

2024 EBRPD Board Candidate Questionnaire

Your answers will not be saved until you submit the form at the end. If you don't feel you can answer these questions in one sitting, you may want to [download the questions](#) and draft your answers externally, then paste them into this form.

Please record your full name below: *

Shane Reisman

When you visit the East Bay Regional Parks, how often do you enjoy the following activities?

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Hiking	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cycling on dirt trails or natural surface roads (mountain biking, gravel riding, fire roads, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Cycling on paved trails and roads within the park	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Running/Jogging	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog walking	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Picnicking or other gatherings	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visiting park amenities (lakes, visitor centers, gardens, etc.)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Narrow Trail Maintenance

Historically, basic ongoing or scheduled maintenance of existing natural surface narrow trails has been a low-priority activity for the EBRPD.

What are your thoughts on institutionalized EBRPD collaboration with volunteer organizations that have expertise and are eager to assist with such maintenance on trails that are open to bicycles?

I support coordinated efforts at EBRPD to institutionalize a more collaborative culture and partnering approach between the District and local volunteer organizations. Engaging volunteers not only provides necessary manpower and specialized knowledge but also fosters community stewardship and a shared sense of ownership over park resources. Establishing clear partnerships can lead to more effective trail maintenance, better resource allocation, and improved user satisfaction. This collaborative approach can ultimately enhance the overall park experience for all users.

Do you see value in collaborating with such volunteer organizations to lobby for state and federal funding to support trail maintenance? Please explain why or why not.

The District's approach to state and federal funding does not currently reflect a multi-agency or cross-stakeholder approach. To better maximize funding opportunities, EBRPD must adopt a more robust effort to include a wide array of voices and interests. Volunteer organizations often have established networks and knowledge of grant opportunities, making them effective advocates for securing financial resources. By uniting efforts, EBRPD and volunteers can amplify their voices, demonstrating community support for maintaining and enhancing trails. This collaboration can also emphasize the economic, health, and environmental benefits of well-maintained trails, making a stronger case for funding. Ultimately, this partnership can lead to more sustainable trails, improved user experiences, and better preservation of natural habitats within the East Bay parks.

Narrow Trails - Demand & Access Issues

Since 1995, EBRPD park acreage has nearly doubled while only 15 miles of narrow trails have been added. Demand for access to these parks and its trail system is now at an all-time high. In the last few years much of this demand has been driven by the increase in popularity of mountain biking, especially among youth. High school and middle school teams have sprung up all over the Bay Area with many hundreds of young riders joining.

The imbalance of demand and supply of the Park's existing narrow trails has been magnified by historical inequity regarding access for bikes. Equestrians (a small and decreasing user group) have access to roughly 55% of the narrow trail system while cyclists (a much larger and growing group) have access to less than 25%. Pedestrians have 100% access. All this has resulted in user conflicts - real, perceived, or both. In addition, the Park has seen an increase in the creation of unofficial, unsanctioned trails due to the absence of EBRPD trail additions and actions on access.

What strategies do you have in mind to balance increased recreational demand overall for narrow trail experiences, with the preservation of natural habitats?

To address the increasing recreational demand for narrow trails while preserving natural habitats, several strategies can be implemented:

1. Trail Assessment and Planning: Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of existing trails to identify potential areas for widening or redesigning. This study should incorporate ecological assessments to minimize habitat disruption.
2. Development of New Multi-Use Trails: Prioritize the creation of new multi-use trails designed to accommodate cyclists and hikers.
3. User Education and Signage: Enhance signage to promote trail etiquette among users and raise awareness about habitat conservation. Educational initiatives can include outreach programs for youth cycling teams to teach responsible riding and trail use.
4. Regular Monitoring and Feedback: Implement a system for monitoring trail usage, user satisfaction, and habitat conditions. This could involve user surveys and trail counters, coupled with a mechanism for users to report issues or conflicts.
5. Community Engagement: Foster collaboration among user groups through stakeholder meetings and volunteer projects. This not only builds community but also encourages shared stewardship of park resources.

What strategies do you have in mind to bring into balance the historical inequities of access privilege among trail users?

As a member of the East Bay Parks District, in pursuit of my vision to address long-standing accessibility issues to East Bay Regional parklands, I will advocate for an ambitious land acquisition strategy to connect Oakland residents to East Bay parkland through the District's extensive Intrapark trail network. My proposal includes Public Education, Land Acquisition Planning and Innovative Solutions. I also call for continued East Bay Regional Park leadership in multi-jurisdictional partnerships to help Oakland benefit from regional economies of scale.

Read more on my recent Substack posting, A Parks Crisis in Oakland, <https://substack.com/home/post/p-149328696>

Briones Pilot Program

With the *Briones Pilot Program*, EBRPD has taken a small but significant step toward recognizing and addressing issues of trail conflict, non-system trail impact on habitat, and equitable access for bikes.

What do you see working and not working with the pilot? What are your thoughts on the results (to date) from the pilot and how learning outcomes could be applied to post-pilot actions at Briones and to other parks?

The Briones Pilot Program has made notable progress in addressing trail conflict and promoting equitable access for cyclists. Increased community engagement and the development of designated trails have begun to alleviate some user conflicts. Gathering data on trail usage patterns is also program benefit to inform future trail management decisions and enhances overall safety.

However, challenges remain and user conflicts persist, particularly given the growing demand for trail access from mountain bikers and other groups. The pilot may not adequately address the ecological impact of non-system trails, which threatens local habitats. Additionally, enforcing trail guidelines has proven difficult without sufficient monitoring, leading to ongoing issues with compliance.

To improve post-pilot actions, EBRPD should focus on expanding multi-use trail options to better accommodate diverse user groups. Enhanced educational initiatives about responsible trail use are essential, particularly for youth cyclists who are a rapidly growing demographic. Establishing ongoing feedback mechanisms, such as surveys and community forums, can help assess user experience and adapt management practices accordingly. The lessons learned from this pilot can effectively guide future trail management decisions not only in Briones but across the East Bay Regional Park District.

Other Comments

If you have any other comments on the topics discussed here or any related topics, please leave them below. Press Submit when you are done.

I favor a go-slow approach to land development and expansion of recreational facilities, including placing limits on hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and electric vehicles, as appropriate, to protect the serenity of our open spaces.

To navigate any changes to restrictions, project planners must provide thorough documentation to ensure community engagement and ideation for changes are accurately captured and transparently shared with stakeholders. Any plans must include detailed records of public interactions, creative sessions, and decision-making to reflect a collaborative and inclusive effort and accurately capture inputs and ongoing agreements reached among disparate interests of users.

Audio and video recordings should preserve the authenticity of discussions and feedback. Survey forms collected during outreach booths, workshops, and online submissions should be compiled and analyzed. These documents will highlight key themes, concerns, and suggestions from the community, ensuring that every voice is heard and considered.

The evolution of proposed changes and agreements should be thoroughly documented through a combination of visual and written records. Sketches, models, and digital renderings during meetings should be archived along with explanatory notes detailing inspiration and rationale behind each decision. Meetings and brainstorming sessions with user groups will be documented to provide a clear trail from initial ideas to final designs, demonstrating how community input and historical considerations have been integrated.

This documentation will be organized and made accessible to the public through a dedicated project webpage, regularly updated with new information. Reports summarizing community feedback, design iterations, and project milestones will be published and distributed via email newsletters, social media, and at public meetings. Additionally, visual displays and presentations at community centers, libraries, and during public events will keep the community informed and engaged.

By maintaining transparency and accessibility, this documentation plan will foster trust among User Groups and other stakeholders and address tensions through thoughtful navigation of disparate interests to arrive at collective vision and agreement on a path forward.

This form was created inside of The Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay.

