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## March 2, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda

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Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 4:15 PM

You are too kind. Please see some updates below:

### **General Park Updates:**

Due to inclement weather and out of an abundance of caution, the Department is closing seven parks between March 9 and March 12, including Quarry Park. All other parks on the Midcoast will remain open for the time being. Should other parks require partial or full closures, the Department will update the following webpage ([https://www.google.com/search?q=inclinate+weather&rlz=1C1GCEB\\_enUS973US973&oq=inclinate+weather&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i3i10j0i10i51218.2405j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=inclinate+weather&rlz=1C1GCEB_enUS973US973&oq=inclinate+weather&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i3i10j0i10i51218.2405j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)). Everyone is encouraged to monitor the Department's website for the most up-to-date information.

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve – The tidepools/beach on the north side of the reserve is open and accessible by way of the main ramp and stairs; this was opened on March 1 (<https://www.smcgov.org/parks/news/fitzgerald-marine-reserve-reopens>). The stairs at Seal Cove are still closed, but will be fixed this month. The lumber needed to conduct the repairs had to be special ordered and milled. We will be conducting this repairs using Department staff as soon as the lumber is delivered. This is a top priority for the Department. Also, the bridge on the Coastal Trail is still closed due to a large tree falling on it during the January storm. We sent the bridge specifications to County Procurement so we can start the process of purchasing a new bridge. Once a contract with a vendor is executed, it will take approximately 12 -18 weeks for the bridge to be fabricated and delivered. We will be pursuing FEMA funding for this project. All other trails and facilities at the reserve have been open to the public since mid-February.

Pillar Point Bluff – There is a small landslide that is blocking a portion of the Jean Lauer Trail. The debris is still very wet making it too heavy to move at this time. Once the debris dries out some, we will move it off the trail. Due to alternative routes and access points, all other trails and facilities at Pillar Point Bluff are open and accessible.

Devil's Slide – The trail is fully open and the southern parking lot is fully open. There remains concerns regarding rocks falling from the cliffs above the northern parking lot, and therefore, Caltrans (who owns the cliffs) has asked that we keep the northern parking lot closed until further determinations can be made. We are waiting for an update from them on this matter. I will follow up with you when we receive more information.

### **Fuel Reduction Updates:**

The San Mateo County Parks Department, in partnership with CalFire, will be conducting fuel reduction work at Pillar Point Bluff starting March 13<sup>th</sup>. The project will include clearing unhealthy Monterey Pines, other non-native trees, dead woody debris, and invasive plants in an 18-acre area. Work will along the Jean Lauer Trail on the eastern boundary of the park, in the cypress grove adjacent to the Pillar Ridge community. Hand tools and mechanical equipment will be used, including grinders to remove large trees and chippers to reduce smaller trees to material that can be spread on site to reduce weed growth. Hikers should expect trail closures near the work area, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 24. Noise and dust will be generated when equipment is used. San Mateo County Parks Department staff will be on site to coordinate work, ensure that sensitive plant and animal species are protected, and that best management practices are followed.

Additionally, starting on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, County Parks will be starting work at Quarry Park to conduct invasive species control work within previously completed fuel reduction project areas. These work areas include the 2019 Governor's fuel reduction project areas, and some areas treated in 2021 for the State Coastal Conservancy Grant project. This work is important ongoing maintenance of these fuel reduction project to reduce the regrowth of invasive vegetation while promoting the presence of native shrubs and wildflowers.

These projects are included in the Department's Wildfire Fuel Management Program and collectively mitigate the threat of wildfire to nearby residents by reducing fuel loads and improving the ability for emergency responders to contain and suppress fire.

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