



MASTER PLAN PROGRESS

By **Bill Korbholz**

Since the Master Plan Committee submitted its final draft proposal of an updated Master Plan for Edgewood Park to Director Patrick Sanchez last January, its fate has been in limbo.

The Parks and Recreation Division has been unable to move forward on the approval process due to a lack of funding to cover the expenses.

Further, certain groups have criticized the draft for a variety of reasons, ranging from disagreement with the prioritization of management objectives, to concern over the absence of material on the history of large antelopes at Edgewood.

However, I am pleased to report that at the Parks and Recreation Commissioners meeting of May 2, the commissioners voted unanimously to direct Director Sanchez to provide a plan by the June meeting for the adoption of a new Master Plan for Edgewood Park. Moreover, the commissioners promoted the priority of this project from essential to critical, the highest tier. This project now stands second only to the Fitzgerald Marine Preserve Master Plan project in the planning category for the Division.

This action represents a significant advance in achieving our goal of adopting a master plan which reflects the park's designation as a natural preserve. (Recall that the current Master Plan, developed in 1982, calls for the construction of a golf course.)

You can help move this adoption process along by sending letters of support to Director Sanchez at:

Parks & Recreation Department
590 Hamilton Street
Redwood City, CA 94063

TRAIL PATROL BEGINS SECOND YEAR ON THE JOB

By **Nancy Mangini**

New Friends, New Faces

The Edgewood Park Volunteer Trail Patrol began its second year of life by adding five new members to our ranks. Joining the patrol this year are Peter Ingram, Larry Peterman, Ken Seydel, Cory Mangini, and Lee Franks.

With the addition of these five volunteers, the Trail Patrol now has 18 active members to conduct weekend patrols throughout the spring and summer months to help park visitors learn about Edgewood's unique features and appropriate ways in which this fragile natural resource can be enjoyed.

Successful Stakeouts

Earlier in the year, Patrol members assisted Edgewood Ranger Lynne Fritz in a campaign to discourage after-hour Friday night parties in the park by participating in a stakeout operation. For five consecutive Friday evenings, patrol members took shifts watching park entrances between 7:30 pm and 11:30 pm to monitor activity and report back to the ranger on duty who, in turn, stood ready to notify the Sheriff's department to make contact with revelers.

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RANGER ROUNDUP

By Lynne Fritz



Got a bright idea? I am accepting suggestions for a name for my column in the Edgewood Explorer. Who ever submits the name I use will go to a Saturday brunch with me.

It is a pleasure to join you in the preservation of the beautiful Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve. Thank you all for the warm welcome!

My first week at the park I walked the trails, enjoyed the flora, met docents and many park visitors, educated a few dog owners from the parking lot, and kept a few joggers and hikers on the trails.

I am currently being assisted by Ranger Jack Kuhn, a veteran Ranger, and two Park Aides, Jeff Leaver and Toby Wolf; all three have worked at Edgewood before. We have set up a temporary Ranger Station at the rest room in the Picnic area, and have started maintenance on the trails.

We are recruiting volunteers to assist with trail maintenance which started April 16 and will continue through June as needed (see schedule on page 6.) We plan to repair trail tread where the soil is still damp. Some very hard, dry areas will have to wait for more rain. Then we will focus on cutting back the brush and weeds.

I am also looking for volunteers to assist in monitoring our attendance at different access points throughout the summer. Up until now, our attendance figures are an educated estimate, assisted by the visual counts made by the Trail Patrol members on their hikes. With some coordinated tallies I will be able to see how close we are in our estimates. Anyone interested in volunteering to tally visitor attendance for 2 or more hours this summer please give me a call.

I welcome our new trail patrol members: Cory Mangini, Peter Ingram, Lee Franks, Ken Seydel, and Larry Peterman. I also want to thank all who have participated in our Friday night effort to control after hour activity, a big THANK YOU to Nancy Mangini, Frank Figoni, Stew Simpson, Billy James, Guy Cohen, Susan Summers, Susan Thrasher.

Boy Scout Troop 149 in RWC is still active in the park. Eagle Scout Ryan Fay installed the Mileage Markers on the Sylvan Trail in November, and was recognized at a Court of Honor on Friday, April 19. Eric Hutcheson is going to continue the same concept on either the Serpentine or Edgewood Trail. James Wilsey is building an information board to be mounted on the wall outside the rest room in the picnic area. Another Scout is building a new, one sided, display board to go up by the Sunset gate. Troop 149 will assist with the installation of new trail signs throughout the year. The Scout groups also want to do one day service projects. If there is something you would like to see them assist with, please let me know.

Starting July 1st the park's budget will include \$3,000 to support the volunteer efforts in the park. It will cover training costs, trail patrol jackets and hats, tools for volunteer crews and other costs associated with supporting your efforts in the Park.

My commitment to Edgewood's volunteer efforts is to encourage, direct, support, and coordinate all interested efforts toward common goals such as preserving and enhancing Edgewood's natural resources and ensuring safe and appropriate public enjoyment of the same for generations to come.

To Reach Lynne Fritz or other park staff for the next few weeks (until they get new phone lines at the ranger station)

Phone :

Fax :

Mail:

Parks & Recreation
590 Hamilton Street
Redwood City, CA 94063

BUNCH GRASS RESTORATION FOR 95/96

By Chris Romano

On February 23, 1996, another Native California bunch grass restoration took place on the hill near Edgewood's Sunset entrance.

It was a great example of county cooperative action between the Parks Department, the College of San Mateo, and volunteers

from the Volunteer Horse Patrol, the San Mateo County Trails Advisory Committee, the San Mateo County Horseman's Association, and of course Friends of Edgewood.

C.S.M. Horticulture Professor, Matt Leddy and his Landscape Construction Class met at the Sunset gate at 9:30 and planted until 11:30. We were all very careful to avoid trampling in the sensitive areas. We took the trail up around the hill to carry up tools and refreshments to avoid the walking on the scar zone.

Flats of Purple Needle Grass were planted out in the same area as last year. Slender Needle Grass was planted over an old scar on the N.E. side of the hill. Susan Sommers, F.O.E. Restoration Co-Chair, and myself, Restoration Co-Chair and San Mateo Co. Horseman's Association board member, organized the planting. Susan and I collected the seed in June, from authorized and specific areas of the park. I cleaned and took the seeds to the College of San Mateo, where professor Leddy and his students planted the seeds out in flats. F.O.E. provided the soil. Orchard supply soil was used, but some die off due to fungus occurred, and if the project continues next year, it is recommended that we use Super Soil, which was used in last year's project. It is a lighter, sterile mix, but more expensive than most soils.

In February, Susan met with Matt Leddy and suggested where and how we might better put in the grass seedling plugs. This year instead of working up a small area, and planting out 10 plugs in the plot, we dug individual holes for each plug. It is

hoped erosion and die off will be lessened with this method. I met with Ranger Lynne Fritz to gather release forms and make sure the planting would take place. Friday, February 23, the Class and volunteers went to work. After, I washed the tools and got them back to the Co. along with the paper work. Fortunately it rained the next day and the little grass plugs are happy and a bit of Edgewood is restored.

WILDFLOWER WALKS CONTINUE

By Jan Simpson

The Edgewood Wildflower Walks sponsored by the California Native Plant Society, have been well attended and appreciated by many visitors throughout the Bay Area. The Spring rains have extended the floral season. It is not too late to enjoy and learn about Edgewood's beautiful flowers and rare diversity. Some of Edgewood's late bloomers include:

- Farewell-to-Spring
- White and Yellow Mariposa Lily
- Four-Spotted Clarkia (Godetia)
- Soap Plant

During the months of May and June, the walks are once a weekend. Come join the docents on May 12, or 18 at the Park and Ride - Edgewood Road and Hwy. 280. May 26, June 1 and 9 the walks will begin at the Old Stage Day Camp. All walks start promptly at 10:00 a.m. For more details call the **Wildflower Hotline**.

TRAIL PATROL (continued from page 1)

The first patrol stakeout in early March resulted in multiple after-hour contacts and some group round-ups by local authorities. After that night, however, word must have gotten out among the groups using the park as a "cool place to party" because subsequent stakeouts have been relatively uneventful and Ranger Fritz has called a temporary halt to the operation.

With this initial stakeout success, park rangers now know that they can count on the Volunteer Trail Patrol to come out again to protect the park after hours if the need arises.

INVASIVE EXOTICS - CONTROL EFFORTS SPRING 1996

By Ken Himes

Above average rainfall this past winter brings promise of another good wild flower season at Edgewood County Park and Preserve. The downside is that the abundant moisture also contributes to vigorous growth of invasive exotics.

Invasive exotics are plants not indigenous (not native) to Edgewood and are aggressively spreading into natural habitat. The Flora of Edgewood Park (Corelli, Revised 1994) lists about 26% of the species growing naturally at Edgewood as non-indigenous. They come from many sources and some remain restricted to earlier home sites such as daffodil and bearded iris. But others aren't so benign.

French broom, *Genista monspessulana*, a shrub with bright yellow flowers, has invaded portions of the park, especially along the lower Sylvan Loop Trail. Efforts by the Invasive Weed Eradication Group removed a large stand along the eastern portion of the Edgewood Trail. Return visits will be needed as seeds left behind can be viable for up to 25 years! These dormant seeds are part of what biologists call the seed bank, and removal of existing plants often makes for conditions that germinate some of these seeds.

Current efforts are directed toward controlling Teasel, *Dipsacus sativus* (see Feb. 1995 Edgewood Explorer.) Great strides have been made in reducing the numbers of these invasive exotics. The eradication group is preparing to work on removal of two other invasive exotics in the coming months. These plants

are: Italian Thistle, *Carduus pycnocephalus*, and Yellow Star Thistle, *Centaurea solstitialis*. Both are members of the aster family and have become widespread at Edgewood, except in areas of Serpentine substrate.

Italian Thistle is an annual with spiny stems and leaves with small pink flower heads. It grows in a wide range of habitats. Small colonies - so far - can be found in grassland areas. It is also spreading into wooded areas along the Edgewood and Sylvan Trails. It blooms in May and June and seed forms soon after. The Invasive Weed Eradication Group will be patrolling trails to eradicate colonies in May. The key to limiting its spread is to prevent seed development.



Yellow Star Thistle is a particularly invasive plant that begins flowering in late June and continues until October. It can be recognized by the 3/4 to 1 inch spines that surround the flower head. This plant was not intentionally introduced and is listed as a noxious weed. It infests over

8,000,000 acres in California. It is not known how long it has been present at Edgewood, but it has become widespread in the non-serpentine grasslands and forms dense stands. Yellow Star Thistle was very abundant in 1995 and control efforts that year only removed small colonies outside of the major infestation.

Hand cutting or pulling and bagging the flowering plants was the method used last year. Several members of the eradication group, sponsored by Friends of Edgewood to go to the Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium last October, learned that mowing can effectively manage infestations. Mowing should take place as the plant begins to flower, with a follow up in about four weeks.

If you would like to help the Friends of Edgewood Invasive Weed Eradication Group control the spread of these invasive exotics, join Elly Hess on Friday mornings or Ken Himes Wednesday evenings at 5:30 at the Park and Ride. Special sessions will be arranged to remove Yellow Star Thistle in late June and July. Call Ken for information regarding these sessions.

CALL FOR SLIDES



The Friends of Edgewood is developing a "canned" 35mm slide presentation which can be taken to various groups needing a speaker. Carolyn Curtis has written a tentative script which has places for

the following slides:

- Floral carpets, maybe a dawn
- Aerial view of Edgewood Park
- Close-ups of serpentinite soil and boulder
- Marin dwarf flax and/or Fragrant fritillary
- Bay checkerspot butterfly
- Woodsy trails, Collinsia, etc.
- Kickoff potluck October 1993
- Habitat fencing
- Revegetation efforts
 - Work parties, Purple needle grass
- Docent training, docent led walks on the trail
- Exotic removal efforts:
 - Elly Hess group,

- Ken Himes group,
- Star thistle, French broom,
- Yampah meadow before and after,
- Bull thistle, Bristly oxtongue,
- Pampas grass,
- Weed wrench in action

- Trail patrol:
 - Training,
 - Modeling the uniform,
 - On the trail talking to people

- Ranger activities:
 - Ranger truck on the road,
 - Picking up bags of exotics,
 - Lynne Fritz, at a Friends meeting
- Wildflower meadows at their height, maybe a sunset

If you have any of these pictures, and would like to share them with the show please mail them to:

Kathy Korbholz

Continued on page 6

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

New or continuing members of the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve are asked to pay membership dues annually to offset the expenses associated with preserving Edgewood. If you would like to join the Friends, continue your membership, or simply make a contribution, please clip and complete this section. Mail it to the return address on the back of this panel with your check payable to Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve. With your membership or contribution, you will receive four more issues of the Edgewood Explorer.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Telephone Work Telephone

✂ clip here ✂

- \$15 Basic membership
- \$25 Family Membership
- \$7 Student/Retired Membership
- \$50 Supporting Membership (includes *The Flora of Edgewood Park*, and the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*)
- \$100 Benefactor Membership (includes *The Flora of Edgewood Park*, the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*, and a 16x20 poster-photo)
- In addition to my dues, I am enclosing a gift of _____.
- Please send _____ copies of the 28-minute video *Saving Edgewood Park*, at \$15 each.
- Please send _____ copies of *The Flora of Edgewood Park* at \$3 each.

Particular interests:

- Docent
- Newsletter
- Revegetation
- Legal
- Exotics control
- Trail patrol
- Public relations
- Trail/fence maintenance



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 18. **GRASSES AT EDGEWOOD PARK** with Sally Casey and Dianne Hunt. Meet at the Park and Ride lot at 10 AM.

Tuesdays and Saturdays, through May **TRAIL MAINTENANCE**, with the rangers. Call Lynne for times and meeting places.

Saturday June 1, **NATIONAL TRAIL DAY SPECIAL MAINTENANCE PROJECT.** Bring water and favorite tools. Call Lynne for details.

Weekend days, through June **WILDFLOWER WALKS BY CNPS DOCENTS** Call the hot line for meeting times and places.

CALL FOR SLIDES (continued from page 5)

Be sure to put your name on your pictures so we can create a credit list. The best choice would be extra slides that you do not need returned. We will be able to get duplicate slides made and if necessary get slides made from print negatives for ones which you wish to be returned. **Please indicate any that you want returned.**

Submit any pictures you wish to have considered by July 1, 1996. A selection committee will pick the winners and make any needed copies. We may need to take some additional pictures - like maps of Edgewood in relationship to towns or San Andreas Fault, headlines from the fight to save Edgewood and a picture of the first newsletter. Any shutter bug volunteers or other ideas for pictures? Call Kathy Korbholz

The Edgewood Explorer is published four times yearly by the Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to keeping Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve a place for all to enjoy the natural beauty and habitat. The newsletter is produced by Kathy Korbholz with assistance from Laverne Rabinowitz and contributions from many Friends.

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve
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