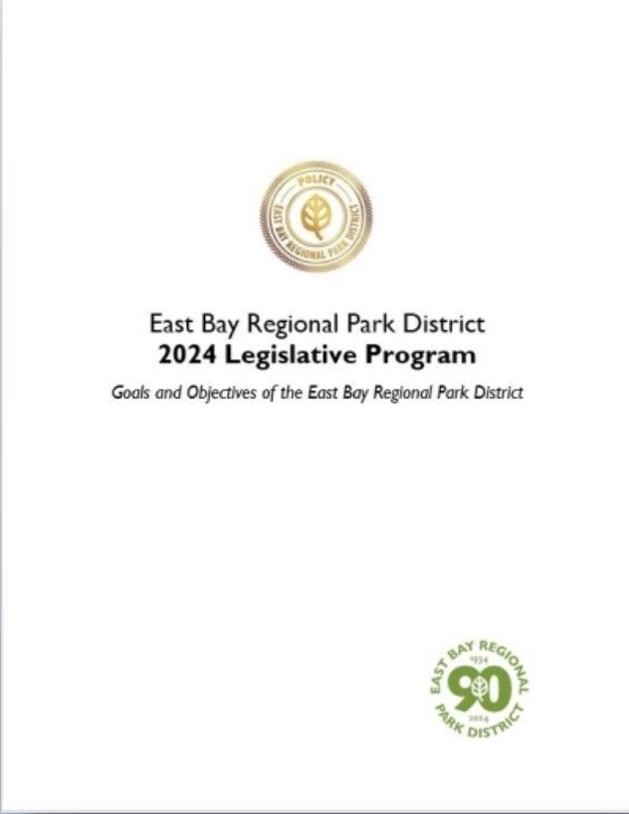


# East Bay Regional Park District 2024 **Legislative Program**

East Bay Regional Park District  
March 2024



# Review of Advocacy Goals



<b>Climate - Friendly Transportation</b>	To expand accessible active and public transportation to and within East Bay parks and trails.
<b>Community Health</b>	To ensure equitable access to parks so all East Bay communities can enjoy the physical and psychological benefits of nature.
<b>Ecosystem Stewardship</b>	To support ecosystem health through restoration, acquisition and habitat enhancement, and improved efficiencies in regulatory approvals.
<b>Green Jobs</b>	To guide the development of career pathways for all in the parks, recreation, outdoor and environmental fields.
<b>Sea Level Rise Preparedness</b>	To address sea level rise with nature-based infrastructure and initiate mitigation strategies regarding climate change.
<b>Welcoming Visitor Use Facilities</b>	To be sure all visitors are welcomed to the East Bay parks and trails by providing facilities which are safe, accessible, inclusive and sustainable.
<b>Wildfire Resilience</b>	To minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the East Bay by using proactive vegetation management which is ecologically sound.

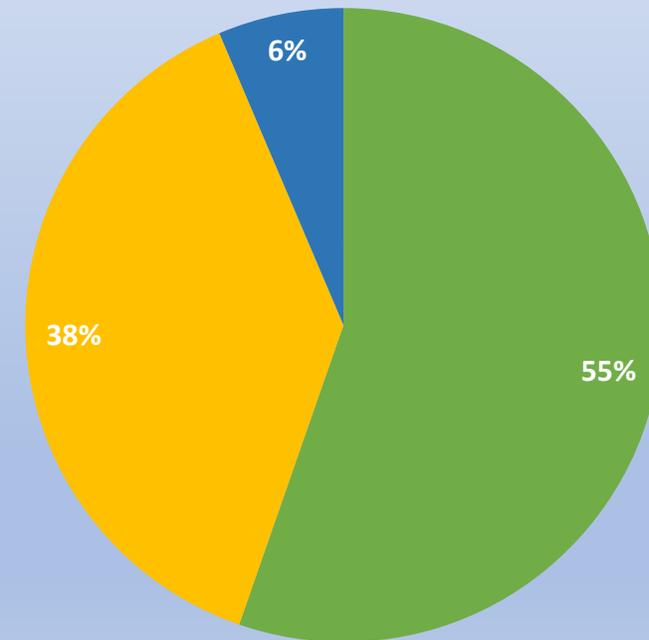
# 2023 Legislative Program

## Highlights

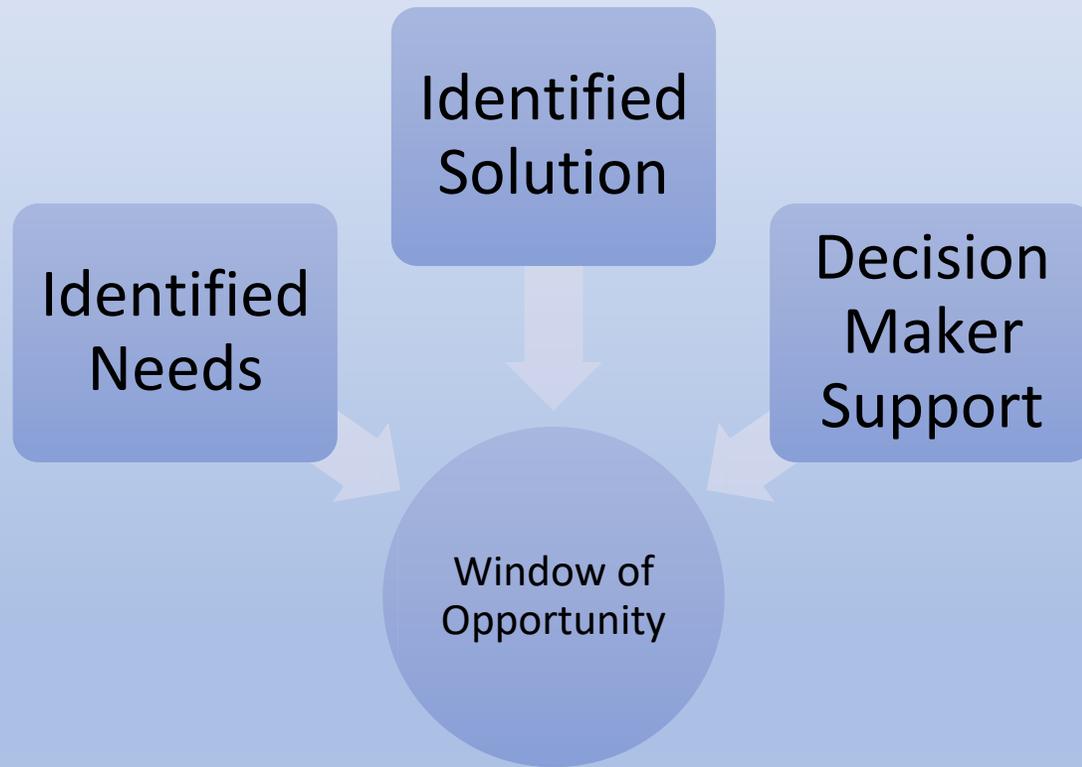
- Advanced **\$5.5 million** in direct state funding to expand access to East Bay parks
- Introduced **legislative language** to clean up and transfer Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline into the House Appropriations Bill and Senate Defense Authorization Bill
- Successfully hosted **10** external events engaging **nine** elected officials and **37** elected office staff from **nine** Federal offices, **18** state offices and **five** local/regional offices

## 2023 Objectives Status

■ Successful ■ Opportunity to Continue ■ No Longer Feasible



# Methodology for Proposed 2024 Objectives



## Foundation for Objectives

- Elected Official Priority
- External Agency Initiative
- Board Member Priority
- General Manager Priority
- Continuation of 2023 Objective

# *Climate-Friendly Transportation – 2024 Objectives*

- **Local:** Participate in regional discussions regarding a potential “mega-measure” for transportation and advocate for expanded active transportation and maintenance funding, as well as partnership grants with public transportation agencies to expand access to open space
- **State:** Request direct state funding for Richmond Bay Trail Gap Closure of \$7 million
- **Federal:** Host the Federal Highway Administration for a site-visit to exchange knowledge regarding the Park District’s regional trails and Federal funding opportunities, including RAISE, with specific attention aimed at filling the gaps to expand regional trail access

**Survey Identified Support:**  
In a February 2023 survey, 79% of respondents agreed in the importance of maintaining existing regional trails, including the Bay Trail and Iron Horse Trail

**2023 Legislative Program Success:**  
Through the Federal Community Project Funding Program, Representative Garamendi championed through Congressional committees \$900,000 to advance the Martinez Bay Trail Project

**Climate-Friendly Transportation:** To expand accessible active and public transportation to and within East Bay parks and trails.



# *Community Health – 2024 Objectives*

- **Local:** Host six Walk and Talk events with local, state and Federal elected officials in East Bay parks to expand access to parks and elevate the role they play in improving the community's mental, physical and psychological health
- **State:** In alignment with the state's Outdoors for All goals, advance legislation for a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statutory exemption for existing roads and trails on land acquired by the Park District to allow for expanded public access to parks
- **Federal:** Engage with the LWCF Coalition to determine steps for expanding funding and eligibility for the grant program funds

### **Survey Identified Support:**

In a February 2023 survey, 71% of respondents agreed in the importance of ensuring equitable access to parks and trails so all East Bay communities can enjoy the physical and psychological benefits of nature

### **2023 Legislative Program Success:**

Successfully hosted four Walk and Talks across the East Bay region

**Community Health:** To ensure equitable access to parks so all East Bay communities can enjoy the physical and psychological benefits of nature.



# ***Ecosystem Stewardship – 2024 Objectives***

- **Local:** Organize two volunteer days with elected offices to support hands-on experiences for elected officials and the public to learn about ecologically sensitive vegetation management through planting projects
- **State:** In alignment with the state’s Pathways to 30x30 goals, advance legislation to extend the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) in Section 21080.56 of the Public Resources Code to remove the 2025 sunset, while also expanding language to support opportunities for access and maintenance
- **Federal:** Explore opportunities to improve the permit and grant processes of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster recovery program for FEMA resilience zones aimed at better supporting project advancement and limiting habitat impact

### **Survey Identified Support:**

In a February 2023 survey, 65% of respondents agreed in the importance of supporting ecosystem health through restoration, acquisition, and habitat enhancement, and to improve efficiencies in regulatory approvals for stewardship projects

### **2023 Legislative Program Success:**

Through the state budget process, successfully secured \$500,000 in direct funding for creek restoration and expanded trail access at Wildcat Creek in Tilden Regional Park



**Ecosystem Stewardship:** To support ecosystem health through restoration, acquisition and habitat enhancement, and improved efficiencies in regulatory approvals.

# *Green Jobs – 2024 Objectives*

- **Local:** Elevate visibility and need for support of local partnerships focused on workforce development. This includes local college programs and work with Civicorps, and sharing these successful partnerships and opportunities with local, state and Federal elected officials as a foundation for future funding requests and workforce development programs
- **State:** Advocate for \$2 million in the state budget for preliminary plans of a California Conservation Corps facility at Holly Court / Bollinger Canyon in Las Trampas Regional Preserve
- **Federal:** Support legislation to expand National Service Programs, including climate corps, to include training and funding for restoration work and nature-based solutions with special district partnerships

### **Survey Identified Support:**

In a February 2023 survey, 56% of respondents agreed in the importance of guiding the development of career pathways for all in the parks, recreation, outdoor and environmental fields

### **2023 Legislative Program Success:**

Engaged full delegation on the importance of an East Bay Conservation Corps facility during the 2023 State Advocacy Conference and through follow-up discussions

**Green Jobs:** To guide the development of career pathways for all in the parks, recreation, outdoor and environmental fields.



# *Sea Level Rise Preparedness – 2024 Objectives*

- **Local:** Through collaborative work with local agencies, businesses, cities and counties, advocate at a state level for additional funding for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority and State Coastal Conservancy grant programs, as well as additional funding through budget and bond opportunities with specific focus on natural infrastructure investments
- **State:** Request direct state funding for Tidewater in Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline of \$5 million
- **Federal:** Engage on Federal bill packages and with agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, regarding items related to nature-based infrastructure, climate preparedness and other relevant issue areas to ensure special districts and park districts are eligible

### **Survey Identified Support:**

In a February 2023 survey, 64% of respondents agreed in the importance of addressing sea level rise with nature-based infrastructure and to accelerate mitigation strategies regarding climate change

### **2023 Legislative Program Success:**

Hosted seven elected officials and 23 elected office staff at Hayward Regional Shoreline to discuss the impact of sea level rise on ecosystems and park access



**Sea Level Rise Preparedness:** To address sea level rise with nature-based infrastructure and initiate mitigation strategies regarding climate change.

# *Welcoming Visitor Use Facilities – 2024 Objectives*

- **Local:** Coordinate a regional site visit at Tidewater to generate support for future park development and access
- **State:** Resubmit request for direct state funding of \$2 million for the Oyster Bay Access Project at Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline
- **Federal:** Advocate for language in Federal legislation directing the relevant entities to advance clean-up and transfer of future parkland at Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline

### **Survey Identified Support:**

In a February 2023 survey, 74% of respondents agreed in the importance of ensuring all visitors are welcomed to the East Bay parks and trails by providing facilities which are safe, accessible, inclusive, and sustainable

### **2023 Legislative Program Success:**

Following her commitment to champion funding to expand access to the shoreline park, Assembly Member Ortega visited Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline and advanced a budget request letter through the Legislature for \$7 million



**Welcoming Visitor Use Facilities:** To be sure all visitors are welcomed to the East Bay parks and trails by providing facilities which are safe, accessible, inclusive and sustainable.

# *Wildfire Resilience – 2024 Objectives*

- **Local:** Through collaboration, work to improve the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) implementation process
- **State:** Advocate for expanded and on-going funding at meaningful levels for CAL FIRE Fire Prevention, State Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board grant programs which support wildfire mitigation and restoration work. This objective includes strategic engagement opportunities, such as a coordinated site-visit of the carbonator in Anthony Chabot Regional Park
- **Federal:** Expand opportunities for grassland wildfire mitigation through engaging with elected offices, providing opportunities to learn more about conservation grazing and seek the introduction of Federal legislation

### **Survey Identified Support:**

In a February 2023 survey, 79% of respondents agreed in the importance of minimizing the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the East Bay by using proactive vegetation management which is ecologically sound

### **2023 Legislative Program Success:**

Representative Swalwell championed in Congress a \$1.5 million direct funding request through the Community Project Funding Program for FEMA BRIC to address wildfire mitigation in Anthony Chabot Regional Park

**Wildfire Resilience:** To minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the East Bay by using proactive vegetation management which is ecologically sound.



# East Bay Regional Park District 2024 **Legislative Program**

East Bay Regional Park District  
March 2024

