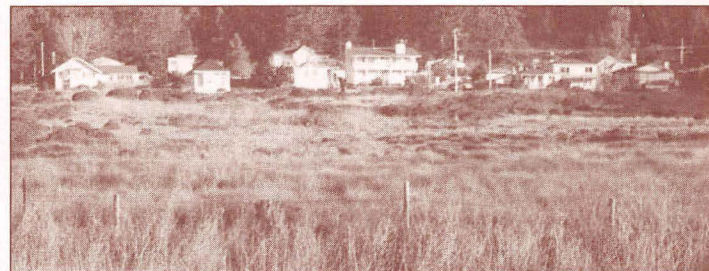
Mirada Surf

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This purchase also means permanent protection of the site's seasonal wetlands, the healthy arroyo willow plant community found along the creek, and its value as a wildlife corridor.

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation was established 1998 to secure additional private funding for the County Parks. The Foundation's focus is, and will remain, improvements that enhance the visitors' experience or preserve the native habitats in the parks.

The Foundation's Board of



The purchase protects the seasonal wetlands east of Highway 1.

Directors strongly believes that the tremendous benefits of this purchase from the preservation of open space, views and sensitive resources to the enhanced access opportunities are worth the effort and expense. "We are a partner with the County and

are pleased to work with them on this historic opportunity," said Bruce Wright, board chairman.

To help, please make a check out to San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation and write Mirada Surf in the memo. Send to 215 Bay Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Vote yes on Prop 40.

Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002, will provide \$1.275 billion for land conservation and \$1.325 billion dedicated to California's State and local parks, recreation, and historic and cultural resources.

On Tuesday March 5, your yes vote on the proposition 40 bond act will support providing essential funds to help preserve California's ecosystems and habitats, and improve already-protected natural areas that are accessible to the public.

For more information on prop 40, go to www.voteyeson40.org.

**Mark your Calendar
for the Tour de Peninsula—
Sunday August 4.
The SF Chronicle Tour de
Peninsula is Sunday August 4.
Mark your calendar now so you can
join us a rider or a volunteer.**

Thank you to our generous supporters!

The following contributed between October 1, 2001 and January 31, 2002

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Thank you to Mike Mohrman of Rudolph and Sletten Construction for his workshop with the rangers on estimating and bidding projects.

Every effort was made to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. The Foundation regrets any errors or omissions. Please contact us so we may make the proper correction.

The following contributions to honor or remember someone special were made since October 1, 2001

In memory of Edna Hey, mother of Bruce J. Wright by Vito & Celia Cavallini, Cavallini Construction
In memory of Charles Bruno Squellati, father of Peter Squellati by Judy Curran
In honor of Linda & Sidney Liebes by Paul Resnick & Joan Karlin
In memory of Charlotte Thurston, mother of Lottie Kendall by Jay T. & Jean Rusmore
In honor of Is Menadier by Martha & John Zielinski

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Our commitment

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation is committed to providing funding to improve the quality of County Parks for our community.

Help support the County Parks by joining the Human Race!

Come join the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation—along with over 60 other non-profit organizations—for a fun, family-oriented special event.

The Human Race is a statewide community fundraising event coordinated by local Volunteer Centers to benefit non-profit organizations. Our local event—a 5K and 10K race and walk—will be held at Coyote Point County Park on

Saturday May 11.

Last year, the local event raised over \$125,000 to support community organizations. The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation collected over \$2,000 and we are hoping that—with your help—we can do even better this year.

Run or walk to benefit the County Parks. Sign up for the event and get pledges from your family, friends, colleagues, and, of course, your-



self. Any participant with more than \$20.00 in pledges will receive a Human Race T-shirt and a Parks Foundation sports cap!

For more information, please call Julia Bott or Kathi Minden at 650-321-5812 or email us at office@SupportParks.org.

Your donations are greatly appreciated

Please send your tax-deductible donations to:

**San Mateo County Parks
and Recreation Foundation**
215 Bay Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025

For more information, please contact

Julia Bott, Executive Director at 650-321-5812.

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Please contact us for details.

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