

# 2013 Master Plan — East Bay Regional Parks District

## MASTER PLAN GLOSSARY

**Acquisition (ACQ).** The process through which the District acquires land, or the right to operate land, through purchases, gifts, bequests, dedications, or any other mutually agreed arrangement.

**active recreation.** Outdoor activities oriented toward group sports and activities using District buildings and facilities, as opposed to activities such as nature appreciation, contemplation, photography, or birding; active recreation typically uses athletic fields, recreational buildings, or other District facilities. *See also* **passive recreation.**

**ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan.** The District’s plan for upgrading facilities and services for the disabled, and bringing them into conformity with ADA standards.

**adaptive management techniques.** A systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** Federal legislation prohibiting discrimination against persons with physical disabilities, and defining related standards of accessibility for public facilities and services.

**Annual Budget (AB).** A plan for a given year based on long-range information; including financial forecasts, strategic plans, and other information developed to ensure the long-term sustainability of District activities and funding of District missions and commitments.

**assessment.** A property-related instrument funding a portion of cost operations for the District. *See also* **zone of benefit.**

**Balanced Parkland Distribution.** The District’s approach to resource allocation and development of its three regional park sectors through population projections and other factors.

**Board of Directors.** The body of elected members, through four year terms, who jointly oversee the activities of the District.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).** The California law requiring that the environmental impacts of projects funded or approved by government or public agencies be analyzed and disclosed to the public.

**California Public Resources Code.** The legal code adopted on April 26, 1939 by the California State Legislature, which oversees public lands, parks and open spaces, and sets policy regarding resources on those lands.

**Capital Improvement Plan.** A short-range plan (typically four to ten years) identifying capital projects and equipment purchases; providing a planning schedule, and identifying options for financing.

**Categorical Exemption.** Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), any one of thirty “classes” or types; applicable to projects which the Secretary of the Resources Agency has determined do not usually have a significant effect on the environment. Unlike statutory exemptions, categorical exemptions are not absolute.

**climate change.** The observed change in the trend of global weather patterns over an extended period of time; which can effect average temperatures, humidity, plant and animal population distributions, sea-level variation, wildfire occurrence, etc.

**Concessionaires.** Businesses that use District facilities to provide services or activities that the District cannot otherwise provide.

**conservation.** An ethic of resource use, allocation, and protection; its primary focus to maintain the health of the natural world; its forests, open spaces, fisheries, habitats, and biological diversity.

**conservation grazing.** Grazing which accomplishes a resource management purpose; such as reducing weedy vegetation, maintaining open habitat, or favoring particular plant or habitat types.

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM).** The management practice of regional parks physically preserving the heritage of those who occupied the parklands before the District was established.

**demographics.** Characteristics of human populations; such as size, growth, density, distribution, and vital statistics.

**donation.** A sum of money or land given to the District, typically free of dictates for application of use. *See also* **endowment; grant.**

**East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD).** The entity from which the first regional parks in the East Bay were established.

**East Bay Regional Park District.** The multi-county jurisdiction acquiring, managing, and governing parklands pertaining to this Master Plan; established by voters in Alameda County on November 6, 1934.

**ecosystem.** A community of living organisms interacting with non-living components of their environment and interacting as a living system; defined by the energy-exchange interactions of all of the components of a particular environment including climate, habitat, nutrient production, decomposition, food chains, interdependence, and plant and animal population dynamics.

**endowment.** A financial asset donation to the District in the form of investment funds or other property with a stated purpose at the bequest of the donor; most endowments are designed to keep the principal amount intact while using the investment income from dividends. *See also* **donation; grant.**

**fiscal management.** The District's strategic and outcome-oriented administration of financial resources providing prudent stewardship of resources and taxpayer funds; including acknowledgment and communication with all District stakeholders to identify needs and solicit feedback.

**general fund.** The primary fund of the District, similar to a firm's general ledger account; recording all assets and liabilities not assigned to a special purpose fund, and providing the resources necessary to sustain the day-to-day activities, administrative, and operating expenses.

**geocaching.** A relatively recent sport; similar to orienteering but using global positioning systems (GPS) rather than a map and compass to locate containers, or "caches," which have been left at specific locations identified by geographic coordinates.

**Geographic Information System (GIS).** A computer-based mapping and database system providing for the storage and analysis of geographic data (for example, area, ownership, land cover, vegetation types) as a basis of land and resource management decision-making.

**grant.** A sum of money or land given to the District by an organization for a particular purpose. *See also* **donation; endowment.**

**green communities.** The concept of an energy-efficient and resource-conserving urban development, planned to minimize land and resource use and dependence on automobiles, and incorporating a variety of ideas and practices; including compact and transit-oriented development, open space preservation, pedestrian and bicycle-oriented street systems, solar and wind power, green building materials, and recycling.

**Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).** A broad-scale resource conservation plan aimed at mitigating the effects of development on certain special-status species by requiring the dedication of large, contiguous areas of undeveloped habitat, thereby contributing to the recovery or preservation of the species.

**Hazard Reduction Plan.** *See Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan.*

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM).** A broadly-based approach to controlling invasive or pest populations of insects, pathogens, and weedy plants by integrating an array of available pest control techniques; while minimizing impacts and risks to human health and the environment.

**Interpretation and Recreation Services (IRS).** Recreational and interpretive programs enhancing access and use of the park system.

**Key Elements of the Planning Process (KEP).** A process involving fundamental commitment to public participation and informed review of the Master Plan, including but not limited to compliance with applicable laws; protection of resources in balance with public use objectives; protection of open space; and maintaining on-going liaison with other jurisdictions.

**land banking.** Property acquired by the District that is not open to the public until constraints on public access are removed; such as lack of public access, unsafe conditions, protection of resources, or the need to acquire contiguous land.

**land use planning.** A branch of public policy encompassing various disciplines which seek to order and regulate land use in an efficient and ethical way, thus preventing land-use conflicts.

**Master Plan.** The guiding document of the East Bay Regional Parks District; detailing the District's multi-faceted responsibilities, designating the opportunities for community input, and providing a framework for the decision-making of staff, committees, and public officials.

**Mission Statement.** The statement defining the essential role of the District. *See also Vision Statement.*

**mitigation measures.** Under CEQA, actions required to offset or compensate for environmental impacts such as preservation, restoration, or protective actions undertaken to benefit a particular resource, species, or habitat.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).** The Federal law that established a national policy promoting the enhancement and protection of the environment, signed into law by President Richard Nixon on January 1, 1970.

**National Parks System.** The Federally-based national system of representative natural and cultural areas of significance under National Parks and National Monuments; protected under law for public understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment; maintained in an unimpaired state for future generations by the National Park Service under the Department of the Interior.

**National Register of Historic Places.** The Federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation. *See also State Historic Landmark.*

**Natural Resources Management (NRM).** Approach to managing the "wildlands" of the District; natural areas that provide watershed, open space, recreation, and ecosystems supporting plant and animal habitat. *See also Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan.*

**Ordinance 38.** The East Bay Regional Park District's rules and regulations for park users; enforceable by law through the District's Public Safety officers.

**Park District.** *See East Bay Regional Park District.*

**parkland classifications.** A policy of the Master Plan categorizing parklands into various land use designations or “units;” specifically Natural Units and Recreation/Staging Units.

**Parks Express.** A District outreach program providing low-cost group transportation to regional parks; serving low-income schools, groups serving children from low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

**passive recreation.** Outdoor activities oriented toward the experience and appreciation of nature, as opposed to organized team sports. Such activities may include, hiking, jogging, mountain biking, swimming, fishing, bird watching, and picnicking. *See also active recreation.*

**planning.** *See land use planning.*

**planning processes.** *See Key Elements of the Planning Process (KEP).*

**Public Access (PA).** District policy to keeping people connected to the regional parks through outreach and educational efforts, providing accessible information about parks, and regularly using formal and informal survey methods to assess the interests of its constituents.

**Public Service (PS).** District policy in response to changes in the East Bay’s resident population; adapting services, programs, and activities consistent with the organizational mission and broadening outreach efforts to include members of its increasingly diverse population in all aspects of its operations.

**QR Codes (Quick Response Codes).** A two-dimensional barcode placed on an interpretive panel and read by a smart phone or other electronic portable device conveying web-based interpretive information.

**Ralph M. Brown Act.** An act of the California State Legislature authored by Assembly member Ralph M. Brown and passed in 1953 that guaranteed the public’s right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies.

**Rare, Threatened, or Endangered (RTE, or listed) species.** Plant or animal species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife as specially protected.

**Recreational Facilities and Areas (RFA).** District policy supporting a developed system of active recreational areas and facilities; intended for a wider variety of opportunities and recreational resources beyond that of passive recreation.

**Regional in Nature (RIN).** A bi-monthly publication of the District, distributed in a variety of East Bay newspapers and listing the District’s organized programs and activity offerings.

**Resource Management (RM).** District policy and management methods for the wide variety of natural, cultural, and historic resources contained within its regional parks.

**restoration projects.** Projects undertaken by the District as part of its mission to “manage, maintain and restore the parklands so that retain their important scenic, natural and cultural values.”

**Special Management Features (SMF).** Primarily constructed or modified features such as wildland vegetation management areas, plantations of exotic trees, farm fields, and dams requiring specialized types of management.

**Special Protection Features (SPF).** Areas with unique or fragile natural, cultural, aesthetic, or educational features such as biologic, hydrologic, archaeological, historic, or geologic resources.

**State Historic Landmark.** A cultural or historic site in the District considered for designation status through the Federal government's National Register of Historic Places. *See also* **National Register of Historic Places (NRM).**

**stewardship.** An ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources.

**sustainable/green communities.** *See* **green communities.**

**threshold experience.** An introductory outdoor nature experience for urban kids who have not had the opportunity to camp, hike, fish, or learn about wildlife.

**units.** *See* **parkland classifications.**

**Vision Statement.** The statement setting the direction, values and objectives of the District. *See also* **Mission Statement.**

**Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol (VTSP).** One of a number of District volunteer groups patrolling district trails on foot, horseback, and by bicycle to observe and report safety issues, incidents, and emergencies; assisting park users and educating visitors about District resources, programs, facilities, and rules.

**Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan.** A plan applied to the District's Natural Resource Management (NRM) policies; serving as a guideline to practices and protections regarding wildfire management; and specifically directed at protection of the urban interface. *See also* **Natural Resource Management (NRM).**

**wildlife corridors.** Continuous and connected expanses of land typically connecting regional parks and preserves, and unbroken by urban development or roadways; important to maintaining the foraging, hunting, and mating territories of certain wildlife species.

**zone of benefit.** A local fee assessment levied on property owners or residents of a particular development or area for purposes of funding ongoing maintenance and improvements to that area. *See also* **assessment.**

