

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021–2022



## From the Director



### YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

**\$26.9** million  
TOTAL EXPENDITURES

**34**  
PRESERVES

**43**  
PARKS AND FACILITIES

**17,900**  
OPEN SPACE ACRES

**143**  
SEASONAL AND  
FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

With each step in a forest, over a hundred miles of mycorrhizal network may lie below our feet, transmitting carbon and nutrients between individual trees. Scientists recently discovered this complex “wood-wide web,” where plants share resources and help each other, to maintain a healthy ecosystem. The forest teaches us that cooperation results in well-being. We are stronger together.

In 2022, Parks Measure A, passed by voters in 2012, came to the end of its nine-year term. A renewal was on the horizon. With long-standing support for its forests, baylands, and green spaces, the Marin community has demonstrated awareness of the benefits of maintaining connections with each other and the nature surrounding us.

In advance of voters deciding on Measure A for an additional nine years, Parks reached out to learn how community needs and priorities had changed since 2012. A county-wide survey, neighborhood meetings, open office hours with the Director, and comments during public hearings revealed support for the principles of the existing ordinance, with added emphasis on initiatives that support wildfire risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and equitable access.

While looking ahead to the future, 2022 was also a time to pause and reflect on achievements. Thanks to 2012 Measure A, Marin County preserves have a designated road and trail network, balancing recreational use with natural preservation. Long-deferred maintenance has been addressed, including structural repairs to fishing piers, trail bridges, and pathway decks. Significant progress was made on complex sea level rise adaptation plans for Bothin Marsh and Bolinas Wye wetlands. Seven thousand four hundred and fifteen acres of working agricultural lands have been preserved in perpetuity. Marin’s nineteen cities, towns, and special districts received annual grants to support their green spaces and recreational facilities. Non-profit groups received grants to help bring under-served community members to parks and preserves.

In the spirit of collaboration, there will be more to come.

**Max Korten, Director**  
Marin County Parks

# 2021–2022 Project Highlights



A three-year, 46.7 acre fire fuel reduction project began in Baltimore Canyon near **Kent Woodlands**, to manage invasive broom for emergency access and defensible space.



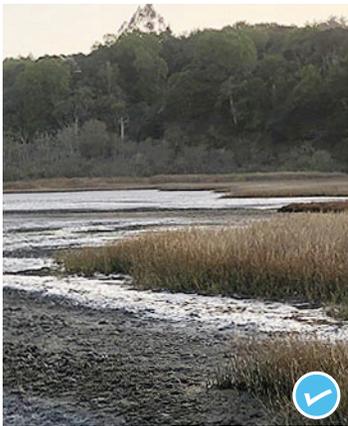
**Ad & Gloria Schwindt trail stabilization** helped prevent erosion and improve visitor safety.



**McNears Beach Park parking lot repaving** replaced 50-year-old aging asphalt, widened vehicle entries, and improved stormwater runoff.



Micro-resurfacing near Gate 6 and a new signage pilot helped improve safety for travelers along the busy **Mill Valley/Sausalito Multiuse Pathway**.



**Bolinas Wye Wetlands Resiliency** design concepts moved forward. This large-scale, multi-year project will restore habitat, improve road safety, and adapt to sea-level rise on the north end of Bolinas Lagoon.



With the help of dedicated volunteers, the **Native Plant Nursery** propagates native plants for habitat restoration in parks and preserves. Nursery staff and volunteers go out into the field to collect seeds, then carefully cultivate them.



**Breathe/Respira Community Grants** continued to support non-profit programs that connect people to parks and preserves. In 2021, grants of up to \$8,000 each were awarded to thirteen community organizations.



In collaboration with the Department of Public Works, new paths, site furnishings, and other improvements at **Bayside Park** made the park accessible to all while preserving the character of the park.

# FY 2021–2022 Revenue & Expenditures

This table summarizes actual revenues and expenditures handled by Marin County Parks.

## TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY BUDGET AREAS



- PARKS
- OPEN SPACE
- MEASURE A
- CSAs

## MEASURE A OVERSIGHT

Seven committee members appointed by the Board of Supervision monitor Measure A expenditures, assist with audits, and approve the annual report:

Jonathan Kathrein  
Larry Kennings  
Joe Meylan  
Pat O'Brien  
Dan Russell  
Robert Steinberg

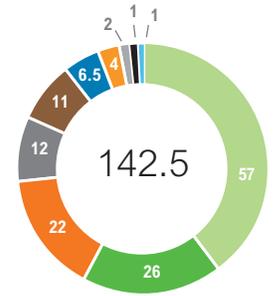
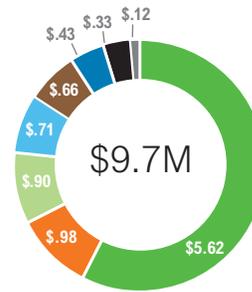
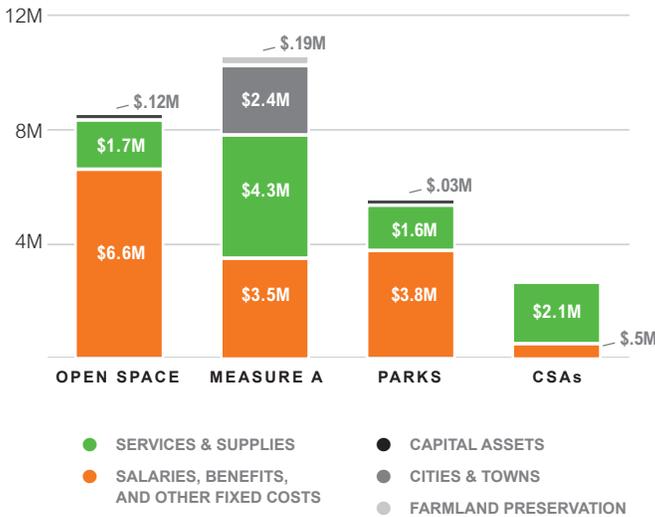
Each year Measure A funds undergo two compliance audits. The Marin County Department of Finance audited organizations other than Marin County Parks that receive Measure A funding. Badawi and Associates audited Marin County Parks and will issue a report in February 2023. Audit reports are available on [marincountyparks.org](http://marincountyparks.org).

	PARKS	OPEN SPACE	MEASURE A	CSAs
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Taxes	0	9,432,381	13,219,549	2,267,751
From Use of Money	856,409	32,817	15,373	7,866
Intergovernmental	24,948	33,293	778,287	4,351
Charges for Services	1,852,320	(92,640)	0	(16,196)
Miscellaneous	13,531	179,008	0	0
Budgeted Transfer In	0	0	200,000	1,276,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,747,208</b>	<b>9,584,859</b>	<b>14,213,209</b>	<b>3,540,546</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>Fixed Costs</b>				
- Salaries and Benefits	4,841,967	5,382,150	3,151,838	0
- Budgeted Transfer Out	126,000	10,000	0	1,775
- Interdepartmental Charges	(1,181,691)	1,231,163	363,549	532,784
<b>Grants</b>				
- Other Charges and Capital Assets	30,716	119,326	0	0
- Farmland Preservation	0	0	199,157	0
- Cities and Towns	0	0	2,422,547	0
<b>Services and Supplies</b>				
- Road and Trail Management	0	513,632	142,013	0
- Vegetation Management and Fire Fuel Reduction	0	46,724	850,559	0
- Wetland Restoration and Erosion Control	0	18,385	692,925	0
- Real Estate and Acquisition	0	116,396	0	0
- Park Facilities and Landscape	1,432,544	0	2,043,368	2,146,155
- Public Engagement and Equity	71,412	569,342	336,886	0
- Science and Research	0	233,614	99,746	0
- Administration	78,958	219,089	136,479	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,399,906</b>	<b>8,459,822</b>	<b>10,439,068</b>	<b>2,680,715</b>
<b>OTHER USE OF FUND BALANCE/NET COUNTY COST</b>				
- Fund Balance		(1,125,037)	(3,774,141)	(859,832)
- General Fund	<b>2,652,698</b>			

# FY 2021–2022 Financial Information

## Marin County Parks Expenditures and Set Aside for Land Acquisition FY 2021–22

### PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND MEASURE A



#### SERVICES & SUPPLIES BY PROGRAM

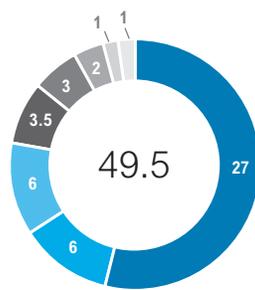
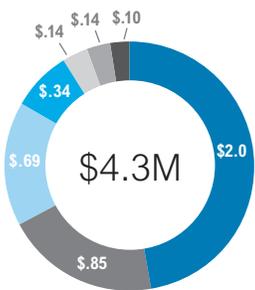
- PARK FACILITIES & LANDSCAPE
- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & EQUITY
- VEGETATION MANAGEMENT & FIRE FUEL REDUCTION
- WETLAND & EROSION CONTROL
- ROAD & TRAIL MANAGEMENT
- ADMINISTRATION
- SCIENCE & RESEARCH
- REAL ESTATE & ACQUISITIONS

#### NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

- SEASONAL
- PARK FACILITIES & LANDSCAPE
- VISITOR SERVICES
- ADMINISTRATION
- ROAD & TRAIL MANAGEMENT
- NATURAL RESOURCES
- COMMUNICATIONS
- EXECUTIVES
- SCIENCE & RESEARCH
- REAL ESTATE & ACQUISITIONS

## Measure A Expenditures and Set Aside for Land Acquisition FY 2021–22

### PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



#### SERVICES & SUPPLIES BY PROGRAM

- PARK FACILITIES & LANDSCAPE
- VEGETATION MANAGEMENT & FIRE FUEL REDUCTION
- WETLAND RESTORATION & EROSION CONTROL
- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & EQUITY
- ROAD & TRAIL MANAGEMENT
- ADMINISTRATION
- SCIENCE & RESEARCH

#### NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

- SEASONAL
- PARK FACILITIES & LANDSCAPE
- VISITOR SERVICES
- NATURAL RESOURCES
- ADMINISTRATION
- COMMUNICATIONS
- ROAD & TRAIL MANAGEMENT
- SCIENCE & RESEARCH

#### LAND ACQUISITION

In FY 2021–22, no funds were expended on land acquisition. \$1.7M was allocated to land acquisition set aside, with total set aside at the end of FY 2021–22 \$8.1M.

At the time of this annual report, the Marin Open Space District Board had designated a \$6M contribution toward the proposed acquisition of the Martha property in Tiburon, and \$1.85M toward acquisition of the Smith property at Buck's Landing in San Rafael.

#### CITIES AND TOWNS

Marin's 19 cities, towns, and applicable special districts received \$1.9M in Measure A funds in FY 2021–22 for fire fuel vegetation management, neighborhood park renovations, maintenance, and staff.

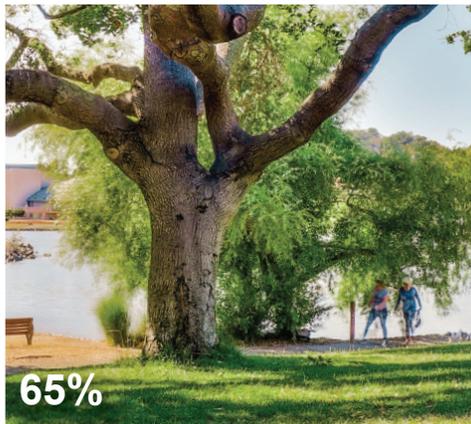
#### FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Marin Resource Conservation District (RCD) receives 5% of Farmland Preservation funds to support resources on easement-protected agricultural lands. RCD matches other grants to maintain soil and water quality, water supplies, and fencing. RCD received \$159,521 in FY 2021–22.

# Measure A: Caring For What We Have



**Measure A protects the parks, open space, and farmland that make Marin County an extraordinary place to live, work, and play.** In 2012, Marin voters approved a one-quarter of one percent sales tax (County Ordinance 3586) for nine years, to support parks, open space, and agricultural lands across Marin. By law, funds raised by Measure A must be spent on parks and open space, farmland preservation, recreation in Marin's nineteen cities and towns, and land acquisition.



65%

## Parks and Open Space

These funds help maintain and improve County parks and open space preserves, and support acquisition of land with high natural resource value.



20%

## Farmland Preservation

These funds support collaborative grants for permanent conservation easements, and Marin Resource Conservation District initiatives.



15%

## Cities and Towns

These funds are designated for parks, open space, and recreation facilities in nineteen Marin cities, towns, and special districts.

## Support for Cities, Towns, and Special Districts

Measure A provides funding for parks, open space, and recreation facilities across the county. Measure A grants are regularly awarded to help cities, towns, and special districts maintain parks, open space, recreational facilities, and programming.

CITIES	TOWNS	SPECIAL DISTRICTS
Mill Valley	Belvedere	Bel Marin Keyes CSD
Novato	Corte Madera	Bolinas Firehouse Community Park Agency
San Rafael	Fairfax	Marin City CSD
Sausalito	Larkspur	Marinwood CSD
	Ross	Muir Beach CSD
	San Anselmo	Strawberry Recreation District
	Tiburon	Tamalpais CSD
		Tomaes CSD

## Breathe/Respira Community Grants

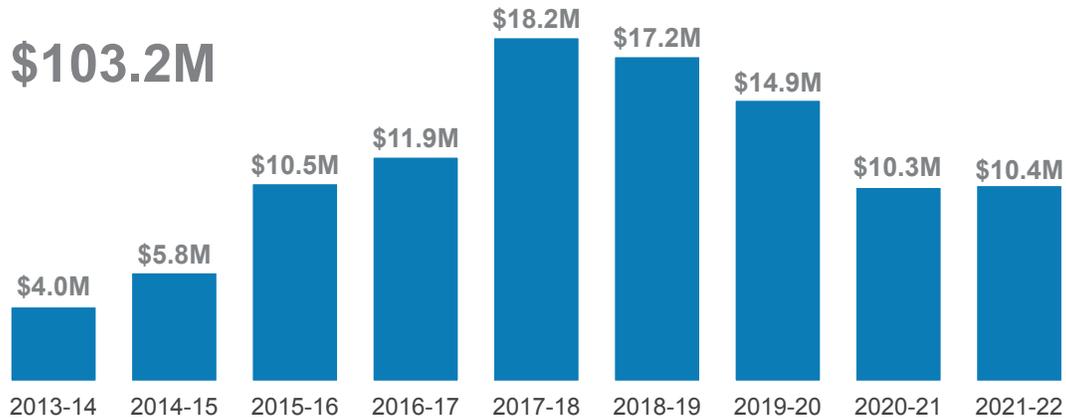
Each year for the duration of Measure A, at least \$100,000 has been allocated to the Breathe/Respira Community Grant Program. These grants are awarded through an open application process to non-profit community organizations. Grantees create stronger community connections to the outdoors through three approaches:

- Expand opportunities to access and enjoy Marin County parks and open space preserves.
- Bring Marin County Parks' outreach and programming into communities with limited access to public lands.
- Overcome barriers, such as transportation and language, that limit access to parks, preserves and programs.

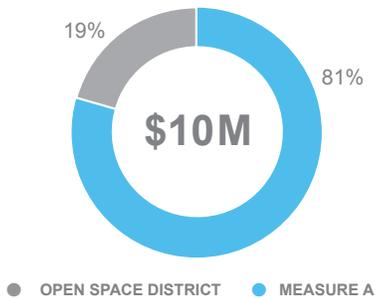
# Measure A 2012–2022 By the Numbers



## Measure A Expenditures

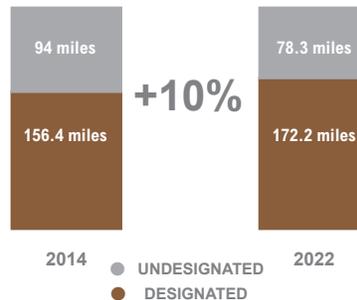


### Vegetation Management



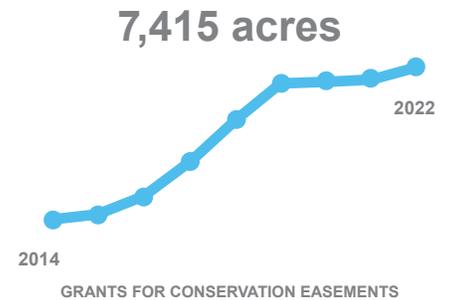
Measure A boosted Open Space District dollars, contributing 81% of vegetation management expenditures over 9 years.

### Roads and Trails



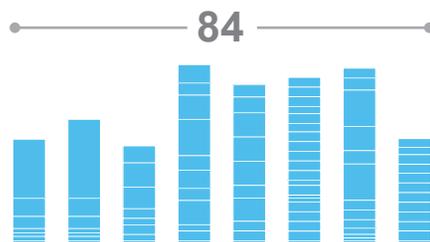
Twelve miles of designated trails (+10%) were added over 9 years, while reducing undesignated social trails by 17%.

### Farmland Preservation



Measure A funds, in combination with matching grants, preserved 7,415 acres of Marin working farm lands over 9 years.

### Community Grants



Since 2013, Measure A awarded \$949,442 in 84 grants to community organizations that helped connect people to parks and preserves.

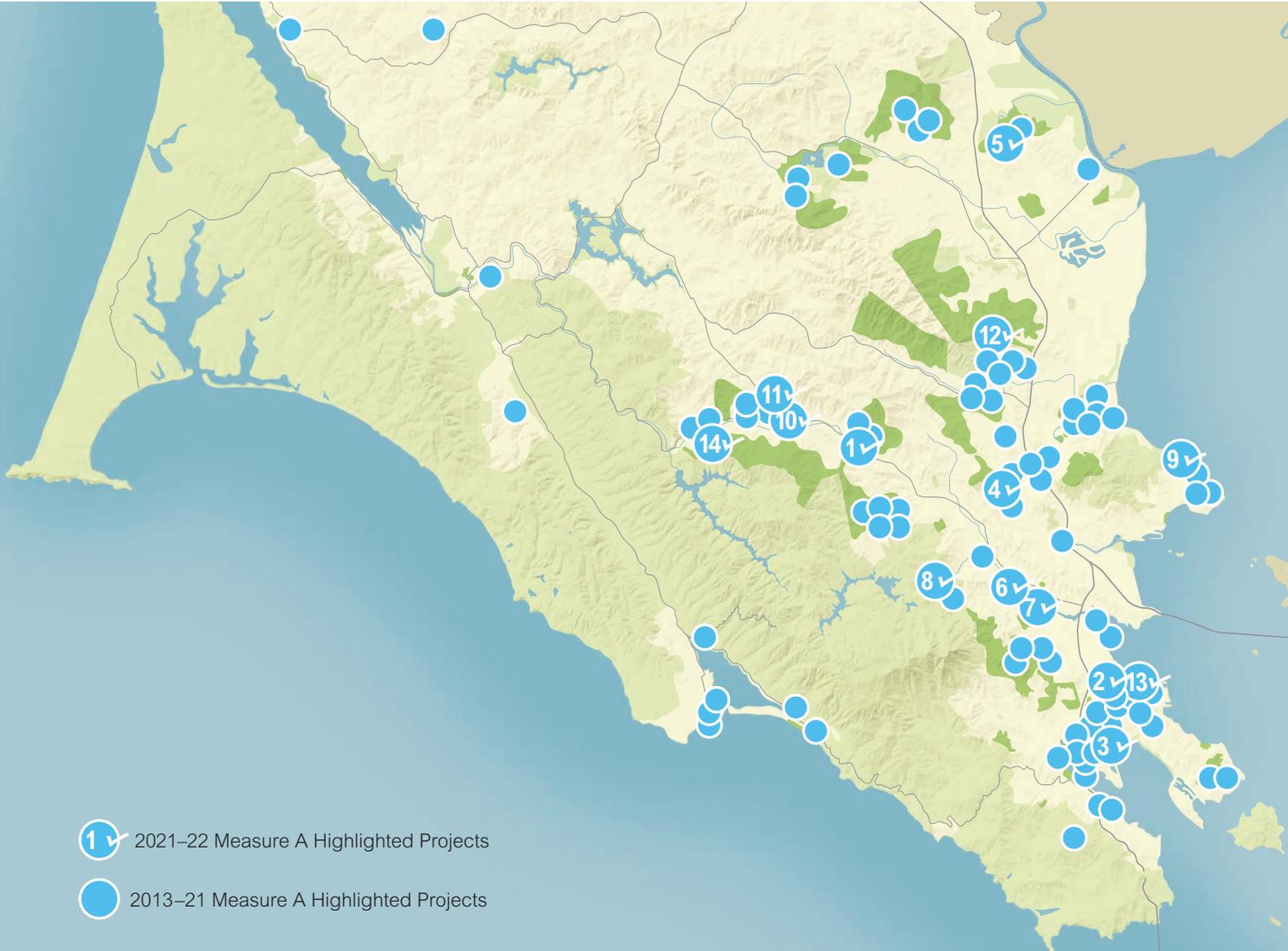
### Cities & Towns



Parks, open space, and recreation facilities in 19 Marin cities, towns, and special districts benefited from nearly \$18M over 9 years.

# Highlighted County-wide Projects Enhanced by Measure A

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Bald Hill acquisition in progress                      | 6 Greater Ross Valley Shaded Fuel Break project | 10 Memorial Trail improvements          |
| 2 Ride to hike bike rack pilot at Ring Mountain Preserve | 7 Hal Brown Park bridge replacement planning    | 11 Mont Marin Trail improvements        |
| 3 Bothin Marsh Evolving Shorelines design concepts       | 8 Hoo-koo-e-koo trail maintenance               | 12 Trail improvements near Pacheco Pond |
| 4 Bowman Canyon trail planning                           | 9 Martha Property acquisition in progress       | 13 Ring Mountain fire road maintenance  |
| 5 Dog waste stations phase 2 installation                |   | 14 Roy's Redwoods restoration planning  |



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**Measure A – the next nine years.** In June 2022, voters approved Measure A, the quarter-cent sales tax that supports parks and open space, for another nine years. To align with community priorities, some allocations in Ordinance 3760 were updated:

65% of Measure A tax revenue continues to be allocated for parks and open space maintenance. 25% of this 65% is now designated for fire fuel management.

20% of Measure A tax revenue is allocated for sustainable agriculture. This 20% breaks out into 50% for agricultural conservation easements, 30% for competitive community matching grants, and 20% for matching grants to the Marin Resource Conservation District.

15% of Measure A will continue to provide grants to Marin cities, towns and special district for their parks, open space, and recreation programs.

For more information, including Measure A financial reports, visit [marincountyparks.org](http://marincountyparks.org).