



Friends of China Camp, Inc.

Operations Report for China Camp State Park Calendar Year 2022

Since the Operating Agreement between the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Friends of China Camp (FOCC) was activated on July 27, 2012, FOCC has met its contractual obligations to operate China Camp State Park and to protect its natural and cultural resources.

On January 31, 2020, FOCC received a letter from DPR Director Lisa Mangat stating that State Parks will convert the term of the existing Operating Agreement to a month-to-month basis. FOCC Executive Director Martin Lowenstein countersigned the letter. In October 2021, DPR initiated negotiations with FOCC for a new Operating Agreement. As of the writing of this report, those negotiations are ongoing.

The information in this document is presented for the time period January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2022.

I. China Camp State Park: open and thriving

Since FOCC's original 2011-12 "Save the Park" Campaign, our primary objective has been to ensure that all of the park facilities are open to visitors 365 days a year. FOCC has also ensured that all visitors can have the opportunity to experience China Camp's exceptional natural and cultural features in a well-managed environment.

II. Friends of China Camp Personnel

In the spring of 2017, State Parks approached FOCC to request that FOCC begin moving away from utilizing State Parks employees in China Camp. On December 1, 2017, FOCC initiated its first-ever payroll with five employees. As of December 31, 2022, FOCC had a payroll of seven employees:

- **Martin Lowenstein**, Executive Director
- **Chris Young**, Park Manager
- **Sheila Coll**, Program Director
- **Scott Griggs**, Park Maintenance Aide
- **Lucinda Colberg**, Park Administration Aide (part-time)
- **Jose Gonzalez**, Park Maintenance Aide (part-time)
- **Lucas Prohaska**, Park Visitor Services Aide (part-time)

A. Maintenance Host

FOCC benefits from the service of a Maintenance Host, who resides with his wife in their RV on the Maintenance Host pad.

B. Campground Hosts

Back Ranch Meadows Campground has two RV parking spaces allotted for hosts, who manage the campground and staff the campground's entry kiosk. In exchange, FOCC provides hosts with utility hookups for their RVs. As of December 31, 2022, both spaces were occupied by hosts.

C. Security

FOCC has increased the number of uniformed staff and volunteers in the park. This increased presence offers evidence to the public that the park is being patrolled on the trails, on N. San Pedro Road, at Back Ranch Meadows Campground and kiosk, and at China Camp Village. The augmented uniformed staff also helps to enforce payment for day-use trail and parking fees.

FOCC has an online Incident Log. Staff and volunteers enter details on vehicle break-ins, graffiti, vandalized park property, visitor injuries, or anything else that might assist our security efforts through the identification of incident patterns.

For emergencies, FOCC staff or volunteers will call 911, and a MCSO deputy sheriff will be dispatched. For non-emergency yet persistent problems, the FOCC Executive Director will work with the Chief Ranger of the Bay Area District to provide ranger patrols where and when needed.

D. Janitorial Services

FOCC contracts with Arriva Cleaning for janitorial services, which includes cleaning and stocking the park's public restrooms. (It should be noted that park visitors regularly comment on the cleanliness of China Camp's restrooms.) Arriva also empties park trash cans 365 days a year.

E. Recycling

FOCC had contracted with Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) through mid-2022, but given the rise in price of utilizing CCNB's services, FOCC's staff has been collecting bottles and cans from recycling bins throughout the park. At FOCC's request, Marin Sanitary delivered several residential recycling bins to CCSP's corporation yard and has been collecting CCSP's recycling weekly.

F. Professional Development

FOCC budgets for and encourages professional development for its administrative staff, skilled aides, and its Board of Directors.

III. Revenue Building

A. Revenue Model

FOCC's revenue model can best be examined as four revenue line items plus one non-monetary line item. In approximate percentages, FOCC's revenue in 2022 came from the following sources:

42%	Membership and other donations
29%	Day-use fees
25%	Campground and other reservation fees
4%	Investment income
PLUS	More than 12,000 hours of volunteer time

If volunteer time is monetized at a rate of \$35.56 per hour*, then revenue percentages would be:

35%	Volunteer hours monetized
27%	Membership and other donations
19%	Day-use fees
16%	Campground and other reservation fees
3%	Investment income

* Value of volunteer time in California as published by *Independent Sector*, 2021.

B. Financial Sustainability

FOCC is able to keep the mission of California State Parks as long as it can sustain itself financially. Like many healthy nonprofit organizations, FOCC generates revenue from three general streams: 1) park revenue, 2) fundraising revenue, and 3) investment income. Each year, focus is put on increasing all three revenue streams.

Gross revenue for 2022 was approximately \$795,000, resulting in a deficit of approximately \$97,700. The deficit was a result of: 1) a major donor making his 2022 gift in December 2021; 2) repairs to the Back Ranch kiosk being funded in

2021 with expenses incurred in 2022; 3) a weak spring fundraising appeal; and 4) the miscategorization of the campground as “Remote Camping” on www.reservecalifornia.com.

C. Revenue Initiatives

1. FOCC Board Donations

In 2022, 100 percent of the FOCC Board of Directors collectively donated \$30,050 to support FOCC’s general operations of the park.

2. Spring Appeal

In May 2022, FOCC launched its spring appeal to support operations. Featured projects in the appeal included: 1) repairs to the Back Ranch kiosk, 2) retreading of 1,100 linear feet of Shoreline Trail, and 3) an upcoming trail signage project. The Spring Appeal raised \$18,445.

3. Year-End Appeal

In December 2022, FOCC launched a fundraising appeal to raise money for park operations. The centerpiece of the appeal was 2022 trail maintenance and new trail signage. The Year-End Appeal raised \$45,227.

4. Developing Major Donors

FOCC has made it a priority to develop donors to support China Camp State Park. During 2022, donors, defined as individuals donating more than the price of an annual pass, contributed \$220,000 toward operations and capital projects.

5. Business Sponsorships

On October 6, 2022, FOCC celebrated its 10th anniversary as operator of CCSP. To help fund the dinner celebration, FOCC solicited and received eight business sponsorships for the event.

6. Tabling at REI

On two weekends during the holiday season, FOCC set up a table at the REI store in Corte Madera in order to sell China Camp SP merchandise and FOCC memberships.

7. Firewood

Due to the sufficient number of trees that have fallen on trails or have been felled by FOCC per the directions of State Parks’ environmental scientists,

FOCC has been able to supply campers with firewood without purchasing wood from outside sources.

8. Increased Visitor Services Staff Yields Increased Fee Collection

Beginning in Summer 2020 and continuing through 2022, additional park aides have been on staff, primarily stationed at the gate to China Camp Village, where they welcome park visitors and remind them to pay parking fees. The Back Ranch Meadows kiosk has also remained well-staffed with volunteers, park aides, and campground hosts, where they focus on welcoming incoming campers and selling day-use and annual passes.

Increased staffing has boosted day-use collection yield from approximately 40 percent to over 95 percent.

9. Investment Income

Given the sufficient cash reserves at Bank of America, FOCC's invested reserves at Charles Schwab have been in a balanced portfolio of equities and fixed income since August 2020.

IV. Day-to-Day Operations

A. Operations Depend on Volunteer Support

Although FOCC operates the park daily with paid employees, volunteers play a vital role in various aspects of the park's operations, including maintenance, bookkeeping, membership, communications, and interpretive programs. Volunteers also staff the China Camp Village Cafe and the Back Ranch Meadows entrance kiosk, and serve as trail ambassadors, regularly monitoring trails by bike and on foot.

B. Internal Communications

FOCC maintains a Wi-Fi internet connection to serve the campground hosts, the maintenance host, volunteers, and staff working at the Back Ranch Meadows kiosk, China Camp Village Cafe, and the ranger station.

The internal radio system is used for real-time park communications. Radios are used currently in conjunction with trail maintenance work days.

Ongoing communication among FOCC employees, FOCC board members, and core volunteers is maintained by email and by Google Drive, which contains an employee calendar, park entrance staffing calendar, programs calendar, and copies of board minutes, committee notes, and other key documents. Every

week, a park update highlighting upcoming activities and other important information is emailed to core volunteers and staff.

C. Miscategorization of campground by Reserve California

Although the campground is a central component to China Camp's operation, revenue was negatively impacted by the miscategorization of China Camp's campground by Reserve California. Camping in China Camp SP was categorized as "Remote Camping" rather than as "Camping". Thus, when people tried to make a reservation under "Camping", the result showed "0" sites available. The miscategorization cost FOCC approximately \$15,000 in camping revenue.

V. Maintenance and Capital Improvements

A. Volunteer Maintenance Events with Partners

FOCC continues to host public volunteer work events in collaboration with the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF). There were four work events in 2022, including Earth Day and National Trails Day. FOCC also held one event each with the El Cerrito Mountain Bike Team and Urban Footprint. In June, FOCC hosted an event for California State Parks Week.

B. FOCC Maintenance Volunteers

Regular maintenance volunteers, most of whom are retired and who dub themselves "the Crazies", gather weekly to address trail maintenance and general maintenance as well as more urgent issues. For 2022, there were a total of 78 events accounting for approximately 4,140 volunteer hours.

C. FOCC Trail Crew

The FOCC Trail Crew is tasked with the restoration and long-term maintenance of the trail system in China Camp State Park. The Trail Crew is led by two volunteers and supported by the Park Manager. Major restoration work is done in two-day intervals, typically with 8 to 15 volunteers. The first day is a staging and trail preparation event. The second day is dedicated to trail restoration. During this time and for several days after the completion of the work, the work area is closed. Detours are posted.

The goals for the Trail Crew include:

- Restoration of the full trail system to current DPR multi-use trail standards and ADA standards, where designated.
- Development of trail maintenance standards for China Camp SP
- Provision of a safe environment
- Protection of the sensitive ecology of the park
- Keeping the park clean and esthetically inviting

- Recruitment of volunteers (VICCs) with diverse skills

D. Achievements

1. Park Informational Signage

The installation of the PEF-approved trailhead and trail post signage was launched in September. The installation of posts in culturally sensitive areas was monitored. All trails were measured to within 0.01 miles to ensure that the distance information is accurate. The layout of the information is consistent on all posts with the addition of ADA signs and Bay Trail signs, where required. All trail posts and trailhead posts have an emergency locator number (ELN) on them. The layout of the numbers was designed with input from the San Rafael Fire Department first responders.

The SRFD expressed strong interest in extending the ELN system to the surrounding city parks and county open space to assist the first responders.

2. Trail Work

In February and March, 0.69 miles of Shoreline Trail from the campground eastward toward Miwok Meadows was restored to ADA standards.

Routine trail work was done throughout the year, including grooming, culvert clearing, removing earth-to-wood contact on bridges, repairing split rail fencing, and improving trail drainage.

3. Tree removal

As directed by the State Parks District Office, over a dozen trees were trimmed and/or removed in the campground, picnic area, and in China Camp Village.

4. Fire Mitigation

- a. Vegetation was removed around structures at China Camp Village, as well as structures in the corporate yard, the campground, picnic areas, and two lots on McNear Drive. Vegetation debris was chipped and removed.
- b. Branches above barbecues and fire rings were trimmed to 10 feet.
- c. Collected brush was gathered at the burn pile, mulched and spread.
- d. Dilapidated barbecue prep tables at Miwok Meadows were removed and replaced with new ones.
- e. Ash in barbecues and fire rings was removed on a weekly basis.
- f. Four fire hose boxes were built. Three were mounted and stocked.
- g. All wharf hydrants were tested and are functional. An inspection from the fire marshal was done in April. All corrections were made to comply with the findings.

5. Storm Damage

- a. Multiple downed trees that obstructed trails, emergency access fire trails, and campsites were removed.
- b. The debris that collected in the flooded campground, trails, parking lots and picnic areas was cleaned up. Some ruts in the utility access road were repaired. Sump pumps were used to avoid water seepage into the maintenance building. Culverts were cleared multiple times. Debris that obstructed waterflow in the creek under bridges was removed. Debris was removed from the flooded campground parking lot.
- c. Multiple slides on various trails were cleared.
- d. Clogged gutters and downspouts on structures in the corporation yard were cleared.
- e. The volunteers, supported by the maintenance staff, cleared, fixed and/or cleaned up 90% of the problems caused by the December storms.

6. Garbage Can Containers

Two new wooden garbage can containers replaced old ones. Two new critter proof metal containers replaced deteriorating wooden ones.

7. Painting

The deck and ramp to the ranger station were treated, painted, and sealed. Handicap stenciling on the pavement in the parking lots was repainted.

8. Split Rail Fencing

Multiple repairs or replacements of split rail fencing were done throughout the park.

9. Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials found in China Camp Village's storage areas were moved to the hazardous materials shed or were taken to Marin Sanitary for disposal.

10. Esthetics

Park entrances, China Camp Village, China Camp Point, and all picnic areas were regularly mowed and weed-whipped.

Trash pickup was done routinely by staff and during volunteer work events. Most of the trash was found on the San Pablo Bay side of N. San Pedro Road, where littering and wanton dumping continue to be a chronic problem.

11. Potholes

The Turtle Back parking area was graded and compacted for ADA use. The N. San Pedro Road shoulder was filled, graded, and compacted at the Turtle Back Trailhead for ADA use.

Potholes were repaired on Miwok Meadows Fire Trail, China Camp Village parking lot, Monument parking area, the access road to the lower campground, Peacock Gap Fire Road, and the enroute/group camping parking area.

12. Invasive Plant Removal

Under the direction of DPR, various invasive plants were removed. The app Survey123 was used to document invasive plant locations and/or removal.

13. Structural Repairs

The shrimp processing area is closed to the public due to needed repairs. A section of the cafe roof was covered in plastic until repairs are made in conjunction with Prop. 68.

14. ADA Accessibility Compliance

In order to comply with its 2005 Consent Decree, State Parks began work in November to improve disability access at three comfort stations – two in Back Ranch Meadows and one in China Camp Village.

15. Seasonal Maintenance

Culverts were cleared prior to winter rains. Following the rains, bridges were cleaned of earth-wood contact. Public areas were continually mowed and maintained at less than 8” tall during the nesting season.

E. Acquisitions

Two critter-proof metal trash containers were purchased and replaced containers that were falling apart.

A Rad Power eBike was purchased for transporting hand tools to remote trail locations and for roadside trash pick-up.

F. Plumbing

A water line in China Camp Village was repaired, saving five gallons of water per hour.

Replacements for broken faucets have been ordered but have not arrived due to supply chain problems.

VI. External Communications

A. FOCC Website

The Friends of China Camp website, www.friendsofchinacamp.org, continued to be a key communication tool for park visitors and supporters. The website included information on park activities, rules, amenities, fees, reservations, park programs, and events. It also included articles covering natural and cultural history as well as newsworthy topics. Information on how community members can become FOCC volunteers and supporters was emphasized. The site also provided timely alerts, advisories, and real-time updates, such as road or trail closures or other activities impacting the park.

B. MailChimp

FOCC used the MailChimp email service platform to notify our supporters of upcoming events. Quarterly electronic newsletters were an effective tool for keeping our supporters informed of park projects, event highlights, volunteer recognition, community involvement, major donations, research being done in the park, and much more. At year-end, there were 10,005 contacts, of which 8,597 were subscribers – a roughly 5 percent increase over 2021.

C. NextDoor and Other Communications

To broaden communications, FOCC recruited volunteers to relay important information from FOCC to the local community via communication platforms like NextDoor and local neighborhood association community boards.

D. Facebook and Instagram

FOCC used Facebook and Instagram to expand public awareness about China Camp State Park and Friends of China Camp. Between the two platforms, thousands of individuals could be reached with real-time information, including events, activities, and other public safety alerts and advisories.

Facebook and Instagram provided a public forum for FOCC and China Camp State Park stakeholders, and offered a way to interface with FOCC. Through concentrated efforts from FOCC's volunteers and staff, FOCC greatly expanded its social media content posts, viewership, and engagement. On Instagram, followers have grown from just over 500 followers in December 2020 to over 1,200 followers in December 2022. Facebook also continued to increase followers, with over 1,700 likes and over 1,900 followers.

The public also turned to “instant messaging” and “direct messaging” to ask questions and share information about the park, such as illegal trail use, downed trees, and homeless encampments. Followers also shared images and asked questions about campsite availability, weather, and trail conditions. Messages were answered as quickly as possible.

Here are the links to FOCC’s Facebook and Instagram pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofChinaCamp/>

<https://www.instagram.com/friendsofchinacamp/>

E. NeonCRM Donor Database

FOCC used a cloud-based donor management database called NeonCRM. The database made it easy to track and manage donors, send out membership renewal emails, and acknowledge donations.

VII. Volunteer Services

Volunteers continued to be of essential value to the park’s operation, services, revenue generation, maintenance, and governance.

A. FOCC transition from Volunteers in Parks Program (VIPP) to Volunteers in China Camp (VICC)

In 2020, DPR requested that FOCC take over the management of China Camp’s volunteer program and transition away from the Volunteers in Parks Program (VIPP) managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation. FOCC created the Volunteers in China Camp program (VICC) in Summer 2021. Elements of VICC included:

1. Onboarding documents adapted and managed by FOCC.
2. Auto insurance, accident insurance, and general liability insurance, with all policies carried by FOCC.
3. An orientation program provided by FOCC staff and lead volunteers.
4. Background checks using the Sterling Volunteers private background check system.
5. A Better Impact volunteer database account managed by FOCC.

In 2022, volunteers had the following roles at China Camp:

- trail and facility maintenance
- Back Ranch Meadows kiosk attendant
- natural history docent
- cultural history docent
- foot and bike trail ambassador
- village cafe and museum docent

- ecological restoration
- administration
- communications (website, social media, and e-blasts)
- camp host and maintenance host

China Camp’s volunteers contributed approximately 15,800 hours in 2022 to support the operations of the park. Most hours logged were Village Cafe volunteers who contributed 3,814 hours, campground and maintenance hosts who contributed 3,479 hours, park maintenance volunteers who contributed 2,617 hours, and administrative volunteers who contributed 2,543 hours.

B. CSPF Volunteer Work Days

China Camp State Park continued to work with the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF) to host volunteer trail maintenance work days in 2022.

C. Back Ranch Meadows Entrance Kiosk

The Back Ranch Meadows entrance kiosk continued to be staffed by campground hosts, volunteers, and park staff. Hours were typically Saturdays and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays noon to 3 p.m.

D. FOCC Board Officers and Board Members

1. Annual Election for FOCC Board Officers

The following FOCC Board officers were elected for a 1-year term beginning July 2022:

- **Andy Kives:** Board Chair
- **Jason Lau:** Vice Chair
- **Lee Kirkpatrick:** Treasurer
- **Arlin Weinberger:** Secretary

2. Election of Board Members

The following FOCC Board members were elected for a 2-year term beginning July 2022:

- **Joyce Abrams**
- **Jon Harding**
- **Edward Lai**
- **Jason Lau**

3. Bylaws Amendment – Term Limits

Amendment 3. Adopted by the Board of Directors on August 8, 2022.

Each such director shall hold office for two years, and shall be eligible for reelection by the board for two additional two-year terms, for a maximum of three terms. After serving three terms, a director shall be eligible for reelection to the board only after such director has taken a leave of no less than one year from service as a director.

VIII. Print Media Coverage and Promotion

Primary communication with supporters and park visitors was realized through the FOCC website and through quarterly newsletters and e-blasts initiated during this FY. In addition, China Camp also appeared in the following print media:

The Sonoma Index-Tribune, December 30, 2022

“Meandering Angler: Bay’s monsters love rain” by Bill Lynch

<https://www.sonomanews.com/article/news/meandering-angler-bays-monsters-love-rain/>

Centre Daily Times, National, December 28, 2022

“Empty boat found in search for fisherman who vanished on Christmas, CA sheriff says” by Don Sweeney

<https://www.centredaily.com/news/nation-world/national/article270499817.html>

ABC7, News, Bay Area, December 27, 2022

“Search for Bay Area fisherman suspended, authorities say”

<https://abc7news.com/will-chebib-missing-boater-fisherman-christmas/12620164/>

KRON4, News, December 26, 2022

“Fisherman goes missing on Christmas Day, search and rescue teams on site” by Tori Gaines

<https://www.kron4.com/news/fisherman-goes-missing-on-christmas-day-search-and-rescue-teams-on-site/>

Marin Magazine, November 22, 2022

“Marin Gives Back: How Your Donation Can Help Local Organizations” by Kasia Pawlowska

<https://marinmagazine.com/community/philanthropy/marin-gives-back-how-your-donation-can-help-local-organizations/>

KTSF Channel 26, November 4, 2022

“Let’s Travel” Mandarin language TV program

<https://www.ktsf.com/2022/11/04/baw110422/>

Marin Independent Journal, Things To Do, Lifestyle, October 31, 2022

“Marin history: The Quan family’s impact on China Camp” by Scott Fletcher

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/10/31/marin-history-the-quan-familys-impact-on-china-camp/>

RV Travel, Video, October 28, 2022

“Top 10 most haunted campgrounds and parks in the U.S.” by Cheri Sicard
<https://www.rvtravel.com/video-top-10-haunted-campgrounds-parks-1076/>

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, September 15, 2022

“‘Aggressive’ coyote encounters in San Rafael prompt education push” by Adrian Rodriguez

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/09/14/aggressive-coyote-encounters-in-san-rafael-prompt-education-push/>

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, September 8, 2022

“San Rafael police arrest suspect after road rage incident” by Alex N. Gecan

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/09/08/san-rafael-police-arrest-suspect-after-road-rage-incident/>

Marin Independent Journal, Things To Do, Entertainment, August 27, 2022

“Traditions celebrated at Heritage Day festival in San Rafael”

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/08/27/traditions-celebrated-at-heritage-day-festival-in-san-rafael/>

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, August 25, 2022

“Marin sheriff investigates gunpoint robbery, carjacking in Santa Venetia” by Alex N. Gecan

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/08/24/sheriffs-deputies-investigate-santa-venetia-7-eleven-gunpoint-robbery-carjacking/>

Marin Mommies, August 26, 2022

“Marin Weekend Family Fun for August 26-28”

<https://www.marinmommies.com/marin-weekend-family-fun-august-26%E2%80%9328>

CBS News Bay Area, North Bay News, August 23, 2022

“San Rafael boat teams rescue several sailors, paddle boaters over weekend”

<https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/san-rafael-boat-teams-rescue-several-sailors-paddle-boaters-over-weekend/>

SF Gate, Travel, California Parks, July 20, 2022

“San Francisco man dies in North Bay’s China Camp State Park” by Ariana Bindman

<https://www.sfgate.com/california-parks/article/man-dies-china-camp-park-17317476.php>

CBS News Bay Area, North Bay News, July 20, 2022

“Elderly man identified in fatal e-bicycle plunge at China Camp in San Rafael”

<https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/china-camp-e-bicycle-fatal-crash-san-rafael-sherman-wayne-chen/>

Post News Group, Bay Area, July 19, 2022

“Parks Pursues Land Acquisition Near China Camp” by Oakland Post

<https://www.postnewsgroup.com/parks-pursues-land-acquisition-near-china-camp/>

CBS News Bay Area, North Bay News, July 19, 2022

“Update: Death reported at China Camp State Park in San Rafael”

<https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/rescue-operation-underway-at-china-camp-state-park/>

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, July 12, 2022

“Marin considers \$1.9M expansion of Buck’s Landing” by Will Houston

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/07/12/marin-considers-1-9m-expansion-of-bucks-landing/>

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, July 11, 2022

“Marin coastal areas brace for king tides” by Giuseppe Ricapito

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/07/11/southern-marin-braces-for-king-tides/>

AFAR, History + Culture, May 17, 2022

“Explore California’s Asian American History at These Key Sites” by Heather Kathryn Ross

<https://www.afar.com/magazine/explore-californias-asian-american-history>

Marin Independent Journal, Letters to the Editor, May 5, 2022

“More Important Priorities than Point San Pedro Road,” by Rick Wishnak

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/05/05/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-may-6-2022/>

PG&E Currents, April 29, 2022

“Hundreds of PG&E Coworkers Volunteer for Earth Day Events, Serving Our Planet”

<https://www.pgecurrents.com/articles/3440-hundreds-pg-e-coworkers-volunteer-earth-day-events-serving-planet>

Davis Enterprise, Briefly Section, April 27, 2022

“Davis Travelaires offer new outings”

<https://www.davisenterprise.com/news/community/briefly/davis-travelaires-offer-new-outings/>

Marin Independent Journal, Letters to the Editor, April 10, 2022

“Point San Pedro Road plan solves a problem,” by Susan Nawbary

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/04/10/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-april-11-2022/>

KQED, News Section, April 8, 2022

“How to Get Free Entry to California State Parks With Your Library Card,” by Carly Severn.

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11910495/how-to-get-free-entry-to-california-state-parks-with-your-library-card>

Marin Independent Journal, Lifestyle Section, March 6, 2022
“Marin hike: Poppies are popping up in March,” by Wendy Dreskin
<https://www.marinij.com/2022/03/06/marin-hike-poppies-are-popping-up-in-march/>

Marin Mommies, April 4, 2022
“Fun Things to do in Marin & Bay Area this Week: April 4-10”
<https://www.marinmommies.com/fun-things-do-marin-bay-area-week-april-4-10>

Patch, Local Event Section, February 7, 2022
“Marin Endurance Festival - Half Marathon,” by evvnt.com
<https://patch.com/california/sanrafael/calendar/event/20221030/1758471/marin-endurance-festival-half-marathon>

SF Chronicle, Datebook Section, January 27, 2022
“Lunar New Year offers second chance to push outside of your comfort zone,” by Vanuessa Hua
<https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/entertainment/lunar-new-year-offers-second-chance-to-push-outside-of-your-comfort-zone>

Bay Nature, Be a Force of Nature!, January 21, 2022
“WildCare is looking to recruit Terwilliger Nature Guide Volunteers,” by WildCare
<https://baynature.org/event/be-a-force-of-nature/>

The Richmond Standard, Community Section, January 19, 2022
“Big City Mountaineers’ new Richmond nest offers room to spread its wings” by Kathy Chouteau
<https://richmondstandard.com/richmond/2022/01/19/big-city-mountaineers-new-richmond-nest-offers-room-to-spread-its-wings/>

Monterey Herald, Environment Section, January 15, 2022
“The plight of Moss Landing’s Olympia oysters,” by Brian Phan
<https://www.montereyherald.com/2022/01/15/the-plight-of-moss-landings-olympia-oysters/>

Patch, Crime & Safety Section, January 13, 2022
“Marin Crash Injures 2: Report,” by Gideon Rubin
<https://patch.com/california/sananselmofairfax/marin-crash-injures-2-report>

Marin Independent Journal, Crime & Public Safety Section, January 12, 2022
“San Rafael cliff crash injures vehicle occupant, passerby,” by Natalie Hanson
<https://www.marinij.com/2022/01/12/several-injured-after-car-rolls-down-cliff-in-china-camp/>

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, January 4, 2022
“Marin weather outlook: Rain, wind, milder temperatures”
by Bay Area News Group

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/01/04/marin-enjoys-more-light-showers-in-first-week-of-january/>

Pacific Sun, Best of Marin 2022

China Camp State Park wins #1 in two categories:

“Best Bike Route/Trail”

“Best Park/Open Space”

<https://pacificsun.com/best-of-recreation>

IX. Park Stewardship

A. North San Pedro Road through China Camp State Park

North San Pedro Road is a county road that runs through China Camp State Park. How the road is used affects park life.

Trash is frequently dumped along N. San Pedro Road, and FOCC’s employees and volunteers pick up this trash daily. FOCC continues to work with Marin County Public Works to find solutions to stem the dumping along the road.

B. Repairs Back Ranch Meadows Entrance Kiosk

FOCC completed repairs of the Back Ranch Meadows entrance kiosk as part of its ongoing infrastructure maintenance of the park. The \$55,000 project was funded by a major FOCC donor, and the project contractor was Seaside Construction.

X. Interpretive Programs

A. Visitor Center

The visitor center, which included park information and displays about local wildlife and the salt marsh wetland and oak woodland habitat in the park, remained open to the public throughout 2022 and was operated by park staff.

B. Natural History Interpretive Programs

1. Docents

FOCC’s team of interpretive docents offered engaging educational programming about the natural and cultural features of China Camp State Park throughout 2022. Docents led educational hikes, Junior Ranger programs, full moon hikes, birding programs, and China Camp Village Museum tours.

2. Village Talks

FOCC hosted several guest lecturers in 2022, including Tsim Schneider, professor of Archeology from UC Santa Cruz, and Corky Quirk of NorCal Bats.

3. Educational Programs

FOCC offered the following docent-led programs:

- bird-watching hikes
- botany hikes
- Junior Ranger programs
- museum tours
- full moon hikes
- online naturalist book club meetings
- King Tide hikes
- New Year's Day sunrise hike
- other naturalist programs

Cultural history docents led Village Museum tours for the following groups: San Francisco State University, The Marin School, the California State Parks Foundation, Williams College, Grass Valley Charter School, Cub Scouts, San Rafael Heritage, Davis Travelaires, Women of Rodef Sholom, and the LA Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

C. Interpretive Partners

FOCC's partnership with the SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Marin Chinese Cultural Association (MCCA), and the Marin Museum of the American Indian (MMAI) remained strong. Two of FOCC's board members shared leadership roles with MCCA, and our organizations cross-promoted events. FOCC's executive director attended quarterly meetings convened by the SF Bay NERR office in Tiburon. Additionally, FOCC collaborated with these partners to host events like Heritage Day and King Tide hikes.

D. China Camp Village Museum

The China Camp Village Museum was open throughout 2022. The museum, which is housed in one of the historic structures in China Camp Village, provided exhibits and interpretive displays about the history of the Village and the Chinese shrimping industry. For most weekends in 2022, the museum was staffed by cultural history docents.

XI. Special Events

A. Heritage Day Festival

Heritage Day, celebrated annually at China Camp Village, recognizes and celebrates the rich cultural heritage of China Camp State Park. FOCC partnered

with the Marin Chinese Cultural Association (MCCA), the National Park Service (NPS), the Redwood Empire Chinese Cultural Association (RECA), the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), the Marin History Museum, members of the Quan family, and the San Rafael Fire Foundation to host the 2022 Heritage Day festival. The event featured performances such as Chinese lion dancers, Chinese dragon dancers, Chinese cultural dancers, musical performances, tai chi demonstrations, and other entertainment. Festival food, history tours, and fun family activities were also offered. This year's event was the most well-attended in the park's history, with over 300 people in attendance.

B. 10th Anniversary Dinner

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of FOCC as park operator of China Camp State Park, FOCC hosted a fundraiser dinner on October 6. The dinner included special guest speakers U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, Director of California State Parks Armando Quintero, and Marin County Librarian and Archivist Carol Acquaviva. The dinner was well attended and FOCC received numerous sponsorships (listed under section *XII: Building Partnerships*).

C. Annual Public Meeting

On May 14, 2022, FOCC hosted, per the Operating Agreement with DPR, China Camp's annual public meeting for the community. It was held in the China Camp Village Museum. Several FOCC operational representatives presented updates on each facet of FOCC's operation – personnel, financial status, trail policy and maintenance, interpretive programs, preservation efforts, and governance.

D. Earth Day and Coastal Cleanup Day

Earth Day and Coastal Cleanup Day have been annual public volunteer events at China Camp State Park. The purpose of the events is to engage the public to take on a stewardship role in the park, to help support the maintenance of the park's network of trails, and to help keep our shoreline clean.

On April 2, FOCC partnered with the California State Parks Foundation to host an Earth Day work event. Forty-one volunteers participated, including State Senator Mike McGuire, a representative from Assemblymember Marc Levine's office, and California State Parks Director Armando Quintero. Activities included a trail grooming project to restore a ½-mile ADA accessible portion of Shoreline Trail and an ecological remediation project to remove 2,500 square feet of invasive French and Scotch broom at the Back Ranch Meadows Campground.

On September 10, FOCC hosted Coastal Cleanup Day at the beach in China Camp Village. Eleven volunteers cleaned up 16 pounds of trash and nine pounds of recycling along China Camp Village Beach, China Camp Point, and Five Pine Point.

E. FOCC Volunteer Appreciation Event

On November 5, FOCC hosted a Halloween-themed volunteer appreciation event at the China Camp maintenance shop. The event was attended by 50 volunteers and staff, and the festivities included dinner, drinks, musical performances, awards, accolades, and fun Halloween movies starring volunteers.

XII. Building Partnerships

FOCC continues to nurture and form alliances in support of park promotion, park operations and enhanced visitor experiences. These groups include cultural associations, educational institutions, conservation organizations, historical societies, community services groups, foundations, clubs, government agencies, neighborhood associations, and businesses.

A. Foundation Grants

The California State Parks Foundation made an Earth Day grant in the amount of \$5,000 to FOCC. The grant was used for materials and equipment to restore an ADA section of Shoreline Trail. The budget included a recycled water container rental, gravel, excavator, personnel, and fuel.

B. Business Sponsorships

FOCC celebrated its 10th anniversary as operator of CCSP with a celebration dinner on October 6 in China Camp Village. The event was, in part, underwritten by the following business sponsors:

- Violich Farms
- Cerity Partners LLC
- San Rafael Yacht Harbor
- QuarryHouse
- Adjusting Services International
- JAMBAR
- Rake Electric
- Judy's Automotive

C. Services and In-kind Support

Services and in-kind support were donated to FOCC for the operations of China Camp State Park by:

- California State Parks
- California State Parks Foundation
- The Harbormaster of San Rafael Yacht Harbor
- QuarryHouse, a stonework business

- FastSigns
- *Marin Independent Journal*
- Giving Marin, a *Marin IJ* initiative
- Andy's Local Market
- Dutra Group's San Rafael Rock Quarry
- Area Printhouse
- Judy's Automotive
- Marin Sanitary Service
- Marin County Public Works
- Marin County Sheriff's Office
- Marin County Fire Department
- San Rafael Fire Department

D. Publicity and Networking

Publicity and networking for the park was provided gratis by:

- Marin Conservation League
- Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association
- Point San Pedro Road Coalition
- San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Marin County Bicycle Coalition
- NERR/DPR/FOCC Quarterly Meetings

E. *Giving Marin* – Free Ad Space in the *Marin IJ*

Debuting on January 1, 2018, *Giving Marin* has served as a movement fueled by a collection of the North Bay's most community-minded businesses and institutions. The businesses, one per profession, have committed to underwrite marketing space for varying nonprofits every month. Each year, FOCC receives one or two months of free ad space in the *Marin IJ*.

F. *Pacific Sun* - Best of Marin 2022

Continuing a pattern since 2017, China Camp State Park again won the *Pacific Sun's* Best of Marin award for 2022 in two categories: 1) Best Bike Route/Trail, and 2) Best Park/Open Space.

G. CSPF's Park Advocacy Day

On May 17, 2022, the FOCC Executive Director and Program Director attended CSPF's Park Advocacy Day in Sacramento. The participants learned about the legislative process and issues and then urged legislators to support those bills positively impacting state parks.

H. Elected Officials

FOCC continued to maintain close relationships with the elected officials who have China Camp State Park in their respective districts. FOCC provided operational updates to:

- ❖ U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman
- ❖ CA State Senator Mike McGuire
- ❖ CA Assemblyman Marc Levine
- ❖ Marin County Supervisor Damon Connolly

XIII. Financial Status

The fiscal year for Friends of China Camp, Inc. is January 1 to December 31. Entered into DPR Form 973 is the Friends of China Camp, Inc. 2022 IRS Form 990.

XIV. FOCC Board Approval and Signature

This Operations Report for FY 2022 has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp. Submitted: June 12, 2023



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