

## **Update on Midcoast Park Planning and Improvements**

**August 2012**

San Mateo County Parks completed a Mid-Coast Recreational Needs Assessment built off of an earlier Midcoast Community Plan dated 1978, which identified recreational needs in the community. The Mid-Coast Recreational Needs Assessment was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in October 2002.

The County Board of Supervisors adopted a Midcoast Park Mitigation Fee in 2003. The Park Mitigation Fees are paid by Building Permit applicants constructing new construction and remodels in the Midcoast. After fees were raised over a 5 year period San Mateo County Parks was asked by the Board of Supervisors to develop a Midcoast Park and Recreation Action Plan to clarify how use of these Park Mitigation Fees should be spent for various Midcoast park improvements. It's important to note that funds raised by the fees cannot be used for operations and maintenance of those improvements. Preparation of the Action Plan again revalidated earlier assessments of the Midcoast community's recreation needs as reflected in the Midcoast Community Plan in 1978 and Recreational Needs Assessment in 2002. In July 2007 the County Board of Supervisors adopted the Midcoast Park and Recreation Action Plan.

The existing Midcoast population of approximately 11,000 (similar in population to City of Half Moon Bay) currently pays no fee to improve, operate and maintain parks and trails, or provide recreational services, which is different than if park services were provided by a City, or provided by a Special District (i.e. Ladera Recreation District or Highlands Recreation District). The Unincorporated Midcoast will likely never be added to Half Moon Bay due to the lack of tax revenue in addition to the City's current fiscal problems. All recreational programming has been and will continue to primarily be offered and provided to Midcoast residents by the City of Half Moon Bay (currently contracted out through the City of San Carlos). Granada Sanitary District is in the process of applying to become a Community Services District through LAFCO so that they can add Midcoast parks services to their water and wastewater services currently provided.

### Park improvements that San Mateo County Parks has made since 2007:

- 1) Created a Midcoast Park District in 2008 to service San Pedro Valley, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Pillar Point Ridge, Mirada Surf West and East, and Quarry Park.
- 2) Acquired Quarry Park from Midcoast Parklands in 2008. Community garden improved in 2008, Tree House improvements made in 2010, playground improvements made in 2011, and parking lot improvements made in 2012.
- 3) Improved Mirada Surf CA Coastal Trail in 2009.
- 4) Acquired Pillar Point bluffs trail and parking lot improvements were made in coordination with County Parks in 2009, and in 2011 County Parks acquired these lands from POST to add to the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

- 5) CA Coastal Trail signs installed from Ritz Carlton in Half Moon Bay through to Princeton 2010-11.
- 6) Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Improvement Project Phase I approved by Board of Supervisors April 2010.
- 7) CA Coastal Trail Conceptual Plan approved by BOS from Half Moon Bay to Princeton.
- 8) County Parks secured funding for Planning (to comply with Local Coastal Plan requirements) to take the lead on completing Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Improvement Project Phase II to be completed by fall of 2012.

#### Projects Pending

- 1) Developing Conceptual CA Coastal Trail Plan from Princeton to Pacifica. This project is being done in coordination with the Midcoast Community Council, and Federal, State and local agencies.
- 2) Fitzgerald Marine Reserve CA Coastal Trail from Cypress to North Lake Street.
- 3) Fitzgerald Marine Reserve parking lot improvement project at California and North Lake Street, which has educational/interpretive components related to storm water benefits.
- 4) Mirada Surf CA Coastal Trail Phase III improvements from northern Coastal Trail to 40' north of Coronado and improvements to Coronado crosswalk.
- 5) Engaged in discussions with CalTrans and CA Coastal Commission regarding future CA Coastal Trail and vertical beach access improvements located within Highway 1 ROW (commonly referred to as "the 400' of danger") located on the West side of Highway 1 North of Coronado Street in El Granada.
- 6) Moss Beach Playground Restroom Design Plans and Specs are being developed to put RFP out to solicit bids for installation of pre-fabricated restroom. This project is being done in partnership with the Friends of Moss Beach Playground.
- 7) Devils Slide Trail Improvement Design Plans and Specs will be prepared and improvements made.
- 8) Green Valley Trail Improvement Design Plans and Specs will be prepared and improvements made.
- 9) Restoration Plan for San Vicente Creek will be prepared to remove exotic vegetation and restore habitat, and the improvements will be made.