

## Creating a Sustainable Corte Madera Recreation Center Robert Bundy

**PURPOSE;** To evaluate the functions of the Corte Madera Park and Recreation Center with a goal of reducing energy use, reducing waste, increasing recycling and lessening the impact on the environment by decreasing the use of any toxic products.

**IMMEDIATE GOALS;** I have met with Park Director Mario Fiorentini and his entire staff to discuss these goals in order to obtain buy in from them and solicit ideas to achieve the goal of achieving energy savings and reducing waste. Keith Forsman who conducts energy evaluations for PG&E also attended and will meet with Mario Fiorentini and myself to conduct an energy audit and evaluate the current baseline energy use. I have also met with Town Manager Dave Bracken to solicit his input and support which he has given and will meet 11/16 with Department of Public Works Director Kevin Kramer to evaluate our waste stream for the park and the potential for increased recycling. Public Works is also responsible for purchasing cleaning products and I will review with him if there are green alternatives to anything he is currently using. Dave Bracken has agreed to arrange a meeting with representatives from Mill Valley Refuse so we can investigate using green cans at the Rec Center for clippings and food scraps. Currently only residential homes can use green cans for kitchen scraps so I will be requesting an exception for the Recreation Center. I have been in contact with representatives of North Bay Conservation Corps to have them install additional recycling cans in the park and to better understand their recycling requirements.

**LONG TERM GOALS;** Have buy in from the staff that supervises the summer programs and after school programs so we can encourage recycling and a reduction of plastic by everyone. Another possibility is to involve a dietician in recommending better food choices with less packaging and better quality. Six months from now we would like to see increased recycling and lower volumes of non recyclable trash in the debris box with lower energy use by the Recreation Center. My goal would also to use non toxic products in all town buildings.

**BACKGROUND;** I have been a volunteer at the Recreation Center on various projects and have recognized that we need a systemic approach to improving recycling and reducing waste.

**OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES/BENEFITS;** I hope to have a better understanding of the town contracts with Mill Valley Refuse and if the contract gets in the way of moving to zero waste. Hopefully we will be able to engage the kids who attend the program to become more conscious of waste and recycling and allow them to developed lifelong habits to create a sustainable environment in their future.

**SCOPE/MILESTONES;** Want to have plans in place for reducing energy use (exhaust fans, programmable thermostats, motion sensor lights and possibly roof insulation). More recycling bins in the park and green cans in place for kitchen scraps.

**SIZE OF TEAM;** Will work with Director Mario Fiorentini to put plans in place after meeting with those responsible for making changes to the system. Other staff members will be called on to help with specific analysis or to put structural changes in place.

**EXTERNAL PARTNERS;** Keith Forsman (PG&E), North Bay Conservation Corps, Department of Public Works and Mill Valley Refuse.