

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT**

BOARD MEETING: January 03, 2024

SUBJECT: Monthly Staff Report

PRESENTER: Dr. Rafael Payan, General Manager

REPORT: The following briefly summarizes some of the key tasks and projects the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) staff undertook from mid-November through mid-December 2023 in addition to performing MPRPD's regular business.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

1. Committees

The Finance Committee met November 29, 2023. The Committee considered presentations on investment options with CLASS and CAMP. In addition, they received information on the newly instituted MPRPD *LGO!* Fund with the Community Foundation of Monterey County and the Strategic Plan. Action was not taken.

2. Del Rey Oaks

Administration Division staff met with the City of Del Rey Oaks and Big Sur Land Trust to explore the possibility of increasing the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve's footprint through potential future land acquisition.

3. FEMA – Winter 2023 Storm Damage Compilation

Administrations' and Operations Divisions' staff continued working on FEMA's Damages Reporting Requirements and Requests for Additional Information. Two contracts have been entered into for work in PCRPD's backcountry and San Clemente Blue Rock Open Space.

4. Floodplain Restoration Project

In partnership with the Planning and Conservation Division, Administration Division staff met with legal counsel, consultants, and government officials to discuss the project's status.

During the December 11, 2023 meeting, it was determined that the construction start for Phase I (the western side of the Rancho Canada Unit's restoration project) will be Summer 2025. The original construction start timeframe, slated for Summer 2024, is not feasible due to the many steps that still need to be taken and the time that each step will require.

5. Floodplain Restoration Project Public Outreach

In partnership with the Planning and Conservation Division, Administration Division staff met with SPOKE, a communication consultant, to discuss the kick-off meeting between the consultant and MPRPD staff to launch MPRPD's public information campaign for the Floodplain Restoration Project.

MPRPD will intensify its public outreach with regard to the Floodplain Restoration Project detailing what it is, what the public can expect, and the project's timeframe, among other key factors.

6. Draft Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement for the Multi-Benefit Community Trail

In partnership with the Planning and Conservation Division, Administration Division staff met with legal counsel, consultants, and government officials to 'finalize' this draft agreement.

This agreement describes activities that will soon resolve the Notice of Violation. Activities include trail retrofit and/or retirement, realignment, and new trail construction for the Multi-benefit Community Trail, and Pond #1 enhancement activities.

This agreement also covers additional trail retrofit and/or retirement, realignment, and new trail construction, for the Rancho Canada Unit's other trails, not associated with the Multi-Benefit Community Trail.

7. NOAA \$6M Grant Application and Letter of Support

In partnership with the Planning and Conservation Division, Administration Division worked with SWCA in pursuit of a \$6 million National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant for the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project.

Administration staff issued a Letter of Support for this project to NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Habitat Protection and Restoration Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Competition program manager.

MPRPD's multi-benefit Floodplain Restoration Project directly aligns with NOAA's priorities, as the project will address habitat needs for the federally threatened South-Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), reduce flood stage at a 100-year flood event by more than 1-foot for communities in the Carmel Valley, and restore the natural riverine processes that will sustainably manage future sediment loads from upstream dam removal projects.

8. Palo Corona's Project-B Construction in General

Electrical work by PG&E scheduled for November 30, 2023, was unable to be completed and was rescheduled to December 15. Project closeout should follow closely behind.

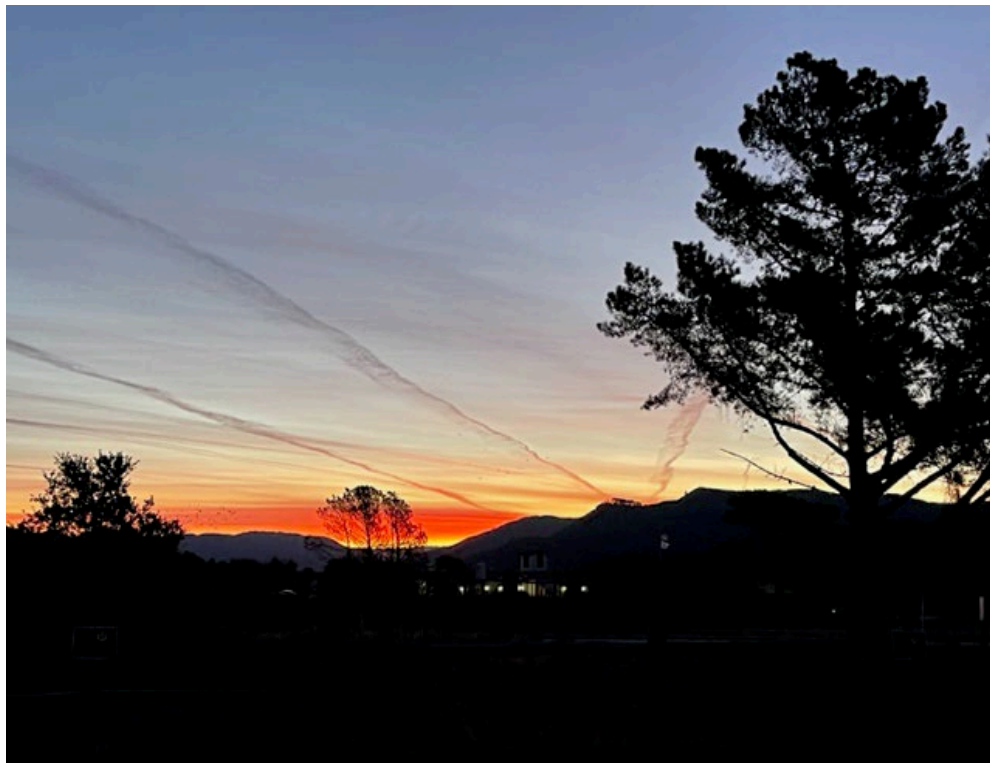
Final electrical work, in addition to PG&E's tasks, included wiring for electrical connections at the Multi-Purpose Pad. These electrical boxes will allow staff, vendors and/or presenter's to plug equipment in outdoors without stringing electrical cords across the property. SWCA continued to provide biological monitoring services for the project.



MP Pad electrical box



PG&E electrical installation



The Universe celebrating the imminent completion of Project-B

9. Policy Creation/Updates Project

Administration Division staff are working on various policies and updates which will be presented for Board approval in the coming months.

10. Pre-qualified Consultants and Contractors

Administration Division continued to assist MPRPD's staff in developing an expanded list of pre-qualified consultants and contractors.

MPRPD developed a list of pre-qualified architects, landscape architects, and engineers 5-years ago. This list of pre-qualified professional consultants has served the District very beneficially over the past five years. With the RCU Floodplain Restoration Project and other projects approaching, additional consultants with expertise in environmental consulting are being added to the existing pre-qualified consultant list.

The District's online e-procurement tool, known as **OpenGov Procurement**, shall be used by all MPRPD divisions to pre-qualify consultants. After the consultants are ranked on their qualifications and narrowed into a small pool to select from, staff from the appropriate Division will present the Board their respective proposed professional service agreements for the specific services required.

11. Strategic Plan

Ms. Christine J. Sliz, Strategic Services Consultant for Regional Government Services, a Joint Powers Authority, has been selected to lead MPRPD's Strategic Plan development project. Ms. Sliz is a highly regarded specialist who has led the formulation of many strategic plans for government agencies, and for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

The Strategic Plan will help the Board and Staff identify and guide the implementation of MPRPD's short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals, establish agency priorities, and guide budget development.

There will be two Strategic Plan development meetings. In summary:

- **MEETING #1: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024 – ONSITE**

- All Directors and key staff shall attend this public, on-site, 6-hour Special Meeting.
- Meeting location to be confirmed. Attendees and public will be notified, and the meeting's agenda shall be posted as required by law.
- In advance of, and in preparation for, Meeting #1, Ms. Sliz will issue several assignments with time certain due dates to all Directors and key staff. She will compile and summarize the information, and provide further direction. This will help us focus our limited time during the on-site meeting

on the most important tasks.

- This meeting's product will be the Strategic Plan's penultimate rendition.

- **MEETING #2: DATE TO BE DETERMINED – TO BE HELD REMOTELY**

- Ms. Sliz will compile and distribute Meeting #1's penultimate rendition to all Directors and key staff.
- Directors and key staff will review the penultimate rendition and provide additional comments and recommendations to Ms. Sliz, copying Directors and key staff.
- This information will be compiled and issued to all Directors and key staff.
- Ms. Sliz may or may not issue additional assignments.
- All Directors and key staff will reconvene for Meeting #2. This meeting will be held remotely. The date for this remote meeting has not yet been determined.
- This meeting's product will generate MPRPD's Five-Year Strategic Plan.

12. Training

Staff participated in the Annual Economic and Financial Markets Webinar, presented by PFM Asset Management. What You Need to Know About Pre-Retirement Survivor Benefits for Public Agency, State and School Safety Employers, presented by CalPERS and the Public Agency Legislative Roundup, presented by Liebert Cassidy Whitmore.

13. New Employee Onboarding

Two new environmental education specialists, Megan Mach and Morgan Tschumi were recently hired and started with the District on December 6. They will assist the EE/CO division with education and outreach projects. We hope to introduce both new employees at an upcoming Board meeting.

14. Year End Audit

Staff continue working on the annual financial audit and preparation of the Financial Statements. Clifton Larson Allen anticipates presenting the Board with the Draft Financial Statements at the January 2024 Board Meeting and the Final Financial Statements at the February 1, 2024 Board Meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH (EECO)

1. Community Outreach

A. Laguna Grande Regional Park Community Town Hall Event | Jan. 17, 2024

Laguna Grande Regional Park's JPA (cities of Seaside and Monterey, and MPRPD) is developing, and will soon provide, environmental education programs at said park. We are embarking on a similar endeavor with the City of Marina, at Locke-Paddon. Jointly, staff are exploring opportunities include public input to make all parks more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive to our region's diverse communities. A public Community Town Hall event is scheduled for Jan. 17, 2024 from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm at the Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center (735 Ramona Avenue) in Monterey.

Staff will provide presentations, voting boards, and public comment sessions on preferred programs and activities. Community members are engaged in outreach to local citizens to solicit participation for this JPA event. Staffing includes Spanish-speakers and volunteers to facilitate an inclusive event for all to share ideas. Future programs include birding for all abilities, wildlife viewing, and special events.

For more information visit: <https://haveyoursaymonterey.org/laguna-grande-park-plan>.

THE CITY OF MONTEREY CITY OF SEASIDE LET'S GO OUTDOORS!

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

Bring your ideas and make your voice heard regarding future outdoor programs at Laguna Grande Regional Park.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

ABOUT OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AT LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK

735 RAMONA AVENUE, MONTEREY

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17, 2024 6:00PM - 7:30PM

email: suggest@monterey.org | haveyoursaymonterey.org/laguna-grande-park-plan

DISABILITY ACCESS: The City of Monterey is committed to including the disabled in all of its services, programs and activities. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in a meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@monterey.org or (831) 646-5955. Notification 30 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting [28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]. Later requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible.

THE CITY OF MONTEREY CITY OF SEASIDE LET'S GO OUTDOORS!

AYUNTAMIENTO DE LA COMUNIDAD

Traiga sus ideas y haga oír su voz sobre futuros programas al aire libre en el Parque Regional Laguna Grande.

NOSOTROS QUEREMOS SABER DE TI

ACERCA DE LOS PROGRAMAS AL AIRE LIBRE EN EL PARQUE REGIONAL LAGUNA GRANDE

735 RAMONA AVENUE, MONTEREY

MIÉRCOLES 17 DE ENERO DE 2024 6:00PM - 7:30PM

correo electrónico: suggest@monterey.org | haveyoursaymonterey.org/laguna-grande-park-plan

ACCESO PARA DISCAPACIDADES: La Ciudad de Monterey se compromete a incluir a las personas discapacitadas en todos sus servicios, programas y actividades. De conformidad con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades, si necesita asistencia especial para participar en una reunión, comuníquese con la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal en cityclerk@monterey.org o (831) 646-5955. La notificación 30 horas antes de la reunión permitirá a la Ciudad hacer arreglos razonables para garantizar la accesibilidad a esta reunión [28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Título II]. Las solicitudes posteriores se atenderán en la medida de lo posible.

B. California Wildlife Day (CWD) | March 20, 2024

Staff are actively preparing for events the week of March 14-24, 2024, with partners including the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy and the Laguna Grande Regional Park's JPA. Established in 2017 by the State of California, CWD was established to honor, preserve, restore, and celebrate the wonders and diversity of California's wildlife. This year's activities are being held at Laguna Grande Regional Park and Palo Corona Regional Park. Set your calendar for Sunday, March 24 from 11:00 am-3:30 pm to join the festivities at Palo Corona Regional Park. We will soon provide times for the Laguna Grande event.

This year's theme is "Protecting Species on the Edge."

C. Social Media Posts (November 16-December 15, 2023):

For this reporting period, posts consisted of district news, promotion of upcoming *LGO!* programming, and educational content about the flora and fauna of MPRPD parks.

The following of MPRPD social media accounts grew in November-December.

i. Facebook stats - @MPRegionalParkDistrict (1) Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) | Carmel CA | Facebook

1. December 15 Follower Count: 2,450 (+47)
2. Facebook Page Reach (number of accounts that viewed a piece of content at least once): 14,127 (+37.7%)
3. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions (November 16-December 15):
 - a. December 6: Upcoming Star Party at GRRP (5,600 reach) (152 likes/reactions)
 - b. November 25: Banana slugs (4,100 reach) (111 likes/reactions)
 - c. December 13: Upcoming Garland's Canyons and Ridges Hike (3,800 reach) (90 likes/reactions)

ii. Instagram stats - @mprpd_igo: Monterey Peninsula Parks (@mprpd_igo) • Instagram photos and videos

1. December 15 Follower Count: 1,391 (+12)
2. Instagram Page Reach (number of accounts that viewed a piece of content at least once): 892 (↑ 7.7%)
3. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions (November 16-December 15):
 - a. December 6: Upcoming Star Party at GRRP (449 reach) (60 likes/reactions)


- b. November 25: Banana slugs (402 reach) (48 likes/reactions)
- c. November 22: Thankful for Rangers (303 reach) (42 likes/reactions)

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)
Published by Let's Go Outdoors · November 22 at 6:00 PM ·

🌱 We are especially thankful this year for the peace of nature and for our Rangers who make park accessibility possible!

🖼️ Image 1: MPRPD Ranger staff making trail improvements in Frog Pond Wetland Preserve in August 2023. Image 2: the redwood grove in Frog Pond Wetland Preserve.

#montereybay #montereycounty #montereycalifornia #monterey #mprpdandme #letsgooutdoors #delreyoaks #nature #naturetherapy #thankful #thankfulness




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👍❤️ 39 2 comments 7 shares

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 Patti Northam
Thank you for doing. One of my favorite places

3w Love Reply Hide

 Elizabeth Murdock
Great folks. Thanks for

3w Love Reply Hide

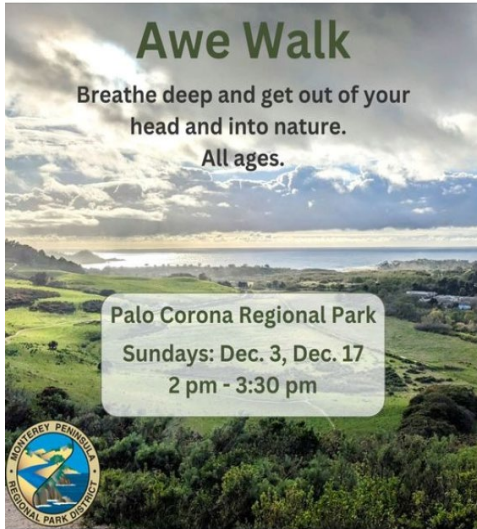
Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)
Published by Let's Go Outdoors · December 2 at 12:20 PM ·

📅 Today (by 4 pm) is the last chance to register for the "Awe Walk" session happening tomorrow Sunday, December 3rd at Palo Corona!

🌿 Breathe deep and get out of your head and into nature. Increase joy, vitality, and gratitude.

🕒 Sundays: Dec. 3, Dec. 17
🕒 2 pm - 3:30 pm

👉 See more



Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)
Published by Let's Go Outdoors · December 3 at 6:00 PM ·

🌱 Here we go, time to gear up for next year's California Wildlife Day!

📅 Join us to celebrate and honor California wildlife on Sunday, March 24, 2024 from 11 am to 3 pm at Palo Corona Regional Park in Carmel Valley. Mark your calendars!

We'll have another great line-up of speakers, activities, food, live music and more!

🎟️ This is a FREE event, all are welcome!

📄 For more information see: <https://cawildlifeday.net/> (link in bio.)

🖼️ Image of original artwork by Emily Underwood featuring paintings of local wildlife with the above event details in the foreground.

#naturetherapy #montereybay #montereycounty #montereycalifornia #carmelbythesea #monterey #mprpdandme #carmelvalley #carmel #nature #PaloCorona #californiawildlifeday #carmelriver #carmelriverwatershed #carmelriversteelheadassociation @californiawildlifeday California Wildlife Day @carmelriverwatershed Carmel River Watershed Conservancy




Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)
Published by Let's Go Outdoors · November 25 at 2:46 PM ·

🦋 Did you know there are eight banana slug species in the west coast of North America, and they are the largest type of slug in the region, reaching about 9 inches?

🌱 These slugs live on the forest floor of coniferous rainforests and depend upon the forest canopy to keep their habitat moist. During dry weather, banana slugs stay underground to prevent desiccation. As the rainy season picks up, you may start to see these golden gastropods out and about eating dead plants, animal droppings, fungi, and moss.

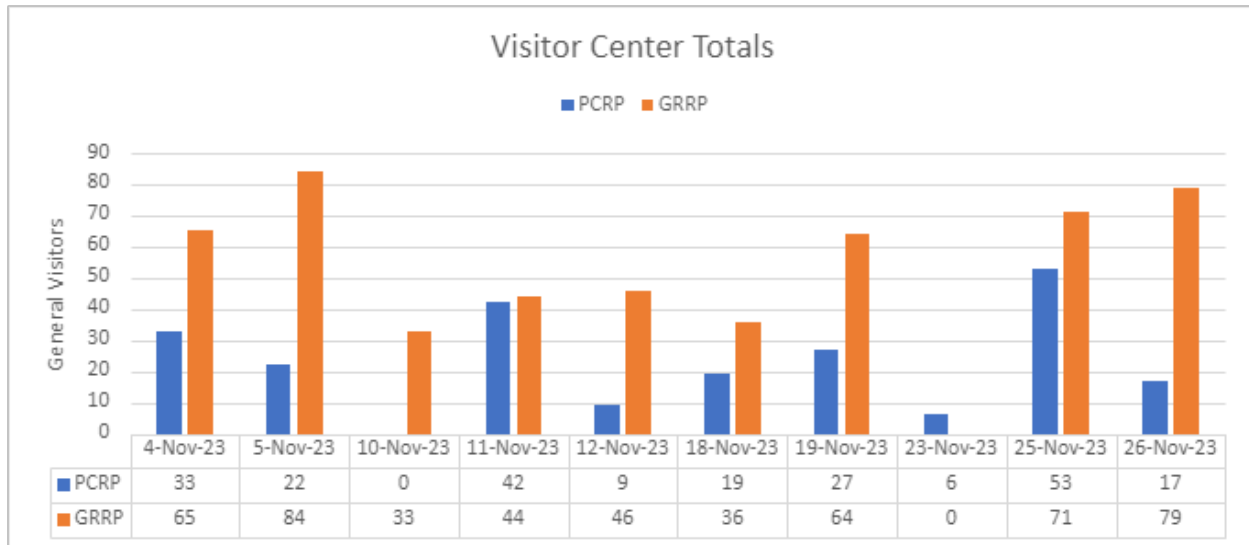
📍 This banana slug was found roaming the forest floor near the San Jose Creek Trail in Palo Corona Regional Park.

#rainyseason #montereybay #montereycounty #montereycalifornia #monterey #mprpdandme #carmelvalley #carmel #nature #PaloCorona #rainyday #carmelbythesea #bananaslug



D. Visitor Center Totals

Staff are continuing to record visitation during weekends, 10 am-4 pm, at both the PCRCP Discovery Center (DC) and the GRRP Visitor Center (VC). The chart below summarizes weekend visitor contacts with staff or volunteers in November 2023. Dates with 0 contacts recorded indicate that the center remained closed due to limited staff availability.



Visitor contacts at the PCRCP DC and GRRP VC in November 2023.

E. Education and Interpretation

i. Educational Programming and Resource Webpage - Staff continue to develop activities and online content in preparation for launching a suite of educational resources by the end of the fiscal year:

1. Drafting of the new “Teachers and Students” subpage under the “Education & Outreach” tab on the mrrpd.org website continues.
2. The first draft of this new webpage will tentatively contain fieldtrip and visitation information for teachers, downloadable resources, and links to local partners to create a hub of environmental curricula customized to local ecosystems in and around the Monterey Peninsula.

F. Discovery Center Tour

Staff greeted 15 attendees on a Rhodes Scholar at the Discovery Center and birding fieldtrip to Palo Corona.



Staff greets Rhodes Scholar birding group in the Discovery Center.

G. Exhibits

- i. Working with local experts on exhibit content and design, staff are progressing on the following exhibits: 1. “Trees are Essential to All, 2. “Tools Now and Then,” a local indigenous story of today, 3. “Homes for All,” a Rumsen-Ohlone Ruk dwelling, 4. “Five Million Years: The Earth’s Changing Climate (formerly Anthropocene), and 5. mountain lion display updates.
- ii. Volunteer Nick Kite, wood craftsman, is providing his skills to construct the “Trees are Essential,” “Tools Now and Then,” “Homes for all (Ruk exhibit),” the mountain lion backdrop, and enhancements to the Carmel River Watershed map in the Palo Corona Discovery Center.

H. Facilities

i. Center Staffing

Plans are proceeding to ensure the GRRP is open to the public starting in March 2024. Volunteers, staff, and student interns will welcome and orient park visitors MPRPD while supporting Rangers to be on the trail.

ii. GRRP Outdoor Classroom

The draft environmental report is under review. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) record search is pending, slowing the process of the archaeological consultants. The geotechnical report is under review impacting the purchase the prefabricated classroom structure from Romtec.

2. Let’s Go Outdoors! Guide and Programs

A. Fall 2023/Winter 2024 Season

There were 19 MPRPD-sponsored programs that took place between November

16 and December 17. The most popular program was Mushroom Mania due to its limited seasonality and unique opportunity to study fungi up close.



“Discover Kahn Ranch” led by MPRPD Volunteer Naturalists Mary Dainton and Cath Farrant.



“Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running” led by Wednesday Night Laundry Runners’ Emily Cole.

3. Volunteers

A. Monthly Enrichment: Volunteer Facilitator Orientation (Meeting Room)

Volunteers attended facilitator training at the Garland Park Ranger Station meeting room and helped set-up for the upcoming Mushroom Programs.

B. Arboretum Volunteers

Volunteers Lois Davidson, Mary Gale, and staff transplanted over a dozen plants out of the construction zone for the Outdoor Classroom which is planned to be built summer/fall 2024.

C. Volunteer Recruitment

Staff worked with Lauren Coakley to complete recruitment material for the California Wildlife Day event coming up in March 2024.

D. New Volunteers

We welcomed Christie Turano to our Volunteer crew. She has completed orientation and has begun training with staff at our centers and facilitate our *LGO!* programs.

E. Volunteer Facilitators and Instructors

During this reporting period, Volunteers facilitated the following *LGO!* programs: Meditative Painting in Nature, Discover San Jose Creek and Ixshenta State Park, Night Hike, Bird Walk, Star Party, two Mushroom Mania classes, Discover Kahn Ranch. In addition, volunteers led the following programs: Night Hike, Bird Walk, Discover Kahn Ranch

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE DIVISION

1. Broken Water Line at PCRP

Rangers coordinated with Ms. Diana Fish's staff to effect repairs of the shared water line at the Palo Corona Regional Park's Front Ranch Unit. MPRPD appreciates our partnership with Ms. Fish to address shared maintenance responsibilities and costs related to Palo Corona.



Rangers exposing broken waterline w/ MPRPD equipment

2. Carmel Valley CERT at Dedampierre Ballfields

The Carmel Valley Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) stepped up to assist with filling and stacking sandbags at Dedampierre Ballfields on December 16th and 17th. This project was spearheaded by Senator John Laird's office via Kate Daniels and supported by the Monterey County Regional Fire District and MPRPD. The sandbags will be utilized if/when the time comes to rebuild the sandbag flood wall along the northern Carmel River levy.



Kate Daniels and CERT team members filling sandbags



Sandbags were stacked onto pallets for ease of future movement

3. Dedampierre Electric Gate

Staff has released a Request for Proposals for the installation of electric gate openers at Dedampierre Park. OpenGov, the district's procurement and contracting platform, will be utilized for this process. Staff facilitated a mandatory pre-bid site visit and is optimistic about issuing a contract for this work by mid-January, with an anticipated project completion by the end of February.

4. FEMA-funded Storm Damages

Calle King Construction started implementing FEMA funded winter storm damage repairs on November 27, starting with addressing road damages in the Palo Corona

Regional Park backcountry. Rangers concurrently took the opportunity to replace an aged culvert with a damaged inlet for which FEMA was unwilling to fund.



Before



After



Before



After

5. FORA Online Munitions Training

Rangers participated in a web-based training exercise addressing the recognition of abandoned munitions at the former Fort Ord Army Base. This training, known as the 3Rs, focuses primarily on how to recognize, retreat, and report potential unexploded munitions.

Recognize

Recognize when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous.

Recognizing when you may have encountered a munition is the most important step in reducing the risk of injury or death. Munitions may be encountered on land or in the water. Although munitions may be present almost anywhere, they may be easy or hard to identify.

To avoid the risk of injury or death:

- Never move, touch or disturb a munition or suspect munition.
- Be aware that munitions do not become safer with age, in fact they may become more dangerous.
- Don't be tempted to take or keep a munition as a souvenir.

Munitions come in many sizes, shapes and colors. Some may look like bullets or bombs while others look like pipes, small cans or even a car muffler. Whether whole or in parts, new or old, shiny or rusty, munitions can still explode. The best way to avoid injury or death is to stay out of areas marked with warning signs or charted as restricted.

Retreat

Do not touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

Avoid death or injury by recognizing that you may have encountered a munition and by promptly retreating from the area.

If you encounter what you believe is a munition, do not approach, touch or disturb it. Instead, immediately and carefully leave the area by retracing your steps—going out the way you entered. Once safely away from the munition, mark the path (e.g., with a piece of clothing) so response personnel can find the munition.



Report

Notify the police at 911.

Protect yourself, your family, your friends and your community by immediately reporting munitions or suspected munitions to the police.

Provide as much information as possible about what you saw and where you saw it. This will help the police and military or civilian explosive ordnance disposal personnel find, evaluate and address the situation.

If you believe you may have encountered a munition, report:

- The area where you encountered it.
- Its general description. Do not approach, touch, move or disturb it to get a better description.
- When possible, describe its
 - Estimated size
 - Shape
 - Visible markings, including coloring

The 3Rs Safety Guide – Recognize, Retreat, and Report

6. Frog Pond Wetland Preserve Closure

Staff coordinated with California-American Water to implement the temporary closure of the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve (FPWP) from December 4 through 15, as Cal-Am's contractor (Coastal Paving & Excavating) dug a trench across Highway 218 adjacent to the FPWP to relocate their main water line. To complete this project, Cal-Am needed to reduce Highway 218 traffic to a single lane, which made the parking turn out at FPWP inaccessible. As of December 20, the FPWP has been reopened, however, Cal-Am has not completed their project and plan to continue construction next year which may result in additional temporary closures.



Photo taken from the FPWP entrance stairs

7. GRRP Parking Lot Repairs

Rangers completed the first round of parking lot repairs following the first series of winter storms. Each winter, staff spends several days filling and compacting potholes in the upper and lower parking lots at Garland Park. MPRPD equipment is utilized for this project, while the aggregate material is either purchased or delivered from a vendor.



MPRPD staff and equipment “ripping” entrance ramp



Prepping for compaction at base of entrance ramp

8. Medical Emergency at GRRP

Operations staff recently responded to a medical emergency near Mesa Pond at Garland Ranch Regional Park, in cooperation with Monterey County Regional Fire District (MCRFD). Rangers heard the page-out from Fire Com, mobilized, and located the patient on Mesa Trail east of Mesa Pond. Rangers loaded and transported the patient via an MPRPD vehicle to an awaiting MCRFD ambulance at the Via Las Encinas Trailhead. The patient is expected to make a full recovery. This

incident is a great example of the outstanding relationship between MCRFD and MPRPD.

A rope rescue training drill is currently being planned for January at GRRP (more on this item next month).



Patient being loaded into MCRFD ambulance

9. Memorial Bench Installation

A memorial bench was recently installed along Laureles Trail at Garland Ranch Regional Park in memory of Raphael “Wes” Scott.



Installed December 13, 2023

10. Mutt-Mitt Dispenser and Garbage/Recycle Enclosure

At the request of MPRPD's General Manager, a new mutt-mitt dispenser and garbage/recycle enclosure were installed adjacent to the bike rack at the Rancho Canada Unit trailhead. Prior to this installation, dog waste had accumulated in the adjacent planters. The improvements now allow dog owners to clean-up after their pets before they begin their hike.



The sign states "Please clean up after your dog"

11. Trail Work at GRRP

This is the ideal time of year to schedule and implement trail repair/reconstruction projects, as soil moisture conditions are suitable for proper compaction. Rangers have been busy clearing drain dips, reshaping swales, and out-sloping sections of entrenched trail for proper drainage.



Segment of Live Oak Trail was out-sloped



Maple Canyon Trail drain dip cleared and compacted

12. Winter Preparations at PCRP

Rangers have been taking the opportunity to address road drainage issues in the Palo Corona backcountry while soil moisture conditions are right (as we are also doing at Garland Park). Staff has been busy clearing drain dips, reshaping swales, outsloping, and spreading slough to regain road width. The big difference between trail work and road work is the ability to utilize equipment.



District excavator clearing dips in PCRP backcountry



District SWECO spreading slough in PCRP backcountry

PLANNING & CONSERVATION DIVISION

- 1. Low-effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the Rancho Cañada Unit of Palo Corona Regional Park:** Staff and MPRPD's consultant, SWCA, continue to work toward the development of a Low-effect Habitat Conservation Plan (LEHCP) for the Rancho Cañada Unit of Palo Corona Regional Park. The Project team continues its work on the development of a comprehensive list of projects, operational activities, and programs that are expected to occur at the park over the next 20 years. This information will be the basis of what activities will be covered by the LEHCP.
- 2. Marina Dunes Preserve Coastal Dunes Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project:** Staff from the City of Marina reviewed MPRPD's CEQA analysis and CEQA Notice of Exemption and determined that the Coastal Dunes Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project (CDREP) is not considered development under the City's Local Coastal Program and issued a determination that CDREP is exempt from Coastal Development Permit requirements.

Staff are now finalizing an application for a scientific collection permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife authorizing collection of Sand Gilia seeds, a protected plant species that will be propagated and planted at the site. Habitat Stewardship Project Monterey Bay (HSP) held one public and four student volunteer planting events at the Preserve, planting 781 native dune plantings at the Preserve.



Volunteer students and members of the public participating in restoration activities at Marina Dunes Preserve

- 3. Multi-Benefit Community Trail:** Staff continue to work with resource agencies and grant funders to develop a plan for realignment of sections of the Multi-Benefit Community Trail. Staff expect to provide an update on the status of the Multi-Benefit Community Trail during the February Board meeting.
- 4. Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project:** The Floodplain Restoration Project's design team has determined that it will be necessary to delay project construction until summer 2025 to allow for more time for project permitting, design, grant funding, bidding, and community outreach. The project team is updating the project schedule and workplan to reflect the new construction date and is adjusting plant propagation efforts to reflect that plant and seedstock will no longer be required in 2024.

Staff are in ongoing discussions with Wildlife Conservation Board staff regarding MPRPD's application for \$19.4M in project funding. MPRPD is also working with other organizations applying for grant funds on MPRPD's behalf in the amounts of \$6M and \$10M.

- 5. Wildfire Crisis Strategy Potential Wildfire Operational Delineation Workshop:** Staff were invited by CalFire and Oregon State University to attend a collaborative planning workshop that included other public and private land managers and fire response agencies across the region. The purpose of the workshop was to delineate planning area boundaries, referred to as Potential Wildfire Operational Delineations (PODs), to inform a cross-jurisdictional assessment of fire and fuel treatment priorities in the Wildfire Crisis Strategy for Southern California [Confronting the Wildfire Crisis | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#). Staff expect that the first version of PODs for the Monterey Peninsula will be released Fall 2024 and that PODs will be updated annually thereafter.