

WINTER 2022

THE PARK POST

Hikes • History • Horses



Friends of Huddart
& Wunderlich Parks

THOUGHTS FROM

The Park Bench

Dear Friends,

We are so fortunate to have several historic buildings in San Mateo County Parks. The Folger Stable Historic District in Wunderlich Park, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a unique collection of buildings that date back centuries. Preserving and maintaining these historical assets will enrich and educate future generations.

The Friends take this responsibility seriously. We see the value of these historic treasures every time we lead school field trips, history group tours, and host weekend visitors to the Carriage House Museum in the Folger Stable.

One of the favorite buildings in the historic district is the Dairy House (circa 1874). The charming cupola topped, white stucco building, situated near the park entrance was used as a cold house for perishable food preservation. Students and visitors can get a peek inside the oldest refrigerator in the County!

The Dairy House needs restoration beyond the girding done in past years to ensure it does not collapse. We have structural reports, architectural plans, and construction estimates ready to begin this \$250,000 restoration project.

We are asking you to help us keep this history alive. We envision the restored Dairy House welcoming history buffs, park users, and students to see hanging ham hocks, milk jugs, and bushels of perishables kept the old-fashioned way.

We appreciate your support and thank you for your interest in, and commitment to, preserving the history of San Mateo County. Many of our educational programs are centered around California and local History. By donating to this project, you will also be supporting our programs.

On behalf of the Board of the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks, we wish you Happy Holidays and a fantastic New Year.

Sincerely,

Jill & Ann

Jill Daly & Ann Cripps Co-Presidents, Board of Directors



BACK IN THE SADDLE - 2022 IN REVIEW



We've had quite a year sharing HIKES, HISTORY, and HORSES with the community. More than 6,000 people attended one of our programs or events in 2022 and nearly all our 50+ volunteers are back! When the yellow school buses came up the hill, we were thrilled and nervous to be teaching science, ecology, and local history once again. Getting back in the saddle was unnerving - volunteers were worried they might be a little rusty or the kids might be timid and afraid. But we hit our stride.

One 1st grade teacher shared with us, "Our trip was incredible! Most of my kids had never been to the forest, so it was such a unique and enriching opportunity for them. What a treat to learn about and see things like lichen, turret spiders, bay leaves, and refrigerator trees! The kids loved getting to walk through and play in the forest. The docents were all so incredibly kind, knowledgeable, and patient. We could feel their passion, curiosity, and love for nature. Thank you to those who made our trip possible through their kind donations and time. This field trip is one our students will remember for years to come, if not their whole lives. And most of all it was free of charge. We felt so lucky!"

-This article is based on our Annual Impact Report for 2022.
Available at www.HuddartWunderlichFriends.org



As our pre-pandemic programs came back online, we took on the challenge of meeting new needs. Some of our new initiatives in 2022 include working with schools serving special education students and children with mobility challenges; offering health and wellness outings for people with severe mental illness and their therapists; and initiating several community science programs conducting "bio blitzes" and redwood cloning studies.



We continue to work on our mission to ensure that the parks and our programs are accessible to everyone in the community--offering our programs for free, providing transportation subsidies, and focusing our efforts on the lowest income-highest need communities. Our work is amplified by partnerships with San Mateo County Parks, the SMC Parks Foundation, and Chaparral Ranch. We are grateful that our work is more impactful when collaborating with community organizations like Siena Youth Center, Familias Unidas, and local Girl and Boy Scout troops.

As 2022 draws to a close, we want to thank our donors, volunteers, program participants, and partners for the opportunity to share these special treasures, Huddart and Wunderlich Parks, with all of you. Thanks for helping us get back in the saddle and we are excited to ride into 2023 with old friends and new ideas and initiatives!



THE BIGGEST BADDEST BARN DANCE YET!



We had a hootin' hollerin' good time at the first Big Bad Barn Dance in over four years! Generous guests made it our most successful fundraiser ever! We plan to expand the dance floor next time since so many people had fun square dancing to caller Andy Wilson and the RPM Band. We dined on delicious BBQ and craft wine and beer (generously donated by Neely Wines, Woodside Vineyards, Woodside Farm Vineyards and Alpha Acid Brewing Company). But the best treat was a visit from the Mr. Softee ice cream truck and Lightning the mini horse.

We raised \$37,000 to start our fundraising to rescue the Dairy House and \$67,000 for our programs. We can't wait to kick up our heels with you again in 2024!

SUPPORTING HEALTHY FORESTS

Healthy forests are a critical part of making sure that we steward our natural resources and protect the community from wildfire risk. The heavy lift of conducting the fuel reduction and diseased tree removal was taken on in 2022 by SMC Parks, CalFire, and the SMC Resource Conservation District. We at the Friends are excited to take on the challenge of supporting these efforts with educational programs.

The treated areas are not only more resilient to wildfire, but now serve as an outdoor classroom where we can talk with visitors about forest ecology and wildfire science. In October, we hosted a docent training to learn about forest succession, adaptation, and the myriad of challenges facing land managers. We are supporting a new initiative to teach wildfire science to high school students and incorporating climate change and wildfire management into our curriculum.

We are excited about new opportunities to engage in community science efforts as well. Volunteers support forest managers by collecting data and observing changes in the flora and fauna along trails treated for fire resiliency. Quarterly data collection will provide a snapshot of how the landscape is evolving over time and differences between treated and untreated areas. Last spring, we hosted a Bio Blitz to contribute to community science collection with scientists from our partners at Merck. We also worked with a biologist conducting research on redwood clones and biomass data collection. These contributions to scientific research and stewardship are an important part of ensuring that our forests are resilient and healthy for decades to come.

NEW IN THE PARKS!

San Mateo County Parks is rolling out an initiative to place wildlife cameras in strategic locations, including Huddart Park where recent forest health fuel reduction work has been completed. These cameras will allow biologists to track the impacts of park projects on wildlife over time and contribute data to improve project planning in the future. Cameras will also help Parks track rare and endangered species and contribute to field research efforts. A rare spotted skunk has already been captured on film! Curious what other critters will turn up? Stay tuned for updates and snapshots!



Observing an uncommon native ceanothus sprouting in a treated forest area at Huddart Park. Attendees learned about forest succession after clearing, seedlings germinated by disruption, and wildfire resistance induced by maintaining forest health.



To learn more about SMC Forest Health efforts, visit: <https://www.smcgov.org/parks/huddart-park-forest-health-fuel-reduction-project>

Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks



HELP US
SAVE A
SLICE OF
HISTORY



Help us save the stone Dairy House in Wunderlich Park, built in 1874 by farmer Simon Jones. Constructed near cooling spring waters with thick masonry walls, gabled roof, and a ventilating cupola, the Dairy House kept goods fresh in an era before refrigeration. We envision a future when a restored Dairy House welcomes history buffs and students to peek into the past seeing hanging ham hocks, milk jugs, and bushels of vegetables. Help us bring history alive and restore this nearly 150 year old structure! www.HuddartWunderlichFriends.org

Thanks to Gonsalves & Stronk Construction & Architect Adolph Rosekrans for their generous donations to this project.

THANKS TO THESE
GENEROUS GRANT FUNDERS!

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**Save the Redwoods
League**

**San Mateo County
Parks Foundation**



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