



BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS

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

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

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PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! BABTT BANK ACCOUNT NEEDS NOURISHMENT!

We have donated nearly \$125,000 to local equestrian-related projects and have pledged another \$15,000 for projects through 2008. As most of you know, BABTT does not receive public funds; we rely upon support from our members and private foundations. Your donation enables BABTT to support the work of Bay Area equestrian organizations, landowners, land trusts, and land managing agencies.

Bay Area Barns and Trails was incorporated as a California non-profit corporation in November 1999 and in March 2004 was confirmed by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity: Tax I. D. # 68-0442986. BABTT is registered with www.Guidestar.org

Please HELP!

Our mailing address is:

Bay Area Barns and Trails | P. O. Box 2435 | Mill Valley, CA 94941-2435

Phone 415-383-6283; Fax 415-381-3809; babtt@earthlink.net

www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

Membership forms are available on our website.



New Bay Area Ridge Trail Guidebook Released!

Wilderness Press has released the 3rd edition of Jean Rusmore's Bay Area Ridge Trail: The Official Guide for Hikers, Mountain Bikers, and Equestrians.

This indispensable guide has been fully updated-with every open trail section and 58 complete trips lovingly detailed. It will inspire and equip you to enjoy countless adventures with maps, directions, and tips to help make the most of your trail outings. You can also purchase the book from your favorite local book or sporting goods store, or from on-line sources.

www.ridgetrail.org

Measure WW: Vote for Extension of East Bay Regional Open Space, Wildlife, Shoreline and Parks Bond

On August 5 the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors took the final step to place a proposition on the November 4, 2008 ballot. The proposition, which has the ballot designation of Measure WW, would extend a bond measure (Measure AA) passed in 1988 without raising the present property tax rates above the present rate of \$10 per year, per \$100,000.

Of the \$500 million, \$375 million of the revenue (75%) will fund regional park acquisitions and capital projects, with \$26.2 million (7%) of that amount held in reserve for unanticipated future needs and opportunities.

In addition, \$125 million (25%) of proceeds will go to cities, special park and recreation districts, and county service areas for their park and recreation services. Livermore voters are not part of this extension tax as Murray Township was not within the Regional Park's jurisdiction in the initial bond measure.

BABTT donated \$250.00 to help publicize this important bond renewal.
www.ebparcs.org/news/measure

Concord Naval Weapons Station ReUse Plan

The City of Concord is planning the reuse of the 5,100-acre Concord Naval Weapons Station--the largest development project in the East Bay. For more information on how you can get involved in the campaign for just, sustainable development at the Concord Naval Weapons Station, please contact the Community Coalition for a Sustainable Concord at (925) 246-5838 or via email at: CCSC@EBHO.org.

Save Mount Diablo is part of the Community Coalition for a Sustainable Concord (Community Coalition). The Coalition is a collection of affordable housing, interfaith, labor, conservation & neighborhood organizations seeking a plan that preserves the Weapons Station's natural resources and scenic hillsides. Save Mount Diablo supports an alternative which protects 80% of the base for parks, open space, and recreation: the creation of a major new regional park east of Mount Diablo creek, a 300' buffer to the creek, and an urban linear park along the Station's western boundary.

Please support an alternative which seeks 80% parks & open space. And please contact the City to strengthen your support.

Write/Fax/E-mail: Concord City Council (Bill Shinn, Mayor; Helen M. Allen, Vice Mayor; Laura Hoffmeister, Guy Bjerke, Mark Peterson (Council members)):
City of Concord, 1950 Parkside Dr., Concord, CA 94519, Fax: (925) 671-3375,
citycouncil@ci.concord.ca.us.

Oakland Park and Recreation Department: "City Stables in Oakland Hills on way to reopening"

By Cecily Burt - Montclarion Staff Writer - 7/24/2008

"City Stables in the Oakland hills has been shuttered for more than four years, its closure ending a convenient, albeit dilapidated place for locals to board their horses. The shutdown also meant the end of Wildcat Canyon Ranch, a popular program at the stables for at-risk youth. Since then, city officials have gone back and forth about what should happen to the place, with no real progress. But that is about to change because of a state open space and recreation program grant.

On July 15, the city awarded a contract to Rockridge Builders, who bid \$323,907, below the \$350,000 limit set for the project. The company will build 16 new paddocks to board 16 horses, demolish the corrals, clean up any hazardous materials and grade the site. Construction must start by September and be completed by January 2009. The project must be completed by March 2009 to qualify for the state funds. If extra money is available, a new hay barn would replace the unsafe structure that has already been torn down and a new turn-out corral would be added to the contract as alternate items.

The city first purchased the 7.4-acre City Stables with Measure K funds in 1994. A local nonprofit group operated the youth riding program until April 1, 2004, when the contract with the city was terminated because the operator did not have adequate liability insurance. The office of Parks and Recreation managed boarding operations at the stable until Sept. 1, 2004, when all the horses were evicted. The city tried to find a new operator, but the place was too run-down to attract much interest.

Once the work is done, the city will put out a new request for proposals to select a concessionaire for the stables who can manage the boarding aspect plus the youth programs. The city will maintain the stables until a new manager comes on board. Councilmember Desley Brooks said the contract is the first step in getting the stables back, both as a place for the public to board horses, and as a place for Oakland's youths to gain hands-on experience caring for the animals and learning about nature. It's important to have both uses, because the boarding fees will help subsidize the youth component, she said. "It's significant in that it puts us in a direction where we can return that site to productive use," Brooks said.

Judi Bank, president of Metropolitan Equestrian Preservation Society, which was formed to provide programs for inner-city kids, said it's been a "long trip" but she can finally see the end of the road. "This is very promising," she said. Metropolitan Horsemen's Association www.mha.org
cburt@bayareanewsgroup.com

Tilden Wildcat Horsemen & Metropolitan Horsemen host 9th annual 6-Day Hike & Ride August 27 - September 1, 2008

By the time this message reaches you, this fantastic event will be finishing up what promises to be another fabulous event: the East Bay Benefit Hike & Ride.

Participants ride from Tilden Park on Wednesday morning and may cover 100 miles over six days to raise money for improvement and maintenance of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The ride, which has raised over \$50,000 over five years, will follow trails through Tilden, Joaquin Miller and Chabot regional parks. Riders will camp two nights at each park, with catered dinners for the riders and hay, carrots and apples for the horses. Each night features an activity, from lectures on astronomy and park flora and fauna, to a harpist, a dance and a cowboy poet.

This annual multi-day event travels along one of the longest continuous stretches of

the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the East Bay Hills and this year, for the first time, the Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association invited hikers to join the fun-for one day or up to five. Equestrians and hikers will gather every evening for excellent food and entertainment. As always, Bay Area Barns and Trails will match the first \$5,000 raised. "We did that last year, and \$\$ will be turned over to the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council," said Barbara Weitz, executive director of Bay Area Barns and Trails whose purpose is to support various equestrian efforts to preserve trails throughout the Bay Area. Tilden/Wildcat Horsemen www.twha.net
Morris_Older@comcast.net

Muir Heritage Land Trust to buy 423 acres in Hercules

"A conservation group is buying 423 acres of Franklin Canyon land in Hercules where local residents voted in 2004 to block a developer's plans for 500 proposed homes, a hotel and shops. "Bringing to a close one of Contra Costa's longest struggles over development versus preservation, the Martinez-based Muir Heritage Land Trust will announce today that it has negotiated a sales agreement to buy the land for \$1.8 million from a group of investors. The Muir Heritage Land Trust, a nonprofit group, has two years to raise the money through contributions and grants. The Franklin Canyon land has grasslands and oak forests on hills as high as 775 feet with sweeping views of San Francisco Bay. Hiking and riding trails will be established there, but no development will be allowed. "This is a happy ending to a long and arduous process and debate over this land that has lasted more than 20 years," said Linus Eukel, the Muir Land Trust's executive director. "This purchase will not only protect a fragile ecosystem, significant watershed and key public trail alignments, it will permanently preserve important habitat for special-status species. "The purchase will enlarge the swath of protected open land between Hercules and Martinez that is owned by the land trust, which already has the 702-acre Fernandez Ranch, and the East Bay Regional Park District. It also will provide land for another segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and other links to trails between Orinda, Martinez and Hercules. "When you drive along Highway 4, you look up and see a great corridor of hills," said Steve Kirby, who helped write the Hercules ballot measure that blocked the proposed 500-home Green Park development. "It would have been very disappointing to see this developed." The Green Park developers wanted to grade hills extensively and remove more than 3,000 trees on 483 acres. Passage of Measure M by 63 percent of Hercules votes stopped the project. Now the land trust is buying all but 60 of those acres from a group of investors, including Vincent Tai, Eukel said. The investors who owned the property declined to discuss plans for the remaining 60 acres. Eukel noted, however, that Measure M restricts building to only one home per 40 acres in that area...The land trust aims to raise \$2.5 million for the project, including \$1.8 million for the land and another \$700,000 for transaction costs and an endowment to pay for maintenance and restoration. The Trust is trying to raise another \$6 million over five years to buy other open space in Contra Costa County."

Denis Cuff dcuff@bayareanewsgroup.com

Marin County Parks and Open Space Hosts Equestrian Ride

On Saturday, August 23rd, Rangers Karen Killian and Leonard Page, with the expert support of Mounted Patrol rider Connie Berto, led eight 'newbies' along the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the Verissimo Hills and O'Hair Park area in Novato. Well-trained horses were rented from Willow Creek Stables.

www.co.marin.ca.us

www.ridgetrail.org

San Francisco Parks Trust leading campaign to bring horses back to Golden Gate Park

Golden Gate Park Stables Tour - Monday, September 8, 2008: Presentation 10:30 AM; Tour 11:30 AM.

Space is limited. RSVP to Karen Kidwell at 415-750-5255 or Karen@sfpt.org

'The Equestrian Center at Golden Gate Park Stables offers a unique and historic opportunity to reintroduce the San Francisco and greater Bay Area community to the recreational, social and educational benefits of equestrian sports.

'Horses and riding have a long history in Golden Gate Park. The original design of the park included over 12 miles of riding trails designed to weave through the Park's meadows and forests. In 1939, as part of President Roosevelt's "New Deal" program, the Golden Gate Park stables were built. The Stables are noted as a contributing feature to the 2004 listing of Golden Gate Park on the National Register of Historic Places. Unfortunately, in 2001, the historic stables were closed due largely to safety concerns with the aged facility and no horses have been available for use at the Stables since that time. San Francisco Parks Trust is excited to be partnering with San Francisco Recreation & Park Department (RPD) to rehabilitate the historic stables and bring horses back to Golden Gate Park. 'Bay Area Barns and Trails donated \$1,000 to the San Francisco Stables Foundation in 2004 and recently pledged \$5,000 to match funds raised by equestrians during an as yet to be determined fundraising event.

www.sfpt.org

Tolay Regional Park Interim Plan Update

The Sonoma County Park and Recreation Advisory Committee will host a public meeting on this project on Monday, September 15, 2008, beginning at 6:00 pm. Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building, Banquet Room; 1094 Petaluma Boulevard South, Petaluma

THE INTERIM PLAN: The Interim Plan is the second phase of a multi-phased public access plan for Tolay Lake Regional Park. The first phase, the Guided Tour Program, has been in place since November 2005. The third phase will be the Tolay Lake

Regional Park Master Plan. The anticipated timeframe for the Interim Plan is from Summer 2009 until the Master Plan is adopted and Phase I of the Master Plan is implemented, approximately 3 to 5 years.

THE DAY-USE PERMIT PROGRAM: This program is based on that used for the Willow Creek Acquisition, part of the Sonoma Coast State Beach. The Day-Use Permit Program will require a one-time orientation after which, day-use permits will be issued and can be used when Tolay Lake Regional Park is open for day-use permit holders during the Interim Plan implementation phase. During the dry-weather months, generally between April and September, day-use permit holders can visit the park Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays between 8:00 am - sunset. During the wet-weather months, generally between October and March, day-use permit holders can visit the park Saturdays, and Sundays between 8:00 am - sunset.

Next Steps: After the review period concludes on September 19, 2008, Regional Parks will respond to comments and make any necessary changes to the document. Then, the document will be provided to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for adoption and project approval. The Sonoma County Department of Public Works and Transportation will implement the safety improvements to Cannon Lane and then Regional Parks will schedule Orientations so that people can obtain their Day-Use Permits and visit the park.

Regional Parks will mail out postcards to those on the project mailing list when the document will be presented to the Board of Supervisors and will post this information on our website. If you have questions regarding the Interim Plan, please contact Michelle Julene, Environmental Specialist, at mjulene@sonoma-county.org or (707) 565-3962.

Napa, San Mateo and Santa Clara County ‘reporters’: we need your reports!!

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.



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: babtt2@earthlink.net