

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: *

Susan Gonzales

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

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Hiking	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Running/Jogging	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog walking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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?

EBRPD has relied on volunteers for different functions so it might be possible if it was coordinated by staff. It would really need to be reviewed

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.

Public support and engagement is really critical and support for funding is always helpful.

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?

Preservation of natural habitat is paramount. However, biking is a significant recreational activity. Areas should be designated for its use and then EBRPD should enforce since you cannot have trails everywhere or you disturb the habitat.

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

EBRPD established a Master Plan years ago and ordinance that addressed handling. Areas should be designated for particular use and then there should be enforcement. User groups need to work together.

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?

Biking is an important recreational activity that many enjoy and it is here to stay. The pilot project projects trails for bikers but also now establishes the areas where one may bike as it is not appropriate to bike anywhere.

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.

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

Google Forms