



ANNUAL REPORT 2018–2019



From the Director



YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

\$33 million
TOTAL EXPENDITURES

34
PRESERVES

43
PARKS AND FACILITIES

18,400
OPEN SPACE ACRES

143
SEASONAL AND
FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

22,538
VOLUNTEER HOURS

Stewardship. Marin County's environmental roots run deep. Decades ago, communities organized to ensure open spaces from Ring Mountain to Roy's Redwoods to Bolinas Lagoon were protected as public lands. Today the focus is on conserving and sustaining these precious places. Science helps evaluate ecosystem health, as we manage these beautiful sites to optimize resilience to a changing climate. Stewardship is the ethic that guides Parks' upkeep and management of all these special locations.

Community. Entrusted with safeguarding these places, Parks regularly engages with people across Marin at roundtable meetings, events, gatherings, and online. Listening and learning align Parks' investments with Marin community priorities—vegetation management, habitat protection, road and trail maintenance, and park facilities improvements. Other areas of emphasis include wetlands and sea-level rise, science and research, events and programs, equitable access, and land acquisition. Parks' budget and staffing reflect community values.

Infrastructure. When voters passed Measure A in 2012, a significant amount of infrastructure maintenance had been long deferred. This included fishing piers, boat launches, public restrooms, wooden bridges, drainage culverts, irrigation systems, wayfinding signs, invasive vegetation, and much more. With Measure A dollars, Parks has made significant progress catching-up with this work, coordinating as needed with adjacent public lands, public utilities, and private property owners. There is still more work to do. Stewardship means making maintenance routine, as well as creating responsible contingency plans to accommodate the unexpected.

Collaboration. Climate change and sea-level rise are making nature more volatile. Fire seasons are longer and drier; rainy seasons bring more intense storms. Parks is tracking these changes and adjusting to emphasize resilience. Collaboration with fellow land managers, other government agencies, and communities on fire fuel reduction, sea-level rise, and emergency preparedness has become an essential part of our work. The collaborative practices developed in recent years, from the fuels crew partnership with County Fire, to the One Tam collaborative, to coordination with community groups like FIRESafe Marin, serve as a path forward for facing these challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Korten'.

Max Korten, Director
Marin County Parks

2018–2019 Strategic Achievements



FIRE HAZARD PREVENTION

1708 Acres managed annually for fire hazard reduction

1455 Acres grazed by livestock to reduce fire fuel

302 Acres mowed for defensible space and emergency access



SUSTAINABLE ROADS AND TRAILS

273 Wayfinding signposts installed in open space preserves

13% Total undesignated social trails reduced in open space, from 94 to 82 miles

4 Miles of multiuse trail, pathway, and road improved or re-aligned on Ponti Ridge project



EQUITABLE ACCESS

5664 People who enjoyed the outdoors through community grant programs

850 People visiting a County park or preserve for the first time through equity programs

1999 Free library park passes checked out



HABITAT PRESERVATION

100 Cameras on 10,000 acres maintained for the Marin Wildlife Picture Index

285 Nesting surveys conducted for birds and mammals

57 Species being monitored in open space preserves



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

4800 Marin residents who contributed to Parks community survey

172 Volunteer events

48 Public board and commission meetings



COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

3574 People attending free naturalist and ranger programs

129 County sites maintained without herbicides

240 Seniors attending easy access and senior stroll walks

2018–2019 Project Highlights



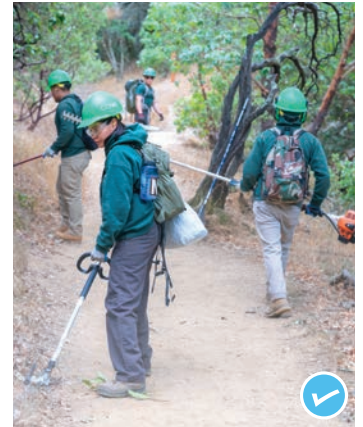
In collaboration with Marin County Fire, a new 14-person **Fire Fuels Crew** is focused on reducing fire risk in high priority areas of parks and open space.



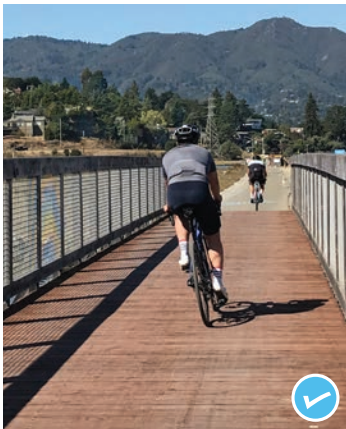
A series of **Evolving Shorelines** events were held at Bothin Marsh, to develop a shared community vision for protecting the marsh and adapting to sea-level rise.



The **Mill Valley/Sausalito Pathway mosaic** enlivened a concrete semi-circle with colorful art inspired by Marin's native plants, reflected in the surrounding landscaping.



The **Apprenticeship program** with Conservation Corp North Bay supports road and trail improvements while offering young people work experience and career pathways.



Wood decks were replaced on 100-year-old bridges along the popular Mill Valley/Sausalito Pathway. The repairs were part of a series of safety improvements, including replacing railings and approaches.



Community Grants totaling \$190,000 funded outdoor programming for fourteen local non-profits including LITA Marin, Museum of the American Indian, Marin Asian Advocacy Project, West Marin Environmental Action Committee, and more.



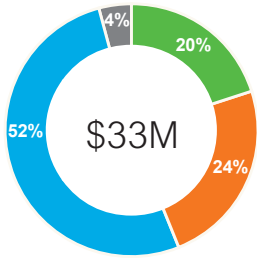
Parks repaired **Miller Boat Launch**, and provided free life vests for boaters to borrow. The dock, located near Marshall, is a popular landing for sailors who enjoy spending a day or overnight on the waters of Tomales Bay.



The Marin community explored restoration concepts for **Roy's Redwoods**, through roundtable discussions, presentations, and nature walks. The goal is to protect these old growth trees while enhancing visitor experience and safety.

FY 2018–19 Revenue & Expenditures

TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY BUDGET AREAS



- PARKS
- OPEN SPACE
- MEASURE A
- CSAs

MEASURE A OVERSIGHT

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors, seven committee members oversee Measure A expenditures, assist with compliance audits, and approve this annual report:

Robert Berner
Michael Dybeck
Larry Kennings
Joe Meylan
Daniel Russell
Mary Stompe
Jeff Williams

Each year Measure A funds undergo two compliance audits. The Marin County Department of Finance audited organizations other than Marin County Parks that receive Measure A funding. Badawi and Associates audited Marin County Parks and will issue a report in February 2020. Audit reports are available on marincountyparks.org.

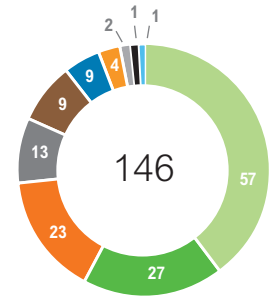
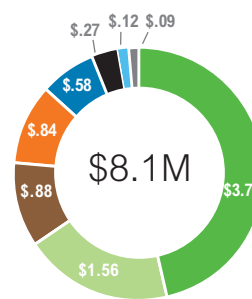
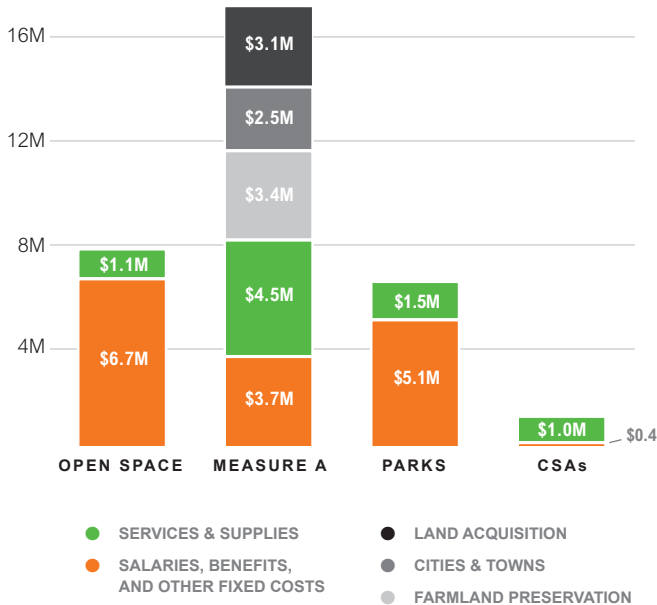
This table summarizes actual revenues and expenditures handled by Marin County Parks.

	PARKS	OPEN SPACE	MEASURE A	CSAs
REVENUE				
Taxes	0	8,098,193	14,673,946	1,802,099
From Use of Money	506,715	179,091	274,103	96,128
Intergovernmental	92,468	168,178	327,222	2,697
Charges for Services	1,786,981	(107,865)	0	(15,831)
Miscellaneous	22,878	130,345	82,509	0
Budgeted Transfer In	0	153,000	0	25,000
Total	2,409,042	8,620,942	15,357,780	1,910,093
EXPENDITURES				
Fixed Costs				
- Salaries and Benefits	4,798,935	4,979,278	3,419,965	0
- Budgeted Transfer Out	15,000	155,000	38,000	0
- Interdepartmental Charges	305,302	1,395,247	222,053	398,356
Grants				
- Other Charges and Capital Assets	0	166,557	3,098,325	0
- Farmland Preservation	0	0	3,463,396	0
- Cities and Towns	0	0	2,450,488	0
Services and Supplies				
- Road and Trail Management	0	639,633	238,582	0
- Vegetation Management and Fire Fuel Reduction	0	30,324	1,527,396	0
- Wetland Restoration and Erosion Control	0	51,768	63,667	0
- Real Estate and Acquisition	0	36,338	58,363	0
- Park Facilities and Landscape	1,331,934	0	1,430,151	1,011,235
- Public Engagement and Equity	34,002	141,492	664,192	0
- Science and Research	0	0	269,573	0
- Administration	108,849	248,887	226,501	0
Total	6,594,022	7,844,525	17,170,652	1,409,591
OTHER USE OF FUND BALANCE/NET COUNTY COST				
- Fund Balance		(776,417)	1,812,872	(500,502)
- General Fund	4,184,980			

FY 2018–19 Financial Information

Marin County Parks Expenditures and Set Aside for Land Acquisition FY 2018–19

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND MEASURE A



SERVICES & SUPPLIES BY PROGRAM

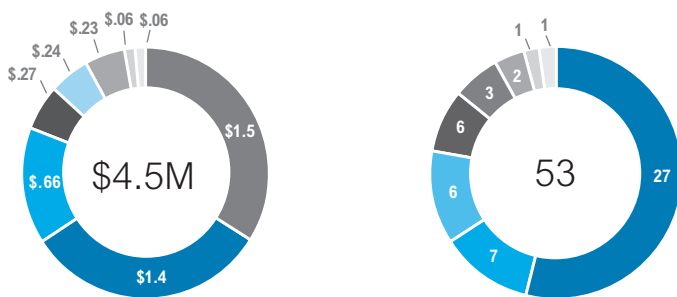
- Park Facilities & Landscape
- Vegetation Management & Fire Fuel Reduction
- Road & Trail Management
- Public Engagement & Equity
- Administration
- Science & Research
- Wetland Restoration & Erosion Control
- Real Estate & Acquisitions

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

- Seasonal
- Park Facilities & Landscape
- Visitor Services
- Administration
- Road & Trail Management
- Natural Resources Management
- Communications
- Executives
- Science & Research
- Real Estate & Acquisitions

Measure A Expenditures and Set Aside for Land Acquisition FY 2018–19

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



SERVICES & SUPPLIES BY PROGRAM

- Vegetation Management & Fire Fuel Reduction
- Park Facilities & Landscape
- Public Engagement & Equity
- Science & Research
- Road & Trail Management
- Administration
- Wetland Restoration & Erosion Control
- Real Estate & Acquisitions

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

- Seasonal
- Park Facilities & Landscape
- Visitor Services
- Natural Resources Management
- Administration
- Communications
- Road & Trail Management
- Science & Research

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

In FY 2018–19 Measure A provided \$3.23M in grants to Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT). The grants were transferred directly to escrow in coordination with MALT during purchase. MALT acquired two agricultural conservation easements, adding \$3.7M in matching dollars while also covering administrative costs.

PROPERTY	ACRES	MEASURE A	MALT MATCH
Millerton Ranch	865	\$1,717,000	\$2,178,600
Ielmorini Ranch	758	\$1,516,000	\$1,516,000

Marin Resource Conservation District (RCD) receives 5% of Farmland Preservation funds to support resources on easement-protected agricultural lands. RCD matches other grants to maintain soil and water quality, water supplies, and fencing. RCD received \$140,389 in FY 2018–19.

CITIES AND TOWNS

Marin's 19 cities, towns, and applicable special districts received \$2.4M in Measure A funds in FY 2018–19 for fire fuel vegetation management, neighborhood park renovations, maintenance, and staff.

LAND ACQUISITION

In FY 2018–19, \$3.1M was expended on land acquisition. \$1.8M was allocated to land acquisition set aside, bringing set aside to \$6.9M.

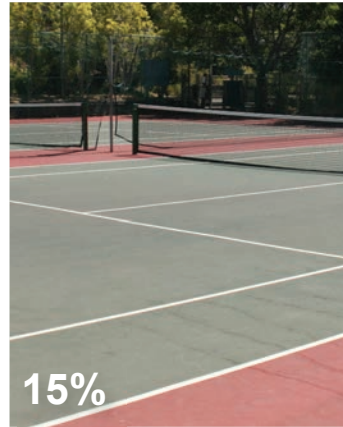
Measure A: Caring For What We Have



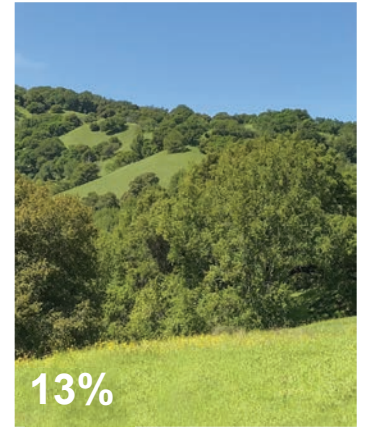
Parks and Open Space



Farmland Preservation



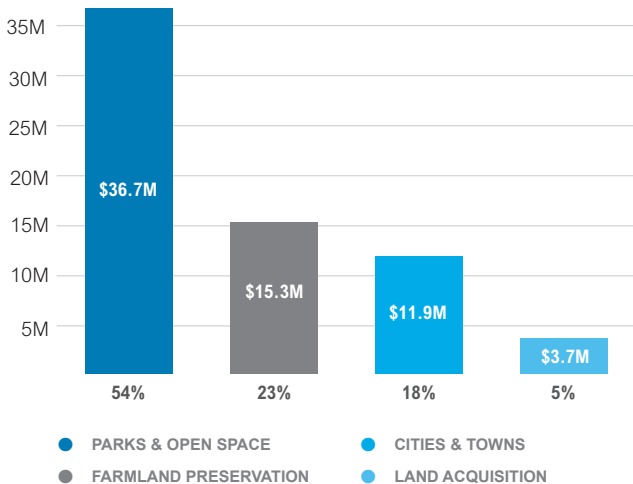
Cities and Towns



Land Acquisition

Measure A protects the parks, open space, and farmland that make Marin County an extraordinary place to live, work, and play. In 2012, Marin voters approved a one-quarter of one percent sales tax (County Ordinance 3586) to support parks, open space, and agricultural lands across Marin. By law, funds raised by Measure A must be spent on parks and open space, farmland preservation, recreation in Marin's nineteen cities and towns, and land acquisition. Measure A also funds over \$100,000 annually in community grants, extending opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy parks and preserves through local non-profit organizations.

Measure A Expenditures FY 2014–19



As of FY 2018–19, Measure A has been in effect for six years and has generated \$77.4 million. These funds are being used to address deferred maintenance in parks and preserves, finance agricultural easements that protect ranches and farms, support outdoor recreational programs in cities and towns, and help Marin adapt to climate change.

Support for Cities, Towns, and Special Districts

Measure A provides funding for parks, open space, and recreation facilities across the county. Measure A helps cities, towns, and special districts maintain parks, open space, and recreational programming. To date \$11.8M dollars have been granted. By 2021, Measure A is estimated to generate \$13.5 million for Marin cities, towns, and special districts.

CITIES

Mill Valley
Novato
San Rafael
Sausalito

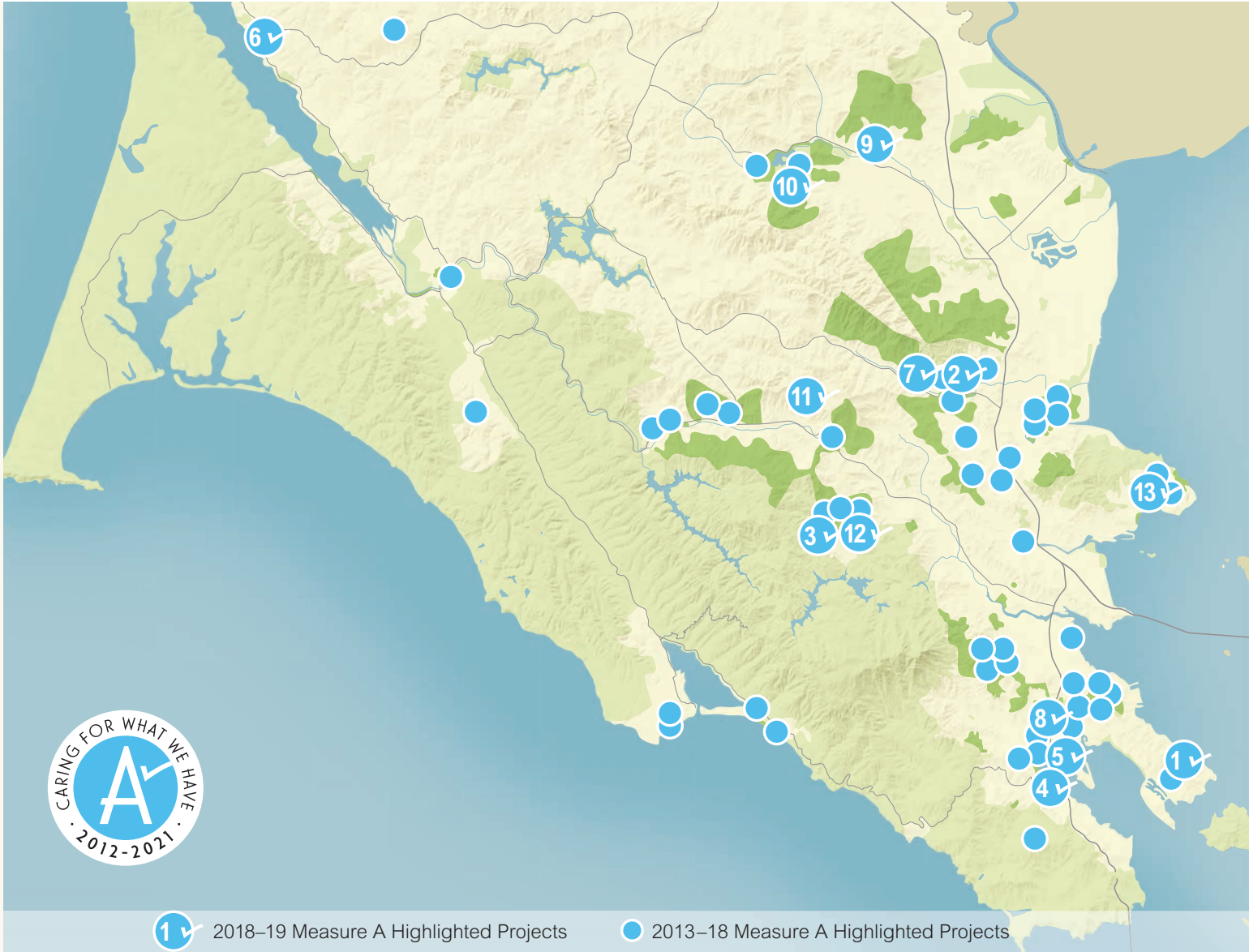
TOWNS
Belvedere
Corte Madera
Fairfax
Larkspur
Ross
San Anselmo
Tiburon

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Bel Marin Keyes CSD
Bolinas Firehouse Community
Park Agency
Marin City CSD
Marinwood CSD
Muir Beach CSD
Strawberry Recreation District
Tamalpais CSD
Tomales CSD

Highlighted County-wide Projects Enhanced by Measure A

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Old St. Hilary's fire fuel reduction and habitat protection | 6 Miller Boat Launch repair and community life jackets | 10 Stafford Lake Park kids zip lines and birds nest swing |
| 2 Ponti Ridge trail project | 7 County farm cemetery fence and signage | 11 White Hill Middle School defensible space, Loma Alta |
| 3 Frog docent program Cascade Canyon | 8 Bothin Marsh StoryWalk | 12 Cascade Canyon defensible space vegetation removal |
| 4 Mill Valley/Sausalito Pathway bridge repair | 9 167-acre Bowman Canyon addition to Mount Burdell Preserve | 13 McNears Park eucalyptus grove thinning, fire fuel reduction |
| 5 Mill Valley/Sausalito Pathway mosaic | | |



Looking Ahead

Measure A is helping Marin County parks and open spaces become safer and more fun while reducing environmental impact. Watch for these future projects:

- Continuing collaboration on fire fuel reduction with county and regional fire agencies
- Ponti Ridge multiuse trail work continues
- Apprenticeship program with Conservation Corps North Bay
- Bolinas Wye Wetlands construction documents preparation
- McNears Beach Park parking lot resurfacing
- Another acquisition to expand Mount Burdell Preserve
- Region 6 road and trail designation events and workshops
- Updates to benches, tables, and Parks site furnishings
- Buck's Landing acquisition

Support Your Parks and Open Spaces!

Join a community volunteer day. Help beautify Marin County, have fun outdoors, and meet new friends. Bring your enthusiasm—we supply the know how, gloves, and tools. All ages welcome. For upcoming events visit marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/calendar.

Dedication programs. Honor and celebrate loved ones in a Marin County park, with a variety of options expressing a connection between people, nature, and place. For details visit marincountyparks.org.

Make a tax-deductible donation. Visit mcf-online-donations.org and select "Open Space and Parks Fund".

More information: marincountyparks.org or call (415) 473-6387.