

2026 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.

Email *

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Please record your full name below: *

Inderprit "Indy" Sekhon

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

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

Narrow Trail Maintenance

Historically, basic ongoing or scheduled maintenance of existing natural surface narrow trails has been a low-priority activity for the EBRPD. As a result many trails are badly eroded and even dangerous.

What are your thoughts on regular institutionalized EBRPD collaboration with volunteer organizations that have expertise and are eager to assist with such maintenance on narrow natural surface trails (singletrack) that are open to bicycles?

I wonder how EBRPD can support the enthusiasm of volunteer organizations with access, insurance, and tools to support their efforts to improve safety and consistency with trails. I wonder how volunteer organizations, especially local ones, can avoid the administrative burdens that get in the way of maintenance that is time and seasonally sensitive.

Historically EBRPD trails suffer from explosive vegetation growth during spring. As a result some of those trails are nearly impassable for weeks if not months until mechanized crews are able to clear the tall grasses and weeds directly impacting the trails. The volume of work is impractical and has safety concerns making volunteer hand work unreasonable. We understand the union MOU issues would need to be worked through. There are stewardship volunteers that would also like the authorization to operate line trimmers to do more effective work.

Do you support finding ways for volunteer groups such as BTCEB to operate powered tools for the exclusive purpose of trail brushing? Would you make this a priority objective? Why or why not? If not, do you support the park district making it a priority to clear vegetation impacted trails in a much more timely manner?

I would love to host local volunteer organizations, skilled community members, diversely educated ecological stewards, and public gatekeepers for ECO-CIVIC ASSEMBLIES where we physically visit sites together, collaborate and share vision and ideas, and decide on roles and needs to mitigate "explosive vegetation growth". I live in Crockett and know dozens of skilled permaculture experts, construction builders, skilled labor, and experienced trail builders. How can these diverse skills and understanding of ecology mitigate the need to regularly "suffer from explosive vegetation" which is mostly invasive plants that also lead to fire risk for most communities?

From a disaster resilience perspective (which is my priority focus), I feel we need to empower as many volunteer and paid organizations to practice wise ecology so that our communities can mitigate the fire disasters that are increasing in risk because of the lack of stewardship, and allocation of EBRPD \$\$\$ to support physical labor.

I'm also concerned that so much of EBRPD \$\$\$ goes to administration (most of whom work from home) and ASSET purchasing (buying more land), rather than investing in local stewardship that can also increase local economic opportunity, improve mental health and meaning/purpose, and connect people to place.

Since 1995, EBRPD park acreage has nearly doubled while less than 25 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 (singletrack) 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 nearly 100% access. Ordinance 38 allows broad pedestrian off trail access. All this has resulted in user conflicts - real and perceived. 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.

There has been minimal addition of singletrack trails over the last several decades in part due to the high resource load for planning, environmental review for new trails, and funding. Change in Use is an option to address some of the access issues in a much shorter time frame.

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

First of all, I'm a regenerative farmer and ecological steward. I'm personally involved in projects that have regenerated natural habitats while also creating more access for humans to enjoy and benefit. I am very conscious about supporting labor, as labor is what gets the projects done, and right now, most of EBRPD money goes to managers, not labor.

We really need PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING to allow for community members to truly decide where their money goes, and to even propose ideas that increase recreational use and natural habitat regeneration. As a podcast host, I learn a lot from my guests. Here is a project used across the country that proves what I'm sharing: <https://pbstanford.org/>

Once a truly democratic and participatory budgeting tool is initiated, I am confident that communities in and around EBRPD, especially Ward 7, will rise to the economic, social and ecological opportunities that become available. I am excited that so many semi-retired skilled labor can teach the next generation of skilled labor by improving park access, safety, enjoyment, all while stewarding Nature more wisely.

Do you support consideration of Change In Use for existing trails to alleviate some of the lack of bike access? Why or why not?

I'd love to learn more about this and why it may or may not be beneficial. What are the upstream benefits, or potential issues, that can arise from Change in Use?

With the *Briones Pilot Program*, EBRPD took a significant step toward recognizing and addressing issues of trail conflict, non-system trail impact on habitat, and equitable access for bikes. The Pilot was a pragmatic approach to today's reality, the resulting impacts, and not a reward to rogue trail building.

What are your thoughts on the results from the pilot and how learnings & outcomes could be applied at other parks? What are your thoughts regarding further evaluation of non-system trails in other parks, adoption of those that can be sustainable and make sense in the trail system, along with closure and habitat rehabilitation of unsustainable non-system trails?

It looks like the process was great and for the most part, people abided.

I feel we need to be conscious that some communities may have more existential bandwidth than others to be engaged with park meetings, surveys and forums. A working nurse with 3 children may love park trails, but may not ever be able to get involved with the "process" because the "process" doesn't meet her where she is. Certain communities, like Antioch and Bay Point, experience more economic stress. How are these communities being educated and empowered to be involved with trail use and park stewardship? Are we meeting people, especially working class, where they are at?

The question that has me inspired with this query is: How can EBRPD be an example of catalyzing local civic engagement, across all classes and cultures?

The Wildcat Bike Trail Project

The Wildcat Bike Trail Project is proposed to add 1.4 miles of downhill directional bike only trail. The public process for this trail has been extraordinary given the very limited project scope. There has been some vocal opposition to the project while several thousand members of the public support the project. The project is currently working on an EIR. Staff brought the project back to the board for a second time requesting approval to proceed with an EIR. A majority of board members supported moving forward with the EIR and issuing the contract for the EIR.

If a vote to continue the EIR were to come before you today would you vote to support continuing or would you vote to stop the project and why?

I would support because I feel it's important to support the efforts of so many citizens and enthusiasts. When people work so hard to organize civic gatherings (which I love to do), we need to reward them with civic actions. This incentivizes more civic engagement, because people notice that civic organizing leads to real, tangible benefits to people who care about something, in this case, mountain bikers, students, and supporters.

One candidate has publicly opposed the Wildcat Project and and stated 'I don't see how recreational trails of this nature fit in the ethos of a park district', ' Briones was just expanded ... before that it was Crockett. What park is next after we do this one? ... Where does it end?'

Do you agree that recreational trails of this nature don't fit the park district ethos? Why or why not?

I am American, but I'm also Indian. I come from a lineage of ancestors that practiced ecological stewardship from a place of integration, not separation. I feel much more Western/colonial park preservation is rooted in separating humans from Nature. I'm keen on connecting humans back to Nature. This means we need to spend more time in it, we need to learn how to support keystone species, and how to effectively remove invasive/toxic ones.

Conservationism may also be leading to environmental degeneration. Many of our Ward 7 watersheds are polluted and toxic to humans and fish, but they are also being "conserved". With active stewardship, ecological care, and community engagement, these parks could be safe and abundant, supporting humans and native species to thrive.

The Next Century District Plan and Future Bike Access

The park district is in the process of developing it's next century plan or district plan. The 2013 District Plan included Trails for All and envisioned both multi-use and single use trails. It did not provide a clear vision for a magnitude of trail expansion or additional bike access. BTCEB has proposed that the district set a vision of all residents in the park district having access to a park with 10 miles of bike legal singletrack within a 20-25 minute drive from their home. The lack of bike access is leading to increased unauthorized trail creation by park users which often may result in increased natural resource impacts. We ask that the district target reaching 75% of the district having this available to them in the next 20 years.

What is your vision for Singletrack bike access from a volume and timing perspective and why?

Do you support the above proposed level of bike access and trails? Why or why not?

I do support the proposed level of bike access and trails, mainly because I want to honor the bike enthusiasts who show up to the civic process.

I'm not sure about the Singletrack bike access. I would love to learn more, and explore how we can create "Ecoversities" that teach bike trail building to high school students and community college students where they can earn EBRPD money and skills training. How can we match the volume of action with the economic challenges facing our local communities?

The Roles of Access, Education, and Enforcement

Singletrack bike access is limited in the East Bay Regional Park District. The addition of sanctioned access at Crockett Hills and the adoption of unsanctioned trails at Briones have shown a positive impact on unsanctioned trail activity. Those increases in access are significant yet much of the district has very limited opportunity to biking singletrack trails. Some members of the community call for increased enforcement and also self policing by the mountain bike community. Self policing is challenging in light of decades of access advocacy with EBRPD while other land managers demonstrate significantly more expansion in access. Meanwhile the net impact to habitat is much worse than additional well planned trails.

Where do you see the roles of increased access, education, and enforcement in the overall situation related to mountain bikes in EBRPD?

I'm not a fan of punitive action. I don't feel it works. I do wonder how increasing education in communities and reaching out to local non-mountain biking organizations can foster more understanding and cooperation.

I also wonder what would happen if there was generally an increase in cultural and community events in the EBRPD parks. Would this create more appreciation of the Mountain Biking community? Would sharing the EBRPD with communities that have historically been discriminated against foster more solidarity?

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. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I am looking at "Parks being Generative Infrastructure" for our communities. It's important to understand what I mean by that. I feel we live in a world where we need to be more resilient than ever, and that means we need to look at our "resources" differently than we ever have.

Can our parks improve public health? Can some parts of parks (especially the agricultural parts) grow organic food for the local communities? Can the parks educate and employ stewards that live and care about the nature that is next to them?

Can our parks generate clean watersheds, and restore keystone species' habitats (like beavers)? Can our parks set an example of indigenous and ecocultural stewardship?

What if our parks became an example of PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING that "fastracks" projects and local economic opportunity by removing administrative nepotism or transparency challenges?

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

Google Forms