



Friends of China Camp, Inc. (FOCC)

PLAN for the OPERATION of CHINA CAMP STATE PARK for FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

We are pleased to submit the Friends of China Camp operating plan for FY 2019-2020, as operator of China Camp State Park in partnership with the California State Parks. The operating plan is in keeping with the Operating Partnership Agreement, which will expire in January 2020.

Information regarding park hours, fees, reservations, interpretive programs and events, and safety regulations are posted on our website at www.friendsofchinacamp.org.

Contact information including the park phone number (415-456-0766), the FOCC business phone number (415-488-5161), and the FOCC email friendsofchinacamp@gmail.com are included.

The information in this document is presented from the time perspective of July 1, 2019, looking forward.

1. Hours of Operation

FOCC plans to keep the operating hours the same as in the previous fiscal year.

- a) The park will remain open seven days a week, 365 days a year, from 8:00 AM to sunset.
- b) The bayside day-use locations including China Camp Village, China Camp Point, Buckeye Point, Weber Point, and Bullhead Flat will remain open from 8:00 AM to sunset daily, except for special evening events when the hours may be extended.
- c) The campground will continue being available seven days a week throughout the year. Check-in time will be after 2:00 PM. Check-out time will be by 12:00 noon. The campground gate at San Pedro Road will close and be locked at 9:00 PM. There will be a 7-day camping limit between April 1 and October 30. The rest of the year there will be a 15-day limit with an annual limit of 30 days.

2. Fee Schedule

The planned fees for 2019-2020 are:

Parking at designated lots: Daily Fees

Passenger cars \$5.00 (includes trail use for four passengers)

Buses up to 24 passengers \$20.00

Buses with 25 or more passengers \$40.00

Trail Use: Daily Use Fee

\$3.00 for each hiker, biker or equestrian

Annual Passes

Parking passes include Trail Use passes for up to four people: \$60.00

Trail Use only passes: \$35.00

Campground Fees

Individual campsites with a capacity of 8 campers each are \$35 per night

Group campsite with a capacity of 40 campers is \$175 per night

Hike & bike sites with a capacity of 8 campers per site are \$5.00 per person

Permitted day-use fees for picnic grounds at Buckeye Point and Weber Point

Rate remains \$75 per day. As of August 1, 2017, reservations are made by contacting Reserve California: (800) 444-7275 or through their website at www.reservecalifornia.com

Permitted day-use fees at other sites

Fees at Miwok Meadows, China Camp Village and China Camp Point are dependent upon the nature of the site use, the number of people attending, hours of use, and special conditions or circumstances, such as the presence of alcohol at the event, which requires additional staff time.

3. Special Event Plan

It is FOCC's intention to organize special events in the coming year, which will be in keeping with the recreational, cultural and natural history aspects and mission of the park.

a) **Heritage Day.** Heritage Day is held at the end of every summer, charging no fees except for \$5.00 parking. Heritage Day this year will be held on August 24, 2019.

b) Examples of Recreational and Environmental Events

- i. King Tide interpretive walk with the SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve staff (with King Tide Initiative photo opportunities)
- ii. Tai Chi at full moon

- iii. Nature walks
 - iv. Nature-themed book club
 - v. Monthly museum talks
 - vi. Earth Day volunteer opportunities for trail work (planned for April)
 - vii. Park Champions volunteer work events in partnership with the California State Parks Foundation
- c) **Weddings in the Village.** With this year's PEF approval of weddings in China Camp Village and on China Camp Point, FOCC has developed a wedding brochure and plans to accommodate a maximum of 10 weddings during the 2019-2020 year. FOCC will also entertain the inquiries for other special events in order to take advantage of this revenue opportunity.

4. Natural Resource Protection Plan

- a) **General.** FOCC will continue to partner with DPR, with DPR taking the lead to plan, implement, and review actions and procedures that meet legal requirements for compliance with approved planning documents, environmental laws, internal and external regulatory mandates, and policies required for China Camp State Park as outlined in the Operating Partnership Agreement.
- b) **Partnerships.** FOCC will continue to develop and maintain working relationships with other partners to move natural resources planning and implementation forward through mutual projects and fundraising efforts on behalf of the Park's natural resource protection and rehabilitation. Areas of mutual interest include climate change and its effect on tidal marshes and lowlands at CCSP and surrounding communities. As is the case with DPR, FOCC also has a close working relationship with SF Bay NERR.
- c) **Trails Restoration.** FOCC, in collaboration with DPR and the CSPF's *Park Champions Program*, is continuing the restoration of over 14 miles of trails in the park. The goal of the project is to restore the trails to the current DPR standards. FOCC's Volunteers in Parks Program (VIPPP) volunteers are leading Parks Champions volunteers on a monthly workday, with an emphasis on the easier sections of the trails.

Prior to the August 1 deadline, FOCC will submit a project proposal seeking Proposition 68 funds to restore a 528'-long section of Back Ranch Fire Trail. BRFT is a main artery for mountain bikers and, in its current condition, is treacherous due to its steep grade, its 18"-deep ruts, and its exposed, fractured chert. Reaching a width of 18 feet, BRFT channels storm runoff into the Back Ranch Meadows Campground, causing damage to campsites, culverts, and bathrooms.

- d) **Restoration/Repair of Trail Display Kiosks.** With the help of volunteer carpenters, FOCC has repaired several of the weathered and damaged display kiosks. This project will continue with the intent to complete repairs on all kiosks this year.
- e) **Split Rail Fencing.** FOCC, in collaboration with the CSPF's *Park Champions Program*, is working to monitor, repair, replace broken or unstable split rail fencing.
- f) **Trail Culverts.** FOCC, in collaboration with the CSPF's *Park Champions Program*, is working to maintain the structural integrity of trail culverts, to clear them of debris prior to the rainy season, and to keep them patent during the winter storms.
- g) **Invasive Plant Removal Project.** DPR has given FOCC the approval to remove the following invasive plants from designated areas in the park: Fennel, Scotch/French Broom, English Ivy, Cape Ivy, Stinkwort, Spurge, blackberry and Italian Bull Thistle. FOCC has been approved to remove those plant species from around the Peacock Gap Trail Road, Five Pines Point, Bullet Hill Trail, Northern Shoreline Trail, Turtle Back Trail, the Village and areas around Back Ranch Campground. These are areas in the park where invasive removal can be easily achieved without disturbance to the native flora or cultural resources.

Through June 2019, FOCC has assigned numerous youth and adult groups for removal events, including Boy/Girl Scout groups, school groups, Earth Day volunteers, and other groups. For 2019-20, FOCC plans to continue to have assigned monthly volunteer invasive plant removal events in the park, all of which will continue to be overseen by a VIPP.

- h) **Non-system Trail Evaluation and Prescription:** A number of old trail and road alignments, dating back to before the park was formed, still exist and are used by hikers and bicyclists. FOCC, in collaboration with DPR, will evaluate the most established non-system trails and roads in the park and determine if any should be adopted or permanently closed. Either action would require funding and partnering with other organizations such as CCC, CCNB and MCBC to implement the prescriptions and conduct outreach to educate park visitors about the changes to gain their cooperation.

5. Cultural Resource Protection Plan

FOCC will continue to support DPR's mandate to secure and protect historical and cultural artifacts through historical building maintenance and split rail fence maintenance and installation, as directed by DPR.

- a) **Stabilization of Historic Structures.** FOCC will continue the ongoing stabilization program of historic village buildings, including corrugated roof structures, building foundations, gutters, windows, and siding, as needed.
- b) **Cultural Landscape Report.** FOCC has contracted with two prominent historians to produce a Cultural Landscape Report. Work will begin on or around July 1, and the report should be completed by December 1, 2019. A Cultural Landscape Report guides management and treatment decisions about a landscape's physical attributes, biotic systems, and use when that use contributes to historical significance.
- c) **Update Nomination in National Register of Historic Places.** Prior to the August 1 deadline, FOCC will submit a project proposal seeking Proposition 68 funds to update China Camp's nomination in the National Register of Historic Places. After 41 years since its original nomination, an update will give FOCC access to federal grants for the preservation of China Camp Village.
- d) **Historic Structure Reports.** Prior to the August 1 deadline, FOCC will submit a project proposal seeking Proposition 68 funds to produce four Historic Structures Reports – one report each for the Café (building #11), Frank Quan's house (building #12), Grace Quan's house (building #13), and the distant green building (building #5). An HSR is the first step to stabilizing and sealing the café, which is a priority capital project.
- e) **Café Stabilization and Sealing.** Prior to the August 1 deadline, FOCC will submit a project proposal seeking Proposition 68 funds to stabilize and seal the historic café in the village. Not only would this project make the café safe, rodent free, and protected from roof leaks, it would also bring the café much closer to code so that it may be permitted by the County of Marin Environmental Health Services to meet pre-packaged food facility requirements.
- f) **China Camp Village Timber Pilings.** Prior to the August 1 deadline, FOCC will submit a project proposal seeking Proposition 68 funds to repair at least 30 timber pilings that support the museum, processing sheds, and pier. As a result of wave action and salt erosion, Noble Consultants, Inc. has assessed that 13 pilings have a condition of "IMMEDIATE REPAIR – CRITICAL", and 17 pilings have a condition of "IMMEDIATE REPAIR – BAD".

6. Interpretive Plan for Natural History

FOCC's program director will continue to develop and implement interpretive programs in natural and cultural history.

- a) **Programs.** FOCC will continue to provide many of the natural history interpretive programs for the Park, including campfire programs, school programs, Junior Ranger programs, guest speakers, a naturalist book club, and nature walks.

Our emphasis will be on continuing to develop programs for elementary and middle school children and adults, specifically focusing on the salt marsh wetland ecology. We will continue to emphasize the hands-on and experiential education techniques developed by State Parks. We plan to expand our well-received nature walks provided by VIPP docents as well as professional naturalists from NERR, California Native Plant Society, and other nature-focused organizations.

Beginning in September 2019, FOCC will be focusing on developing programs catering to visitors with physical impairments. We will be taking on a wheelchair-bound intern, who is a high school senior at the Marin School of Environmental Leadership, which is housed within Terra Linda High School, to develop these programs.

Additionally, we have added recreational programming to attract new audiences to the park such as full moon hikes, full moon tai chi, movies in the park, and other events.

- b) **Natural History Docent Training Program.** The FOCC Program Director has developed a natural history docent training program, which will be initiated in early spring 2020. This training program will be in alignment with the goals and objectives of the Interpretation and Education Chapter of the DPR Operations Manual.
- c) **Earth Day Open House.** FOCC has partnered with the CSPF to initiate the first Earth Day Open House event that took place April of 2019. This event included volunteer restoration projects as well as community centered activities like a naturalist hike in Spanish, and other naturalist walks and activities. We will be planning to hold this event again in April 2020.

7. Interpretive Plan for Cultural History

- a) **Village Museum Programs.** We are working towards expanding the Village Museum VIPP docent hours beyond the current summer weekend schedule so that there are better opportunities to engage the visitors and to provide assistance. VIPP docents will also continue to provide educational programs to groups of adults and children by appointment. To enhance these services, recruitment of more docents will continue, especially those with skills in Spanish and Chinese languages.

- b) **Heritage Day Festival.** We host an annual Heritage Day event that celebrates the park's rich cultural history. This event will take place on August 24, 2019 and will include participation from partnering agencies like the Marin Chinese Cultural Association, Redwood Empire Chinese Cultural Association, NERR, SF Maritime Museum, San Francisco Go Club, and the Marin History Museum.
- c) **St. Erina Project.** The St. Erina, a fishing boat with historical China Camp Village connections, has been brought ashore and displayed on the boat rails as a permanent marine interpretive feature. FOCC plans to develop interpretive signage, educational materials, and programs around historic fisheries equipment and processes in the Village, including the St. Erina.

8. Maintenance

- a) **Housekeeping.** FOCC will continue its highly successful relationship with a local janitorial service for the daily cleaning and light maintenance of all restrooms and showers throughout the park and the emptying of all trash cans. Park aides will assist with litter removal and be responsible for mowing and watering grassy areas, weed and branch removal from public areas, including trails, and other tasks, as needed.
- b) **Volunteers.** In addition to its paid maintenance staff, FOCC will continue to use VIPP maintenance volunteers, CSPF Park Champions volunteers, Bay Area bicycle organizations trail workers, and other volunteers such as VIPP trail ambassadors, who regularly monitor the trails, remove trash and report hazards or other issues.
- c) **Utility Vehicle.** FOCC is planning to purchase a mid-size utility vehicle, such as one of the Kubota RTV series of vehicles, to transport equipment and supplies via fire trails for trail maintenance and general maintenance of the park.
- d) **Eagle Scouts.** FOCC will continue to support and guide Eagle Scouts with projects that benefit CCSP as well as provide an opportunity for the Scout to plan, develop and give leadership to others.

9. FOCC Organizational Changes

At the behest of DPR, FOCC discontinued using DPR employees to staff the park by the end of 2017, with the exception of the half-time ranger, whom DPR removed from CCSP at the end of March 2018. FOCC initiated its own payroll in December 2017 with five employees. FOCC anticipates continuing to have two full-time

administrative employees and four uniformed park aides, two full-time and two part-time, on the payroll.

Park Aide in Back Ranch Kiosk. FOCC is beginning to staff the guard kiosk at the entrance to Back Ranch Meadows for 23 hours per week with a new Park Aide. The new Park Aide will work in the kiosk from 2 PM to 6 PM on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and 2 PM to sunset on Mondays. FOCC believes that it is essential to enforce fee collection in the park, and FOCC anticipates that increased fee payment at the kiosk and at the Back Ranch pay station will more than offset the expense of the additional employee.

High School Intern. As mentioned under the “Interpretive Plan for Natural History”, for the 2019-2020 school year, FOCC will be taking on an intern, who is mobility-impaired and a student at the Marin School of Environmental Leadership. The intern will help FOCC in developing programs for the physically disabled.

Security. Given FOCC’s positive experience with Barbier Security Group (BSG) since the spring of 2018, FOCC plans to continue to utilize BSG’s security services in CCSP. For the 2019-2020 year, BSG will patrol the park three days per week until the end of the peak season, then two days per week through winter, and then up to three days per week when spring 2020 arrives.

Each day that they are scheduled, BSG works an 8-hour shift, which usually runs from 3 PM to 11 PM so that the agent can close the park and enforce quiet hours in the campground.

FOCC will ensure that daily logs of BSG’s patrols are sent directly from BSG to the State Parks supervising ranger for Marin, who also reviews the daily activity log from the Marin County Sheriff’s Office. The supervising ranger has said that she will report to FOCC on any unusual activity so that the timing and location of the patrols can be adjusted to be more efficacious.



This report has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp, Inc. Submitted: July 29, 2019.

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