

May 23

Shops And Hops

Craft beer stroll and shopping.
Proceeds benefit the MuseumSRV.
Downtown Danville | 6-9pm

Jun 22

Schoolhouse Soirée

Our annual fundraiser hosted by
KTVU's Joe Fonzi.
Tassajara Schoolhouse | 5pm

Jul 18

Virtual Program: The Geology of Mt. Diablo

presented by Don Medwedeff.
museumsrv.org | 11:30am

THE BRANCHLINE

Totally Trains

June 29 - August 25, 2024

CELEBRATING 11 YEARS!



The newsletter of



MuseumSRV

Visit History

East Bay Regional Park District: 90 Years of Big Parks

by Beverly Lane



BRIONES REGIONAL WILDERNESS

From sunlit shores to magnificent ridge-tops, the East Bay Regional Park District spans 125,000 acres in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, offering experiences as diverse as the land itself. With 73 parks, over 1,330 miles of trails, campgrounds, visitor centers, historic sites, lakes and shorelines the District's mission is to provide recreational opportunities, ensure the natural beauty and cultural history of the land, and protect wildlife habitat.

This story is an inspirational one in which citizens during the toughest of economic times created the EBRPD, the first regional park district in the nation. In the late 1920s, thousands of acres of surplus watershed land became available for development. Far-sighted civic leaders sought to preserve this land and retain a balance of recreation and wilderness features, ideas unheard of at the time. In 1934, members of a grass-roots land preservation movement placed a measure on the ballot which passed by a resounding 71%, during the depths of the Great Depression. The vote created the East Bay Regional Park District. On the same ballot, voters elected the first Board of Directors: which included Major Charles Lee Tilden, August Vollmer, Leroy Goodrich, Thomas Roberts and Dr. Aurelia Henry Reinhardt.

Formative Years: Four parks (1934-1945)

At the outset, the District included only seven Alameda County communities and no parks. By 1936, it was able to purchase enough land to create three parks: Upper Wildcat Canyon (renamed "Tilden" as a 79th birthday surprise), Roundtop (now Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve) and Lake Temescal, home of one of the East Bay's first reservoirs. The first three parks were opened with great fanfare on October 18, 1936. They were soon followed by Redwood Regional Park in 1939. In the 1940s, the start of World War II halted Park District growth and much of Tilden Regional Park was turned over to the U.S. Army Defense Command.

After the War: Seven Cities and Eight Parks (1946-1961)

At the end of the war, under the leadership of general manager Richard Walpole, the District began to grow as people returned to the parks seeking family recreation. Concessions such as Tilden's steam train, carousel and pony ride were added. This growth continued into the 1950s with Roberts Regional Park's swimming pool, baseball field, picnic areas and trails. The District opened its sixth park, Grass Valley (Anthony Chabot) and Little Farm was added to Tilden.

The post-war era created a population shift as residents moved to the suburbs. Southern Alameda County was annexed in 1956, and recreation areas Don Castro and Cull Canyon opened.

Contra Costa County joins the District; 32 new parks (1962 to 1987)

In the 1960s, William Penn Mott, Jr. became general manager as the East Bay population was exploding. He, Park District Directors and staff leaders Richard Trudeau and Hulet Hornbek shared an enthusiastic vision of a grand system of hilltop and shoreline parks and regional trails. In 1964, most of Contra Costa County was annexed to the District. Some new parks included Sunol, Lake Chabot, Briones, Las Trampas, Crown Beach and Coyote Hills, showing the diversity of the expanding park district.

Trudeau became general manager in 1968. The District faced the challenges of rising land costs and different recreational demands from the public. Then Proposition 13 and the California taxpayers' revolt of 1978 restricted funds for agencies dependent on the property tax. Future funding for land acquisition and development were limited.

There was a major transformation in public involvement during these two decades by residents, open space advocates, and organized environmentalists who looked to the District to protect the Bay shoreline, preserve historic sites, provide environmental education and acquire and rehabilitate old industrial and filled lands. Trail use grew rapidly with an increase in walking, hiking, jogging, and mountain biking as the "exercise-for-health" generation became active park users.

Coming of Age: 73 parks (1988 to 2024)

In 1988, Pat O'Brien became general manager, and District voters approved the passage of Measure AA, a \$225 million bond to provide funding for both regional and local park acquisition and projects. During the next two decades, the District added 15 new regional parks and an additional 34,000 acres of open space. This was also the time for expanding park and recreation services for the public, incorporating volunteer programs, and offering a subsidized bus program for seniors and low income and disabled residents.

East Bay Regional Park District: 90 Years of Big Parks continued



ROUND VALLEY REGIONAL PRESERVE CAMP SITE, PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN FOX

District staff built and opened Camp Arroyo, a state-of-the-art environmental education and youth camp in Livermore. Some of the other parks opened during this time were Brushy Peak, Round Valley, Sycamore Valley, Bay Point, Pleasanton Ridge, Big Break, Dumbarton Campground, Thurgood Marshall and Eastshore. The Park District will always remain a work in progress as it works to acquire and operate regional parks and trails to serve the population. Bob Doyle's leadership in land acquisition and as General Manager (2010 to 2020) was pivotal for the parks. The District has relied heavily on funds from WW, a \$500 million bond measure extension approved by voters at the end of 2008, to purchase targeted open space. Regardless of future challenges and opportunities, the East Bay Regional Park District is committed to providing East Bay residents with recreation opportunities and open space preserves close to home.

Written by Ned MacKay, edited by Beverly Lane. See the EBRPD website at ebparks.org for more information.

From August 3 to September 15, 2024 the MuseumSRV will host an EBRPD 90th pop-up celebration exhibit with some special displays on the Iron Horse Regional Trail.

Shop the Store.



The store at MuseumSRV is pleased to offer our new "History Alive" tote bags. These handy bags are great for carrying everything from books to groceries. These colorful, heavy-duty bags are in stock and ready to hold all the books, games, and toys from MuseumSRV.

Starting in late June, Model Trains will be running through the Depot. The Museum Store is on track to have an assortment of toy trains, engineer's hats, train whistles and other train related items for the kid in all of us.

Summer vacation is coming and we offer a wide assortment of goodies to help avoid that yell we've all heard: "There's nothing to do". Come in and check our unplugged selection of games for all ages. Or, how about reading a book, with a cover, or taking a hike? The Museum



has a great selection of books and maps on the San Ramon Valley and Mt. Diablo.

The Museum Store is a great way to buy these special gifts, support MuseumSRV, and to shop local.

Feature Exhibit.



The summer kicks off with the popular Totally Trains exhibit. We are happy to announce that Totally Trains will be returning this summer. It still remains the most attended exhibit for the last 11 years.

Last year's theme was Trains and the Postal Service. Children will be able to sort mail and packages just as the mailmen did in the past on the trains. Due to its immense popularity, it will be featured again this year with some new creations. As part of the exhibit will be a large collection of Plasticville buildings, and model trains of the past.

Of course you can't miss seeing and hearing the model trains running over the trestle, the bridges, through the tunnel, and through a mountain and a canyon before stopping in the town of Danville. If you haven't seen the exhibit before, come and see what you have been missing. If you have seen it before, come and see what is new. We guarantee you will enjoy it!

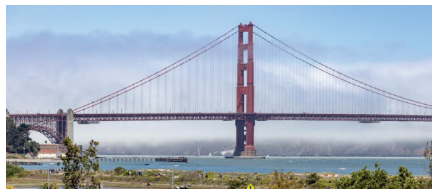
This exhibit would not be possible if it were not for the numerous hours contributed by a small dedicated core of volunteers and the financial support of the visitors and members of the Museum.

By popular demand the "Family Pass" will be returning. This will entitle a family unlimited entry for the exhibit for only \$20.

The Exhibit opens June 29th and closes Aug. 25th. The Museum's summer hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 to 1pm and Sundays from 12 to 3pm.



Virtual Programs.



The Museum's free virtual programs started in 2020 and continues to be popular. In January, we learned the History of the Alameda County Sheriffs, dating back to 1853. February featured Friends of the San Ramon Creek, founded in 2012 with the mission to foster knowledge and good stewardship of our local creeks. Untold Stories of San Francisco's Turbulent Past was April's virtual program presented by award-winning writer Duffy Jennings. Noted local historian and author, John Martini, talked about the geography of May's program, An American Icon: The Golden Gate Bridge.

It is fair to say we have a rather eclectic offering of programs, but all are driven by informing and entertaining our listeners. Please let us know if there are topics of interest for future programs.

If your schedule doesn't permit you to join us on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30, all of our fascinating programs are available for viewing on the Museum's website.



First Peoples.

Some time in life comes a moment to try something new. Why not come to MuseumSRV and become a First Peoples Docent. The Museum is recruiting volunteers to teach 4th grade classes about California's First Peoples.

In September, the Museum becomes a learning center with displays of Indian houses, woven baskets, mortars and pestles. Surrounded by authentic artifacts, this environment immerses the children in the First Peoples' culture.

Consider joining us. It's not easy to convey history. A First Peoples Docent has a pivotal role because it is their presentation that is the catalyst to learning. They tell the creation myth, describe the hunt, hand out the furs and pelts. Without their guidance students may not understand the technical skill of flint knapping and fail to notice the fine notches on the arrowhead.

Yes, we are teaching a program for children but, as First People docents at the museum, we become involved with modern day First Peoples events. We attend the annual Ohlone Gathering at Coyote Hills Regional Park, host lectures, discuss topical books which change old stereotypes, books like 1491: Revelations of the Americas before Columbus and Braiding Sweet Grass. Becoming a First Peoples docent promotes personal growth.

Take a leap. Start something new. Join us. The program, which takes place in the Fall is both educational and entertaining. The 4th graders are excited, amazed and thoughtful. You will make it unforgettable for them and they will make it unforgettable for you. There is guided training, observation periods and team work with a partner.

For more information or to sign up, contact Vivienne Wong (925-735-1804), email viv8wong@gmail.com.

Volunteer Corner.



Become a valuable contributor to your community while delving deeper into its rich history! Enjoy...

- A delightful location in downtown Danville.
- Expand your knowledge about your community and its history by engaging with the diverse and captivating exhibits and programs offered
- Engage in our educational programs for school children
- Flexible hours and options for occasional or regular volunteering

We have an immediate need for Docents who greet and engage with visitors, sharing information about the current exhibit and artifacts in our permanent exhibits. Comprehensive training is provided.



In Memory:

Carlo Borlandelli

1932-2024

The Museum lost a devoted volunteer in April, Carlo Borlandelli. Active as the museum's craftsman and idea-man for over 30 years, his fingerprints are visible everywhere. Here are just a few samples. Carlo built the exhibit display cases, the freight room counter complex, the Windows on the Past; the internal wall in the baggage room; display cases and desk in the store space; the door between the store and the waiting room; and the bench and map case cover in the waiting room. When changing exhibits are placed in the freight room, his creations include the portable walls (with devices to connect in different configurations) and several ingenious platforms. The elegant oak frames for donor recognition and the 1887 county map were also his creations. He constructed the control stand for the order board (in the store), restored a baggage cart (at the north end of the depot) and built the decorative cresting on the roof. He also volunteered and built cases for Mission San Jose's 200th anniversary in 1997 where a historic bell is ensconced in his handsome oak holder. He helped provide memories for the Historic Tales of Alamo book as well, recalling that he grew up in "Portugee Gulch," his grandfather's wine was poured down the creek during Prohibition (family story), and he attended the 50-year old Alamo Grammar School, enjoyed summer vacation and returned to the brand new fourth Alamo School in 1941.



MuseumSRV

New Look, Same Goal.

Ramon Valley. We will still bring to you educational and entertaining exhibits. Our much loved programs for students - the Passport program, the California's First Peoples 4th grade program, and our One Room School program - will continue to teach students and their adult companions about the Valley. Our research and scholarship will still benefit researchers and students. The monthly virtual programs will keep bringing you interesting stories of the Valley, Bay Area, and beyond.

For museums, it is often a challenge to have more visitors come through the door and to reach out to new audiences. Many museums have worked hard to create a brand identity. This helps them stay current and to communicate with wider audiences. If you think about visitors to New York, they do not go to The Metropolitan Museum of Art, they go to "The Met". Closer to home, and with a name that is very long, people know The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art as "SFMOMA". We are in the process of rebranding our museum for the same reasons. We want to appear more user friendly, appeal to new audiences, and stand out in the Valley. So, if you have not yet taken a look, go to our website and notice our new look. Check out the signs on the museum. These are some of the changes with more to come.

Our extensive collections, carefully curated over years of passionate commitment, stand as a testament to our unwavering dedication to this cause. Each artifact, each photograph, each document tells a story - one that we are honored to share with our community and visitors from far and wide.

As we embrace this rebranding, we want to assure you that the experiences and traditions you have come to cherish will continue uninterrupted. As an example our beloved Totally Trains event, a summer highlight that delights enthusiasts of all ages, will still be chugging its way through our halls, transporting you on a journey through railroading history.

Furthermore, you can expect the same engaging, informative, and thought-provoking exhibits that have made us a beloved institution. We remain committed to bringing the past to life, sparking curiosity, and fostering a deep appreciation for the people, places, and events that have shaped our community's unique identity.

So, welcome to MuseumSRV - a fresh face with the same heart and soul that has made us successful for so many years. Here, history meets innovation, ensuring that the stories of our past continue to inspire and enlighten generations to come. We celebrate the future of the museum while continuing to honor our past.

MuseumSRV where History is Alive.

SCHOOLHOUSE SOIREE



Get ready for the summer event you won't want to miss! MuseumSRV's Schoolhouse Soiree promises an evening of enchanting casual elegance and delightful entertainment. Mark your calendars for June 22, 2024, and prepare to be transported to the historic charm of the One Room School House.

Back by popular demand, the charismatic Joe Fonzi of KTVU will be our delightful host for the night, ensuring a delightfully lively and engaging atmosphere from start to finish. But that's just the beginning of the excitement! This year we've added some new activities guaranteed to elevate your experience and keep you entertained all night long.



JOE FONZI, GUEST MC



Imagine strolling through the beautiful grounds, enjoying sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, to decadent desserts, prepare to be wowed by the flavors and artistry on display.

But the Schoolhouse Soiree isn't just about indulging in a night of revelry - it's also an opportunity to contribute to the preservation of our community's rich heritage. By attending this unforgettable event or contributing to it, you'll be playing a vital role in ensuring that the stories and treasures of our past remain vibrant and accessible for generations to come.

Don't miss out on this chance to create lasting memories while supporting a cause that is truly close to our hearts. Tickets are available now on our website, so secure yours today and get ready to experience the Schoolhouse Soiree like never before. We welcome you to an evening of elegance, entertainment, and extraordinary fun!

Online Auction Returns

In conjunction with the soiree at the schoolhouse, the museum will hold our annual Online Auction from June 17 - 23. Be prepared to bid on a variety of items including a Hawaiian vacation home rental, exciting experiences, tickets to local attractions, wine packages, restaurant gift cards, baskets filled with your favorite things and so much more!

To purchase tickets, make a donation, and register for the auction, visit the museum's website or scan the QR code.





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Visit www.museumsrv.org
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Summer Hours, June 24-August 27
Tuesday-Saturday 10am - 1pm
Sunday 12pm-3pm

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