



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: March 2005

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

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council
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2950
Peralta
Oaks
Court
•
Oakland,
California
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94605

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

The Year of the 300th Mile

The Bay Area Ridge Trail will celebrate the dedication of its 300th mile in 2005. This significant milestone could not be reached without the support of EBATC, east bay trail supporters, and 18 years of partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District. Ridge Trail staff and Park District staff are currently putting calendars together to identify a dedication date for the 4.5-mile segment of Crockett Hills Regional Park. This dedication, critical to our 2005 300-mile goal, will likely take place in late summer or early fall. Not only will we be opening a new segment of Ridge Trail, but an entirely new park as well. Crockett Hills Regional Park, once owned by the California and Hawaii Sugar Company (C&H) will host miles of new trail, most of them multi-use, and will be key to connecting the Carquinez Bridge to historic Feeder Trail #1.

The Ridge Trail Council's long-standing partnerships are highlighted in 2005, with significant dedications in Santa Clara County (Santa Clara Co. Parks) and Marin County (Marin County Open Space District) as well. In all three cases, we'll be celebrating new trails with organizations that have supported the Ridge Trail vision since the late 70's and were founding supporters when the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council was formed in 1987. Partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District is especially poignant, as William Penn Mott, whose vision of a trail circling the bay spawned the Ridge Trail, also once managed the East Bay Regional Park District.

While we look forward to these dedications, and the 300th mile, we also are planting the seeds for the next 100 miles. Park District staff are beginning the process for identifying appropriate trails, including Ridge Trail alignments for the Garin-Dry Creek ridgeline, and the Vargas Plateau. At the same time, the Ridge Trail Council is continuing a wonderful partnership with the Muir Heritage Land Trust to secure open space and identify trail routes to close gaps in our Contra Costa County trail corridor.

EBATC MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: March 16, 2005 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Feb. 2005 Minutes: Action
2. Reports and Discussion
Review of Trail Proposals
Zeile Trail
Pioneer Trail
Trail segments in Morgan Territory
Bay Area Ridge Trail
Trail segments in Las Trampas
Ridge Regional Park
Recommendation of trail segments for
2005 review Action
3. Identification of next meeting date and
next meeting chair Action
4. Round Robin and Future Agenda
Reports from members

Progress over the last five years would not have been possible without the passage of Proposition 12, the Park Bond of 2000. Your votes, and the following support of the California State Coastal Conservancy, have allowed the Ridge Trail Council to plan, acquire, and build, through strategic partnerships, 73 new miles of trail. The passage of Proposition 40 in 2002 and continued support from the Coastal Conservancy, will ensure that the vision of a multi-use trail connecting the parks, open spaces, ridgelines, and communities that surround the bay, continues to be implemented for the enjoyment of this generation and generations to come.

Bob Power
South and East Bay Trail Director
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

Minutes for the Meeting of February 16th, 2005

The meeting was held in the East Bay Regional Park District Boardroom and was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Michael Kelley, Treasurer.

In Attendance:

Jack Appleyard	
Judi Bank	MHA
Rich Guarienti	Tri-Valley Trail Trekkers
Michael Kelley	IMBA
Howard Horning	Hayward Hiking Club
Michael McCormack	BTCEB
Ed Mendelsohn	Sierra Club Mt. Diablo Grp
Eric Muhler	BTCEB
Terry Noonan	EBRPD
Bob Power	BARTC
Harry Silcocks	East Bay Trail Dogs
Ted Stroll	BTCEB
Jim Townsend	EBRPD

The agenda was approved unanimously as were the January 2005 minutes.

Land Use Plan Trail Updates:

Terry Noonan, from the Park District's regional trails staff, gave a brief update on the Land Use Plans that are currently scheduled for review and the public planning process during the next year. The parks affected are: Brooks Island, Coyote Hills, Ardenwood, and Vargas Plateau. It was generally understood that Brooks Island, Coyote Hills, and Ardenwood had no significant trail issues for EBATC to address, and that starting the full land use plan for was some months in the future. Involvement and comment on that plan will be addressed at a future EBATC meeting.

Reports and discussion:

Checklist trails progress

There was general discussion of the checklist history, purpose, and timing. One of the key points was how the Park District viewed EBATC's role in the checklist process. Anticipating a number of trail use change proposals on an annual basis, the District has requested, (and EBATC has accepted) that EBATC be the forum for discussing all proposals, and narrowing the proposals down to a workable number. Four proposals seemed to be the ideal number for EBATC to refer to the District on an annual basis. The District's staff would then narrow those referrals down to a maximum of two trails to put through the review process. Points of clarification were made regarding the use of the checklist. This is a tool to be employed whenever any change of use is requested for an existing trail.

This is not a tool for the sole purpose of adding Mt. biking as a use to trails that do not currently allow Mt. biking. Because of the number of review and approval steps in this process, Park District staff were recommending that EBATC's list of priority trail proposals be finalized by the March 16th meeting.

Ted Stroll, representing the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB) presented trail segments or trails in four different parks for EBATC's consideration. The first segment was part of the Zeile Creek Trail in Garin-Dry Creek Regional Park. This trail is currently restricted to "foot traffic only," is managed by the District, but a portion is owned by the University (Cal-State Hayward). This trail is in the northern edge of the park and would provide a loop opportunity for mountain bicyclists.

The second proposal, in the eastern part of Garin-Dry Creek Regional Park, was to open the Pioneer Trail to mountain bicycling. Use of the Pioneer Trail would provide users with a shorter loop opportunity in that portion of the park, without as much climbing as the current longer loop requires.

The third proposal identified trail segments in Morgan Territory and would include the Mollock to Coyote Trail segments. Again, this proposal to include mountain biking on the proposed trail segments would allow for a loop route to be developed where the current opportunities for bicyclists are out and back routes. One segment of this proposed loop is an area which is currently landbanked by the Park District.

The fourth proposal was to add mt. biking as a use, to the Bay Area Ridge Trail between Tilden Regional Park and Redwood Regional Park. This would include segments on EBMUD land, within Sibley Regional Park, and Huckleberry Regional Preserve.

The fifth proposal was presented by Mike McCormack on behalf of BTCEB. This proposal involved adding mountain biking as a use on Rocky Ridge Rd. and Upper Trail in Las Trampas Ridge Regional Park. This presentation was accompanied by photos showing an overview and existing conditions of the proposed trail segments.

Discussion followed regarding how to prioritize these segments. The consensus was to organize a series of individual or group field trips to look at all of the proposed segments.

Discussing these proposals and prioritizing the segments in order to make a recommendation to District staff will be the agenda items for EBATC's

March 2005 meeting.

Round Robin:

Rich Guarienti reported on the public meeting regarding the opening of the trails through the Sycamore Valley Open Space. While the local residents were vocal in their concerns about trails adjacent to their homes, no new concerns were brought up on this issue.

Bob Power reported on the opportunity for trail volunteers to participate in a work day at Crockett Hills Regional Park on March 13th, in anticipation of the summer/fall opening and dedication of new trails in this beautiful park.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Approval of Checklist Trails

At the March 1st meeting of the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors, approval was granted for opening the Brandon Trail at Lake Cabot and the Heron Bay & Swallow Bay Trail at Del Valle to use by mountain bikes. The official opening date for these trails has not yet been determined and will require installation of signs and minor physical improvements. Attend the March 16th EBATC meeting for an update on these trails.



Iron Horse Trail Dedication Pleasant Hill BART Station Area Saturday, March 19, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.

The public is invited to join Contra Costa County Redevelopment Agency and the East Bay Regional Park District in dedicating the new section of Iron Horse Trail and greenspace area across from the Pleasant Hill BART Station on Saturday, March 19, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. This new segment of trail provides a gap closure in the trail and will lead to a new trail bridge overcrossing of Treat Blvd. in the future. Come celebrate and walk, ride, jog, skate, or hike on the 23 mile long regional trail which currently runs from Marsh Drive in Concord to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station!

VOLUNTEER TRAIL PROJECTS COMING UP!

Join the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and East Bay Regional Park District to prepare for the new parkland opening at Crockett Hills Regional Park. Sunday, March 13, 2005 from 8:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m. at the future Crockett Hills Regional Park. Volunteers will assist in removing barbed-wire fencing to improve public access and park viewsheds. Please call (510) 544-2631 to register.

Directions:

From Hwy. 80, take Cummings Skyway east and continue one mile past the intersection with Crockett Blvd. The entrance is at fire road gate #78-15, located on the right hand side of the road.

From Hwy. 4, take Cummings Skyway west and go about one and a half miles. The entrance is at fire road gate #78-15, located on the left hand side of the road.

Please join East Bay Regional Park District on Saturday, April 23, 2005 in celebrating California Trail Days and Earth Day at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore. Volunteers are needed to help restore and improve trails in the park. Please call (510) 544-2631 to register and receive additional information.

East Bay Area Trails Council: Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2005

With the blooming of spring wildflowers, it's time to renew your membership in the East Bay Area Trails Council. Your participation is important in our ongoing efforts to preserve and expand the East Bay trail system.

Membership Dues for 2004: Check enclosed:
Individuals \$15
Organizations \$30
Make checks payable to:
East Bay Area Trails Council

Please list below your name, address, phone number and if applicable, the name of the organization that you represent on the Trails Council.

Send check and completed form below to:
East Bay Area Trails Council
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381

Please print

Name: _____

Organization Represented: _____ *(if applicable)*

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ e-mail: _____

Area(s) of Interest: _____
(hiker, cyclist, equestrian, skater, etc.)

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