



Friends of China Camp, Inc.

Operations Report for China Camp State Park Calendar Year 2025

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 December 31, 2025, those negotiations are ongoing.

The information in this document is presented for the time period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

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 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, 2025, FOCC had a payroll of seven employees:

- **Martin Lowenstein**, Executive Director (full-time)
- **Chris Young**, Park Manager (full-time)
- **Colin Jaco**, Special Events & Information Technology (full-time)
- **Carlotta Jackson-Clark**, Program Coordinator (full-time)
- **Scott Griggs**, Senior Maintenance Aide (full-time)
- **Lucinda Colberg**, Administration Aide (part-time)
- **Breana Thomas**, Special Projects (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, 2025, both spaces were occupied by hosts.

C. Security

On any given day, FOCC has between five and 15 uniformed staff and volunteers in the park. The uniformed staff keep the public informed and help 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 call 911, and a MCSO deputy sheriff is dispatched. For non-emergency yet persistent problems, the FOCC Executive Director works with the Chief Ranger of the Bay Area District to provide ranger patrols where and when needed. In the absence of specific problems, rangers patrol the park Sundays through Wednesdays.

D. Janitorial Services

Arriva Cleaning is responsible for the park's janitorial services, which includes cleaning and stocking the park's public restrooms and emptying the park's trash cans 365 days per year. Park visitors regularly comment on the cleanliness of China Camp's restrooms.

E. Recycling

FOCC has a contract with Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) to collect bottles and cans from recycling bins throughout the park. In CCSP's corporation yard, there are green bins that FOCC stages at large events for organic waste. Marin Sanitary collects CCSP's recycling and compost bins weekly.

F. Professional Development

FOCC budgets for and encourages professional development for both its administrative staff and ground staff.

III. Revenue Building

A. Revenue Model

FOCC's revenue model can best be examined as three revenue line items plus one non-monetary line item. Due to an approximate \$1 million bequest, the donations in 2025 are unusually inflated. In approximate percentages, FOCC's revenue in 2025 came from the following sources:

75%	Donations and membership program
18%	Day-use, camping, and other reservation fees
7%	Investment income and realized and unrealized gains and losses
PLUS	More than 13,000 hours of volunteer time

If volunteer time is monetized at a rate of \$41.75 per hour*, then revenue percentages would be:

58%	Donations and membership program
23%	Value of volunteer hours
14%	Day-use, camping, and other reservation fees
5%	Investment income and realized and unrealized gains and losses

* Value of volunteer time in California as published by *Independent Sector*, 2025.

B. Financial Sustainability

FOCC can keep the mission of California State Parks as long as it sustains 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 2025 was approximately \$2,115,000, resulting in a surplus of approximately \$1,090,000. The strong surplus was a result of: 1) strong giving by the FOCC Board of Directors; 2) a strong year-end appeal; 3) significant investment income; and 4) an approximate \$1,000,000 bequest.

C. Revenue Initiatives

1. FOCC Board Donations

In 2025, 100 percent of the FOCC Board of Directors collectively donated approximately \$53,000 to support FOCC's general operations of the park.

2. Spring Appeal

In May 2025, FOCC launched its spring appeal to support operations. The appeal highlighted the fire safety work that's been done in the park over the prior year, featuring the re-grading of the McNear Fire Road as a collaborative project between FOCC, DPR, Marin County Fire, MMWD, CSPF, and Dutra. The spring appeal raised over \$35,000 from 64 donors.

3. Year-End Appeal

In December 2025, FOCC launched a year-end appeal for park operations. The fundraising goal of the appeal was \$50,000, with a focus on making repairs to China Camp Village. The year-end appeal raised over \$66,000 from 132 donors.

4. Tabling at REI

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

5. 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.

6. Special Events

China Camp continued to be a popular setting for a variety of events, bringing the park revenue, recognition, and goodwill. These events included Bike4Bucklelew (May), Marin Triathlon (April), Tamalpa Challenge (October), Inside Trail Racing events (June, December), Urban Coyote Trail Run (January), Sasquatch Racing Honey Badger race (March, September), AIDS/LifeCycle Bike Ride (May), and WildCare almost every week.

China Camp is the home course for San Rafael HS & Terra Linda HS boys and girls XC teams. Little Bellas and Trips for Kids offer clinics of all kinds.

7. 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. In July 2025, FOCC received a bequest of approximately \$1 million with the restriction that it be used for park maintenance.

IV. Day-to-Day Operations

A. Operations Depend on Volunteer Support

Although FOCC operates the park daily with seven employees, there are approximately 90 volunteers who 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.

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. The Weekly Briefing, which highlights upcoming activities and other important information, is emailed to core volunteers and staff.

C. Specialized E-mail Lists

Weekly Trail Maintenance Volunteer Solicitation and Recap: Each week an e-mail goes out to approximately 200 individuals who have expressed interest in, or have taken active part in, trail maintenance workdays during the past year. The e-mails indicate the date and time of the event and the tasks likely to be performed that day. Following the event, a recap e-mail is sent to FOCC staff, leadership, core volunteers, and anyone taking part in the workday. Volunteers are acknowledged by name, accomplishments noted, and photos are attached (also available on the FOCC SmugMug photo site).

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 two work events in 2025: Earth Day and California Coastal Cleanup Day. FOCC also held events with Wealthspire, the El Cerrito Mountain Bike Team, Naturalists-at-Large, and Volunteers for Outdoor California.

B. FOCC Maintenance Volunteers

Regular maintenance volunteers, most of whom are retired, gather weekly to address trail maintenance and general maintenance as well as more urgent issues. For 2025, there were a total of 85 scheduled events and 20-30 unscheduled events accounting for approximately 3,700 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 maintenance staff. Major restoration work is done in two- or three-day intervals, typically with 8 to 15 volunteers. The first day is a staging and trail preparation event. The second and third days are 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:

- Maintenance 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
- Development of skills among the volunteer corps

D. Achievements

1. Park Informational Signage

Installed “Lock Your Vehicle” sign at the east entrance. Signpost replaced at Miwok Meadows bridge. “No Fireworks” signs were placed throughout the park. Replaced two “No Parking” signs along the road to the village.

“Area Closed” signs were placed along the social trail across from Chicken Coop Hill used by religious groups. The trails were then covered with dead woody brush. Another sign was placed at the base of the social trail that heads up from the Bullet Hill lot.

2. Trail Work

In January, rolling dips were built and gravel added to cover the exposed PVC pipes on Shoreline Trail near the kiosk and along the path to the upper campground behind CB8.

On Oak Ridge Trail, two large dips in turns were smoothed out to lessen the possibility of crashes and injuries; drainage improvements were made along Oak Ridge out to the first McNear intersection. Social trail between Knight and McNear remediated; drainage improved with knicks. The social trail up the front of Turtle Back hill was broken up with mattocks and McLeods and covered with brush; four segments of plastic fencing were placed across the trail.

Echo Trail completely groomed, culverts opened, drainage improved by 112 Volunteers for Outdoor California (V-O-Cal).

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

A handful of social trails were covered with dead woody vegetation and signage indicating their closure was installed.

3. Tree removal

As directed by the State Parks District Office, several trees were trimmed and/or removed.

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. At the Knight Drive trailhead in July, vegetation was cleared in a California State Parks Foundation co-sponsored event, which also was preparatory for drainage improvements at that site.
- c. Branches above barbecues and fire rings were trimmed to 10 feet.
- d. Brush was gathered at the mulch pile, shredded and spread.
- e. Dilapidated barbecue prep tables at Miwok Meadows were removed and replaced with new ones.
- f. Ash in barbecues and fire rings was removed on a weekly basis.
- g. All wharf hydrants were tested and are functional. All fire extinguishers were serviced.
- h. FOCC cooperated with DPR and local agencies in several wildfire fuel reduction efforts throughout the year. This included: DPR contract crews

in February and October/November; San Rafael Fire Department vegetation control along the San Pedro Ridge fire roads (June); and the multi-agency, Marin Wildfire Protection Authority-led thinning of vegetation along McNear Fire Trail and Oak Ridge Trail, followed by controlled burns in October and November.

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 parking lots and picnic areas was cleaned up. Culverts were cleared multiple times. Debris that obstructed waterflow in the creek below bridges was removed.
- c. Multiple slides on various trails and fire roads were cleared.
- d. Clogged gutters and downspouts on structures in the corporation yard were cleared.
- e. The beaches were cleared of washed-up debris.
- f. The volunteers, supported by the maintenance staff, cleared, fixed and/or cleaned up 90% of the problems caused by the January and February storms.

6. Garbage Can Containers

Several wooden garbage bins, damaged from vandalism and weathering, were repaired. New wooden garbage bins were built by FOCC staff and volunteers.

7. Painting

Painted red the metal on the damaged gate arm at Buckeye Point. Painted bright yellow the curb between the handicapped parking pad and CB1.

8. Split Rail Fencing

Fence extended to block dangerous cliff access at Buckeye Point; rotted post replaced at the rear of the group campground. Multiple replacements and repairs to split rail fencing were made. Broken fence removed on the east side of Bridge #44. Replaced one fencepost and repaired another at the TBNT entrance; replaced 2 posts and 3 rails on the east side of bridge #44. At Weber Point, one post and 3 rails adjacent to the restroom were replaced. Also, two posts at the top of the bayside cliff were repaired by sistering on braces to support the rails.

9. Anchor-outs

Two toppled anchor-out boats were removed offshore of China Camp.

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 (particularly of furniture, appliances, household trash, tires, auto parts, and landscaping debris) continue to be a major problem.

11. Potholes

Using Class2AB gravel donated by Dutra, potholes were repaired in the China Camp Village parking lot, on Peacock Gap Fire Road, on Miwok Meadows Fire Road, at the entrance to Bullhead Flat, and in the Bullet Hill, Turtle Back, and en route gravel parking lots.

12. Invasive Plant Removal

Under the direction of DPR, various invasive plants (broom, fennel, teasel, star thistle, stinkwort, Himalayan blackberry, etc.) were removed. Invasives removal was a regular part of trail maintenance volunteer workdays. On April 19, 2025, China Camp's annual Earth Day activity featured a work morning dedicated to broom removal. FOCC joined neighborhood groups in September for a broom removal project on lands adjacent to the park. The app Survey123 was used to document invasive plant locations and/or removal.

Roughly two-thirds of the ice plant in Rat Rock Cove was pulled and brought to the Village point. Ice plant and fennel were collected, then spread behind the RS to dry. Fennel cut at the north entrance, broom pulled at the east entrance. Removed the remaining ice plant from Rat Rock Cove.

13. Structural Repairs

The café roof was re-shingled. Several food lockers were built or repaired.

14. ADA Accessibility Compliance

To comply with its 2005 Consent Decree, DPR's contractor broke ground in November 2022 to improve accessibility at three comfort stations – two in Back Ranch Meadows and one in China Camp Village. Despite an original completion date of May 2023, the contractor worked through 2025.

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

FOCC purchased hand tools, such as chainsaws, mowers, hedge trimmers, and weed whippers.

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 12,300 contacts, of which 9,250 were subscribers.

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 to 2,160 followers in 2025.

Facebook also continued to grow the number of followers, with approximately 2,300 in 2025. The FOCC Google business account continued to see tremendous engagement, both on the Google Maps and the Google search platform.

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. Volunteers in China Camp (VICC)

FOCC created the Volunteers in China Camp program (VICC) in Summer 2021. Elements of VICC include:

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 Sterling Volunteers or Live Scan via the DOJ.
5. A Better Impact volunteer database account managed by FOCC.

In 2025, 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 16,000 hours in 2025 to support the operations of the park. Most hours logged were Village Cafe volunteers who contributed 4,000 hours, campground and maintenance hosts who contributed 3,500 hours, park maintenance volunteers who contributed 2,600 hours, and administrative volunteers who contributed 3,600 hours.

B. 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 Sundays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

C. 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 2025:

- **Jason Lau:** Board Chair
- **Jon Harding:** 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 2025:

- Alice Hill
- Ed Westbrook
- Greg Norby
- Arlin Weinberger
- Lee Kirkpatrick

3. Strategic Planning

As a rule, the FOCC Board meets immediately after its bimonthly board meeting for a strategic planning session. In 2025, the focus areas were board

development, staffing and volunteers, park structures, and financial sustainability.

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:

Marin Independent Journal, Things To Do, Lifestyle, December 22, 2025
“Marin state parks to host New Year's Day hikes” by Daniel Bromfield
<https://www.marinij.com/2025/12/22/marin-state-parks-to-host-new-years-day-hikes/>

Marin Independent Journal, Readers' Choice Awards, December 11, 2025
“2026 Winners – 10th Anniversary Edition, Readers' Choice” by Cindy Oldham, Senior Account Executive
<https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=7b837da8-ffab-49b2-b17a-d82b3be1373c>

East Bay Times, News, Crime and Public Safety, December 14, 2025
“Bay Area man accused of flashing hikers in state park” by Cameron MacDonald
<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2025/12/12/san-rafael-man-accused-of-flashing-hikers-in-state-park/>

SF Weekly, Newsletter, November 22, 2025
“SF Weekly Events - Welcome Chinese New Year Hike Year 2026 of the Fire Horse”
<https://www.marinij.com/2023/12/13/photos-stunning-bay-area-wildlife-2/>

KQED, News, December 4, 2025
“King Tides to Flood Bay Area Shorelines This Week. Here's Where and When to Safely See Them” by Ezra David Romero
<https://www.kqed.org/science/1999461/king-tides-to-flood-bay-area-shorelines-this-week-heres-where-and-when-to-safely-see-them>

Outside.com, Travel, News and Analysis, November 14, 2025
“This Week's Spectacular Northern Lights Show in Photos” by Kathleen Rellihan
<https://www.outsideonline.com/adventure-travel/news-analysis/northern-lights-photos/>

Patch, November 8, 2025
“CA Photo Contest Captures Essence Of California State Parks” by Ashley Ludwig
<https://patch.com/california/temecula/ca-photo-contest-captures-essence-california-state-parks-2025-winners>

Smithsonian, Smithsonian Event, November 5, 2025

"China Camp: A Landscape of California History"

<https://www.si.edu/events/detail?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D189310188>

Marin Independent Journal, Things To Do, Lifestyle, October 22, 2025

"3 fun events coming up in Marin" by Daniel Bromfield

<https://www.marinij.com/2025/10/22/3-fun-events-coming-up-in-marin-2/>

The Union Democrat, September 27, 2025

"These historic San Francisco Bay area sites offer a reset for mind and body | Lifestyle" by Don Sproul

https://www.uniondemocrat.com/lifestyle/article_fd65d8d5-72cb-43cc-9b6b-18cd28696287.html

Marin Mommies, August 22, 2025

"Marin Weekend Family Fun for August 22-24"

<https://www.marinmommies.com/marin-weekend-family-fun-august-22%E2%80%9324>

Patch, August 15, 2025

"Stabbing Suspect Arrested Following Shelter-In-Place In San Rafael - Patch"

<https://patch.com/california/sanrafael/stabbing-suspect-arrested-following-shelter-place-san-rafael>

Orange County Register, September 10, 2025

"These historic San Francisco Bay area sites offer a reset for mind and body" by Don Sproul

<https://www.ocregister.com/2025/09/09/these-historic-san-francisco-bay-area-sites-offer-a-reset-for-mind-and-body/>

Vocal Media, July 12, 2025

"Family-Friendly Hikes in Marin County" by Bay Area Back Roads

<https://vocal.media/families/family-friendly-hikes-in-marin-county>

Marin Independent Journal, Things To Do, Lifestyle, September 16, 2025

"Our wild neighbors: Coexisting with coyotes in Marin" by Lisa Bloch

<https://www.marinij.com/2025/09/15/our-wild-neighbors-coexisting-with-coyotes-in-marin/>

SFist, Field Notes, July 7, 2025

"The Tanforan Memorial's Legacy, Isaac Julien's Dreamscape, and '9 to 5's SF Roots"

<https://sfist.com/2025/07/05/field-notes-the-tanforan-memorials-legacy-isaac-juliens-dreamscape-and-9-to-5-sf-roots/>

Bay Nature, August 29, 2025

"Malcolm Margolin and the Birth of Bay Nature" by David Loeb

baynature.org/2025/08/27/malcolm-margolin-and-the-birth-of-bay-nature/&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoTNzgyMTE0MDc5MDg4ODk3NjU2MDIaMWUwYWM0ZTRkN2Y0ZDI4Mzpj206ZW46VVM&usg=AOvVaw04hEMraig4f3J7O68Km6wc

Marin Mommies, Home, February 7, 2025

“Marin Weekend Family Fun for February 7-9”

www.marinmommies.com/marin-weekend-family-fun-february-7%E2%80%939-0

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, September 1, 2025

“San Rafael fire burns area at China Camp”

<https://www.marinij.com/2025/09/01/san-rafael-fire-burns-area-at-china-camp/>

USGS.gov, News, June 27, 2025

“A Review of Sediment Transport Across a Natural Tidal Salt Marsh in Northern San Francisco Bay” by Coastal and Marine Hazards and Resources Program

https://www.usgs.gov/programs/cmhrp/news/a-review-sediment-transport-across-a-natural-tidal-salt-marsh-northern-san?utm_source=comms&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=news

Marin Independent Journal, News, Environment, June 17, 2025

“California wildfire season outlook: Better in north than south” by Paul Rogers

<https://www.marinij.com/2025/06/14/wildfires-which-parts-of-california-are-at-highest-fire-risk-this-summer/>

MSN, June 6, 2025

“Marin Awareness Walk Draws Over 100 Community Members” by Albert Gregory

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/marin-awareness-walk-draws-over-100-community-members/ar-AA1G6BG5>

KQED, May 22, 2025

“The 20 Best Swimming Spots and Public Pools in the Bay Area” by Sarah Wright

<https://www.kqed.org/arts/13976437/best-swimming-spots-public-pools-rivers-lakes-beaches-holes-bay-area>

MSN, May 21, 2025

“Mount Tamalpais hiking acclaimed in state parks poll”

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/tripideas/mount-tamalpais-hiking-acclaimed-in-state-parks-poll/ar-AA1F1Bvk>

East County Magazine, May 18, 2025

“ANZA-BORREGO NAMED BEST STATE PARK FOR WILDFLOWERS”

<https://eastcountymagazine.org/anza-borrego-named-best-state-park-wildflowers/>

Imperial Valley Press, May 10, 2025

“California State Parks Foundation announces 2025 “Best of California’s State Parks” winners | News” by Staff Report

https://www.ivpressonline.com/news/california-state-parks-foundation-announces-2025-best-of-california-s-state-parks-winners/article_16ca76b7-12f9-4ec0-bfbb-6560049bff0d.html

North Bay Bohemian, May 1, 2025

"Culture Crush, 4/30 | Bohemian | Sonoma & Napa Counties" by Weeklys Staff
<https://bohemian.com/culture-crush-4-30/>

Maven's Notebook, April 30, 2025

"USGS: What are key conditions for marsh survival amid rising seas?" by USGS Coastal and Marine Hazards and Resources Program
<https://mavensnotebook.com/2025/04/28/usgs-what-are-key-conditions-for-marsh-survival-amid-rising-seas/>

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, April 3, 2025

"Marin serves as **state** model for fire prevention" by Adrian Rodriguez
<https://www.marinij.com/2025/04/02/marin-serves-as-state-model-for-fire-prevention/>

Berkeleyside, Daily Briefing, April 1, 2025

"10 spots bursting with wildflowers in the East Bay and beyond" by Colleen Neff
<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2025/03/31/10-spots-bursting-with-wildflowers-in-east-bay-and-beyond>

Marin Independent Journal, Lifestyle, March 22, 2025

"5 fun concerts coming up in Marin" by Daniel Bromfield
<https://www.marinij.com/2025/03/20/5-fun-concerts-coming-up-in-marin-2/>

Marin Independent Journal, Lifestyle, March 21, 2025

"A look at San Rafael's China Camp State Park"
<https://www.marinij.com/2025/03/19/a-look-at-san-rafaels-china-camp-state-park/>

KQED, Science, March 17, 2025

"Where to See Wildflowers Near You in the Bay Area" by Sarah Mohamad
<https://www.kqed.org/science/1996323/where-to-see-wildflowers-near-you-in-the-bay-area>

Fullerton Observer, March 5, 2025

"During Earth Month, Take Climate Action and Volunteer at a California State Park" by California State Parks Foundation
<https://fullertonobserver.com/2025/03/03/during-earth-month-take-climate-action-and-volunteer-at-a-california-state-park/>

Volunteers for Outdoor California, February 21, 2025

"China Camp State Park - Volunteers for Outdoor California"
<https://www.v-o-cal.org/project/china-camp-state-park>

Sonoma Index-Tribune, Sports, February 15, 2025
“Meandering Angler: Take me to the riverbank” by Bill Lynch
<https://www.sonomanews.com/2025/02/14/take-me-to-the-bank/>

IX. Interpretive Programs

A. Visitor Center

The visitor center, which contains 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 2025 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 2025. 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 the Village museum in 2025.

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

Cultural history docents led Village Museum tours for the following groups: California Natural Resources Agency, California State Parks Foundation, UCSF Retirees Association, Monterey Bay Charter School, San Francisco St. University, Urban School, Wildflower Open Classroom, Girl Scouts, Rotary Club, Evergreen Valley College, Nueva Day School, Grass Valley Charter School, Richmond Youth Leadership Academy, MIT & Harvard alumni, and Springfield Place.

C. Interpretive Partners

FOCC's partnership with the SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and the Marin Chinese Cultural Association (MCCA) remained strong. Two of FOCC's board members shared leadership roles with MCCA, and our organizations mutually 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 2025. 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 2025, the museum was staffed by cultural history docents.

X. FOCC-hosted 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, and members of the Quan family. The event featured performances such as Chinese lion dancers, Chinese dragon dancers, musical performances, tai chi demonstrations, and other entertainment. Festival food, history tours, and fun family activities were also offered. The August 23 event was the most well-attended in the park's history, with over 300 people in attendance.

B. Annual Public Meeting

On May 17, 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 – staff and volunteers, financial status, trail and general maintenance, interpretive programs, preservation efforts, and governance.

C. 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 19, FOCC partnered with the California State Parks Foundation to host an Earth Day work event. Fifty-eight volunteers participated, including State Senator Mike McGuire, a representative from Assemblymember Marc Levine's office, San Rafael City Council member Rachel Kertz, and California State Parks Director Armando Quintero. The day's work focused on the removal of invasive French and Scotch broom at the northwest entrance area to the park.

On September 23, FOCC hosted Coastal Cleanup Day at the beach in China Camp Village. Approximately two dozen volunteers cleaned up 36 pounds of trash and 32 pounds of recycling along China Camp Village Beach, China Camp Point, Five Pine Point and along the coast (from 6 kayaks).

D. FOCC Volunteer Appreciation Events

Once each month, following a trail maintenance volunteer morning work event, volunteers gather for a brown-bag lunch social at China Camp Village. FOCC picks up the tab for beverages from the cafe for each volunteer.

On June 28, FOCC hosted its volunteer appreciation barbecue in China Camp Village. The event was attended by 60 volunteers and staff.

On November 8, FOCC hosted its volunteer appreciation dinner at the China Camp maintenance shop. The event was attended by 50 volunteers and staff.

E. FOCC Donor Appreciation Events

On March 14, FOCC hosted an "Insider Briefing" donor lunch in China Camp Village for FOCC members who donate at least \$250 annually.

On April 26, FOCC hosted a donor breakfast in China Camp Village for FOCC members who donate at least \$125 annually.

On June 13, FOCC hosted a donor field trip to Angel Island for FOCC members who donate at least \$1,000 annually.

XI. 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. 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
- Judy's Automotive
- Marin Sanitary Service
- Marin County Public Works
- Marin County Sheriff's Office
- Marin County Fire Department
- San Rafael Fire Department

C. 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
- DPR/FOCC Quarterly Meetings
- Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership
- Marin Chinese Cultural Association

D. *Pacific Sun* - Best of Marin 2025

Continuing a pattern since 2017, China Camp State Park again won the *Pacific Sun's* Best of Marin award for 2025 in the Best Park/Open Space.

E. *Marin Independent Journal* – Readers' Choice Awards 2025

Honor Award, "Best Place to Bike"

F. 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 Damon Connolly
- ❖ Marin County Supervisor Mary Sackett

XII. Financial Status

The fiscal year for Friends of China Camp, Inc. is January 1 to December 31. Friends of China Camp's 2025 IRS Form 990 can be found on DPR Form 973.

XIII. FOCC Board Approval and Signature

This Operations Report for FY 2025 has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp. Submitted May 15, 2026.



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