



250 Words

Ours to Keep 75 Years in the Regional Parks

For 75 years, the East Bay Regional Park District has been dedicated to preserving open space and offering enjoyable and healthy recreation opportunities to local residents. The District's roots begin in 1934, during the heart of the Great Depression, when a group of public-spirited citizens organized a campaign to tax themselves. Their goal was to use this money to preserve valuable open space for future parkland. This visionary effort created the East Bay Regional Park District, which today has grown to become the largest regional park district in the nation. Seventy-five years have passed since the Park District's inception. Through wars and unrest, unprecedented population growth, and both challenging and positive economic times, the Park District's mission of preserving land for wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and nature education has stood the test of time.

Today the Park District manages 65 parks on over 98,000 acres with 1,100 miles of trails throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. A list of special anniversary-year events may be found online at www.ebparks.org - or call 1 (888) EBPARKS for information. Highlights include Earth Day on April 25, and the year-round Trails Challenge self-guided hiking program.

Other great ways to get involved are by volunteering at a park, or by joining the Regional Parks Foundation, which sponsors camperships for young people, the environmental education programs at award-winning Camp Arroyo in Livermore, and Parks Express, providing transportation to the parks for under-served communities.

Join us in wishing the EBRPD a Happy Anniversary. See you on the trails!



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Today the Park District manages 65 parks on over 98,000 acres with 1,100 miles of trails throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. From the Delta shoreline in Antioch, through a majestic redwood forest in Oakland, to a turn-of-the-century farm in Fremont, the East Bay Regional Park District has captured the spirit and preserved the beauty of the East Bay.

Throughout the year, the Park District invites you to join in the celebration by participating in programs and special events. Some highlights include: - The 75th Anniversary Trails Challenge – a free, self-guided hiking program co-sponsored by Kaiser Permanente. The Park District aims to enlist 7,500 participants to join in this year in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the District.

- The 75th Anniversary Earth Day Celebration April 25 – every day is “Earth Day” in the Regional Parks – but on this special day you can roll up your sleeves, put on your work gloves and help make the parks a better place for everyone.



- Free Open House days at each Visitor Center, throughout the year
- Festival and celebrations including the Wildflower Festival (Sunol), Backyard Bird and Butterfly Festival (Coyote Hills), Tilden Little Farm Fair, and Sunol Cowboy Festival. For the complete schedule of activities, go to www.ebparks.org or call 1 (888) EBPARKS.

Another great way to become involved in your regional parks is to join the Regional Parks Foundation, which sponsors camperships for young people, the environmental education programs at award-winning Camp Arroyo in Livermore, and Parks Express, providing transportation to the parks for under-served communities. Or, sign up to volunteer – from the trail safety patrol, which acts as eyes and ears for the EBRPD Public Safety Division, to docents at the Visitors' Centers, to groups that come to the parks to work on environmental restoration programs, over 10,000 people annually pitch in to improve their regional parks.

The Regional Park District has a rich legacy, and its staff, volunteers and partners are working to ensure tomorrow's parks are as beloved as today's. Join us in wishing the EBRPD a Happy Anniversary. See you on the trails!