



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

*Goals and Objectives of the East Bay Regional Park District*

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## **Legislative Program Summary**

The East Bay Regional Park District works on a local, state and Federal level to support the agency's projects, programs and communities.

The team strives to align funding and policy advocacy with identified project and program needs and priorities. Guided by the East Bay Regional Park District's (Park District) mission, elected Board of Directors and General Manager, the General Manager's Office's Government and Legislative Affairs team engages on and advocates for relevant local, state and Federal funding and policies. They maintain strategic relationships with elected offices and external agency partners through regular meetings, site visits and events. The team leads analytical research and survey projects in support of agency's advocacy goals.

Governed by the Board Legislative Committee, the Legislative Program includes multi-year goals and annual objectives. The goals identified enable the Park District to act nimbly in response to new opportunities as they arise at the local, state and Federal level. In compliment, the objectives identified at the local, state and Federal level support pro-active engagement with elected officials and agency leadership to advance priorities of the Park District's Board of Directors and General Manager. The Government and Legislative Affairs team's scope of responsibility includes eight Federal legislative offices, 12 State legislative offices, 10 County Supervisor offices and 33 cities with 180 council members. In compliment, the team supports the East Bay Regional Park District's Park Advisory Committee, a 21-member commission organized to provide community perspectives and advice to the Park District's Board of Directors and staff on the issues, projects and policies of the Park District

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## History of Government and Legislative Affairs

The unique nature of the East Bay Regional Park District began in 1934 when, in the midst of the Depression, voters imposed a tax of 5¢ for every \$100 of property owned to fund the creation of a Public Resources Code 5500 Special Park District in the East Bay. In advance of this vote, a survey was commissioned by the landscape architecture firm Olmsted Brothers and Ansel F. Hall which highlighted the need to preserve East Bay lands as parks. Women's groups in the 1930's notably advocated to turn out the vote through lunches with elected officials. In 1936, the Park District started with three parks spanning 2,166 acres. All three parks were located in Alameda County. From 1934 - 1939 the Park District benefitted from work by Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration crews, whose skilled labor can still be found in District infrastructure today. The Park District's growth would not be possible without the public support it relies on for funding. Currently, 87% of the Park District's funding base comes from property tax, while the remainder comes from robust state and Federal grants, as well as local parcel tax and bond measures.

The increasingly urbanized East Bay community continues to support the Park District as it consistently delivers on services and projects benefitting the public. In 1988, over two thirds of voters in Alameda and Contra Costa counties voted to pass Measure AA which provided \$225 million in bond funding for the Park District and local parks. This was the first bond measure for the acquisition and preservation of thousands of acres of land. In 2008, 72% of East Bay voters chose to extend the bond measure by passing Measure WW, providing \$500 million in bonding authority. Measure WW included \$125 million for a local grant program which benefitted municipal park departments and unincorporated areas of both counties during the 2007-2009 recession and beyond. Also, voters in the northwestern area of the Park District supported a parcel tax to fund, maintain and enhance services, including providing for additional staff, by voting for Measure CC in 2004. This tax was extended in 2018 with an 85.6% vote for Measure FF.

The Park District's mission to preserve a rich heritage of natural and cultural resources, and to provide open space, parks, safe trails, essential healthy activity and environmental education is meaningful to the growing and diverse communities of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Increasing opportunities to provide welcoming visitor use facilities is a primary goal of the Park District's advocacy. To ensure this, the Park District has employed surveys since 1976 to understand the community's needs and interests. The first survey identified a 94% user satisfaction rate by visitors. In compliment, a 2022 scientific survey of East Bay residents confirmed 94% of respondents agree East Bay parks are important for their community, 93% agreed they are a valuable public resource and 85% agreed they hold a sense of ownership of these parks agreeing they are theirs to care for and enjoy.

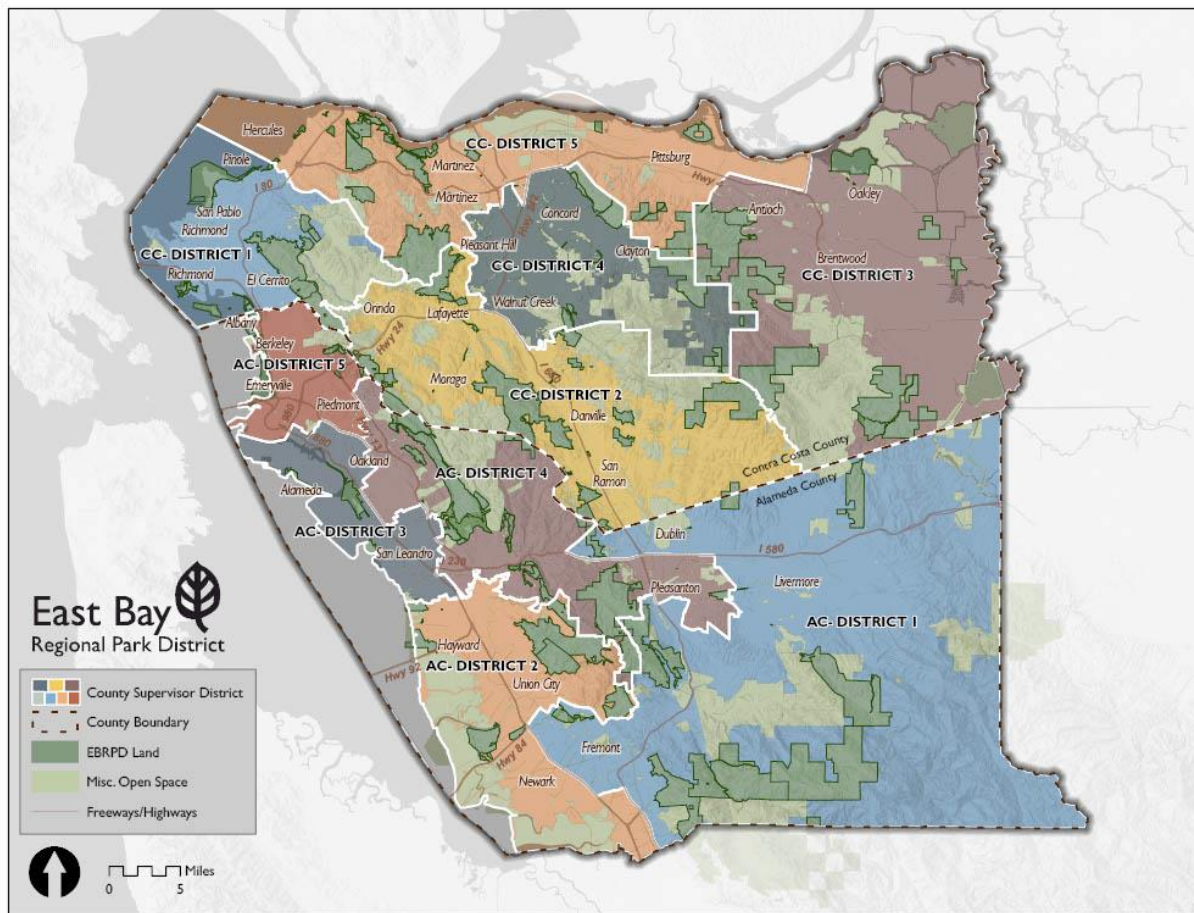
The Park District is governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors who each serve four - year terms. Each Director represents a specific geographic area of the Park District known as a Ward. Currently, Wards consist of approximately 400,000 individuals, roughly the same size as a state Assembly district. Directors must be a resident of their Ward to serve on the Board. The Board appoints a General Manager, who is responsible for leading the Park District. The tenth General Manager, Sabrina Landreth, was appointed in March 2021.

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## East Bay Elected Delegation and Maps

The Government and Legislative Affairs team's scope of responsibility includes eight Federal legislative offices, 12 State legislative offices, 10 County Supervisor offices and 33 cities with 180 council members.

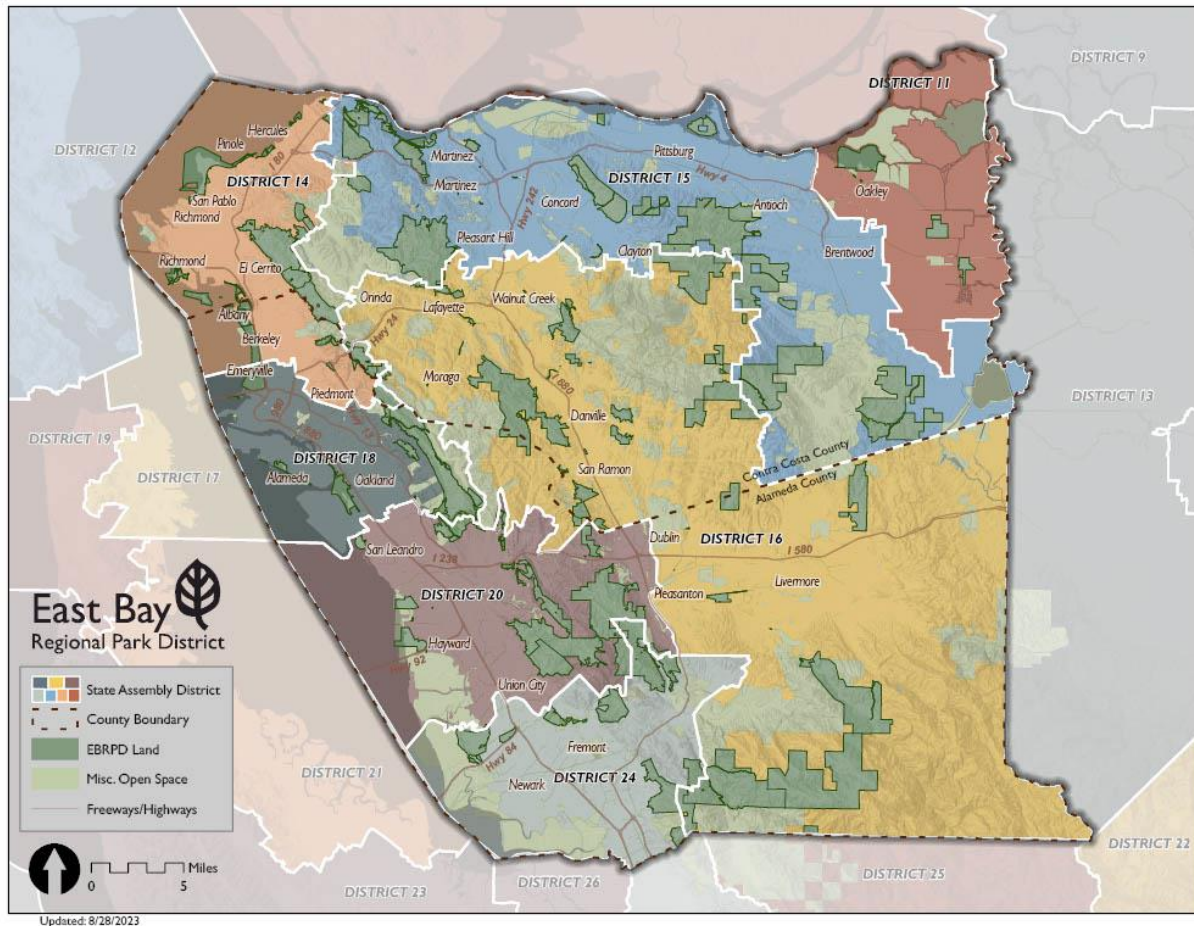
### East Bay County Supervisor District Map



### County Supervisors:

- Contra Costa County District 1 – John M. Gioia
- Contra Costa County District 2 – Candace Anderson
- Contra Costa County District 3 – Diane Burgis
- Contra Costa County District 4 – Ken Carlson
- Contra Costa County District 5 – Federal D. Glover
- Alameda County District 1 – David Haubert
- Alameda County District 2 – Elisa Márquez
- Alameda County District 3 – Lena Tam
- Alameda County District 4 – Nate Miley
- Alameda County District 5 – Keith Carson

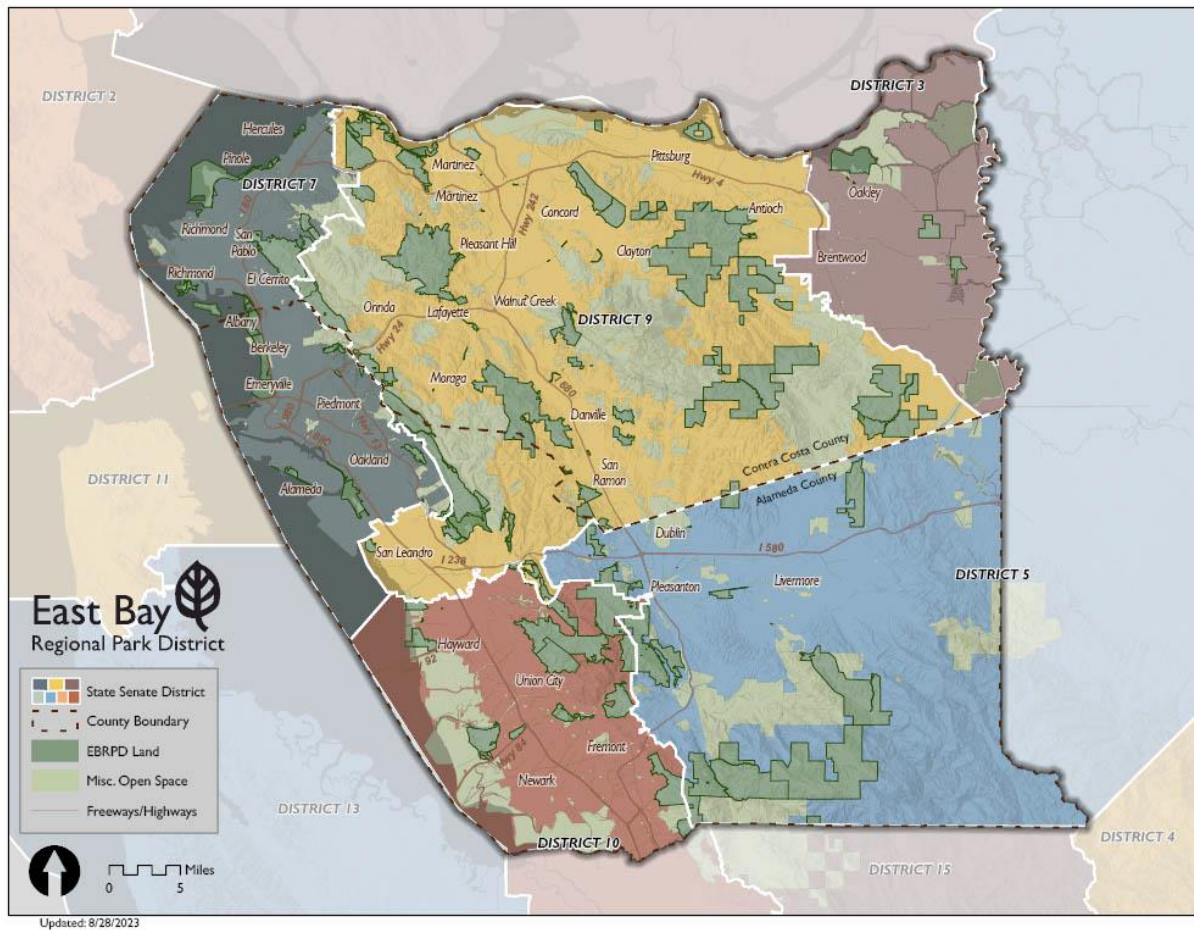
## East Bay State Assembly District Map



### **State Delegation - Assembly:**

- Assembly District 11 – Lori Wilson
- Assembly District 14 – Buffy Wicks
- Assembly District 15 – Tim Grayson
- Assembly District 16 – Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
- Assembly District 18 – Mia Bonta
- Assembly District 20 – Liz Ortega
- Assembly District 24 – Alex Lee

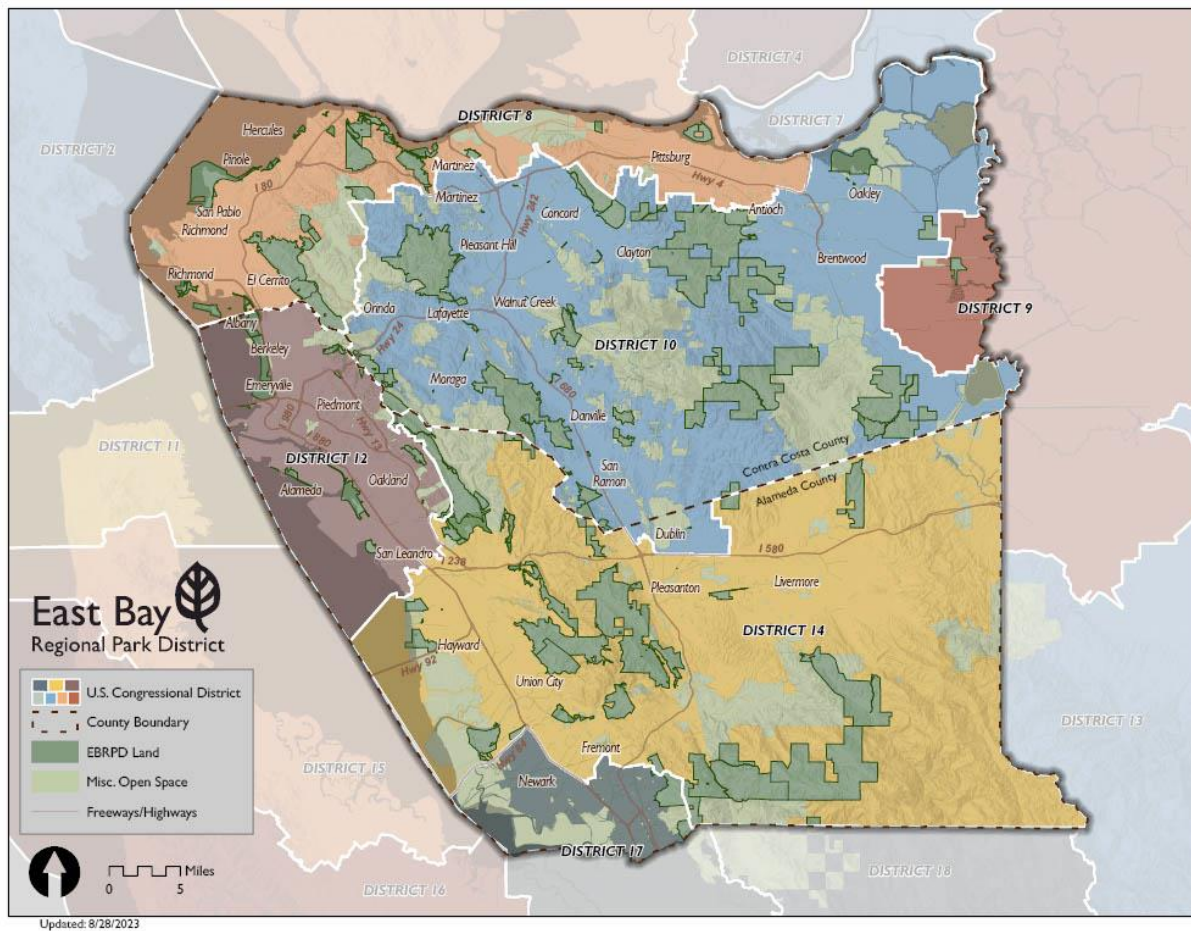
## East Bay State Senate District Map



### **State Delegation – Senate:**

- Senate District 3 – Bill Dodd
- Senate District 7 – Nancy Skinner
- Senate District 9 – Steve Glazer
- Senate District 10 – Aisha Wahab
- Senate District 15 – Due to redistricting, District 15 will join the East Bay delegation in 2025

## East Bay Federal Congressional District Map



### **Federal Delegation:**

- Senator Alex Padilla
- Senator Laphonza Butler
- Congressional District 8 – John Garamendi
- Congressional District 9 – Josh Harder
- Congressional District 10 – Mark DeSaulnier
- Congressional District 12 – Barbara Lee
- Congressional District 14 – Eric Swalwell
- Congressional District 17 – Ro Khanna

## 2024 Legislative Program – Advocacy Goals

Overarching principles of the Legislative Program include equitable service delivery, advancing climate resiliency adaptation and mitigation, guiding work with an environmental ethic, supporting inclusive interpretation and educational opportunities, increasing conservation through land acquisition, and ensuring the fiscal health of the Park District. To support the team in acting nimbly in response to new opportunities as they arise at the local, state and Federal level, specific goals include:

<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.

*The above goals are expanded on the following pages.*

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# Advocacy Goal: Climate - Friendly Transportation

*Active Transportation and Access to Parks*

**Key Advocacy Goal**    *To expand accessible active and public transportation to and within East Bay parks and trails.*

## **Nexus to Mission/Vision:**

- Improve access to and use of the parks by members of groups that are underrepresented, such as persons with disabilities, the economically disadvantaged and elderly park visitors
- Provide recreational development that fosters appropriate use of parklands while preserving their remoteness and intrinsic value
- Balance environmental concerns and outdoor recreational opportunities within regional parklands

## **2024 Legislative Program 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 Point Wilson – Bay Trail 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 Voter/Community 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
- In this same survey, 56% agreed accessible public transportation should be provided to East Bay parks and trails

**Cross - Divisional Partners:** Design and Construction Department, Grants Department, Operations Division, Planning Trails and GIS Department, Public Safety Division and Land Department

## **Identified Funding and Policy Programs:**

### **Regional**

- Active Transportation Program, – Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)/Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA)
- Measure BB (Alameda County) – Active Transportation
- Measure FF – East Bay Regional Park District
- Measure J (Contra Costa County) – Active Transportation
- Measure WW – East Bay Regional Park District

### **State**

- Active Transportation Program – California Transportation Commission
- Recreational Trails Program – California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Urban Greening – California Natural Resources Agency

### **Federal**

- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) – U.S. Department of Transportation

**Strategic Partners:**

Local

- AC Transit
- Alameda County Transportation Commission
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Bay Area Rapid Transit
- Bay Area Trails Collaborative
- Bike East Bay
- Contra Costa Transportation Authority
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission

State

- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Department of Transportation, CalTrans
- California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS)
- California Special District Association (CSDA)
- California League of Environmental Voters

Federal

- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- U.S. Department of Transportation

## Advocacy Goal: Community Health

*Equitable Outdoor Access for Community Health*

**Key Advocacy Goal**     *To ensure equitable access to parks so all East Bay communities can enjoy the physical and psychological benefits of nature.*

### Nexus to Mission/Vision:

- Improve access to and use of the parks by members of groups that are underrepresented, such as persons with disabilities, the economically disadvantaged and elderly park visitors
- Provide a diversified system of regional parklands, trails and related services that will offer outstanding opportunities for creative use of outdoor time
- Interpret the parklands by focusing educational programs on the visitor's relationship to nature, natural processes, ecology, the value of natural conditions and the history of the parklands

### 2024 Legislative Program 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 plan to improve 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 Voter/Community 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

**Cross - Divisional Partners:** Grants Department, Maintenance and Skilled Trades Department, Planning Trails, and GIS Department, Land Department, Equity Office, Interpretation and Recreation Department, Public Safety and the Public Affairs Division

### Funding and Policy Programs:

#### Local

- Measure FF – East Bay Regional Park District
- Regional Parks Foundation

#### State

- Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program – Wildlife Conservation Board
- Climate Ready Program – California State Coastal Conservancy
- Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program – California Department of Parks and Recreation

#### Federal

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Land and Water Conservation Fund – U.S. Department of the Interior

**Strategic Partners:**

## Local

- Alameda County Public Health Department
- Alameda Health System
- Contra Costa Health Services
- Kaiser Permanente
- TOGETHER Bay Area

## State

- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS)
- California Special District Association (CSDA)
- California State Coastal Conservancy
- California State Parks
- California Environmental Voters

## Federal

- City Parks Alliance
- National Recreation and Park Association
- U.S. Department of Interior - National Park Service

## Advocacy Goal: Ecosystem Stewardship

*Wildlife and Natural Habitat Health*

**Key Advocacy Goal** *To support ecosystem health through restoration, acquisition and habitat enhancement, and improved efficiencies in regulatory approvals.*

### Nexus to Mission/Vision:

- Provide a diversified system of regional parklands, trails and related services that will offer outstanding opportunities for creative use of outdoor time
- Acquire and preserve significant biologic, geologic, scenic and historic resources within Alameda and Contra Costa counties
- Manage, maintain and restore the parklands so that they retain their important scenic, natural and cultural values

### 2024 Legislative Program 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 to better support project advancement and limit habitat impact

### Survey Identified Voter/Community 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

**Cross - Divisional Partners:** Design and Construction Department, Grants Department, Stewardship Department, Fire Department and Land Department

### Funding and Policy Programs:

#### Local

- Measure AA – San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
- Measure FF – East Bay Regional Park District

#### State

- California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) – Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program – Wildlife Conservation Board
- Climate Ready Program – California State Coastal Conservancy
- Cutting the Green Tape – California Natural Resources Agency
- Forest Health and Fire Protection Grant Programs – CAL FIRE
- Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program – Wildlife Conservation Board
- Urban Greening – California Natural Resources Agency

#### Federal

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Land and Water Conservation Fund – U.S. Department of the Interior
- San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) – Environmental Protection Agency

#### **Strategic Partners:**

##### Local

- Alameda County Resource Conservation District
- Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District
- Golden Gate Bird Alliance
- Greenbelt Alliance
- John Muir Land Trust
- Midpeninsula Open Space District
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
- Save Mount Diablo
- TOGETHER Bay Area

##### State

- Audubon California
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Landscape Stewardship Network
- California Native Plants Society
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS)
- California Special District Association (CSDA)
- California State Lands Commission
- California Environmental Voters
- Resources Legacy Fund
- Sierra Club California
- Wildlife Conservation Board

##### Federal

- City Parks Alliance
- LWCF Coalition
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Parks Conservation Association, D.C.
- National Recreation and Park Association
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# Advocacy Goal: Green Jobs

Support for Conservation Corps and Green Jobs

**Key Advocacy Goal**    *To guide the development of career pathways for all in the parks, recreation, outdoor and environmental fields.*

## Nexus to Mission/Vision:

- Support the development and retention of well - trained, dedicated and productive employees
- Participate in partnerships with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, volunteers and the private sector to achieve mutual goals

## 2024 Legislative Program Objectives:

- Local: Elevate visibility and need for support of local partnerships focused on workforce development including local college programs and work with Civ Corps by sharing success 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 Voter/Community 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

**Cross - Divisional Partners:** Fire Department, Grants Department, Management Services Division, Operations Division and Human Resources

## Funding and Policy Programs:

Local

- Measure FF – East Bay Regional Park District

State

- California Conservation Corps – Local Conservation Corps Grant Funding
- Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program – California Department of Conservation

Federal

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- National Service Programs – AmeriCorps, Climate Corps, etc.

## Strategic Partners:

Local

- Bay Area Council
- Civ Corps
- East Bay Economic Development Alliance

- East Bay Leadership Council
- TOGETHER Bay Area

#### State

- California Conservation Corps
- California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS)
- California Special District Association (CSDA)
- California Environmental Voters

#### Federal

- City Parks Alliance
- Civilian Climate Corps – *future*
- National Recreation and Park Association

# Advocacy Goal: Sea Level Rise Preparedness

*Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation*

**Key Advocacy Goal**    *To address sea level rise with nature-based infrastructure and initiate mitigation strategies regarding climate change.*

## **Nexus to Mission/Vision:**

- Monitor the effects of climate change on District resources and utilize adaptive management techniques to adjust stewardship methods and priorities to preserve the natural, cultural and scenic values of the parks and trails

## **2024 Legislative Program 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 and 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, on items related to infrastructure, climate preparedness and other relevant issue areas to ensure special districts and park districts are eligible

## **Survey Identified Voter/Community 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

**Cross - Divisional Partners:** Design and Construction Department, Grants Department, Planning Trails and GIS Department, Land Department and Stewardship Department

## **Funding and Policy Programs:**

### **Local**

- Active Transportation Program – Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)/Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA)
- Measure AA – San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
- Measure FF – East Bay Regional Park District

### **State**

- Active Transportation Program – California Transportation Commission
- Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program – Wildlife Conservation Board
- Climate Ready Program – California State Coastal Conservancy
- Cutting the Green Tape – California Natural Resources Agency
- Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program – California Department of Parks and Recreation

### **Federal**

- Land and Water Conservation Fund – U.S. Department of the Interior

- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) – U.S. Department of Transportation
- San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) – Environmental Protection Agency

### **Strategic Partners:**

#### **Local**

- Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission Bay Adapt Program
- San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
- San Francisco Estuary Institute
- TOGETHER Bay Area

#### **State**

- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS)
- California Special District Association (CSDA)
- California State Coastal Conservancy
- California Environmental Voters
- Governor's Office of Planning and Research

#### **Federal**

- City Parks Alliance
- National Recreation and Park Association
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# Advocacy Goal: Welcoming Visitor Use Facilities

## Park Facilities and Infrastructure Improvement

**Key Advocacy Goal**    *To be sure all visitors are welcomed to the East Bay parks and trails by providing facilities which are safe, accessible, inclusive and sustainable.*

### Nexus to Mission/Vision:

- Provide a diversified system of regional parklands, trails and related services that will offer outstanding opportunities for creative use of outdoor time
- Balance environmental concerns and outdoor recreational opportunities within regional parklands
- Improve access within parks by members of groups that are underrepresented, such as persons with disabilities, the economically disadvantaged and elderly park visitors

### 2024 Legislative Program 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 for Oyster Bay Access Project at Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline of \$2 million
- 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 Voter/Community 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

**Cross - Divisional Partners:** Design and Construction Department, Grants Department, Management Services Division, Operations Division and Public Safety

### Funding and Policy Programs:

#### Local

- Measure BB (Alameda County) – Active Transportation
- Measure FF – East Bay Regional Park District
- Measure J (Contra Costa County) – Active Transportation
- Measure WW – East Bay Regional Park District

#### State

- Active Transportation Program – California Transportation Commission
- Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program – Wildlife Conservation Board
- Climate Ready Program – California State Coastal Conservancy
- Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program – California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Recreational Trails Program – California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Urban Greening – California Natural Resources Agency

#### Federal

- Land and Water Conservation Fund – U.S. Department of the Interior

- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) – U.S. Department of Transportation

**Strategic Partners:**

Local

- StopWaste

State

- California Department of Parks and Recreation – California State Parks
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS)
- California Special District Association (CSDA)
- California Environmental Voters
- California Wildlife Conservation Board
- Californians Against Waste
- CalRecycle

Federal

- City Parks Alliance
- National Recreation and Park Association
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Department of Interior - National Park Service
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# Advocacy Goal: Wildfire Resilience

*Wildfire Protection and Safe Healthy Forests*

**Key Advocacy Goal**     *To minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the East Bay by using proactive vegetation management which is ecologically sound.*

## **Nexus to Mission/Vision:**

- Guided by an environmental ethic advance ecologically sensitive vegetation management
- Support the development and retention of well - trained, dedicated and productive employees
- Participate in partnerships with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, volunteers and the private sector to achieve mutual goals

## **2024 Legislative Program 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 to support wildfire mitigation and restoration work through 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 or and amendment to the farm bill reauthorization

## **Survey Identified Voter/Community 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

**Cross - Divisional Partners:** Fire Department, Grants Department, Stewardship Department and Operations Division

## **Funding and Policy Programs:**

### Local

- Measure FF – East Bay Regional Park District

### State

- California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) – Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program – Wildlife Conservation Board
- Climate Ready Program – California State Coastal Conservancy
- Cutting the Green Tape – California Natural Resources Agency
- Forest Health and Fire Protection Grant Programs – CAL FIRE
- Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program – California Department of Conservation

### Federal

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) – Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Strategic Partners:**

## Local

- Diablo Firesafe Council
- Hills Emergency Forum
- TOGETHER Bay Area

## State

- CAL FIRE
- California Department of Conservation
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS)
- California Special District Association (CSDA)
- California Environmental Voters
- California State Coastal Conservancy
- CalRecycle
- Governor's Office of Emergency Services - CalOES
- Wildlife Conservation Board

## Federal

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Interior
- U.S. Department of Interior - National Park Service
- U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region (5)

## Appendix A: Significant Government Affairs Accomplishments

### Funding and Grants:

- A direct \$5 million budget allocation for development of the Roddy Ranch Staging Area in Deer Valley Regional Park by Senator Steven Glazer in 2023.
- A direct \$500,000 budget allocation for development of the trail over Wildcat Creek at Brook Road in Tilden in 2023.
- Advanced \$1.3 million Community Project Funding Request by Representative Eric Swalwell for wildfire mitigation efforts in Anthony Chabot Regional Park in 2023.
- Advanced \$900,000 Community Project Funding Request by Representative John Garamendi for Martinz Bay Trail in 2023.
- A direct \$3 million Community Project Funding Request by Representative Mark DeSaulnier for the future Port Chicago Visitor Center at Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 in 2022.
- A direct \$1.5 million Community Project Funding Request by Federal Senator Alex Padilla for wildfire mitigation efforts in 2022.
- A direct \$36 million budget allocation for acquisition and clean-up of Point Molate Regional Shoreline by Senator Nancy Skinner in 2022.
- A direct \$3 million budget allocation by Assembly Member Tim Grayson for opening of Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 for public access in 2022.
- Facilitated \$7 million grant allocation by the California Coastal Conservancy for the purchase of the Finley Road Ranch property in Tassajara Valley.
- CAL FIRE's Pre-Fire Mitigation Grant Program was expanded to include \$80 million for state-wide planting of native, fire tolerant vegetation in 2022.
- A direct \$10 million budget allocation by Senator Nancy Skinner and Senator Bob Wieckowski for addressing tree mortality in 2021 – secured signed grant agreement with CalRecycle in 2022.
- A direct \$3.5 million budget allocation by Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for wildfire response equipment in 2021.
- Secured \$564,092 in COVID - 19 Fiscal Relief for Special Districts in 2020.
- Eligibility for \$43 million as a direct allocation to the District in the Contra Costa County Transportation Authority's (CCTA) 2020 ballot Measure. While the Measure did not pass, it was a significant success in advocacy to have a direct allocation to the District in 2019.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund's national competitive grant program secured \$1,000,000 for Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and \$750,000 for Bay Point in 2019.
- A direct \$4 million (\$3.88 million upon close-out) budget allocation by Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for the McCosker Creek restoration in Sibley in 2019.
- Secured \$66 million with the passage of Measure FF which extended the District's Measure CC another 20 years in 2018.
- Passage of a \$4.1 billion statewide park bond in 2018 with 30% of state-wide yes votes coming from the San Francisco Bay Area in 2018.
- A direct \$5 million budget allocation by former Assembly Member Catharine Baker and Senator Steve Glazer for Del Valle water infrastructure and visitor center upgrades in 2017.
- Partially funding the cost (\$250,000) of placing the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's Measure AA on the 2016 ballot – subsequently earning a \$450,000 grant for Encinal Beach construction, \$450,000 for Coyote Hills planning, \$500,000 for Hayward Marsh and \$3.5 million for Coyote Hills construction.
- Eligibility for \$150 million for the San Francisco Bay Trail and Safe Routes to Transit in Regional Measure.
- Eligibility for \$135 million in BART's Measure RR in 2016.
- \$600,000 for vegetation management earmark by Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Jerry McNerney in 2009.
- Securing \$260 million for Active Transportation in Alameda County Transportation Commission's 2014 Measure BB.
- \$1,869,600 Plan Bay Area Priority Conservation Area grant 2012 - 13.

- \$10.2 million in 2010 from the Federal TIGER II competitive grant program and protecting it in 2011 when the majority in Congress changed.
- Securing \$500,000 annually in direct trail maintenance funding from Contra Costa County Transportation Authority's 2004 Measure J.

#### **Advocacy and Legislation:**

- Cosponsored legislation AB 2789 (Mullin D-South San Francisco 2022) Best Value Contracting chaptered in 2022.
- Protection of Alameda - Tesla property through the State budget process in 2021.
- Enacting cosponsored legislation AB 959 (Mullin D-South San Francisco 2021) to provide the Park District a more enforceable, cost-effective means of addressing and abating nuisances and encroachments on parklands.
- Blocking AB 898 (Frazier D-Discovery Bay 2017) which would have diverted \$10.5 million in Park District general fund revenue to the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District on an annual basis.
- Oakland Estuary transfer from the Army Corps of Engineer to the District through authorization under the Federal Water Resources Development Act (Public Law No: 113-121, Sec. 6005, 2014).
- Blocking AB 665 (Frazier D-Discovery Bay 2015) which would have allowed hunters to discharge weapons from Bay and Delta shorelines - including the Bay Trail and Big Break.
- In 2011, deeply involved in preventing the elimination of Special Districts by California Forward and the Think Long Committee.
- Introducing endowment legislation SB 1020 (Wieckowski D-Fremont 2016) which ultimately led to an agreement with California Department of Fish and Wildlife - preventing millions of general fund dollars being locked up and unavailable.
- Enacting SB 1183 (DeSaulnier D-Concord 2014) which would provide a mechanism for a Trail Maintenance ballot measure.
- Ensuring the General Services Administration property next to Crown Beach was able to be transferred to the District.
- Park District testified in 2012 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies in support of a national competitive grant program within the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

#### **Events and Engagement:**

- Hosted five Walk and Talk events in 2023 with Representative Mark DeSaulnier, Assembly Member Tim Grayson, Representative Eric Swalwell, and Assembly Member Alex Lee.
- Joint commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and California Environmental Protection Agency at Dotson Family Marsh with Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox in attendance in 2022.
- Hosted the California Natural Resources Agency Northern California 30x30 Celebration with California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, high-level environmental leaders and stakeholders in 2022.
- Hosted National Park Service Pacific West Regional Director Frank Lands on site at Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50.
- Hosted four Walk and Talk events in 2022 with Assembly Member Tim Grayson, Representative Eric Swalwell, Representative Mark DeSaulnier and Assembly Member Alex Lee.
- Annual Radke Award - Recipients include Senator Bob Wieckowski (2017), Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia (2018), Senator Steve Glazer (2019), former General Manager Robert E. Doyle (2020), Senator Nancy Skinner (2021), Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan (2022) and Representative Mark DeSaulnier.
- Hosted a Bay Trail Summit 2017 at the Bridge Yard at Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline.
- Hosted Representative Eric Swalwell at Hayward Regional Shoreline for the National Parks and Recreation Association Park Champion Award in 2017.
- Co-Hosted the Green Infrastructure Conference in 2017.
- 2016 and 2017 NRPA Conferences presentations on climate change.
- Worked with Public Affairs to create the Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge.

- Hosted Interior Secretary Sally Jewell at the Future Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50 for the National Park Service Centennial in 2016 and for a Habitat Conservation Plan site visit in 2014.
- 2012 NRPA Conference presentation “Using Political Muscle to Sell your Programs to Grantors”
- Annual agency access including the Pentagon, and First Lady’s staff in 2011.
- Michelle Obama remarks about Kids Challenge at NRPA convention October 2010.
- Secured a representative to attend America’s Great Outdoors White House Conference 2010.
- Secured a representative to attend White House Water Summit 2016.

**Survey and Research:**

- Legislative Program Goals brochures 2023
- Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 brochure 2023
- National Parks and Recreation Association Judge John Sutter / Bay Trail article 2022
- National Parks and Recreation Association Funding and Access article in 2021
- Districtwide Jobs Report 2020
- UC Davis Center for Regional Change Community Report 2020
- Park and Public Interest Community Engagement Project 2019
- National Parks and Recreation Association Dotson Family Marsh article 2017
- DeSaulnier-Miller op - ed 2020