



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: January 2006

EBATC website: <http://www.ebtrails.org>

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council



2950
Peralta
Oaks
Court



Oakland,
California



94605

The EBATC is composed of public agencies, equestrians, hikers, bicyclists, and conservationists who are committed to furthering the protection of the scenic and recreational resources of the East Bay.

Happy Holiday Trails to All

I hope all of you had a great holiday season. Thanks to all who were able to attend the annual EBATC Holiday Party in December.

Although winter can be a quiet time for trail activities, it can be a productive time for trail advocacy. While we may spend less time out on the trail during cold and wet weather, wintertime can be a good time to reflect on the many adventures we had during the year and to plan for next year. Our January meeting signals the annual cycle for submittal of trails to be evaluated under the EBRPD Trail Use Change Checklist procedure. The Trail Use Change Checklist evolved from a Bicycle Matrix that was developed by a Committee of EBRPD staff, PAC members, and a member of the Board of Directors. The purpose of the Checklist is to provide staff and trail use change proponents with a specific tool and a clear process for evaluating proposed changes in use to an existing trail.

For many years, both the East Bay Area Trails Council (EBATC) and the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB) have requested that additional trails be opened to additional users. Both organizations have recommended changes in policy and have recommended specific trails for increased access. Ultimately, the District adopted the checklist for evaluating proposed changes in use on trails. Although the checklist was intended to be primarily a tool for staff, it was also designed to address comments and concerns raised by members of the public representing a variety of trail interests including hiking, bicycling, environmental, and equestrian uses.

The District agreed to work closely with the East Bay Area Trails Council during this annual cycle. Our organization represents a variety of trail users and organizations, and has been working with the District for over 30 years on open space protection, trail development, and other trail use issues. Additionally, EBATC meetings provide an opportunity for our members and members of the public to discuss trail use change ideas, con-

EBATC JANUARY MEETING Wednesday, January 18, 2006 7:15 to 9:30 pm

East Bay Regional Park District
Headquarters: Board Room
2950 Peralta Court, Oakland
Telephone (510) 635-0135

Agenda: January 18, 2005 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Nov. 2005 Minutes: Action
2. Project Reports
Bay Area Ridge Trail Report
Alameda Countywide Bicycle
Plan Update Report
BTCEB Recommendation: Sobrante
Ridge, Towhee and Upper Pine Tree
Trails, Others Discussion/Action
3. Ordinance 38 Checklist
Schedule for 2006 Checklist review
4. New Business
5. March 15 EBATC meeting chair/agenda.
6. Reports from members

sider diverse viewpoints and, hopefully, create consensus for a list of trails to be submitted to the District. This is the third cycle since the adoption of the checklist. Two cycles have been completed, resulting in two sections of trail open to multi-use. A third trail from the 2005 cycle, Zeile Creek Trail in Garin, appears to be progressing toward a positive recommendation to the Board.

Our January meeting is the opportunity for the Trails Council, along with its member organizations and individual members to make recommendations for the 2006 cycle. The District will choose a maximum of two trails for evaluation in the annual review. Staff will consider our recommendations for impacts
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Attendees:

Michael Kelley
Eric Muhler
Howard Hornig
Chris Towles
Morris Older
Harry Silcocks
Judy Etheridge
Rich Guarienti
Ed Mendelsohn
Dan Levy
Bob Power
Jamie Perkins
Jim Townsend
Judi Bank
Marilynn Terstegge

The October 2006 minutes were approved.

Trail Development

Jim Townsend, EBRPD Trail Development Program Manager, gave a presentation on EBRPD Regional Trail projects that have been completed in the past two years as well as upcoming Regional Trail projects. The projects he discussed included the following, but the list is not exhaustive:

a. Bayfront Park in Pinole , bridge over Pinole Creek, connecting two segments of SF Bay Trail. There were seven different entities involved with this industrial area along the San Pablo Bay (i.e. local, state agencies, and private parties, land-owners, etc.). EBRPD has also reached a tentative agreement with BioRad regarding the acquisition of land and alignment of future SF Bay Trail in Hercules connecting to the existing Victoria-by-the-Bay subdivision segment of SF Bay Trail to the west.

b. Point Isabel project

c. Regional trail in Martinez area, over Alhambra Creek connecting to downtown Martinez.

d. SF Bay Trail across Damon Slough in Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Park

e. Bay Area Ridge Trail (BART) segment; 4 mile section in Crockett to be completed in December. Gala grand opening of the new Crockett Hills Regional Park will be Saturday, April 1, 2006.

f. Briones to Mt. Diablo Trail; segment that was on John Muir Hospital (JMH) property was realigned. JMH will maintain the trail. This leaves only 1 short gap left for completing the Briones to

Mt. Diablo Trail.

g. Calaveras Ridge Trail; A number of small segments have been acquired from private owners in order to connect Las Trampas and Pleasanton Ridge. Most of these trails will be multi-use. A segment is being created that will be narrow, that at this point will not be multi-use due to topography constraints.

h. Major land acquisitions have occurred in the Las Trampas Park area, totaling approximately 1000 acres. An effort is being made regarding the “Knee-Knocker trail” currently partially on Rossmoor private property. Trail is popular with mt. bikers, horseback riders, and hikers.

i. A number of gap closure segments in the Iron Horse and Delta De Anza Regional Trails have been completed the past 2 years, including the development of the Walden Greenspace which provides for IHT at the Pleasant Hill BART Station.

Brushy Peak Regional Preserve opening

Rich reported that the celebrated opening of the new EBRPD/Livermore Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Preserve in Livermore was good, though cold and foggy at first. Approx. 150-200 people attended. See new trail map at <http://www.ebparks.org/parks/brushy.htm>.

Narrow multi-use trails at Del Valle

Eric reported that there have been no reports of trail conflicts or complaints on the narrow multiuse Swallow Bay and Heron Bay Trails. There was one accident involving a biker, but it did not involve another user. Shelly Miller (Del Valle Park Supervisor) is pleased with the way things are going so far on these trails. However, she requested more work be done to educate bicyclists and hikers to NOT use the numerous bootleg trails in the area. BTCEB reps said that they would increase the number of bike patrol hours in those areas in an effort to reduce bootleg trail usage among bikers and hikers.

Eric (BTCEB) indicated that BTCEB was planning on contacting Shelly about doing trail work in 2006 to help eliminate bootleg trails. Jamie reported that the EBRPD Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program is planning on addressing this issue with trail work, that BTCEB efforts should be concentrated on those days, and that they should coordinate with her.

Zeile Creek Trail (Garin Reg. Park) use change checklist public meeting

Jamie gave update on Zeile Creek use

change status. Four people came to public meeting and ten emails have been received with public comments. Public comment period ends on 11/18/05. In early 2006, Board Committee will vote to approve/disapprove. In mid 2006 the full EBRPD Board will vote. EBATC recommendations for 2006 use change checklist nominated trails should be made by end of January.

Additional items on Trail Use Change Checklist

Jamie advised members of a few final changes to the checklist for use in 2006, one made by the EBRPD Environmental Roundtable and one by staff (generally minor wording changes and deletions to make checklist more clear and concise, including 1) Remove impact rating (staff), and 2) Questions 26. "Would the proposed changed use significantly affect the experience of existing trail users?" available for viewing on District website-see www.ebparks.org, "downloads" trail use checklist and statement of purpose.

EBATC also asked if EBRPD staff considers installing mitigating items, such as signs, mirrors, gates, speed bumps, or any other creative ideas that may counter a troublesome part of a trail as far as multi-use goes. Jamie suggested that EBATC could include these ideas in a letter to the District with the nominated trails to put through the checklist.

2006 Trail Use Change Checklist Proposals

BTCEB members presented photos and descriptions for possible trail use changes to nominate to EBRPD in 2006. Folks should go out and use these trails before voting in January whether or not to recommend trail use change to EBRPD Staff. Initial discussion was informative and efficient. BTCEB members are available to accompany anyone to the trail if so desired (i.e. joint bike/horse back ride, joint hike and bike ride, with sufficient trail survey permission attained from Staff). Contact Chris Towles at christowles2002@yahoo.com to set anything up, please do so before January EBATC meeting. The proposed trails are:

a) segment of El Sobrante Ridge Trail (EBRPD Sobrante Ridge Park) from housing development on east side of park, up to the fire road on top of the ridge. This trail is also part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

b) segment of Towhee Trail (EBRPD Anthony Chabot Park) from north side of campground road, looping around to Honker Bay Trail.

c) Unnamed trail in upper part of EBRPD Briones Park. This trail will be referred to as "Upper Pine" trail, and it parallels the narrow road that winds up to the Old Bear Creek Staging area.

ROUND ROBIN

EBATC email listserv

Michael discussed the EBATC email listserv, and that it should be utilized more often and used for pro-active discussion about any council business, included the 2006 trail use change proposals. Any member can email the entire council be using the following address: ebatc@topica.com.

Possible 4th recommendation for Trail Use Change Checklist

Morris Older shared that the section of Wildcat Trail that goes around Lake Anza in Tilden Park is not safe for equestrians; however, the trail map indicates that equestrians can use. Other folks are familiar with the trail segment and agree with the observation. Morris will check with the Tilden Supervisor to see if the trail is actually off-limits to equestrians and there simply was a mistake made when printing the maps. If that is not the case, EBATC shall consider making a recommendation to the District for an additional trail use change checklist process.

Holiday Party

December EBATC meeting (12/14) will be the Holiday Dinner at Compadres Restaurant on Park Blvd. in Oakland. RSVP to Jamie P.

January Meeting

January 18 EBATC meeting will be chaired by former EBATC President, Glenn Kirby.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council fundraiser

Bob reports that there will be a Ridge Trail fundraiser, luncheon, and auction at the Trudeau Center in Redwood Park on 12/3/05. One of the many exciting items to be auctioned will be a horseback ride with Mr. Morris Older.

Ridge Trail in Marin dedication day

Michael reported on the dedication. All user groups were represented well. Many speakers were heard and the event was a success - a triumph for the Ridge Trail and especially local Marin trail advocates.

Joaquin Miller Park (JMP) signage improvement

Judi reports on the JMP signage improvements project. Work continues in the JMP Working Group.

Land acquisition in Central Contra Costa County;

Ed announces that 39 acres of land was donated to Contra Costa County public open space from the Humphrys Housing Development.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Chris Towles

Holiday Trails: continued from front page

identified in the Checklist, such as those on natural resources, circulation, safety and compatibility of uses. Staff will also evaluate the fiscal impacts on the District, including staff time commitment, materials, equipment time, and other associated construction costs as well as long-term maintenance costs. Additionally, the Checklist process is intended to apply only to use change requests that would not require significant physical changes which could trigger CEQA or an amendment to the park's Land Use Plan, or require more than vegetation clearing or new signage. More details than I want to go into here can be reviewed on the District web site at: http://www.ebparks.org/resources/pdf/misc/checklist_purpose.pdf www.ebparks.org/resources/pdf/misc/checklist_purpose.pdf. All of this information will then be presented to the Board of Directors at Board Committee meetings and at a general Board Meeting, usually in the February or March. All of these meetings are open to the public. Interested members of the public are invited to attend our January meeting and later meetings.

Although this annual process appears to many to be bureaucratic and time consuming, the Board of Directors has listened to EBATC and has made some significant changes in both policy and in practice. Although user conflicts on trails remain a divisive issue for many trail users in the East Bay, our ongoing involvement has resulted in benefits and increased access to trails users, particularly trail cyclists. Let's continue to help ensure positive progress.

See you at the meeting,

Glenn Kirby

EBATC
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-5369