



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: May 2008

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

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council



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Peralta
Oaks
Court



Oakland,
California



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.

Trail Notes from Morris

Following some great presentations at the last 3 EBATC meetings, in May the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB) will nominate EBRPD trails to be considered for conversion to full multi-use status. EBATC members will then have the opportunity to visit these trails prior to voting at our June meeting on whether to ask EBRPD to evaluate these trails. Note at the right that this meeting will be at the Trudeau Center and NOT at EBRPD Headquarters.

In researching these Trail Notes,, I learned that "the Trails Council recommendation that trail uses be regulated by ordinances rather than in the Master Plan...was included in the 1997 Master Plan. Because of this change, trail regulations come up for review on an annual basis rather than every 10 years or so."

As EBRPD staff pointed out at a 2002 EBATC meeting, there are about 1000 miles of EBRPD trails. 750 of these miles, mostly fire roads, are fully multi-use, while 200 miles of single track trails are open only to hikers and equestrians. The remaining few miles are mostly available to hikers only. Accordingly, our multi-use discussions over the years have centered mostly on requests from bicyclists for access to narrow trails.

In 1999 the EBATC *Monthly Update* noted that the EBRPD Board Operations Committee would probably "develop a matrix system like the one [they had] used for the issue" of dogs on the trails, and the next year, EBATC was being asked for input in developing the matrix. Glenn Kirby, then EBATC President, noted that "this document has received widespread criticism from all sides, which might indicate it is reasonably balanced, given the spectrum of opinion on the subject," and that "the Trails Council has been a consistent supporter of multi-use where safe and practical." The Bicycle Trails Matrix evolved into a more general "Checklist for Analyzing Proposed Changes in Trail Uses," which is explained at <http://tinyurl.com/42shlw>

By the end of the year the procedure we still follow today, by which EBATC proposes trail use changes, which are then evalu-

EBATC MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

7:15 to 9:30 pm

East Bay Regional Park District

*** Trudeau Center ***

11500 SKYLINE BLVD., Oakland

(3 blocks North of Redwood Rd.)

Telephone (510) 635-0135

Agenda: May 21, 2008 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Mar. 2008 Minutes: Action
2. Presentations:
Nomination of Trails to be Considered for Multi-Use-Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay
3. Reports/Updates
EBRPD Bond Measure-Measure AA Extension
EBRPD Trail Use Checklist-Panorama Trail in Mission Peak
BARTC-multi-use gaps in East Bay
EBRPD Update on Vargas Plateau
4. New Business
BARTC East Bay Through Hike in Aug.
EBATC Picnic-June
CA Trails and Greenways Conference
5. Reports from members-Round Robin

ated by park staff, and voted on by the Board Operations Committee and then by the full Board, had been proposed.

In 2002, the Bicycle Trails Council asked EBRPD to open 17 single-track trails, representing 10% of all narrow EBRPD trails, to bicycles; EBRPD staff proposed instead to use the Checklist to analyze such requests separately. In June of 2002, EBATC proposed that the Brandon Trail, from Ten Hills Trail to the Willow Park Golf Course, and a Wildcat trail between Mezue and Belgum Trails be opened to bicycles.

That Wildcat trail, however, crossed
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EBATC Minutes for March 18,2008

In attendance were:

Morris Older	TWHA, BARTC
Howard Hornig	Hayward Hiking Club
Diane Offutt	CSHA
Terry Noonan	EBRPD
Kevin Sullivan	V-O-CAL
Cathy Moyer	V-O-CAL
Larry Kolb	Sierra Club
Joan R. Murakari	BTCEB
Joe Stadum	Rossmoor Trails Club
Marilyn Terstegge	TWHA
Mark Sinclair	Mt. Diablo Trail Voluntr.
Gary Cook	BARTC
Judy Etheridge	SRVHA

1. Call to order

Acting chair Morris Older called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The agenda was approved. The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

2. Presentation: Volunteer for Outdoor California

Cathy Moyer, Executive Director of Volunteers for Outdoor California (V-O-Cal) told us about her non-profit group which was founded in 2006 to provide volunteers for large-scale trail building and maintenance projects in partnership with public agencies and non-profit organizations. The projects involve 75-500 volunteers and take place all over Northern California. Volunteer crew leaders are trained in leadership, trail repair and trail building. Volunteer trail workers camp at each site for a weekend and are provided with training, equipment and all meals. Work on projects gives the participants a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction, the opportunity to make new friends and most important lots of fun which is what brings volunteers back. In addition, benefits to the volunteers include community involvement, leadership skills, teamwork and developing an environmental ethic. Over 1,000 volunteers have worked on projects; a large majority have worked on more than one and more that 100 on three or more projects. Cathy introduced new project manager, Kevin Sullivan, a former volunteer.

Cathy described some completed projects: building a retaining wall at Huddart Park in San Mateo County, rebuilding a trail at Lands End in San Francisco, and constructing two miles of new trail in Sky Ranch in Contra Costa County plus erosion control, exotic plant removal, trail rerouting and drainage improvements at Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland.

Question: are there any out of area projects? This year work will be done at the Oakland City camp near Quincy and a project at Yosemite is being planned.

Question: How was the organization founded and how is it funded? V-O-Cal is based on a similar organization in Colorado and was launched under the sponsorship of Acterra. V-O-Cal was just awarded 501.3c status. Donations, memberships and community sponsors provide financial support. Cathy passed around membership applications.

Question: Do the parks pay for the work? They don't but are asked to help raise funds from their sources. Agencies donate mementos for volunteers and supply trail materials such as gravel.

Morris reported that he had taken the crew leader training and that it was very rewarding.

3. Presentation: Ivan Dickson Program

East Bay Regional Park District Trails Coordinator, Terry Noonan, described the background and implementation of the Ivan Dickson Program. Ivan Dickson hiked the East Bay trails for many years and upon his death the District was surprised to learn that that he left a substantial donation for trail maintenance. The funds from his bequest are managed like an endowment, with the interest generated used to sponsor and support volunteer trail maintenance projects. The funds are allocated for materials, supplies, hand tools, food, and acknowledgments for the volunteers. Donations to the endowment are encouraged. Terry thinks that trails are the biggest draw to the park but admitted this is hard to quantify. Ivan Dickson projects include habitat restoration and creek cleanup in addition to trail maintenance. Youth projects are encouraged when appropriate. Volunteer projects give the groups a sense of pride and ownership. The Ivan Dickson program partners with businesses and organizations looking for volunteer projects.

Question: How can a trail be repaired? Contact the Park Supervisor.

Question: How does the District find volunteers? Flyers are put up for trail projects and requests from community service organizations provide volunteers.

Morris mentioned two upcoming projects, one on April 5 at Sky Ranch, sponsored by the Muir Heritage Land Trust and the other at Tilden Park on April 12, sponsored by the Tilden Wildcat Horseman's Association.

4. Reports and Updates

EBATC chair—Morris had volunteered to chair the next few meetings and asked if anyone else would like to serve. No one responded, so he will continue in that role.

Public hearing schedule: Measure AA Extension

A series of public meetings is scheduled to inform the public about the Measure. The schedule is available on the EBRPD website and EBATC

members should try to attend the meetings. Morris reviewed the EBATC letter to the Board supporting the Measure and providing our wish list.

Trail Use Checklist—Panorama Trail in Mission Peak Regional Preserve

In 2007 EBATC approved the addition of mountain bikes on the trail; no negative input was received at the public hearing. The Board will have a field trip on April 8 to assess the suitability of the trail for full multi-use.

Trail Use Checklist—May EBATC meeting

Morris described the Trail Use Checklist to changing use on trails. Proposals for trail use change can be presented at the May meeting. EBATC will evaluate the requests and decide whether or not to recommend the changes to EBRPD. One comment was that some trails might support full multi-use if better maintained, widened and if mountain bikers walked sections of a trail.

BARTC—multi-use gaps in the East Bay

Morris reported that EBMUD will soon have a new director—some think that a change in leadership may modify the current exclusion of bikes from EBMUD trails. The Gateway development may provide an opportunity to build multi-use trail around the section of Ridge Trail through Sibley-Huckleberry closed to mountain bikes.

4. NEW BUSINESS

State Park closures

EBATC member Larry Kolb read the letter he wrote from the Council to the Governor. Morris will copy it to the EBATC email list. Letters from individuals should be mailed by May 1 and copies could be sent to legislators and candidates for the November election.

BARTC East Bay Through Hike in August

This year's 6 Day East Bay Hills Trails Benefit Ride adds hiking to the event. The hikers' trail is point to point from Castro Valley to Martinez. Hikers may sign up on the Ridge Trail site.

EBATC picnic and multi-use trail event

The event will be on Sunday, June 29 at Briones—a flyer will be posted on the EBATC website.

5. Member Reports/Round-Robin

Diane Offutt reported that a coalition is being formed to advocate for multi-use in State Parks.

Morris Older reported that he had hiked at Joaquin Miller on trails newly restored by V-O-Cal and on 2 upcoming Ridge Trail events—On

April 26, the Bay Area Ridge Council will sponsor the Ridge to Bridge (Golden Gate) hike in Marin County—trails of varying lengths will offered. And in the fall there will be the Ridge Trail Cruz in the Santa Cruz mountains. National Trail Days is June 7 and many local trail projects will be available.

Joan Murakari reported that the East Bay Bicycle Council had a fifteen-person work party at Joaquin Miller.

Minutes prepared by Judy Etheridge

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a stream environment deemed too sensitive for approval. In February 2003, when the Operations Committee decided to implement the checklist process, the first trail to be considered was the Brandon Trail. The next year this trail was approved for multi-use as were two sections of trail, renamed the Swallow Bay Trail and the Heron Bay Trail, at Del Valle Recreation Area.

In 2005, the BTCEB proposed that 7 trails be opened to bikes. EBATC recommended that EBRPD evaluate trails in Garin and Las Trampas, as well as the Bay Area Ridge Trail from Tunnel Road to Sibley Park HQ. Eventually EBRPD approved a portion of the Zeile Creek Trail in Garin and the Ridge Trail in Sibley for multi-use. The opening of the Sibley trail, however, was delayed until a land-banked parcel could be added to the park, an addition that will make possible a bicycle loop. That opening could be as early as this summer.

In 2006 the BTCEB proposed, and EBATC agreed, that 3 trails be evaluated by EBRPD, whose staff ruled out Anthony Chabot and Sobrante Ridge trails due to safety concerns. The Pine Tree Trail proposal in Briones Park went through a number of amendments as it was considered by the District, and the Board eventually voted narrowly not to allow bicycles on that trail.

Last year BTCEB proposed that 4 trails be opened to bicycles, and EBATC forwarded the nomination of Stream Trail in Redwood and the Panorama Trail in Mission Peak to EBRPD for evaluation. The Stream Trail was rejected due to safety and enforcement concerns, while the Panorama Trail in Mission Peak is awaiting final approval by the Board for conversion to full multi-use. The checklist evaluation of the Panorama Trail can be viewed online at <http://tinyurl.com/3j3w4b>

I believe that all EBATC members are still committed to multi use “where safe and practical.” We don't always all agree on which trails are safe and practical, but by discussing these issues, EBATC serves a valuable function in assisting EBRPD in making these decisions.

Morris Older, this month's acting chair

East Bay Area Trails Council: Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2008

With the trail season in full swing, 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 2008: 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.)

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