

SUMMER 2023

THE PARK POST

Hikes • History • Horses



Friends of Huddart
& Wunderlich Parks

THOUGHTS FROM

The Park Bench

Dear Friends,

Spring is especially welcome this year! Our parks are still recovering from the damage to roadways, bridges, and trails caused by an unprecedented stormy winter.

Our outdoor education programs in both parks managed to stay on track despite many stormy days. Many thanks to County Parks staff, a hardy docent group, our program partners at The San Mateo County Historical Association, and local school teachers for being so adaptive.

As the school year comes to an end, we look forward to transitioning to a busy summer packed with community programming serving youth camps, scouting groups, senior centers, and historical tours. We will be hosting a Victorian Walking Days tour of the Folger Historic District at 10am on July 8. We'll complete the summer programming with our first Family Fun Day on August 27. We hope you'll join us.

I will also be making a personal move from my President's role with the Friends. While I will continue as a board member I will pass the baton to Ann Cripps and Jackie Nicholson who are serving as co-presidents. Jackie and Ann will make a great team. The Friends are in very capable hands.

On behalf of the Friends board, our talented and dedicated staff, and volunteers, we thank you for your support and wish you a safe and happy summer.

Sincerely,

Jill

Jill Daly, Outgoing President, Board of Directors

The Friends would like to extend gratitude and appreciation to Jill for her service as our board president and her innumerable contributions to our restoration efforts, programs, and events over the past sixteen years. We are so appreciative of her leadership, commitment, and expertise.



DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORTS IN PARKS IS A TEAM EFFORT



When the much-needed winter rain finally came, it was in torrents that caused massive tree falls, landslides, and unprecedented storm damage throughout parks and open spaces in the Bay Area. With 23 parks to manage, SMC Parks was overwhelmed, and widespread park closures were put into effect to protect visitors and resources. The veteran-led humanitarian group Team Rubicon came to the rescue, providing a strategic advance team to set up an operational center and a team of expert volunteers to assist with disaster recovery efforts.

These intrepid volunteers, known as Greyshirts, came from all over the state and even the country to serve Californians impacted by weeks of rain and storms. They scouted miles of trails to assess conditions, cut and moved more than 100 downed trees, and cleared massive amounts of debris and brush in Huddart and Wunderlich Parks. Similar conditions in the Pescadero area on the coast prompted the team to visit and survey damage reported on farms that provide local food banks with vegetables and local schools with educational programs. Greyshirts cleared away downed trees and hazardous debris, allowing the farms to get back to their business of serving their community.



The trails weren't merely messy, they were hazardous, and potentially deadly, and the Greyshirts entered with extreme caution. "Widowmakers, detached or broken tree limbs hanging loose, hovered precariously above the trails," said Incident Commander David LaRivee, who flew in from Colorado to volunteer. "Sometimes over 100 feet in the air. It was treacherous and we had to be extremely safety conscious," he added.



The Greyshirts camped in rustic conditions, but thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, the sawyers and swampers, volunteers who remove the downed trees, enjoyed home-cooked and catered meals provided by the Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks. "Returning to base and finding homemade chili waiting for us," said Greyshirt Brian Clark, who flew down from Washington State, "that was a step above. I can't say thank you enough."

They not only left the trails safer, and cleaner, but they worked with an eye towards future fire safety. "It is common for wet winters to lead to fiery summers in California, and wildfire mitigation is a big part of what we do," said LaRivee, "and our saw work was done with that in mind, as well." The sawyers made complex cuts to potentially combustible dead and dying trees, while probable fire fuel sources, like downed limbs and brush, were cleared away.

SMC Park Rangers continue to work hard to restore trails throughout the park system. Check the web for information on closed trails before hiking at <https://www.smcgov.org/parks/san-mateo-county-park-advisories>

Team Rubicon is a veteran-led humanitarian organization that serves global communities before, during, and after disasters and crises. Learn more at: <https://teamrubiconusa.org/> Please consider donating to Team Rubicon, San Mateo County Parks Foundation, and the Friends to help with ongoing recovery efforts!

ARTISTS RE-IMAGINE HISTORY



Digital rendering of the oil on canvas painting by local artist Sheila Finch

Artist Sheila Finch has long been enamored with the charming Dairy House in Wunderlich Park. When she heard about our efforts to save the building from collapse, she wanted to both capture the iconic structure and contribute to the effort to save this slice of history. She painted a stunning oil on canvas print and generously donated it to the Friends to use in our fundraising efforts. This painting will be gifted to a generous donor when the project is completed.

We envision a day when young students on field trips, park visitors, and history buffs alike will be transported back to the 1870s. They'll see hanging ham hocks, milk jugs, and bushels of vegetables. They'll notice the thick masonry walls, the gabled roof, and the central ventilating cupola from another time.

Digital artist Steve Hubbard has helped the Friends envision what the restored building could look like and how visitors will learn about early food preservation practices on properties like Hazelwood Farms at Wunderlich Park in the 1870s.

Join our efforts to save this slice of history. We are halfway to our goal of \$250,000. Donations can be made at www.HuddartWunderlichFriends.org/donate. To make a keystone donation and contend to win the painting, contact us at 650-851-2660. Together we can save this slice of local history and charming artifact for future generations to enjoy and envision life in a bygone era.

SADDLE UP FOR MINIS!

There's a new addition to the Carriage Room Museum at the Folger Stable. We custom ordered sturdy "horses" so our youngest visitors can try sitting in a saddle in a safe and approachable way. Participants in our Meet a Mini program are introduced to Lightning the mini horse and learn about grooming and horse safety. Afterwards they can try sitting on our practice horses. To our surprise, we found that even 3rd and 4th grade students in the Folger Field trip program aren't too cool to try out the pretend horses. Thanks to our donors who make continued improvements and equestrian connections for our youngest visitors possible!



Renderings of post restoration exterior and interior view of the Dairy House at Wunderlich Park by Steve Hubbard

FAMILY FUN DAY



August 27
1-4 PM



Petting Zoo & Pony Rides
Fun Activities
Refreshments



Wunderlich County Park
Free Shuttle from Woodside Elementary School

Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks

We
love
our
volunteers!



Dairy House Champions



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