



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

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<b>DATE</b>	October 15, 2024
<b>TITLE</b>	Land Stewardship: Restoring Biodiversity in the Parks and Lifting Visitor Experience: District-wide
<b>DIVISION</b>	Acquisition, Stewardship, and Development
<b>FROM</b>	Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship Ken Wysocki, Assistant General Manager of Acquisition, Stewardship & Development
<b>APPROVED</b>	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

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**RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.

**BACKGROUND**

The Stewardship Department implements programs and projects to heal parklands from damage associated with legacy land use, including early uses that date back to the time of European colonization of the East Bay. Loss of historic habitats is widespread throughout the East Bay Regional Park District and ecosystems need our intervention to move them toward recovery.

Restoration activities undertaken by Stewardship staff protect and enhance the biodiversity of plants, wildlife, and insects and aim to restore ecological processes that are broken or impaired. Projects include planting native plants, controlling invasive plants, implementing conservation grazing strategies that reduce cattle impacts to waterways or enhance rare plant habitat, creating native habitats in areas where fuels reduction has occurred, and restoring ponds that support a diversity of rare, endangered and common amphibians and reptiles. Projects range from small-scale volunteer-based projects to large-scale eucalyptus removal and oak and grassland habitat restoration.

These projects are not only important for ecosystems, but they improve parkland aesthetics and visitor experience. Park visitors enjoy landscapes that are not choked with weeds and devoid of native wildlife but instead places to view native wildflowers, birds, and other wildlife of the region. The existence of these resources requires deliberate management and investment in the land to thrive.

Stewardship Wildland Vegetation Program Manager Dina Robertson, along with Ecologist Rose Samuelson will present to the Board a summary of projects and initiatives under the Stewardship habitat restoration program.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.

