




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

DATE	Friday, March 1, 2024
TITLE	Trail Maintenance & Operations Overview
DIVISION	Operations
FROM	Lisa Goorjian, Assistant General Manager of Operations Ken Wysocki, Assistant General Manager of ASD
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

BACKGROUND
Trail Maintenance

Trail maintenance includes cyclical and routine attention to trail corridors and trail surfaces to ensure continued and safe access, to prevent destruction or failure of trails or trail structures, and to maintain proper hillside hydrology that benefits the local ecosystem. This includes clearing and brushing of vegetation, trail tread re-grading, drainage feature clearing and re-establishment, construction of structures to remedy erosion or failure issues, and potential rerouting of trail alignments due to natural or human caused damage. The Park District traditionally relies on the use of mechanized equipment to grade its roughly 200 miles of single-track trails. Park District staff may perform trail maintenance by-hand or machine, as opportunities arise. The Park District continues to hire conservation crews such as the East Bay Civicorps, American Conservation Experience, or the California Conservation Corps to assist with trail maintenance on a yearly basis. The Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program provides a conduit for families, community groups, and companies to volunteer via a handful of events throughout the year. The Park District has recently created permanent positions for a five-person trail crew and is in the process of staffing that crew to mainly perform yearly maintenance tasks district-wide.

SUMMARY

The Maintenance and Skilled Trades Department (MAST) is responsible for the maintenance and renovation of the Park District's roughly 1,330 miles of paved and unpaved roads & trails within the Park District. MAST takes on trails related projects such as brushing and clearing, grading, water crossing repair and maintenance, retaining wall construction, culvert repair/installation, pond restoration, sand moving, and pavement rehab/maintenance. Twenty-four full-time employees in Roads & Trails, Small Trails, and our Project Manager/Project Coordinator work diligently to maintain the most used asset, our trails.

Our crews consist of a Roads and Trails Supervisor, Small Trails Supervisor, Heavy Equipment Operators, Park Craft Specialists, Park Rangers, Small Trails Crew Leaders, an AWP Supervisor, a Project Manager, and a Project Coordinator. These skilled employees coordinate and carry out our annual maintenance work with multiple Divisions within the District. Partnering with Stewardship to ensure compliance, Planning, Trails, and GIS to ensure proper access, Public Safety to ensure the annual maintenance of our Emergency Vehicle Access roads (EVA), and Park Operations to ensure health, life/safety, and operational impacts are addressed.

Our fully staffed Small Trails Crew has taken on the challenge of maintaining our narrow natural surface trails and infrastructure. From brushing and clearing, trail tread repairs, and drainage improvements to construction of small footbridges or retaining structures, the small trails crew ensures safe passage within this high demand network.

The main challenge faced by the Park District is the vast amount of maintenance work due to the use and weather impacts on our trail assets. As a result of this high usage, it is imperative to determine maintenance prioritization and maintenance standard protocols for our narrow natural surface trail network. Prioritization helps us determine what trails/roads to focus on to ensure access for safety personnel, operations staff, and visitors. Standardization allows us to communicate what to expect when visiting parks and will dictate training criteria and help maintenance staff develop its annual work plan.

In addition, our paving program has a high volume of paving projects because of its obligation to maintain the over 43.89 centerline miles of service road, 143.52 miles of paved trails, and 4,487,107 square feet of parking lots in its 73 parks and additional land bank properties. The Park District has successfully preserved its extensive pavement network through a combination of best management practices, the utilization of StreetSaver pavement management software to analyze pavement conditions and inform pavement maintenance plans, and the utilization of pavement contractors to manage the large volume of work.