



Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks

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Annual Impact Report 2018

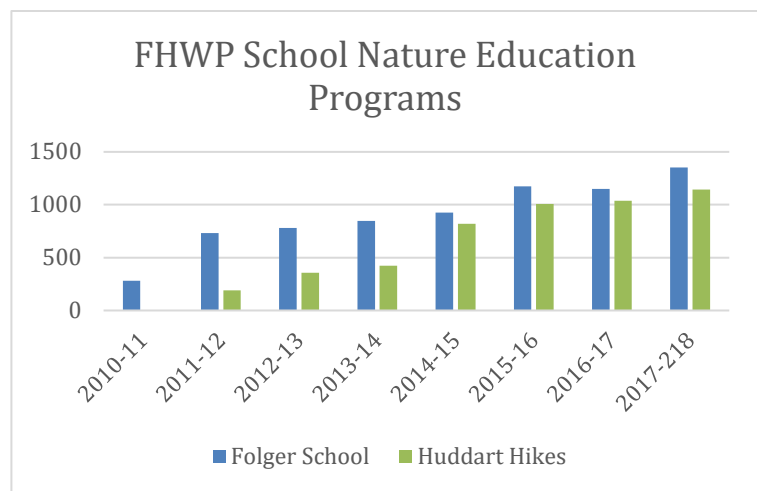
Introduction

Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks (“Friends”) is a locally-based non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the environmental and historic legacies of two exceptional county parks in Woodside, California. Our nature education programs encourage environmental awareness and learning about the outdoors for both children and adults, while promoting enjoyment and conservation of these parks. Overall, Friends’ various nature and history education programs and community events meaningfully engaged 7,200 people last year, including nearly 2,500 students for our Huddart Park Nature Hikes and Folger Stable School Program, a 23 percent increase from last year and up over 1,100 percent since we began offering school and outings programs.

Program Highlights

Huddart Park Nature Hikes

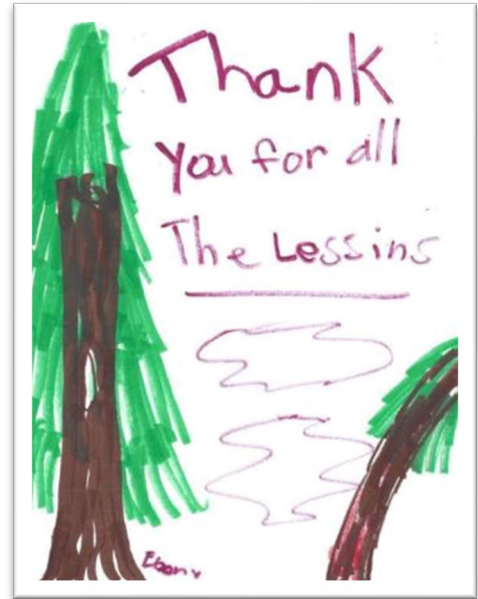
Guided by standards-based curriculum, including the Next Generation Science Standards and California’s Blueprint for Environmental Literacy, Friends’ Huddart Park Nature Hikes program provides experiential, science-driven nature education for Kindergarten through Fourth graders from local schools in San Mateo County. Our innovative approach ensures our program closely ties to science curriculum being taught in the classroom, enhancing students’ academic achievement in science, while providing an experience that is designed to develop students’ interest in nature and stewardship ethic. Since September 2017, we served nearly 1,150 students with this program, an increase of 10 percent over the previous school year.



Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks

The program is popular among teachers. More than half of the teachers who brought their classes out this year had previously participated in the program, and of those who were new to the program, one-third heard about the program from a recommendation from another teacher. We asked teachers to complete program evaluations about their experiences. Overall, 72 percent of teachers rated the program as “excellent” and 29 percent rated it “very good.” Nearly 95 percent of teachers indicated the hike reinforces and supports their classroom curriculum and 90 percent indicated the docent was prepared and knowledgeable. One teacher shared:

Our docent, Deb, was very knowledgeable and passionate about what she taught our group. She was very open to student questions and honored each student with sincere interest and response. She took advantage of every teaching moment and encouraged the students to share their knowledge as well. We learned a lot and it was an awesome hike!



Because these types of programs can be so impactful on students' academic experiences, Friends has made a commitment to growing program resources, so we can subsidize the costs of bus transportation to reach the park. The costs of the bus is a significant barrier to many schools, and we are dedicated to making the program more accessible to students attending schools that don't have financial resources for field trips. This past year, we were pleased to offer subsidies that brought 517 children from underserved schools out into the park for this program, 77 percent of whom qualify for free and reduced lunch program participation, a measure of economic need. Overall, we estimated that our programs served students from a broad range of demographic backgrounds including 36 percent Latino, 24 percent Caucasian, 24 percent Asian, 2 percent African American, and 14 percent other, with 36 percent of all participants being from low-income households.

We were also proud to partner again this summer with community-based groups to bring low-income and homeless children out for nature education. In 2016, we piloted an outing in partnership with LifeMoves, which operates several family homeless shelters locally. It was so successful that we expanded the program over the past two summers. This year, we brought 85 homeless children out to the park to experience nature and get a break from the stress of their lives. Another partner, the San Mateo County Big Lift summer program, worked with us to bring 65 low-income and academically-challenged children out for a day as well. For many, it was their first time ever in the redwoods! Not only did they get a great outdoor experience, by using our hands-on learning centers they also strengthened their knowledge and understanding of science. We are talking with additional partners and may schedule additional trips this summer.



One of Friends' docents out on the trail with a small group of students.

Hikes with the Friends

Although Friends has long supported guided outings, this program became more formal in the spring of 2016 when we started offering and promoting free guided hikes open to adults and families and helped us serve 376 people last year. Each outing has a different theme, length, or skill level—such as learning about the flora or fauna of one park or exploring some of the less travelled trails of the upper parts of the parks with the help of an outings leader. We announce upcoming outings on our website, newsletter, and Facebook page.

We are also looking to expand this program to be able to provide customized outings for specific groups. For example, this Spring we worked with the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired to facilitate outdoor experiences for their clients who are adjusting to life with visual impairments. We first worked closely with the Vista Center's staff to understand the barriers faced by people with visual impairments and then designed a customized outing that would serve their needs. Over the spring and summer, we provided three hiking opportunities for 21 of their clients.

Finally, we hosted another special nature program in partnership with the Peninsula Open Space Trust. Called "Family Nature Days," we welcomed 466 youth and their families out to Huddart Park on September 30, 2017, and May 6, 2018, to enjoy outings and interactive hands-on activities to learn about nature. We are working on scheduling our next special event for this fall.



Clients of the Vista Center exploring the parks with a Friends' guided outing

Folger Stable School Program

Provided in collaboration with the San Mateo County Historical Association, the Folger Stable School Program provides California history-themed field trips for third and fourth graders at Wunderlich Park's historic Folger Estate Stable. This is our longest running school program, kicked off in 2010-2011, and it continues to grow. This school year, we served 1,351 students from San Mateo County, an increase of over 17percent from the previous year's numbers. Each field trip includes experiential activities that reinforce the historical information presented and helps students learn how people lived on the land. Activities include apple-pressing, leather stamping, building a rock wall, and saddling a horse. Our docents support the program by teaching kids about the historical objects in the museum and showing kids how to tack a horse by bringing a horse or mule out to meet the students.

Investing in Future Program Growth by Recruiting and Training New Docents

Part of what makes our programs such a success is the support we get from a dedicated group of volunteers who act as docents, guiding small groups of students and park visitors to explore the forest or learn about horses and the history of the Folger Stable. We were especially grateful to have expanded our base of support by recruiting 20 new docents over the past year, bringing our total numbers of docents to 49. Collectively, these volunteers contributed 1,615 hours to nature education programming last year.

Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks

Because volunteers are the lifeblood of our programs, Friends actively recruits, orients, and trains new docents. Interested volunteers get extensive written manuals, one-on-one coaching, and peer support from experienced docents; in exchange we ask them to commit to lead at least two outings a month. Many lead far more.

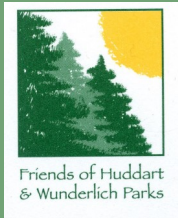
We also ensure all docents have access to training and enrichment activities to keep programs fresh and informative. This winter we offered workshops on redwood forest ecology, native Ohlone use of the land, bird ecology, wildlife tracking and behaviors, and interpretive strategies to keep young kids engaged on the trail. We ask all docents for feedback on their experience. One new docent shared:



Huddart Park Nature Hike volunteer docents learning about redwood ecology to incorporate into their school programming.

The openness, warmth and genuine gratitude to the volunteers is terrific. Kym's [our Program Director] personal time with each new volunteer is excellent. Great opportunities with speakers, and the experienced docents spent time mentoring us and allowed us to shadow them—all very helpful!

Docents also suggested topics for future trainings, program improvements, and new outings.



The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks

HIKES • HISTORY • HORSES

Supporting our parks and community with...

- Nature hikes
- Community and family events
- History field trips & tours
- Speaker series
- Clean-up projects in the parks
- Local history museum
- Programs for disadvantaged youth
- Health & wellness hikes



"The programs are really stellar and offer such a wide range of experiences to the community."



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FRIENDS OF HUDDART & WUNDERLICH PARKS In 2018...



6,667

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS SERVED



1,063

KIDS ON HIKES



1,210

VOLUNTEER HOURS



3,027

MUSEUM
VISITORS



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Folger Stable Speaker Series
Big Bad Barn Dance
Folger Stable Tours



1,219

Kids on History
Field Trips

THANKS TO THESE PARTNERS!

ATKINSON FOUNDATION

BEVERLY FOLGER FOUNDATION

DAVIDOW FAMILY

FRIENDS OF KIDS

HARVEY L. AND MAUD C. SORENSEN FOUNDATION

HURLBUT JOHNSON TRUST

KEEN

MERCK FOUNDATION

SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

SAN MATEO COUNTY PARKS

SAN MATEO COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION

SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE

WOODSIDE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

YOUTH OUTSIDE

Individual Donors...YOU make our work possible!