

Introduction

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is the largest urban regional park district in the nation. There are 65 parks, 1,250 miles of trails, and 40 miles of shoreline that make up 120,536 acres throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The parks offer a serene get-away from the busy lifestyle in the backyard of East Bay residents, and are so popular, that in 2017 they had 24-million visits.

The SF Bay Area is a highly desirable place to live, not only for people, but for a wide variety of fish and wildlife that rely on the water and surrounding landscapes for food and shelter. The parks serve as sanctuaries for many plant and animal species - ecological treasures in the midst of highly urbanized areas, and in some cases, are among the few remaining places that sensitive and endangered wildlife can take refuge. From a conservation standpoint, the Bay Area is an ecological treasure, with many precious habitats that need protection, restoration, and management to continue to thrive.

The EBRPD manages several shoreline habitats, and is in a key position to aid federal, state, and private agencies in their efforts to revitalize wetlands. One of these habitats is the Martin Luther King Jr Shoreline in Oakland. At the beginning of 2017 the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission awarded the Regional Parks Foundation \$10,000 to support the restoration efforts at this shoreline park. The multiyear project will restore some of California's precious remaining wetlands, create a shorebird sanctuary, and support the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Plan for the Western Snowy Plover, by enhancing and creating new nesting habitat within the SF Bay region.



Retaking the Island at the MLK Jr Shoreline will create new nesting habitat for birds such as this Western Snowy Plover

Year 1 Activities

The first-year activities include the following:

- **Vegetation Removal** – From December to the end of February, project workers and volunteers removed over grown vegetation from the island, and put in place maintenance protocols to ensure that invasive plants do not return. These activities were completed by February 2017 before the beginning of the Spring breeding season
- **Monitoring Spring Breeding Season** – From March to the end of July project staff monitored the island for nesting shorebirds – they found none.
- **Purchase and move bulk materials** – Funds from the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission were used to purchase bulk materials. The team was fortunate to receive a donation of whole shells from Tomales Bay Oyster Company, so all funds from the Commission were used to purchase sand and crushed shells for the project.
- **Spread bulk materials** – Working with project staff, volunteers, and CiviCorps workers, the materials were moved and spread across the island.

Volunteer Engagement

In year one, 214 volunteers donated 1,200 hours of their time working on the shoreline restoration.



Volunteer Work Day – Volunteers help move and spread sand and shells across the island

Expenditures

Funds from the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission were used to purchase sand and crushed oyster shells. All funds were expended - Please see attached expense report.

Next Steps & Needs

Year two activities – The Year two activities will be the same as the year one activities, with the exception of the invasive plant removal. Since the area has been cleared, yearly maintenance will be conducted to prevent the return of the invasive plants. The year two activities include: invasives maintenance, monitor Spring breeding season, purchase additional bulk materials and stage for spreading, and spread materials.

In the second year of the project Doc Quack will continue to engage volunteers. In addition to the current team of volunteers, he is enlisting the help of a group of Air Force volunteers based out of Moffett Field, a group of Eagle Scouts, and some of the local elementary schools.

The project is a multi-year, phased project and the needs in year two are similar to the needs for year one. Doc Quack will need to purchase additional bulk materials, however the greater need is for support to pay the CiviCorps crews. CiviCorps helps the East Bay's highest risk young adults (ages 18-26) gain an education and job training experience while earning money. The District partners with CiviCorps, and for the MLK Jr Shoreline restoration project, work crews are providing extra assistance to move and spread the bulk materials. Each crew works for a period of 1-week at a cost of \$8,000. The crews will be a large part of the budget in year two.

Attachments: Expense Report