



Friends of China Camp, Inc.

Operations Report for China Camp State Park Calendar Year 2024

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, 2024, those negotiations are ongoing.

The information in this document is presented for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

I. China Camp State Park: open and thriving

Since FOCC's original 2011-12 "Save the Park" Campaign, FOCC's 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, 2024, FOCC had a payroll of seven employees:

- **Martin Lowenstein**, Executive Director (full-time)
- **Chris Young**, Park Manager (full-time)
- **Sheila Coll**, Program Manager (part-time)
- **Scott Griggs**, Senior Maintenance Aide (full-time)
- **Lucinda Colberg**, Membership & Events (part-time)
- **Colin Jaco**, Maintenance 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, 2024, both spaces were occupied by hosts.

C. Security

On any given day, FOCC has between two 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 occasionally 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's maintenance staff collects bottles and cans from recycling bins throughout the park. Marin Sanitary collects CCSP's recycling weekly.

F. Professional Development

FOCC budgets for and encourages professional development for both its administrative staff and ground staff. The executive director had several 1:1 executive coaching sessions during 2024.

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 2024 came from the following sources:

47%	Memberships and donations
40%	Day-use, camping, and other reservation fees
13%	Investment income and unrealized gains/losses
PLUS	Approximately 13,200 hours of volunteer time

If volunteer time is monetized at a rate of \$40.14 per hour*, then revenue percentages would be:

37%	Volunteer hours monetized
30%	Membership and donations
25%	Day-use, camping, and other reservation fees
8%	Investment income and realized and unrealized gains

* Value of volunteer time in California as published by *Independent Sector*, 2024.

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 2024 was \$914,838.03, resulting in an operating surplus of \$29,488.51 and a total surplus (including investment income) of \$135,521.75. The total surplus was a result of: 1) strong giving by the FOCC Board of Directors; 2) a strong year-end appeal; and 3) significant investment income.

C. Revenue Initiatives

1. FOCC Board Donations

In 2024, 100 percent of the FOCC Board of Directors collectively donated \$45,147.39 to support FOCC's general operations of the park.

2. Spring Appeal

In May 2024, FOCC launched its spring appeal to support park operations. Featured in the appeal were needed repairs due to storm damage and vandalism. The spring appeal raised \$39,245.00.

3. Year-End Appeal

In December 2024, FOCC launched a year-end appeal for park operations. The centerpiece of the appeal was re-building McNear Fire Road and other projects in the park. The year-end appeal raised \$54,414.22.

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 a significant 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. Increased Visitor Services Staff Yields Increased Fee Collection

Beginning in Summer 2020 and continuing through 2024, 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.

7. Special Events

China Camp continued to be a popular setting for a variety of events, bringing the park revenue, recognition, and good will. These events included

Bike4Bucklelew, Tamalpa Challenge, Inside Trail racing events, Urban Coyote Trail Run, and Sasquatch Racing Honey Badger Race.

China Camp is the home course for San Rafael HS & Terra Linda HS boys and girls XC teams. REI offered navigating and orienteering clinics multiple times per week. Little Bellas, Trips for Kids, and Access4Bikes offered mountain bike clinics.

8. Merchandise

FOCC sells China Camp State Park T-shirts, mugs, and caps from its online store and from the café in China Camp Village.

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 café and the museum in China Camp Village, 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 text, email and by Google Drive, which contains a staffing schedule, programs calendar, special events calendar and copies of board minutes, committee notes, emergency procedures, and other key documents. Every week, a park update highlighting 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).

D. Better Impact

Given the prominent role of volunteers in the operation of China Camp State Park, FOCC uses Better Impact to keep track of the investment of time that volunteers make in China Camp.

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 six work events in 2024, including Earth Day and California Coastal Cleanup Day. In June, FOCC co-hosted a vegetation-clearing event with CSPF for California State Parks Week. FOCC also held two events with the El Cerrito Mountain Bike Team and one event with Urban Footprint.

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 2024, there were a total of 81 scheduled events and 20-30 unscheduled events accounting for approximately 3,610 volunteer hours. Events are held on rotating days of the week and are open to the public, ages 14 and up. Ages under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

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 and the Senior Park Maintenance Aide. 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. Installation of new signage

New consistent signage was installed at Buckeye Point, Weber Point, Bullhead Flat, and China Camp Point.

New directional and parking signage was installed in the parking areas of Back Ranch Meadows.

2. Knight Drive park entrance and drainage improvements

A new access gate was installed and the fencing replaced at the park boundary at the top of Knight Drive.

The trail entrance was re-graded and sloped to specification; rolling dips were installed allowing proper drainage to the main culvert eliminating water runoff into the neighborhood.

3. Trail Work

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.

4. Tree removal

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

5. 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. Brush was gathered at the mulch pile, shredded and spread.
- d. Dilapidated barbecues were removed and replaced with new ones.
- e. Damage barbecues were sent out for repairs.
- 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 fuel reduction in the area behind the Village parking lot and the beginning of wood and invasive plant burn preparation in various areas of the park.

6. Storm Damage

- a. Multiple downed trees that obstructed trails, emergency access fire trails, bridges, and campsites were removed. The number of downed trees has far exceeded the numbers from the last 12 years. Fortunately, no major structures were damaged.
- 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 below bridges was removed. Debris was removed from the flooded campground parking lot.
- 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 historic green house in the Village was repaired.
- f. The beaches were cleared of washed-up debris
- g. The retaining wall between Village residential structures and the beach was rebuilt.
- h. Storm damage done to the drainage from the spigot near campsites 6 and 8 was repaired.
- i. The volunteers, supported by the maintenance staff, cleared, fixed and/or cleaned up 90% of the problems caused by the January and February storms.

7. Historic Café Re-Roofed

Led by John Muir, FOCC volunteers re-roofed the historic café in China Camp Village with redwood shingles.

8. Garbage Can Containers

Several wooden garbage bins, damaged from vandalism and weathering, were repaired.

9. Painting

Parking lot striping and ADA symbols were refreshed.

10. Split Rail Fencing

Multiple replacements and repairs to split rail fencing were made.

11. 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.

12. Potholes

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.

13. 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. China Camp's annual Earth Day activity featured a work morning dedicated to broom removal. FOCC joined neighborhood groups in April for a broom removal project on lands adjacent to the park. The app Survey123 was used to document invasive plant locations and/or removal.

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 2024 with a completion date expected in mid-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.

16. Residence of Paul Storm

FOCC volunteers prepared for market the residence of Paul Storm, who had been a volunteer of FOCC before passing away in early 2022. In Mr. Storm's will, he donated the entirety of his estate to Friends of China Camp.

E. Acquisitions

FOCC purchased a second-hand mini excavator for \$15,000 as well as hand tools, such as chainsaws, 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 11,928 contacts, of which 9,413 were subscribers – a roughly 0.9 percent decrease over 2023.

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 more than 1,800 followers in 2023 and now 2,000 followers in 2024. Facebook also continued to increase followers, with over 1,800 likes and over 2,000 followers in 2023 to having over 2,000 likes and 2,275 followers by the end of 2024. 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 uses a cloud-based donor management database called NeonCRM. The database simplifies tracking and managing donors, sending out membership renewal emails, acknowledging donations, and registering for park events.

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 private background check service.
5. A Better Impact volunteer database account managed by FOCC.

In 2024, 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 13,200 hours in 2024 to support the operations of the park. Most hours logged were Village Cafe volunteers who contributed over 3,100 hours, campground and maintenance hosts who contributed 2,373 hours, park maintenance volunteers who contributed 3,510 hours, and administrative volunteers who contributed 2,041 hours.

B. Back Ranch Meadows Entrance Kiosk

The Back Ranch Meadows entrance kiosk continued to be staffed by campground hosts, volunteers, and park staff. Staffing 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 one-year term beginning July 2024:

- **Jason Lau:** Board Chair
- **Jon Harding:** Vice Chair
- **Lee Kirkpatrick:** Treasurer
- **Andy Kives:** Secretary

2. Election of Board Members

The following FOCC Board members were elected for a two-year term beginning July 2024:

- Jason Lau
- Ed Lai
- Joyce Abrams
- Lee Kirkpatrick

3. Strategic Planning

The FOCC Board meets immediately after its bimonthly board meeting for a strategic planning session. In 2024, the focus areas were board development, staffing and volunteers, DEI, financial sustainability, park structures, China Camp Village preservation, and programs and service.

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 2024. In addition, China Camp also appeared in the following print media:

Marin Mommies, December 13, 2024

“Marin Weekend Family Fun for December 13-15”

<https://www.marinmommies.com/marin-weekend-family-fun-december-13%E2%80%9315-0>

Marin Independent Journal, Opinion, Letters to the Editor, December 3, 2024

“Unfair to compare MMWD watershed to China Camp” by George Forman

<https://www.marinij.com/2024/12/03/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-dec-4-2024/>

Our Culture Mag, Lifestyle, October 15, 2024

“Things to Know Before Moving to San Rafael, CA” by Our Culture Mag & Partners

<https://ourculturemag.com/2024/10/15/things-to-know-before-moving-to-san-rafael-ca/>

The San Francisco Standard, Culture, October 11, 2024

“Photos: Northern lights shimmer over Bay Area, with another chance this weekend” by Astrid Kane and Emily Dreyfuss

<https://sfstandard.com/2024/10/11/northern-nights-photos-california/>

hoodline, North SF Bay Area, September 24, 2024

“VIDEO: Multi-Agency Rescue Effort Saves Woman after Cliff Fall at China Camp State Park” by Eileen Vargas

<https://hoodline.com/2024/09/multi-agency-rescue-effort-saves-woman-after-cliff-fall-at-china-camp-state-park/>

Marin Independent Journal, Opinion, Letters to the Editor, September 14, 2024

“All-purpose trails will need bikers to follow some rules” by Arthur Silberman

<https://www.marinij.com/2024/09/14/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-sept-15-2024/>

X, China Daily, September 13, 2024

Post on X about China Camp State Park by Northern California Hanfu Association

<https://x.com/ChinaDaily/status/1834411681625374955>

hoodline, North SF Bay Area, September 10, 2024

"Literature Meets Nature at China Camp State Park's 'Poetry in Parks' Finale" by Eileen Vargas

<https://hoodline.com/2024/09/literature-meets-nature-at-china-camp-state-park-s-poetry-in-parks-finale/>

California State Parks, News Release, September 9, 2024

"California State Parks and Partners Celebrate Final Arts in California Parks "Poetry in Parks" Series Event" by California State Parks Newsroom

<https://www.parks.ca.gov/NewsRelease/1305>

Marin Mommies, July 12, 2024

"Marin Weekend Family Fun for July 12-14"

<https://www.marinmommies.com/marin-weekend-family-fun-july-12%E2%80%9314-0>

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, July 8, 2024

"'Past the peak:' Fog cools searing Bay Area" by Adrian Rodriguez

<https://www.marinij.com/2024/07/08/past-the-peak-fog-cools-searing-bay-area/>

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, July 3, 2024

"Marin temperatures break records as heat engulfs region" by Staff and Wire Reports

<https://www.marinij.com/2024/07/02/marin-temperatures-break-records-as-heat-engulfs-region/>

myMotherLode.com, News, Local, June 11, 2024

"California State Parks Week Returns With Over 200 Events Statewide" by Nic Peterson

<https://www.mymotherlode.com/news/local/3373712/california-state-parks-week-returns-with-over-200-events-statewide.html>

PG&E, Hometowns, June 11, 2024

"Hundreds of PG&E Volunteers Pitch in to Protect the Planet" by Tracy Correa Lopez

<https://www.pge.com/en/newsroom/currents/hometowns/hundreds-of-pg-e-volunteers-pitch-in-to-protect-the-planet-in-ap.html>

The Korea Times, Opinion, May 16, 2024

"Californians love the state's parks. We just don't know they're state parks" by John McKinney

https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2025/02/137_374666.html

Patch, Health & Fitness, May 15, 2024

"Lyme Disease Carrying Ticks Abundant In NorCal, Thanks To A Wet Spring" by Lucas Combos
<https://patch.com/california/san-francisco/lyme-disease-carrying-ticks-abundant-norcal>

SFGate, News, May 13, 2024

"Why photos of California's northern lights were better than in person" by Stephen Council
<https://www.sfgate.com/tech/article/northern-lights-photos-better-california-19455887.php>

KQED, Science, May 13, 2024

"See How the Northern Lights Lit Up the Bay Area This Weekend" by Sarah Mohamad
<https://www.kqed.org/science/1992745/see-northern-lights-aurora-borealis-bay-area>

PR Newswire, News, May 6, 2024

"Hundreds head to China Camp State Park during Mental Health Awareness Month" by Buckelew Programs
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/north-bays-largest-fundraiser-for-mental-healthcare-may-11-302136882.html>

KQED, News, May 3, 2024

"How Wheelchair Rentals Can Open Up Bay Area Beaches (and Where to Find Them)" by Sarah Mohamad
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11984496/bay-area-beaches-with-wheelchair-rentals>

Secret San Francisco, April 30, 2024

"This Popular Bay Area Viewpoint is Experiencing A Massive Super Bloom" by Jamie Ferrell
<https://secretsanfrancisco.com/mori-point-super-bloom/>

Redheaded Blackbelt, April 17, 2024

"Celebrate the Third Annual California State Parks Week June 12-16" by Staff
<https://kymkemp.com/2024/04/17/celebrate-the-third-annual-california-state-parks-week-june-12-16/>

California State Parks, New Release, April 10, 2024

"Celebrate the Third Annual California State Parks Week June 12-16, 2024" by Jorge Moreno
<https://www.parks.ca.gov/NewsRelease/1264>

KALW, Crosscurrents, April 3, 2024

"China Camp State Park: Where past and present live side by side" by Julie Caine
<https://www.kalw.org/people/julie-caine-1>

Marin Mommies, March 22, 2024

"Marin Weekend Family Fun for March 22-24"

<https://www.marinmommies.com/marin-weekend-family-fun-march-22%E2%80%9324-0>

Marin Independent Journal, Local News, March 13, 2024

"Marin agencies receive \$4.26M to improve forest health" by Krissy Waite

<https://www.marinij.com/2024/03/13/marin-agencies-receive-4-26m-to-improve-forest-health/>

Bay Nature, March 9, 2024

"Bay Nature Hike: China Camp in San Rafael"

<https://baynature.org/event/bay-nature-hike-china-camp-in-san-rafael/>

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, is open whenever the ranger station is staffed, usually seven days a week.

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 2024. Docents led educational hikes, Junior Ranger programs, full moon hikes, astronomy evenings, birding programs, and China Camp Village Museum tours.

2. Village Talks

FOCC hosted guest lecturers in the China Camp Village Museum in 2024.

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
- astronomy programs
- other naturalist programs

Cultural history docents led Village Museum tours for the following groups: California State Parks Foundation, Vivalon, Golestan School, Sebastopol Charter School, Downtown Streets Team, Cordova Parks District, Immersive Beijing Learning Foundation, Springfield Place, and Tamalpais Union High School District.

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 2024. 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 2024, 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 to host the 2024 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. The event draws between 200 and 300 people.

B. Annual Public Meeting

On June 22, 2024, 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.

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.

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 22, FOCC hosted an inaugural volunteer appreciation barbecue in Miwok Meadows, and on November 23, FOCC hosted its annual volunteer appreciation dinner in the China Camp maintenance shop.

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, equipment and personnel to rebuild the fence and gate at the top of Knight Drive in San Rafael.

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
- Marin Independent Journal
- Pacific Sun
- Rotary Club of Novato Sunrise
- Rotary Club of Terra Linda
- Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association
- Point San Pedro Road Coalition
- San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership

D. *Pacific Sun* - Best of Marin 2024

China Camp State Park won the *Pacific Sun's* Best of Marin Award for 2024 in the following category:
"Best Bike Route/Trails"

E. *Marin Independent Journal* – Readers' Choice Awards 2024

China Camp State Park won the Marin IJ's Readers' Choice Award for 2024 in the following categories:
"Best Park"
"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. Entered into DPR Form 973 is Friends of China Camp's 2024 IRS Form 990.

XIII. FOCC Board Approval and Signature

This Operations Report for FY 2024 has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp. Submitted: May 24, 2025



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