

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT**

BOARD MEETING: November 13, 2019

SUBJECT: Environmental Education and Community Outreach Update

PRESENTER: Jackie Nelson, Environmental Education Supervisor

REPORT:

Education

Students are back in school and once again experience the Carmel River during outdoor education programs. The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History and Carmel River Watershed Conservancy (CRWC) brought three school groups to Garland Ranch and Palo Corona regional parks this month and the CRWC staff informed us that their programming schedule is full for the remainder of the year.

Staff received dozens of applications for the two part-time seasonal and one full-time environmental education positions. Interviews were held and staff is currently completing reference and background reviews.

Outreach

On October 17 the Salinas Valley Antique Auto Club visited the Discovery Center (DC) at Palo Corona Regional Park. Volunteer Naturalist Margaret Daugherty was working in the DC and shares this story.

The Salinas Valley Antique Auto Club members were an enthusiastic group of over 30 who asked questions, toured the DC exhibits and thoroughly enjoyed the area. Several visitors asked about the accessibility of the trails, and how long it would take to get over the bridge to the Carmel River. I explained it would take approximately 10 minutes and the River Loop Trail was a relatively flat walking path. It was apparent accessibility was a concern for many of these elder visitors, I believe the increased accessibility paths, especially around the pond allows more individuals, especially those with mobility concerns to have great access and enjoyment of the area.

Watching and listening to the experiences of the volunteer naturalist is as enriching as seeing the vibrant faces of our visitors.

Staff participated in an in-person meeting with the Southern Oregon Monarch Advocacy group as plans for the Western Monarch Summit continue. Two of the most prominent monarch advocates in the country are the keynote speakers. Presenters from the western region are coming together for the first time to share recent developments of the monarchs. The summit is being held at Palo Corona on January 10-12, 2020. For more information please visit <https://www.westernmonarchadvocates.com/>

Volunteers

MaLisa Martin, National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, and Debbie Wyatt, MPRPD, meet with core planning team members to create an interpretive plan for Palo Corona Regional Park. Utilizing the National Association for Interpretation's (NAI) methods for developing interpretive plans, the committee's members were provided an overview to the planning process, defined goals and objectives and developed a stakeholder "Visioning Session" scheduled for December 5, 2019. Subject matter experts, the 25 key stakeholders include interpreters, educators (formal/informal, k-12 and college), governmental, area partners/neighbors, and members who represent people with disabilities.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| FISCAL IMPACT: | Not Applicable. |
| FUNDING SOURCE: | Not Applicable. |
| FUNDING BALANCE: | Not Applicable. |
| RECOMMENDATION: | Informational Only. |