



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

City of Oakland


Wednesday, November 9, 2011 4:30 P.M.

Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA

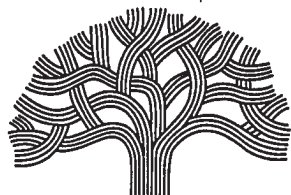
AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER:
2. ROLL CALL:
BELCHER, FINLINSON, HAMMOCK, MATIS, MILLER, MONTAUK, PETERSON, RICARDS, TAYLOR, WONG, WU
3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:
 - A. Minutes of October 12, 2011
4. SPECIAL ORDERS:
5. PRAC PENDING LIST:
 - A. Commissioners Report Update, Commissioner Taylor
6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:
7. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. Request From Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project for Permission to Fundraise and Collect Fees at a Community Event on Saturday December 17, 2011 at Tassafaronga Recreation Center and Park: The Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) has received a request from Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project (ANV) for permission to allow fundraising activities at a community event on Saturday, December 17, 2011 at Tassafaronga Recreation Center and Park. Net proceeds of various sales and vendor fees will benefit the Tassafaronga Community Garden and Youth Urban Farm. The event is in partnership with Tassafaronga Recreation Center.
 - B. Request from Berkeley Bamyan Education Foundation for Permission to Collect On-site Admission Donations and Hold an Auction and Collect Monetary Donations from Donated Items at Leona Lodge on Saturday, February 25, 2012. The Office of Parks and Recreation has received a request from Berkeley Bamyan Education Foundation (BBEF) for permission to collect on-site admission donations and hold an auction and collect monetary donations from donated items at their event on Saturday, February 25, 2012. The purpose of the event is to raise money to build a permanent school on land recently donated in Kabul, Afghanistan.
8. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. An Informational Report on Negative Impacts Occurring in Joaquin Miller Park and the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park Redwood Committee's recommendations to mitigate the problems: The Board of Directors of the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park (FoJMP) formed its Redwood Committee to research and address impacts on the redwood areas in the park. Problems to be addressed include denuded understory, erosion, and increasing numbers of bootleg (illegal) trails. City of Oakland staff serves as ex-officio members of the Board and have been active on the committee.
9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

10. COMMUNICATIONS:
11. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORT:
12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
14. COUNCIL REFERRALS:
15. OPEN FORUM:
16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
 - A. Occupy Oakland
 - B. Park Hours
 - C. Establish an agenda for the January Retreat
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
18. ADJOURNMENT:

 This meeting is wheelchair accessible. To request materials in alternative formats, or to request an ASL interpreter, or assistive listening device, please call the *Office of Parks and Recreation at (510) 238-7532* or **TDD (510) 615-5883** at least three working days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting so attendees who may experience chemical sensitivities may attend. Thank you.

Next Meeting: *Wednesday, December 14, 2011; 4:30 p.m.*
Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA



CITY OF OAKLAND

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

City of Oakland

Wednesday, October 12, 2011 4:30 P.M.

Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland. Co-Chair Commissioner Hammock convened the meeting at 4:32pm. Audree V. Jones-Taylor, OPR Director, conducted the roll call:

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Judy Belcher, Wade Finlinson, Michael Hammock, Howard Matis, Barry Miller, Susan Montauk, Brad Ricards,

Excused: Marsha Peterson, Jeffrey Taylor, Calvin Wong, Ellen Wu

Staff: Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Dana Riley, Gail McMillon, Diane Boyd, Mark Hall

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of September 14, 2011

Commissioner Matis request that the September minutes reflect the following change to the Friendly Amendment related to Item 8A.

Commissioner Matis suggested a Friendly Amendment to the motion to require the in lieu planting fee be required before the permit is issued.

No vote was taken. The original motion stands.

Motion: Commissioner Hammock entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Motion Passed: 1 Abstention.

The following correction to the July 13th minutes, Item 9 - Conditional Use Permits/Presenter and Speakers' Comments was read into the record:

The comment states "The proposal leaves approximately one quarter of an acre for picnics, sports and other activities". The correct statement is that "The proposal leaves more than one acre for picnics, sports and other activities".

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

None

5. PRAC PENDING LIST:

The report is to be presented to the Commission at the November 9th PRAC meeting.

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None

7. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Request for Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to Approve the Design of the Stonehurst Park Community Garden Edible Schoolyard:** Mark Hall presented the informational staff report to the Commission. All Ah We, an Oakland based non profit organization, is requesting the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve the design for the Stonehurst Park Community Garden Edible Schoolyard. The proposed project includes raised beds, in ground edible and non edible plants, composting space, and a living laboratory outdoor classroom space. All Ah We is applying for a minor conditional use permit. The site is ADA accessible and organizers are working in partnership with the community and local PTA. The public will be allowed to sign up for a plot. All Ah We All of Us will bring the following items back before the PRAC:

1. Proof of ADA review
2. Specify times of use
3. Illustrate dimensions
4. Provide large park layout with color design

MOTION: Commissioner Hammock entertained a motion to approve the staff request to approve the design of the Stonehurst Park Community Garden Edible Schoolyard.

Moved by: Commissioner Belcher: **Seconded by:** Commissioner Miller. **Vote:** 1 Abstention: **Motion:** Passed

9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

None

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

OPR staff and the Commission are planning the annual January PRAC retreat. Several Commissioners will be termed out, but will be invited to attend. Staff will provide the Commission with possible dates at the November meeting.

11. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner reported back on food truck operators at Mosswood Park want to expand the services to other parks.

12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

None

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

14. COUNCIL REFERRALS:

None

15. OPEN FORUM:

None

16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. **Golf Report:**

The golf report will be presented to the Life Enrichment Committee on October 25. PRAC Commissioner's requested more information and a comparison of the various types of agreements at next months meeting regarding the pros and cons of the various types of golf courses. Director Jones-Taylor indicated that she would work toward this by the end of the Year.

B. PRAC Commissioners' Term Expirations:

Commissioners Hammock, Montauk, Richards, Taylor and Wong are currently serving the Commission in hold over status. These terms are due to expire in hold-over status in November. A request was made to stagger the departure dates of and if possible to postpone the release of the Commissioners until after the beginning of the New Year.

C. December Special Election for Chair:

A special election will have to be held in November if Co-Chairs Hammock and Montauk are replaced in December.

D. Subcommittee Liaisons:

Director Jones-Taylor clarified the Commissioner's liaison assignments for OPR recreation sites and programs. Studio One was added to the list and Commissioner Belcher expressed interest in being the program liaison.

E. January Retreat:

OPR staff will research and report back at the November meeting the Commission the feasibility of holding the annual PRAC retreat on January 7 or 21.

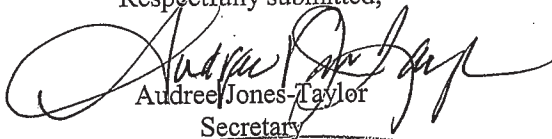
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Montauk announced that the parks survey was completed. She will be preparing a report comparing the 2010 and 2011 surveys. Approximately 30 community members attended. The initial report due to be posted online within the next week.

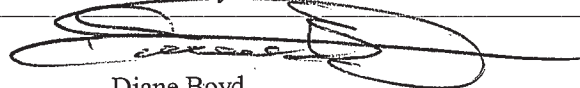
18. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,




Audree Jones-Taylor
Secretary



Diane Boyd
Recording Secretary

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, November 9, 2011; 4:30 p.m.
Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA**

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CITY OF OAKLAND
Interoffice Memorandum
Office of Parks and Recreation



TO: Michael Hammock, Co-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Susan Montauk, Co-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Cynthia Armstrong, Tassafaronga Recreation Center Director
DATE: November 9, 2011
SUBJECT: Request from Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project for Permission to Fundraise and Collect Fees at a Community Event on Saturday December 17, 2011 at Tassafaronga Recreation Center and Park.

SUMMARY

The Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) has received a request from Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project (ANV) for permission to allow fundraising activities at a community event on Saturday, December 17, 2011 at Tassafaronga Recreation Center and Park. Net proceeds of various sales and vendor fees will benefit the Tassafaronga Community Garden and Youth Urban Farm. The event is in partnership with Tassafaronga Recreation Center.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the Office of Parks and Recreation.

BACKGROUND

This is ANV's first year hosting this event "Elmhurst Community Craft and Health Faire". This event is free to the public. The reception area and social hall within Tassafaronga Recreation Center will be utilized by community members selling wares and goods they created themselves as well as community health organizations and practitioners giving away literature and educational materials. Fundraising activities will include sponsorships, contributions, a raffle, and food and art/craft sales.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve the request from Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project to allow fundraising at the Community Event on Saturday, December 17, 2011 at Tassafaronga Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Armstrong".

Cynthia Armstrong
Tassafaronga Recreation Center Director

Attachments: A – Request Letter & Summary of Event



October 18, 2011
Cynthia Armstrong, Director
Tassafaronga Recreation Center
975 85th Ave.
Oakland, CA 94621

Acta Non Verba:
Youth Urban Farm Project

Dear Cynthia,

This letter is being presented in conjunction with an event summary to reserve Tassafaronga Recreation Center for the Elmhurst Community Crafts and Health faire on December 17, 2011.

MAIL
P.O. Box 22944
Oakland, CA 94609

The goals of the event are to raise funds to support the mission of Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project, promote health and wellness in the Elmhurst community and increase the visibility of Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project within the city of Oakland.

PHONE
510.972.FARM (3276)

Event attendees will be asked for a \$5.00 donation for entry, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. There will be a raffle conducted and attendees will be able to buy tickets up until the time of the raffle.

FAX
510.380.6729

E-MAIL
info@anvfarm.org

In an effort to bring additional awareness to health, wellness and homemade crafts, ANV will allow event sponsors and other local organizations to have representatives on hand to present information packages, ect. The sale of food will be through Tassafaronga's kitchen and proceeds from all food and drinks sold will go to programming and administration of Tassafaronga Community Garden and Youth Urban Farm.

WEB
www.anvfarm.org

FISCAL SPONSOR:
Social & Environmental
Entrepreneurs (SEE)
EIN: 95-4116679

Our goal is to host a fun, educational event that brings the Elmhurst Community together in support of community building and nutrition. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this event. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

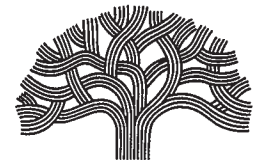

Sincerely yours,

Kelly D. Carlisle
Founder/ Executive Director
Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project

ATTACHMENT
A

CITY OF OAKLAND
Interoffice Memorandum

Office of Parks and Recreation



CITY OF OAKLAND

TO: Michael Hammock, Co-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Susan Montauk, Co-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

FROM: Gail McMillon, Central Reservations Supervisor

DATE: November 9, 2011

SUBJECT: Request from Berkeley Banyan Education Foundation for Permission to Collect On-site Admission Donations and Hold an Auction and Collect Monetary Donations from Donated Items at Leona Lodge on Saturday, February 25, 2012

SUMMARY

The Office of Parks and Recreation has received a request from Berkeley Banyan Education Foundation (BBEF) for permission to collect on-site admission donations and hold an auction and collect monetary donations from donated items at their event on Saturday, February 25, 2012. The purpose of the event is to raise money to build a permanent school on land recently donated in Kabul, Afghanistan.

FISCAL IMPACT

There will be no fiscal impact on the Office of Parks and Recreation.

BACKGROUND

The BBEF is a non-profit organization whose primary mission is to organize educational and vocational sites in Afghanistan to promote the teaching of literacy and carpet weaving skills to Afghani women and their children. This is the BBEF's first time hosting an event at an Oakland Parks and Recreation facility.

The BBEF is expecting approximately 100 people. The event will consist of an admission donation of \$60 per person that will include dinner, wine, and entertainment by a few musicians and dancers and donated auction items. Much of the money for admission and donated items will have been collected off-site prior to the event. The BBEF expects very little cash to be exchanged on-site. Most of the monetary on-site exchange will be in the form of checks or credit card.

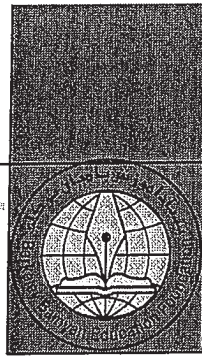
RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve the request from the Berkeley Banyan Education Foundation to collect on-site admission donations and hold an auction and collect monetary donations from donated items at the BBEF event at Leona Lodge on Saturday, February 25, 2012. The BBEF is aware that additional permits are required provided that their request is granted.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail McMillon
Reservation Supervisor

Attachments: Exhibit A – Request Letter
Exhibit B – Non-Profit Status
Exhibit C – Facility Use Application
Exhibit D – BBEF Brochure



BOARD OF DIRECTORES

Founder
M. Basirat
my_basirat@yahoo.com

President
Director, Training Projects
Farima Joya
farimajoya@hotmail.com

Vice President
Business Consultant
Mohammad Zavar
info@hazaragallery.com

Director, Literacy Projects
Rahima A.Haya
rahimahaya@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Peggy Schneider
plsneider@live.com

Secretary
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Roi_olaf@yahoo.com

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Norman.Zukowsky@ucsf.edu

Contact Us:

USA
CALIFORNIA
P.O.BOX 1624
OAKLAND ,CA 94604
EMAIL:
bbefusa@hotmail.com
WEBSITE:
www.bbefusa.org

BBEF is a non-profit,501 (c) (3),non-political,non-sectarian,humanitarian organization dedicated to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan

STATE CORP.NO:3005114
IRS.ID.NO:75-3258179

BERKELEY BAMYAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

October 6, 2011

Office of Parks and Recreation
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3330
Oakland, California 94612

To the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission:

Please find attached our application, with supporting documents, to rent Leona Lodge on February 25, 2012. Berkeley Bamyian Education Foundation has been a non-profit organization since 2007: our tax exempt status recognized by both the IRS as well as the State of California. Our primary mission, during the last five years, has been to organize educational and vocational sites in Afghanistan to promote the teaching of literacy and carpet weaving skills to Afghani women and their children. We are a very small non-profit organization with the immediate goal of raising money to build our own permanent school on land recently donated to us in Kabul, Afghanistan.

We hope to hold a very successful fund-raising event at Leona Lodge. We expect approximately 100 persons who will have paid admission prior to the night of the event. We ask permission from the Commission to request an admission donation of \$60.00 per person which will include dinner, wine if desired, entertainment by a few musicians and dancers. We also need the Commission's permission to hold an auction of donated items, the materials and items will have been collected during the weeks prior to the night of the event. Money collected from the auction also will be exchanged off-site prior to the event. We expect very little cash to be exchanged during the actual night of the event; if any, it will be mostly exchanged in the form of checks or credit cards. We may have a television, brought from someone's home, to display videos of BBEF's work in Afghanistan.

I have included an application form from another upcoming event in which we hope to participate – primarily to provide you with a better understanding of our non-profit work. None of our Board members receive remuneration; we are all volunteers. Thank you for considering our request to rent Leona Lodge. It is a very beautiful site.

Sincerely,

Peggy L. Schneider
Treasurer
Berkeley Bamyian Education Foundation

P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

Date: **APR 24 2009**

BERKELEY BAMYAN EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
C/O MOHAMMAD Y BASIRAT
PO BOX 1624
OAKLAND, CA 94604

Employer Identification Number:

75-3258179

DLN:

608358000

Contact Person:

DAVID A DOEKER

ID# 31168

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:

December 31

Public Charity Status:

170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Form 990 Required:

Yes

Effective Date of Exemption:

May 16, 2007

Contribution Deductibility:

Yes

Addendum Applies:

No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 947 (DO/CG)

Office of Parks and Recreation
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3330 Oakland,
CA 94612



CITY of OAKLAND
OFFICE of PARKS & RECREATION
Facility Rental Application

Central Reservations Unit
PH (510) 238-3187 Fax (510) 238-2397

ATTENTION:

Application Date: 10/5/2011

*RESIDENCY IS DETERMINED ACCORDING TO ADDRESS INDICATED ON DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD.

REQ No _____ RWP No. 24724 OFFICE USE ONLY Received By/Date AA 10/20/2011 Receipt No. 1013954032

Application on behalf of: (Group, Individual, Organization) BERKELEY KAMYAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

* Address: P.O. Box 1624 City: OAKLAND State: CA Zip: 94604

Individual responsible for event: Name: PEGGY SCHNEIDER *Address: 4046 SAN SEBASTIAN AVE

City: OAKLAND State: CA Zip: 94602 Email: pschneider@live.com

Home #: 530-1544 Work #: SAME Fax #: / Cell#: SAME

To use (Name of Facility): LEONA LOOGE On the following date (s): FEB 25, 2012

Number of Participants: (Total): 100 Approximate # of Adults: 100 # of Teens: / # of Children/Infants: /

Between the hours of: (Time In/Prep) 5pm (Actual Event Time) from 6pm to 10pm (Cleanup/Time Out) 11pm

Type of Event/Purpose (be specific, i.e., Wedding, Receptions, Meetings, Birthday Party, Banquet, etc.): FUND RAISING EVENT FOR NON-PROFIT General Public Allowed: Yes: No:

Note: Charging admission, selling tickets or merchandise, or solicitation of money in any manner is prohibited in any way.

Sound Amplification: Amplified: Yes No Non-Amplified: Yes No

Type of equipment to be used (i.e. musical instruments, live band, cd player, amplifiers, microphones, etc.): MICROPHONES FOR STRINGED INSTRUMENTS; LIVE MUSICIANS

Please describe below special accommodations/requests required for your event. If no special accommodations/request required, write NONE. NONE

Fees: (The minimum rental requirement and deposit are required when the facility of your choice is reserved 31 day or more in advance.)
Rent: \$75/hr X Number of Hours 6 hrs = Total Rent \$450
Setup/Tear-down Fee: 150.00 Alcoholic Beverage Fee: 100.00 \$125 Other Fees: Amplifiers/plates - w/ tip
Deposit: 300.00 Surcharge: \$3.00 x 100 ppl = \$300
Total of ALL Fees PLUS Deposit: \$1025 \$300 surcharge = \$1325

(Deposits are refunded 6-8 weeks AFTER event date, provided the facility is left in acceptable condition and the event goes as planned)

CANCELLATION FEES: 61 days or more notice: Forfeit 1/2 Deposit
31 days to 60 days notice: Forfeit Deposit
30 days 11 days notice: Forfeit Deposit PLUS 1/2 Rental Fee
10 days or less notice: Forfeit All Fees

Check Amount: \$ \$1000 Check #: #114 (PS) #113 Cash: /

Type of Credit Card (Visa or Master Card Only): / Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

I authorize the Office of Parks and Recreation, Central Reservations Unit to charge my Visa or Master Card for the minimum payment required (rental and deposit \$ _____) or the total fee \$ _____ for my reservation at

LEONA LOOGE on FEBRUARY 25, 2012
(Facility) (Event Date)

Peggy Schneider PEGGY SCHNEIDER
(Signature Required) (Print Name) (Driver License #/Expiration Date)

ATTENTION

- ✓ DID YOU REMEMBER TO SIGN THIS APPLICATION?
- ✓ DID YOU REMEMBER TO ATTACH A LEGIBLE COPY OF YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD?

Berkeley Banyan Facts:

Berkeley, California, is part of the San Francisco Bay Area, when asked what they like most about living in Berkeley, residents repeatedly cite cultural diversity, art, beautiful parks, innovative businesses, and friendliness amongst neighbors. Other frequently mentioned characteristics include great restaurants and shopping, proximity to the University of California Berkeley.

Historical Information: In 1878, twenty-eight years after California became the Union's 31st State, a small town nestled on San Francisco Bay's eastern shore was incorporated as the City of Berkeley. Previously part of a larger area known as Ocean View, Berkeley was named after philosopher Bishop George Berkeley, born near Thomastown, Ireland in 1685. For more information visit www.ci.berkeley.ca.us.

Banyan, Afghanistan, is a town in central Afghanistan, the capital of Banyan Province. It has approximately 240 kilometers north-west of Kabul. Banyan is the biggest town in Hazarajat, a famous for the ancient part of the town, where the Buddhas of Banyan stood for almost two millennia.

Historical Information: Afghanistan's history can be traced back to when the land was once called "Ariana". Banyan means "the place of shining light". Banyan central cultural monuments were the two Buddha statues carved in the eastern and western ends of a high cliff facing the central valley. Some one thousand caves are also cut into the cliff face and decorated with rich variety murals. The Buddhist art of Banyan, which enjoyed a renaissance in central Afghanistan after the collapse of the earlier Gandharan culture, spread to and influenced various countries along the Silk Road. For more information visit www.banyan.info.

Who are we?

We are a group of students, professionals, and Afghan Americans who are residents of the San Francisco Bay Area in the state of California in the USA. We want to help spread education and rebuild a war torn country.

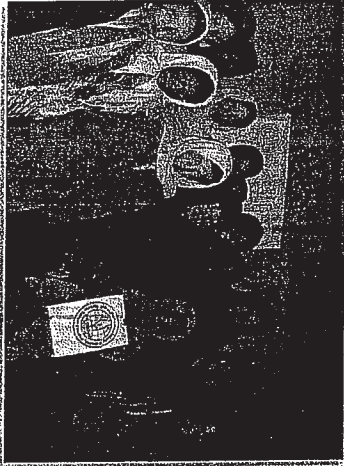
Our Mission is to provide education, job training, supplies/equipment and medical care to encourage higher education and self-sufficiency to this war torn region of the country.

Our Current Projects:

Education: support the University of Banyan, high school & elementary schools as well as adult literacy classes.

Vocational Training: The vocational training project provides skill development courses of stitching, knitting, cooking and carpet weaving. Our goal is to support these war victims of wars become self sufficient as soon as possible.

Medical Care: Our medical facilities provide a fully functional hospital with surgical wards, full laboratory and pharmacy with a complete staff complement. They also provide to care for specially disabled people.



Women attending our literacy classes

How you can help:

Become a member of BBFF Membership; dues are just \$40 per year.

Make a tax-free donation, checks payable to BBFF.

My check is enclosed. Amt: _____

Credit Card: Visa MC AMEX

Name on the card: _____ Ex: _____

_____ Cvc _____

Sign up as a volunteer for our events;

Donate your services or your space;

Sponsor a project.

Donate school/medical supplies;

Organize an educational workshop.

Together we can make a difference!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Berkeley Banyan Education Foundation

P.O. Box 1624 Oakland CA 94604-1624

Phone: 510-255-3917
Fax: 510-255-3915
www.banyan.info

CITY OF OAKLAND
Interoffice Memorandum



Office of Parks and Recreation

TO: Michael Hammock, Co-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Susan Montauk, Co-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Stephanie Benavidez
DATE: November 9, 2011
SUBJECT: **An informational report on negative impacts occurring in Joaquin Miller Park and the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park Redwood Committee's recommendations to mitigate the problems**

SUMMARY

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park (FoJMP) formed its Redwood Committee to research and address impacts on the redwood areas in the park. Problems to be addressed include denuded understory, erosion, and increasing numbers of bootleg (illegal) trails. City of Oakland staff serves as ex-officio members of the Board and have been active on the committee. To mitigate the negative impacts, the committee recommends the following:

- Reducing off-trail user impacts
- Addressing erosion and creek issues
- Restoring vegetation

The attached recommendations (Exhibit A) provide a detailed look at actions that need to be taken to preserve the long-term health of the redwood forest and its creeks.

This portion of the park is zoned as a Resource Conservation Area (Exhibit B). We need to take steps to protect, restore, and enhance this area while continuing to support open public use of the park and ensuring that revenue is not decreased. It is anticipated that most of the expenses will be funded by grants, and much of the work will be performed by volunteers or by programs such as Measure Y. Moving forward will require continuing City of Oakland staff involvement. We will present specific items for PRAC approval when detailed plans are complete (e.g., Circulation Plan for the redwood forest area).

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational report there are no financial costs associated or obligated at this time. As the organization gets closer to finalizing their plans, they will return to PRAC with a detailed budget for implementation. It is the expectation that the Friends of Sausal Creek will bear the majority of the cost.

Funding for projects such as interpretative signage, fences, bridges, or other major costs will be raised through grants written by FoJMP and/or Friends of Sausal Creek (FoSC).

City staff assistance with recommended actions includes:

- Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff continuing to participate in Redwood Committee meetings (two hours, bi-monthly, alternating with FoJMP Board meetings), plus helping to research and write the geocaching, orienteering, dog walking, and other policies;
- Public Works staff managing the Project Y crew for two weeks;
- Public Works staff assisting with hydrology issues, such as installing culverts or removing the weir; and
- The Watershed Improvement Program staff assisting with any work that involves the bed and bank of creeks. Bryn Samuel with Environmental Services has been our contact and will continue to consult with us as needed. In particular, the construction of a bridge across Fern Creek and the replacement of the deteriorating bridge across Orchard Creek will require an extensive permitting effort.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- **Purpose**
The purpose of this project is to protect, enhance, and restore the redwood forest areas of Joaquin Miller Park; all parks users of the redwood area will benefit in the long term.
- **Goals and objectives**
 - Keep park users on trails, especially in sensitive habitats
 - Reduce trampling of understory and compaction of soil under redwoods
 - Restore trampled areas by planting appropriate, local natives
 - Reduce erosion of soil and improve hydrology (see Exhibit C)
 - Educate park users about impacts of off-trail use and about redwood forest ecology
- **Location**
Joaquin Miller Park, principally in the redwood forest area between Sequoia-Bayview Trail and Skyline Boulevard. Note that this portion of Joaquin Miller Park is designated a Resource Conservation Area in the Oakland General Plan's Open Space, Conservation and Recreation (OSCAR) Element (Exhibit B).
- **Implementation plan (including time line)**
The most critical effort is the reduction of off-trail impacts in the redwood understory and on creek banks. Moving the summer camp drop-off location in 2012 will significantly reduce off-trail use at several hard-hit sites. Establishing log barriers to delineate the trails will take place in the next two years; partly with the Measure Y youth program. Options for fencing, where needed, will be researched. The Redwood Committee will work with Parks and Recreation staff to research and draft orienteering and geocaching policies for PRAC approval.

2012 Priorities:

- Native plant installation in Fern Ravine redwood understory (winter 2011-2012)
- Work with Parks and Recreation to consider alternate summer camp drop-off location for summer 2012 and alternative locations for activities that are impacting the redwood understory
- Continue installation of log and brush barriers at most impacted understory and riparian sites; determine areas that need to be fenced to prevent damaging traffic and research fencing options; seek PRAC approval for fencing project(s); and seek funding for fences
- Repair erosion and block social trail at location of removed "steps" (access down a steep slope to a bootleg trail)
- Begin mapping and research of redwood circulation routes for creation of Joaquin Miller Park Redwood Circulation Plan
- Design interpretive signage for Fern Ravine trailhead and parking area near Redwood Glen Picnic Area; seek PRAC approval and funding for signage
- With City staff, Oakland Parks Coalition, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, and other "friends" groups and Adopt a Spot leaders:
 - Research and draft geocaching policy
 - Research ordinances on professional dog-walkers
 - Research and draft policy for orienteering activities
- Determine record of paid rentals of Redwood Glen Picnic Area and decide whether to recommend closing it
- With Oakland High School's Science Academy, start to GPS and map priority invasive plants
- Assess issues with the weir on Fern Ravine Creek near Sequoia-Bayview Trail; meet with Public Works and the Watershed Improvement Program to seek a solution
- Seek funding for bridge construction; bridge is to be built when funding source found and permits obtained

2013 and Beyond Priorities:

- Native plant installation in Fern Ravine redwood understory (each winter)
- Organize holly removal efforts along Palo Seco Creek
- Continue to seek funding for projects and for expansion of restoration efforts

- **Plan for ongoing operation or maintenance**

Volunteer crews can perform most of the maintenance required. These tasks include mulching, assessing the condition of barriers, and blocking new social trails with logs and brush. City staff time will be needed for the removal of green waste and delivery of mulch.

BACKGROUND

In 2000, in response to perceived negative impacts of increased recreational use in Joaquin Miller Park, the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation contracted William Lettis & Associates and Natural Resources Management Corporation to produce *An Assessment of Trails, Watercourses, Soils, and Redwood Forest Health in Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland, California, with Recommendations for Management*.

Friends of Joaquin Miller Park was formally founded in spring 2010. It evolved from the Joaquin Miller Park Working Group started by Jean Quan in 2005, when she was District 4 Councilperson. The Friends of Joaquin Miller Park Board of Directors currently consists of representatives of major stakeholders in the park and representatives of nearby neighborhood associations, plus three at-large board members. Several City of Oakland staff serve as ex-officio members of the board, including Stephanie Benavidez from Parks and Recreation and Martin Matarrese from Public Works.

Starting in September 2009, Friends of Sausal Creek (FoSC) began working on a volunteer-led restoration project in the upper area of Fern Ravine, encompassing the wetlands, surrounding uplands, and the stretch of Fern Ravine Creek from the wetland to Sequoia-Bayview Trail, a heavily impacted area in the redwood understory. This site now has an official Adopt a Creek designation, adopted jointly by FoSC and FoJMP. Discussion of this project during FoJMP board meetings led to the formation of the Redwood Committee to look at issues in the redwood area of the Fern Ravine project and throughout the park.

In 2009-11, the FoJMP Redwood Committee visited several sites throughout the redwood areas of the park, looking at the impacts of park users who are “loving the park to death.” The attached list of goals (Exhibit A) evolved from these site visits and subsequent discussions, and was approved by the FoJMP board in June 2011.

Accomplishments to date that affect the redwoods area:

- Project Y crews worked for two weeks in fall 2009 removing woody debris, delineating trails, and moving mulch in the redwoods.
- In September 2010, FoJMP partnered with Volunteers for Outdoor California to reroute the Big Trees Trail to follow hillside contours, decommissioning a steep, eroding downhill section that crossed the headwaters of an ephemeral creek.
- Friends of Sausal Creek obtained \$9,700 in funding from the Environmental Protection Agency to develop the *Fern Ravine Restoration Plan* and begin plant propagation; the plan was completed in December 2010.
- Friends of Sausal Creek received a \$10,000 grant from the Rose Foundation that includes funding for participation in FoJMP Redwood Committee work and implementation of the *Fern Ravine Restoration Plan* and the *Sausal Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan* in 2011-2012.
- Friends of Sausal Creek planted 28 trees in the Fern Ravine uplands under a contract with EBMUD in winter 2010-2011. This contract includes five years of maintenance and monitoring. The share of the contract attributed to this site is \$3,700.
- In summer 2011, FoSC’s Restoration Manager, Megan Hess, began meeting with camp counselors and camp participants to explain how their presence can affect the redwoods area, and to teach them ways to reduce their impact. She met with Touch the Earth camp counselors during their training period to discuss Leave No Trace ethics and provide resources through FoSC (*i.e.*, offer for FoSC staff to lead restoration projects, interpretive walks, or other activities during camp). Megan visited three of the Touch the Earth camp sessions to lead educational activities relating to local ecology and human impacts, plant identification hikes, and hands-on restoration. Future goals are to continue working with Touch the Earth, and to begin working with the older campers through the Shake, Rattle & Roll program, which has the greatest impact on the Fern Ravine restoration area, as was observed this summer and in previous years. Exhibit D is the “Leave No Trace Ethics” handout distributed at the counselor training session on June 17, 2011.
- From fall 2009 to July 2011 over 170 volunteer visits have resulted in more than 600 hours of volunteer time, in addition to the volunteer time of FoJMP board members to attend board and committee meetings.

Volunteer groups have included Girl Scouts; students from Julia Morgan School for Girls and De La Salle High School; members of the Piedmont High School buildOn Club; elementary school summer campers from Chabot Space & Science Center; a restoration class from Merritt College; FoSC volunteers; and members of the American Society of Landscape Architect's Emerging Professionals Group.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff invites the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to participate in the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park board meetings and the FoJMP Redwood Committee meetings as the Redwood Committee moves forward with actions items based on their recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Benavidez
Supervising Naturalist

Attachments: Exhibit A – *Friends of Joaquin Miller Park – Redwood Committee Recommendations*

Exhibit B – *Joaquin Miller Park Zoning and Redwood Areas Map*

Exhibit C – *Joaquin Miller Park Trails and Major Erosion Sites from Sausal Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan, Figure 90*

Exhibit D – *Friends of Sausal Creek Handout for Camp Counselors on Leave No Trace Ethics*

Exhibit A **Friends of Joaquin Miller Park - Redwood Committee**
Recommendations for Redwood Area – Adopted June 13, 2011

Define Goals for the Area

Problem Area	Recommendation
Whole redwood area, from Skyline Blvd. to redwoods along Palo Seco Creek to Highway 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document problems with photos • Continue site visits to redwood problem areas (e.g., Palos Colorados Trail—problem here is more invasive plants than trampling issues) • Draw from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City regulations for protecting resources ○ Oakland General Plan: Open Space, Conservation and Recreation element ○ <i>An Assessment of Trails, Watercourses, Soils, and Redwood Forest Health in Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland, California, with Recommendations for Management</i> (William Lettis & Associates and Natural Resources Management Corp., December 2000) ○ <i>Sausal Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan (SCWEP)</i> (Laurel Marcus and Associates, March 2010) ○ <i>Fern Ravine Restoration Plan (FRRP)</i> (FOSC, December 2010) ○ Other models (e.g., EBRPD Redwood Bowl, Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve, Muir Woods National Monument) • Coordinate with City of Oakland to create enforcement mechanism; violating the leash law, damaging vegetation, graffiti, and disobeying the bicycle ordinance are all infractions, and park staff could be trained to write tickets
Funding and Volunteer Workers for Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding sources and volunteer sources as projects are defined

Signage and Park User Education

Problem Area	Recommendation
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add large interpretive panel signage at Fern Ravine Trail redwood entry • Add small signs to trailhead and log barriers • Determine signage needs in other areas
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOSC, FOJMP, and Rotary Nature Center to collaborate on educational outreach to cyclists and other user groups (e.g., include Joaquin Miller Park info in OPR brochure)
Bike Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue efforts to educate park users

Restricting Users to Trails

Problem Area	Recommendation
Create Circulation Plan for entire redwood area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect all ridge areas to make circulating path. Need to tour ridge area and lay out circulation route. • Create better defined trail to DAR monument • Address issue of Big Trees Trail disconnect, where the trail merges with the paved service road • Address areas on Big Trees Trail where spurs lead off trail • More clearly define network of trails in bowl area near Redwood Glen • Consider constructing clearly defined paths (e.g., decomposed granite, boardwalk) for areas where trail needs to be made obvious but fencing is not desired

Problem Area	Recommendation
Picnic Areas	<p>Horseshoe Picnic Area (see FRRP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep picnic area and trails cleared and mulched • Protect new plantings with temporary barriers • Plant shrub border inside log barrier at wetlands <p>Redwood Glen Picnic Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider closing (<i>i.e.</i>, removing barbecue pits and picnic tables) as rarely used; Oakland Public Works can make recommendation to Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation at monthly joint meeting
Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create or enhance barriers, including log barriers, brush barriers, and fences • Maintain barriers • Monitor for new social (bootleg or illegal) trails
Summer Camps	<p>Collaborate with City of Oakland to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change camp drop off location (not possible until summer 2012) • Move campfire area to less sensitive location • Require all campers to stay on trail in restoration area • Disallow fort building (by all groups) • Train counselors, emphasizing theme of "Freedom with Responsibility" • Create a guide for camp counselors with games that are appropriate in given areas (e.g., meadow camps) • Instruct campers on park etiquette and reducing impacts, including handout • Involve summer camp youth in restoration projects (<i>e.g.</i>, spreading mulch, removing invasive non-native species, building fences); provide choices of projects so participants can choose based on interest • Explore whether there are other Parks & Recreation youth programs during the school year whose participants could be involved in restoration projects (<i>e.g.</i>, I-Green Team)
Orienteering Courses	<p>Collaborate with City of Oakland to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with orienteering course representative • Enforce permit for large events • Move orienteering course out of sensitive areas in the redwoods • Modify orienteering maps to mark sensitive areas as "out of bounds"
Geocaching	<p>Collaborate with City of Oakland to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create geocaching policy, based on EBRPD policy; include requirement to obtain a permit before placement of geocache • Provide potential geocachers with maps of sensitive areas • Request removal of caches in sensitive areas • Monitor geocaching websites for caches in JMP
Other Users (e.g., professional dog walkers, film crews)	<p>Collaborate with City of Oakland to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create list of activities not allowed in resource conservation area so activities such as filming can be limited by administrative measures • Create policy for professional dog walkers based as closely as possible on EBRPD policy

Erosion and Creek Issues

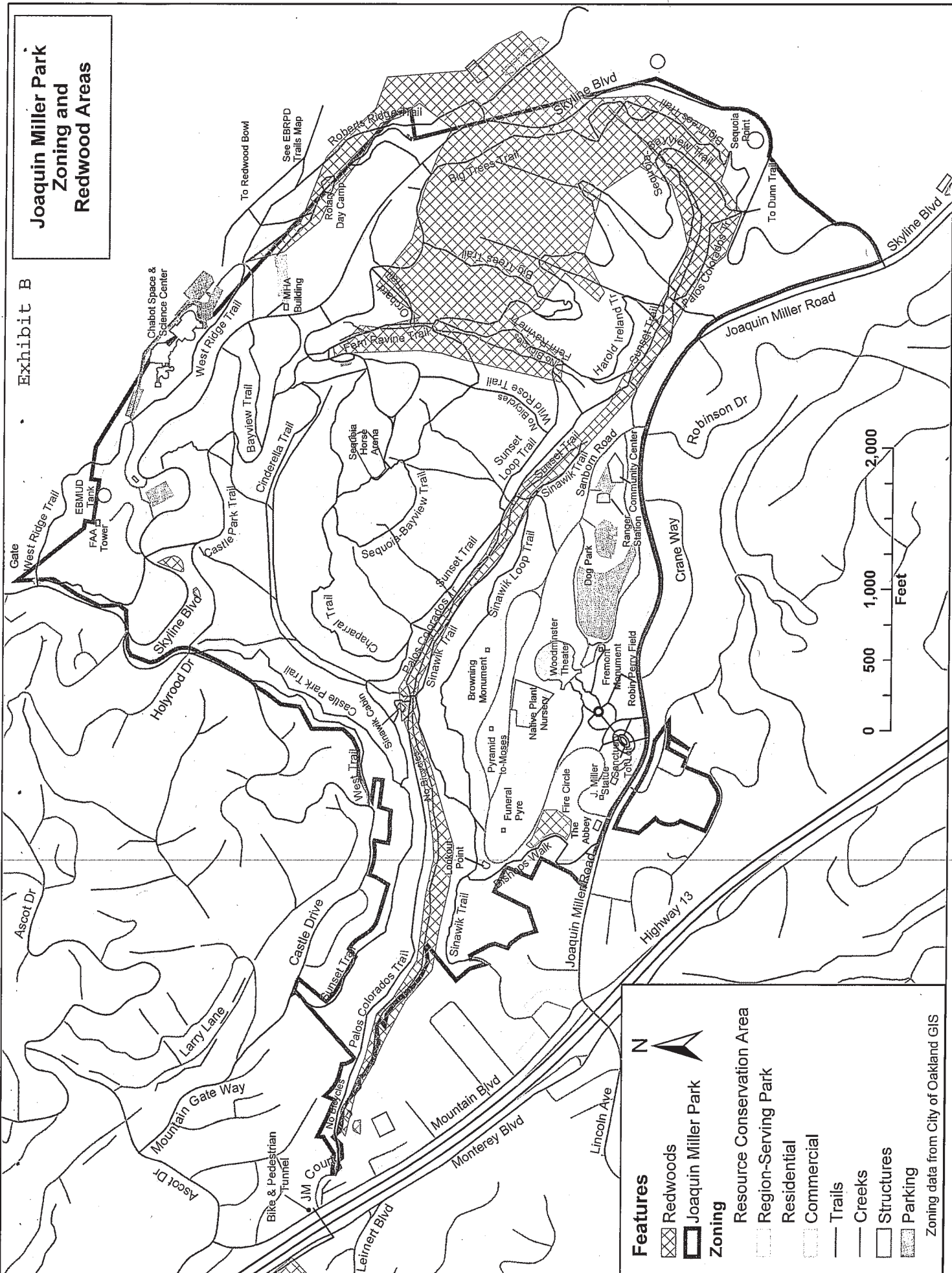
Problem Area	Recommendation
“Steps” by Sequoia Arena entrance gate (see FRRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence or barricade to prevent access to steps • Remove steps • Revegetate embankment • Block social trail below steps • Monitor revegetation • Explore runoff retention at roadside • Maintain embankment filtering through periodic litter removal
Fern Ravine Creek/ Fern Ravine Trail Crossing (see FRRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess efficacy of double-fence barriers and signage; modify as needed • Install logs or other barriers • Work with the City of Oakland to relocate summer camp campfire area, and orienteering control posts • Construct new bridge crossing over Fern Ravine Creek • Repair or replace the Fern Ravine Trail bridge that crosses Orchard Creek
Weir and Trail Undercut (see FRRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get City of Oakland to evaluate Fern Ravine Creek weir structure; will need Environmental Services approval to cut pipes and reinforce trail
Erosion at Sequoia-Bayview/Sunset Trail (see SCWEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install culvert where creek crosses trail
Stone bridge across Palos Colorados Trail (see SCWEP)	<p>Develop plan to address sediment and stability issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steep elevation change from trash rack above bridge to bed below bridge threatens bridge and surrounding redwoods • Deep headcut below bridge is moving upstream; threatens bridge and stability of streamside redwoods • Rilling and erosion of surrounding trails

Restoring Vegetation

Problem Area	Recommendation
Large non-native tree removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS locations of large non-native trees and measure diameter • Prioritize large tree removal • Get tree removal permits as needed • Secure funding or City help for large tree removal
Reduce non-native plants, especially the invasives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop lists of high-priority species (e.g., ivy, Cape ivy, holly, blackberry) • Map priority areas (riparian areas, steep slopes, etc.) • Support and expand Hummingbird Lou's ivy-removal work • Organize work event focusing on holly infestation on Palo Seco Creek; must plan for follow-up
Restore native vegetation to impacted areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate restoration areas • Develop plans for each site: barriers, invasives removal, and planting, erosion control • Implement plans as funding and volunteer effort allow • Monitor

Joaquin Miller Park Zoning and Redwood Areas

Exhibit B



Features

- Redwoods
- Joaquin Miller Park

Zoning

- Resource Conservation Area
- Region-Serving Park
- Residential
- Commercial
- Trails
- Creeks
- Structures
- Parking

North arrow pointing up.

Zoning data from City of Oakland GIS

Figure 90: Joaquin Miller Park
Trails and Major Erosion Sites

- █ Park Boundary
- Creeks
- ▬ Ephemeral Creeks
- Erosion Sites
- Trails

Sausal Creek Watershed Plan



Fyi j c j u E **Friends of Sausal Creek Resources**

- Attend upcoming volunteer events at the native plant nursery or restoration sites to learn what FOSC is doing to improve habitat in the park at <http://sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html>
 - Invite FOSC staff to lead a native plant ID hike; environmental education lessons, habitat restoration, or to lend ideas for games and activities that are relevant to the surrounding environment
 - Visit the Sausal Creek kids pages to enhance your knowledge of park and watershed history, and learn what wildlife and plants are in the area: <http://www.sausalcreek.org/kids/>
 - **Come out to the Sequoia Arena/ Fern Ravine restoration site this Saturday (6/18) from 9am-noon to see what we're doing to improve the redwood understory, and become an ongoing part of this project with your campers!**
 - For more information, contact Megan Hess at Field@SausalCreek.org, or (510)325-9006
-

Leave No Trace Ethics

Things to remember:

- Much of Oakland has been developed for human use, so the remaining open space is critical for wildlife, rare and endangered plant communities, and overall ecosystem health.
- Human use in open space plays a large role in the overall health of the local watershed. It is every individual's choice to protect and improve these spaces, or to do harm to them.
- Teach fellow park users how to respect open spaces by following best practices your self, teaching by example.

On the Trail

- Stay on trail & avoid creating new trails, especially with large groups
- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.

Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

- Take only pictures, leave only the lightest of footprints, and bring home only memories.
- Resist the temptation to take home souvenirs. Leave stones, feathers, artifacts, shells, petrified wood, etc. so that others may enjoy them.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Definition of Stewardship

- Stewardship is an environmental concept of responsible caretaking for our land and associated resources.
- Stewardship is an ethical responsibility for mankind to protect and manage plants, animals, and all the parts of our environment and should be guided by the principle of causing the least amount of harm possible. This includes protecting the environment by limiting pollution, through recycling and conservation, and by responsible management of our natural resources.
- Stewardship is our responsibility to leave behind healthy environments for future generations.
- Stewardship is putting aside selfishness and greed and doing what is right for our natural environment.
- Stewardship is also referred to as environmental stewardship or outdoor stewardship.

More information at Leave No Trace, Center for Outdoor Ethics, www.Int.org and www.backcountryattitude.com
