



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: September 2005

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.

Ridge Trail Progress

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is poised to celebrate the 300-mile milestone. With the construction of a new 4.5-mile segment of Ridge Trail well underway at the soon to be sparkling new Crockett Hills Regional Park, all of the projects are in place to make 2005 the year of the 300th mile. While trail construction should be complete in October, the staging area and facilities for the park are scheduled to be completed in February. We anticipate a Spring 2006 celebration, opening this beautiful new resource for northwestern Contra Costa County and the region.

Immediately south of the Crockett Hills property, the Council is working closely with the Muir Heritage Land Trust and the Coastal Conservancy to develop a trail plan for the newly acquired Fernandez Ranch. The trail plan will identify the Ridge Trail route through the Fernandez Ranch, as well as potential future connections to EBMUD's Pinole Watershed and to Feeder Trail #1. The acquisition of this property brings us much closer to not only completing the Ridge Trail in Contra Costa County, but also using the Ridge Trail segments to anchor a beautiful multi-use loop route from Martinez to Feeder Trail #1, to the Fernandez Ranch, on to Crockett, and then along the Carquinez Straits back to Martinez. Inclusion of EBMUD's Pinole Watershed in the implementation of this vision of regional trail connections as well as a regional open space preserve, would be of extraordinary public relations value for the utility district. Finalizing the acquisition of a beautiful and historic ranch is only the beginning of the process of developing a new public open space preserve. Muir Heritage Land Trust must now tackle the management and restoration of the property. They will need all of our support to maintain the character of the property while enhancing its resource values through restoration and rehabilitation of Rodeo Creek and its tributaries. Hats off to Tina Batt and her team at the Land Trust for the great work they're doing.

In Alameda County, Park District planning

EBATC SEPTEMBER MEETING Wednesday, September 21, 2005 7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: September 21, 2005 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of June 2005 Minutes: Action
2. New Business
San Francisco Bay Water Trail report – Report
Representative from Bay Access
Alameda County Ridge Trail planning – Ricardo Bressanutti Report
Hiking Perspectives for Trail Conversions - Ed Mendelsohn Discussion
Bay Area Ridge Trail — Bob Power Report
District Updates – District staff Report
3. Old Business
Trail change checklist process – 2006 Discussion
4. Next meeting date and chair
5. Reports from members; Future Agenda

staff are finishing the Vargas Plateau to Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Trail Feasibility Study. Once the study is complete, the District will develop a more comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Vargas Plateau Regional Park. The Land Use Plan is the necessary planning and environmental document that will allow the District to build a staging area and make trail improvements for the opening of Vargas Plateau. While opening the Park is still a few years off, the studies will be completed in 2005 and the Land Use Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2006.

continued on back page

EBATC Minutes, June 15, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Bob Power, meeting chair, at the East Bay Regional Park District board room.

In attendance:

Jack Appleyard	Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Brent Englund	Bike Trail Council of the East Bay
Rich Guarienti	Tri Valley Trail Trekkers
Howard Hornig	Hayward Hiking Club
Lee Huo	Bay Trail Project Planner
Michael Kelley	
Glenn Kirby	Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Terry Noonan	East Bay Regional Park District
Bob Power	Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Harry Silcocks	East Bay Trail Dogs
Ted Stroll	Bike Trail Council of the East Bay
Marilynn Terstegge	Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Assn.
Jim Townsend	East Bay Regional Park District

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

The May 2005 minutes were approved as written.

Bay Trail Presentation

Lee Huo, Bay Trail Planner for the East Bay, made a presentation of the various trail projects that are currently in the works or in planning stages.

- Ferry Point Tunnel (Point Richmond) trail leading to George Miller Park is to be widened from 4 feet to 8 feet going through the tunnel. Cost: \$346,150, mainly for demolition and re-construction. Glenn asked if there was any plan to use the adjacent railroad tunnel.
- Carquinez Feasibility Study (Carquinez Scenic Drive) Cost: \$75,000 for geological, technical and design alternatives. Actual cost of the project would be about \$6 million.
- Union Point Park, Oakland. Seven acres of Shoreline Park south of Coast Guard Island, near 23rd Avenue. \$500,000, in partnership with The Unity Council, a non-official agency. For lighting, landscaping and restrooms.
- San Leandro Slough Bridge, \$175,000, in concert with the City of San Leandro. A 17-mile trail past Lew Galbraith Golf Course, will connect Oys-

ter Bay Regional Park. Eventual goal will be to have trail from the San Mateo Bridge to the Airport. There are some issues right now with graduation on the trail near the golf course. (Maitland goes from Alameda to the airport) Funding is needed for a connector from the Coliseum to the airport.

- Cross Alameda Trail - \$53,000 with the City of Alameda. This is for a planning/feasibility study of a 1.5-mile commuter and recreational trail. Alternative corridors, traffic analyses, cost estimates, etc.
 - Richmond Parkway to Point Pinole, to Point Wilson, \$85,000 and \$75,000 with East Bay Regional Park District, for two feasibility studies.
 - New Bay Trail Grants, \$38 million is being negotiated from Prop 40 for planning, design and construction of New Bay Trail segments. Projects are in conjunction with government agencies and non-profits – must be completed by 2007.
 - Ford Building – Rosie the Riveter Museum
 - Point Molate (going through EIR right now)
- For further information go to their website: <http://www.baytrail.org>

Report on Ridge Trail

Bob Power, Trail Director for the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council gave us an update on east bay projects and progress.

- Maps – they are working to update maps. Green Information Network has produced an Atlas with a breakdown of areas.
- Crockett Hills Regional Park – construction is under way. They hope to be finished by October. There will be about 10 miles of new trail, with approximately four new miles for the Bay Area Ridge Trail.
- EBMUD Pinole Watershed – currently is stalled. EBMUD is working on their Habitat Conservation Plan for this property and progress on the trail is directly tied to progress on the plan. The plan, timeline and budget were provided for them last September but there has been no action since then. EBMUD staff remain concerned about the dense concentration of endangered species on this property and the potential impacts that trail use would have.

Klehs Bill, AB672

Ted Stroll gave an excellent overview of the current status of AB672, the Johann Klehs Bill directed at more recreational access around closed watersheds. Klehs Bill, AB 672 passed in the Assembly 67-9, now will go to the Senate. The Bill requires water agencies to have Advisory Committees and a regular 10-year Master Plan that includes recreation. Reservoirs less than 3,500 cubic feet will not

be affected. If passed, it could possibly put pressure on EBMUD to reconsider allowing bicycles on their land. Encourage people to write to Don Perata or their Senator encouraging them to vote for AB 672. It will be harder to pass in the Senate — the Bill must go through two policy committees before the vote is taken.

EBATC Representation on the Ridge Trail Board

Glenn Kirby brought up the issue of representation by EBATC on the Bay Area Ridge Trail Board. Glenn is the designated Director on the Board from Alameda County and has also been representing EBATC on the Board. There is currently no designated director from Contra Costa County, however Michael Kelley and Morris Older both are at-large members representing Contra Costa. Glenn suggested we try to find someone to fill that spot, possibly a city council person from Martinez or Pinole. That would give us someone who would be interested in making some progress on Feeder Trail #1 or Pinole Watershed. It would be helpful to have someone in an influential position.

Checklist Process

The discussion about the District's Checklist process revolved around the philosophical issue of including single-track trails in the planning process as land use plans are being developed. Thus addressing a desired land use as part of the initial process rather than after the fact through the checklist process. Double-wide is a new designation of a Mt. Tamalpais trail recently written up. Originally the request was for 48 inches wide, after a lawsuit, a settlement was made for a five-foot wide trail.

Trail construction at Del Valle will average 4-5 feet whenever possible. Land Use Plans go through the CEQA review process, which allows for public input through scoping sessions and public review period.

Discussion on wording revolved around suggestions for all land use plans or any planning process to consider our request for trails to be designed narrower than the old ranch roads; to be designed as a compromise between a wide fire road and narrow single-track trails, in any new trail development.

It was moved by Jack Appleyard, seconded by Ted Stroll that EBATC recommend to the District's planning department as follows: *We advocate that intermediate width multi-use trails be considered a component for any new trail development.* Motion passed.

Meeting frequency

Discussion ensued on the frequency of EBATC meetings. Attendance is often sporadic, despite the large number of people on our mailing list (500). An advantage of less frequent meetings would be time to prepare the agenda and newsletter in a timely manner. Trail Review should be done in September and November, with refinement and final review in January, so that it could go to the district in January.

It was moved by Ted Stroll, seconded by Jack Appleyard *that we change our meeting schedule to: January, March, May with a summer hiatus to September, followed by November meeting and holiday party in December.* Motion passed.

Our goal has been to send the newsletter one week before the meeting, now we will aim for 2-3 weeks prior to the meeting since there is more lead time. All newsletter/agenda information should be sent to Bob Power by August 25th for a September 1st final due date for the newsletter.

Next meeting date and chair
September 21, 2005 Bob Power

Respectfully submitted,
Marilynn Terstegge



Ridge Trail Progress: continued from front page

Ridgelines further afield:

The Council is extremely proud to have completed its first trail construction project on private lands. On September 24th, we'll be dedicating the 1.3-mile Napa Solano Ridge Trail in Napa County. See www.ridgetrail.org for details. I hope you can join us.

On Saturday, November 5th, we'll be dedicating the Ridge Trail in Marin County from Samuel P. Taylor State Park to Loma Alta Open Space Preserve. This 10.7-mile Ridge Trail segment follows the construction of the Inkwells Bridge and a new trail segment in White's Hill Open Space Preserve. Both projects were Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and Coastal Conservancy funded projects in partnership with the Marin County Open Space District. Fun for all, come help us celebrate.

And finally, on December 3rd the Council will be organizing recreational outings at Redwood Regional Park culminating in lunch at the Trudeau Center. Again, watch www.ridgetrail.org for details, and all are encouraged to join us.

Get outdoors,

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

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