



BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS

Helping Preserve Equestrian Land & Trails in the San Francisco Bay Area

MARCH 2008: REGIONAL E-NEWS FROM 'BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS'

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“Great news! Horses are now officially part of Sonoma County's agriculture...

...according to the new Sonoma County General Plan, updated by the Board of Supervisors on Jan. 15, 2008. The new wording states: “The raising of horses has long been a tradition in Sonoma County. Equestrian uses are second only to grapes and wine production to the county's agricultural economy. Horses play an important role in many aspects of life, including farm and ranch work, timber harvest, riding, packing, shows and racing. Policy support is needed in order to assure that horses and agriculture-related equestrian facilities are explicitly recognized as agricultural uses.”

The updated General Plan further states:

GOAL: Provide for the raising of horses in the same manner as the production of other agricultural products.

Objective 1. Allow the raising of horses and related facilities and activities in all agricultural areas.

Objective 2. Provide opportunities for the development of support facilities for the horse industry on appropriate lands, consistent with best management practices.

The following policy shall be used to achieve these three objectives:

-Permit raising of horses and related facilities in the same manner as other agriculture production uses.

This is a fabulous step forward in your Horse Council's goal to return the horse industry to its rightful place as an accepted part of the agricultural economy in Sonoma County and in California. But this step is only approval of it as policy. The next, important steps will be to transfer that policy into actual procedure, and, as they say, the devil is in the details. For instance, the General Plan still has a sentence that reads, "Equestrian uses conducted for recreational or other non-agricultural uses are not considered agricultural uses in this context." Obviously, we have to get that sentence changed.

Nevertheless, this monumental development will affect all future aspects of horse keeping and use on our private and public land. As the details of these recommendations are finalized, we at the Sonoma County Horse Council will keep you informed."

www.sonoma-horse-council.com/

Equestrians invited to help plan Bay Area Ridge Trail route in Southern Sonoma County

Trail advocates are invited to help plan a hiking, biking and horseback riding trail route between Mount Burdell/Olompali State Historic Park, Petaluma (Helen Putman Park and Adobe State Historic Park). If you keep or ride horses in the Southern part of Sonoma County, your knowledge and energy would be welcome.

Please contact Barbara Weitz 415-383-6283.

Envision the Future of the Concord Naval Weapons Station

Parks and urban planning experts will speak March 29, 2008 at "Envision the Future of the Concord Naval Weapons Station," Greenbelt Alliance's educational event cosponsored with the Community Coalition for a Sustainable Concord. This is a critical time to get involved, to help preserve the base's open space and create a thriving new community around the BART station.

Read the full story here:

<http://www.greenbelt.org/resources/newswire/2008March.html#subheading6>

Lynch Canyon Docent Led Ride, March 16, 2008, 10AM

Come enjoy a leisurely two hour ride in Lynch Canyon, Solano County's newest park! With 1039 acres of open space, Lynch is now open to the public 5 days a week and offers equestrians great trail riding opportunities close to home!

This ride goes through peaceful grasslands accented with groves of buckeyes and live oaks, and then climbs up to the 900 foot ridges offering awesome views of the Bay Area, Delta, Wine Country, and the Sierra Nevada! Space is limited to 10 adult riders who have trail riding experience. No dogs or stallions, please. There is ample water in the park for your horses. Bathrooms available at the parking area. No drinking water. \$5.00 parking fee.

Contact Christine Kenaston at 707-469-6341 or email at cnken13@juno.com.

Visit Solano Land Trust's website at www.solanolandtrust.org for more information about the park.

Tolay Regional Park Interim Working Plan

Tolay Lake Regional Park Interim Plan Working Group.

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Liz Ravenscroft, Region One Trails Chair, represented equestrian trail interests at Sonoma County Regional Parks and Environmental Review Committee hearings in late December regarding Tolay Regional Park Interim Access Plan (along with Back Country Horsemen and Sonoma County Horse Council representatives as well as individuals from the Valley of the Moon Riding Club and Wine Country Peruvian Paso Club). An alternative plan proposed by an informal equestrian-bicyclist coalition spontaneously formed at these hearings is now under consideration by the Sonoma County Regional Parks. A positive outcome is anticipated.

Tolay Park Update 3-6-2008

<http://www.northbayunit.com>

Thank you, Dan Horn, Back Country Horsemen, North Bay Unit, for the following detailed report:

'As a result of our input at the public meetings concerning Tolay in December, Sonoma County Regional Parks invited a representative from each user group to take part in a Working Group. There were two meetings, one in January and one in February. The biggest change is in Days of use and that use will be by permit something along the lines of what we now have at Willow Creek State Park.

There will be two schedules for the length of the Interim period which could last as long as 5 years until the Master Plan is completed. Summer Use and Winter Use. Winter Use will be set by conditions not calendar. Under Summer use Hikers, Bikers and Equestrians will be allowed access 3 days a week. Right now the 3 days are Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Winter use will be limited mainly to hikers. Which is necessary, we all know what that adobe ground is like in wet conditions. Special Events such as the Pumpkin Festival will be closed to permit use to limit the impact to the park.

This is a big step from the first plan of 2 days a month for the 5 months of summer.

I would also stress the importance during the Interim Period that Equestrians car pool as much as possible to lessen the traffic and impact on Cannon Lane and space in the parking lot. There will be improvements to Cannon Lane with the Master Plan.

Here is a short, general summary of the Tolay Interim Plan Working Group meeting on Tuesday, the 26th.

1. Number of People Covered by a Permit Holder: The Working Group is recommending that a

permit holder can cover three non-permitted people for a total of four people per permit. The group doesn't have to be limited to one vehicle. If an organization is planning an event, such as an equestrian ride, they will notify Regional Parks if twelve or more individuals will be attending.

There was discussion about large groups who will want to reserve the group picnic area. Internally, Regional Parks previously agreed that we would have a special Orientation for these groups at the beginning of their reservation time instead of making a certain number of them attend a regularly scheduled orientation. We decided that in order to have a truly equitable system, even the picnicker needs to participate in the orientation program because, quite frankly, we won't be able to control their movement within Tolay once they're there.

2. Orientation Program. Some Working Group members got together on their own in between the meetings and came up with an outline for the Orientation Program. This was distributed and presented at the Working Group meeting. It definitely provides a good start. The Working Group is recommending that the Orientation be approximately one hour followed by an optional hike. They recommend that the Orientation and associated hike be on-foot only, no horses or bicycles; that the permits be available for distribution at the end of the Orientation; and that the permits be renewed annually. Annual renewal would be a paperwork exercise, not requiring annual orientation.

Other technical issues that Regional Parks needs to work out include the frequency of the orientations, whether we will cap the number of participants per orientation, and whether we will cap the number of permits.

3. Liability. Nick Tipon, representing the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, brought up a good point regarding liability. Specifically, who is liable in the case that cultural resources are taken, destroyed, damaged, etc. Mary Burns said we would be checking in with County Counsel on this point.

4. Public Workshop. Now that we have the Working Group's recommendations, Regional Parks will be scheduling a Public Workshop. We hope this can occur next month. I will let you know for sure when it is scheduled.

There will be no warning about following the rules or staying on the designated trails. Any violation will result in the loss of your permit.

This is still a few months away, so check back for posting of starting date of Orientations and Park Opening Date.”

Golden Gate Park Stables

Tom Hart reports the Request For Proposals (RFP) for Golden Gate Park Stables is being developed, and the Recreation and Park Department plans to have an announcement about the published package by summer. For more information contact:

Tom Hart | tom.hart@sfgov.org
Property Manager, Recreation and Park Department
501 Stanyan Street | San Francisco, CA 94117 | 415-831-2773

San Francisco Parks Trust is partnering with San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

(RPD) to preserve the historic stables and bring horses back to Golden Gate Park. To visit the Parks Trust web-page regarding The Equestrian Center at Golden Gate Park Stables, go to <http://www.sfpt.org/Default.aspx?tabid=262> . If you are interested in supporting the project, you may give through their website and note the gift is for the Stables. The Parks Trust will be updating the website as details develop.

If you are interested in learning more about the Equestrian Center at Golden Gate Park, please contact cynthia@sfpt.org with your address to sign up for informational emails and mailings.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Your support enables BABTT and its partners to support the work of Bay Area equestrian organizations, landowners, land trusts, and land managing agencies.

Membership forms are available on our website, in the newsletter, or you may [click here to JOIN ONLINE](#) through 'Groundspring'



To help keep BABTT informed of acquisition, facility and trail maintenance opportunities and challenges in your area, please submit articles and photos to Bay Area Barns and Trails: babt2@earthlink.net
visit us online @ www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

[Unsubscribe](#) BABTT2@earthlink.net

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