

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT**

BOARD MEETING: April 05, 2023

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-February through mid-March 2023 in addition to performing MPRPD's regular business.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

1. Asian Garden - Shinzen Tour

The City of Marina's residents and staff scheduled an on-site tour of the City of Fresno's Woodward Park and its Shinzen garden, led by Mr. Paul Saito. The information gathered will help the Marina and MPRPD explore the conceptualization of a similar Asian culture-based garden at Locke-Paddon Regional Park. Staff will inform the Board as more information becomes available.

2. Atmospheric River Responses by MPRPD

In response to weather reports related to this winter's repeated storms, MPRPD closed our parks and preserves in the interest of public and personnel safety. These properties were re-opened for public use as soon as possible. Of course, due to storm damaged that included downed trees, and mud and rock slides, some portions of our parks and preserves extended their respective closure until the damage was cleared or remediated. There are portions of our properties that will remain closed for public use until this season's rains cease or become less destructive.

3. Eolian Dunes

Staff met with SWRCB regarding the former Sand City Dump site. As sea-level rise advances, portions of the former landfill are becoming exposed. Several options will be explored regarding mitigation or remediation. Staff will inform the Board as more information becomes available.

4. Fenced in Off Leash Dog Area Concept

Staff met with the Dog Park 4 to discuss temporary options for the dog park's initial construction, prior to the Flood Plain and Upland Restoration Project's (restoration project) start and completion. Although MPRPD is optimistic that the restoration project will start as early as summer 2024, funding and other factors may delay the project's start.

The option that the Dog Park 4 and MPRPD staff have aligned with is the temporary erection of chain link panels at the originally proposed dog park site. This is desirable because it will allow the dog park to become a reality and functional, even in its temporary form.

During the Flood Plain and Upland Restoration Project's construction, the temporary dog park will be removed to facilitate the placement of fill material either within the dog park site or in proximity to it. Once the restoration project's placement of fill materials has completed, the permanent dog park will be erected at this original site.

5. California Red-legged Frogs (CRLF)

Staff, with the assistance of Legal Counsel, continued to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding this listed species and its presence at Palo Corona Regional Park's Rancho Canada Unit. Staff has met with our consultant Wedgewood Weddings, our Project B's contractors, and the Santa Lucia Conservancy regarding requirements when operating in potential CRLF habitat and what to do if one is discovered.

6. FEMA Application

Staff continues to work with FEMA to address costs associated with the 2023 January's storm damage and recovery. The applicant's Recovery Scoping Meeting (RSM) took place on Monday, March 6. An Initial Damage Assessment has been submitted -- however Operations Division staff are still assessing storm-related damage. The RSM meeting starts a 60-day clock, in which all damages that will be claimed, must be identified. In addition, all damages are being reviewed for potential submission as CJPIA insurance claims.

7. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget

Staff continues with budget development and plans to present the draft document for Board review in June.

8. FORTAG

Staff met with FORTAG's proponents to refine the trail's concepts, which will optimistically soon result in its construction. Key points of connectivity to FORTAG include Frog Pond's east and west units. Careful environmental analysis and planning must be executed to ensure Frog Pond's continued protection.

9. Joint Powers Authority (JPA) at Laguna Grande Regional Park

City of Monterey and Seaside staff met with MPRPD to discuss the park's JPA agreement. Topics that were initially discussed included: continued development of the park's Trail Maintenance Strategy and securing required permits from several local, state, and federal organizations; pursuing grants for the project's implementation (first phase estimated at \$156,000, and second phase estimated at \$899,650); filing of a Notice of Determination (\$2K will be MPRPD's portion), and other related costs to be identified.

The cities are also exploring the potential cost sharing of the park's operation, of which MPRPD holds over 60% of the is park, namely the wetlands and lake. MPRPD restated that our funds are very limited, The cities concurred that this would be taken into serious consideration. The cities and MPRPOD agreed to soon reconvene to continue discussions. Staff will inform the Board as more information becomes available.

The cities expressed their thoughts that MPRPD's plan to include an incident command center at PCRPs Rancho Canada Unit was wise and will look at replicating this at Laguna Grande and perhaps other municipal parks.

10. On-call Services

Staff continued to issue solicitations through the District's OpenGov Procurement site for on-call services related tenant and landlord infrastructure needs. Currently staff are also researching and preparing solicitations for services that may be needed to respond immediately following an emergency. FEMA encourages agencies to have in place prepositioned contracts, which have been through the competitive process in advance of an emergency. This will save staff time during an emergency and allow the agency to respond immediately to emergency action repair needs.

11. Project-B Accessibility

Staff continued to work with Project-B's consulting engineer to research the desire to identify additional ADA-compliant van parking bays at the Rancho Canada Unit's paved parking lot. Said parking area complies with ADA but MPRPD would like to enhance our facility if possible.

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

Construction activities progressed throughout the month of March. PG&E's trenching transformer and conduit installation are awaiting dry weather. New kiosk signage was installed.

Project-B's progress reports have been jointly prepared by MPRPD's Project Manager, rangers, and the Ausonio construction management team. Ausonio's team continues to coordinate closely with Wedgewood to ensure no negative impacts affect the concessionaire's events. Tribal Monitors remain on-call to identify and avoid any potential negative impacts to cultural sites when trenching occurs. No cultural artifacts were encountered in the past month. The team has also been working closely with SWCA's biologist to monitor the site for, and to protect, the federally listed California Red Legged Frog.



New kiosk signage installed (ward boundaries, map, rules, bulletin board)



Admin staff Rebecca Smith and Deborah Warcken inspect kiosk signage

13. Palo Corona's Project-B Restrooms

The park's visitation has noticeably increased now that these sanitary facilities have been constructed and are operational. The new eight-cabin restroom building was

especially used and appreciated during MPRPD's California Wildlife Day's celebration.

14. ParkIT! Initiative

As part of the ParkIT! initiative's goals for offsite parking that will support shuttle buses that will link Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, with MPRPD's San Jose Creek and Palo Corona Regional Park, MPRPD designed and has constructed a shuttle bus drop-off in proximity to Project-B's recently constructed restrooms. MPRPD will continue to work with ParkIT!'s team to facilitate and support this important initiative.

15. Recruitment

MPRPD has hired a new Ranger, Ira Comello who will be starting in April. We plan to introduce our newest Team member at an upcoming Board meeting.

16. Rancho Canada Unit Flood Plain Restoration Project Public Outreach

Staff has contacted the county to establish regular meetings between county and MPRPD personnel to discuss the restoration project, ensuring everyone is informed and aligned. Similar public meetings will be held to keep the public informed.

17. Training

Staff participated in California Society of Municipal Finance Officer (CSMFO) Local California Budget Training and Human Resources training.

18. Wedgewood Tenant Improvements at the Rancho Canada Unit

MPRPD's concessionaire, Wedgwood Weddings and Banquets, continued implementation of several substantial improvements for the event venue. These improvements' substantial costs are being underwritten by the concessionaire. The updated and upgraded facilities shall continue to be available for MPRPD's functions as well.



New wedding lawn arbor

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH (EECO)

1. California Wildlife Day and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Carmel River Watershed Conservancy and MPRPD personnel continued to meet in preparation for two 26 March 2023 events at Palo Corona Regional Park's Rancho Canada Unit. These events included the fifth California Wildlife Day celebration and the Entrance Plaza (Project-B) ribbon cutting dedication. The indoor portion of this event was scheduled to be held in the newly remodeled Merienda and Pub rooms. The outdoor event was scheduled to be held on the multipurpose tent pad. The Board will receive a complete summary of the event plus images in the May Staff Report.

Public outreach and the event's advertisement was enhanced through our relationship with Spoke, press releases, media alerts, PSA's and paid ads that were picked-up by the Carmel Pine Cone, Weekly, Herald and heard on KAZU, Radio Bilingüe (KHDC).

In preparation for the CWD and Grand Opening event, a 40'x80' tent was installed on the newly completed multipurpose pad. The pad was designed to allow large vehicles access to the site to offload and set-up equipment.



Equipment being dropped-off at Tent Pad

2. Earth Day Events

Every Day is Earth Day! The demand to recognize and celebrate the earth is high this year, and staff received several requests to join other organizations' events. MPRPD staff is committed to participating at the following Earth Day events:

- A. Locke-Paddon Earth Day Celebration (April 15)**
- B. MEarth Earth Day (April 22)**

3. Exhibits and Interpretation

A. Anthropocene and Climate Change

MPPRD Staff and volunteer, Donna Zahn, have engaged a graphic designer to “put on paper” the lengthy discussion and extensive brainstorming already underway for creation of an interpretive panel about our current geological epoch, the “Anthropocene.” Installation is anticipated to be completed in summer 2023.

B. PCPR Entrance Plaza Panels

Permanent trailhead panels were installed in time for California Wildlife Day that orient visitors to PCPR, including a park map with universal symbols, a notice board, a list of rules and regulations, and the MPPRD district-wide map.

C. Exhibits

The PCPR Discovery Center has seen a recent rearrangement of exhibits and the addition of new ones, including:

- i. **Palo Corona by Season:** Installed in the foyer area outside the front entrance of the Discovery Center, a 5'x4' panel highlights the notable changes in weather, flora, and fauna during the Winter season. Design of the next panel in the rotation (Spring) is now complete and awaiting final supervisory review.



4. Facilities

A. GRRP Outdoor Classroom

As identified in the FY 2022-23 budget, staff engaged an architectural firm to assess the site next to the GRRP Visitor Center for installation of a covered facility to be used by park visitors and education programs. Staff is worked with Regional Government Services (RGS) to research the design options for a prefabricated structure by ROMTEC, Inc. Employing a multi-phased approach, and subject to budget approval, MPRPD's purchase and installation of the structure, may occur over the next two fiscal years.

This covered area will fulfill several pressing needs identified by staff, volunteers, and visitors. It will serve as an outdoor gathering place for scheduled groups and events, a shaded picnic zone during rain or hot weather, and an alternative to the often congested and noisy Visitor Center patio. It will also help to showcase the nearby plants and interpretive panels of the GRRP arboretum.

B. PCPR DC Doors

Staff is working with the Administration Division team and Project-B's consultants to install new ADA compliant electronic front entrance doors, and new rear doors for the PCPR Discovery Center to meet the goals of more equitable access to parks and facilities, per the current FY 2022-2023 adopted budget.

5. *Let's Go Outdoors!* (LGO!) Guide and Programs

A. Publication of Program Updates

The Spring/Summer 2023 *LGO!* publication hit mailboxes in mid-March, and includes programming and other events from 24 March through 24 September 2023. There are over 70 sessions that have the capacity to provide over 700 members of the public with opportunities to engage with MPRPD's mission, learn about the local environment, and build community.

B. PCRP Topographical Map

The Carmel River 3-D watershed topographic map was installed at the PCPR Discovery Center just before the March Board report. The current base will be redesigned and lowered to accommodate people of all heights and abilities.

6. Social Media Posts

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

The following of MPRPD social media accounts grew in February-March:

- A. Facebook stats - @MPRegionalParkDistrict: [\(1\) Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District \(MPRPD\) | Carmel CA | Facebook](#)**
1. March 15 Follower Count: 2,126 (+40)
 2. Facebook Page Reach (number of accounts that viewed a piece of content at least once): 10,798 (↑ 104.5 %)
 3. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions: Feb 15 – March 15
 - a. Feb. 19: Upcoming Raptor Encounter Program (2,457 reach) (47 likes/reactions)
 - b. Feb. 22: Upcoming Volunteer Orientation-boosted with paid ad (4,860 reach) (31 likes/reactions) (69 link clicks)
 - c. Feb. 15: CA Wildlife Day Save the Date (296 reach) (30 likes/reactions)
- B. Instagram stats - @mprpd_lgo: [Monterey Peninsula Parks \(@mprpd_lgo\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)**
1. March 15 Follower Count: 1,129 (+37)
 2. Instagram Page Reach (number of accounts that viewed a piece of content at least once): 1,351 (↓ 49.3%)
 3. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions: Feb 15 – March 15
 - a. Mar. 4: Sunset/New Growth CA Buckeye Ed. post (331 reach) (45 likes/reactions)
 - b. Feb. 15: CA Wildlife Day Save the Date (423 reach) (36 likes/reactions)
 - c. Mar. 1: CA Wildlife Day Exhibitors (278 reach) (22 likes/reactions)

Bird Walk

Discover and learn about our feathered residents on a naturalist guided hike

Palo Corona Regional Park

Saturday, March 4
8 - 11am

mprpd_lgo

Discover some feathered friends this Saturday, space is going quick!

Join a fun and informative bird walk in search of some of the 400+ species of birds that inhabit our wonderful region at Palo Corona with naturalist, Rick Berg.

Saturday, March 4
8:00-11:00 am
Palo Corona Regional Park
Ages 12/up

Reserve your spot for this FREE program here:
<https://secure.rec1.com/CA/monterey-peninsula-regional-park-district/catalog> (link in bio.)

Image description: An image of an acorn woodpecker perched on a granary tree with writing "Discover and learn about our feathered residents on a naturalist guided hike" and event details listed above.

#letsgooutdoors #mprpdandme #birding #education #outdoorlife #naturewalk #carmel #carmelvalley #carmelriver #carmelriverwatershed #monterey #montereybay

View insights

Liked by hspmontereybay and 17 others

FEBRUARY 26

📅 Reserve your spot today for the upcoming Raptor Encounter, space is going quick!

👤 Meet several raptor species up-close and learn about the challenges these magnificent creatures face in our ever-changing world from Falconer Antonio Balestreri. 🦅

📅 Friday, February 24

🕒 6:00-8:00 pm

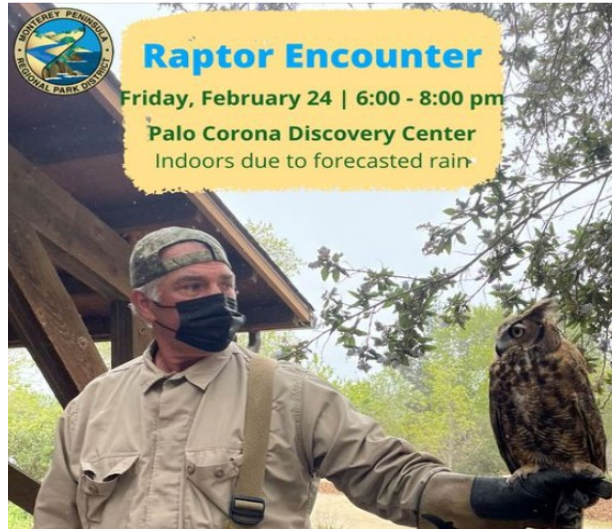
📍 Palo Corona Discovery Center (this event will be held indoors due to forecasted rain). Note the location change from the Garland Ranch Visitor Center patio to the Palo Corona Discovery Center!

👤 Ages 12/up

👉 Reserve your spot for this FREE program here: <https://secure.rec1.com/.../monterey-peninsula.../catalog> (link in bio.)

📖 Image description: Image of presenter with a Great Horned Owl perched on arm, outside of the Garland Ranch Visitor Center. Image includes event information listed in the caption above.

#letsgooutdoors #mprpdandme #montereybirds #monterey #carmel #nature #wildlife #conservation #education #raptor



Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)
February 15 at 4:09 PM · 🌐

🌱 We are excited to announce the upcoming California Wildlife Day event in Carmel Valley on Sunday, March 26th from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm!

🌿 This annual community event is held at Palo Corona Regional Park and sponsored by Carmel River Watershed Conservancy and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD).

🦋 This FREE event will feature speakers, panel discussions, live music, food for purchase, guided nature walks, activities, and more! Come rain or shine! 🌧️

👉 For more info. (link in bio.): <https://cawildlifeday.net/cwd-2023-carmel-valley/>

🌿 We are a part of nature: not apart from nature!

#cwd2023 #carmelriver #watershedsience #visitcarmel #mprpdandme #carmelvalley #monterey #montereybay #montereycounty #freeevent #freeevent #PaloCorona #wildlife #conservation #natureevents





Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)

March 4 at 4:09 PM · 🌐

...

🌿 As spring approaches, the sun is setting later and new growth is appearing all around us, such as these emerging California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) leaves along the seasonal waterfall trail at [Garland Ranch Regional Park](#). Once these leaves fully emerge, they will form a palmate structure of five to seven separate, lance-oblong leaflets.

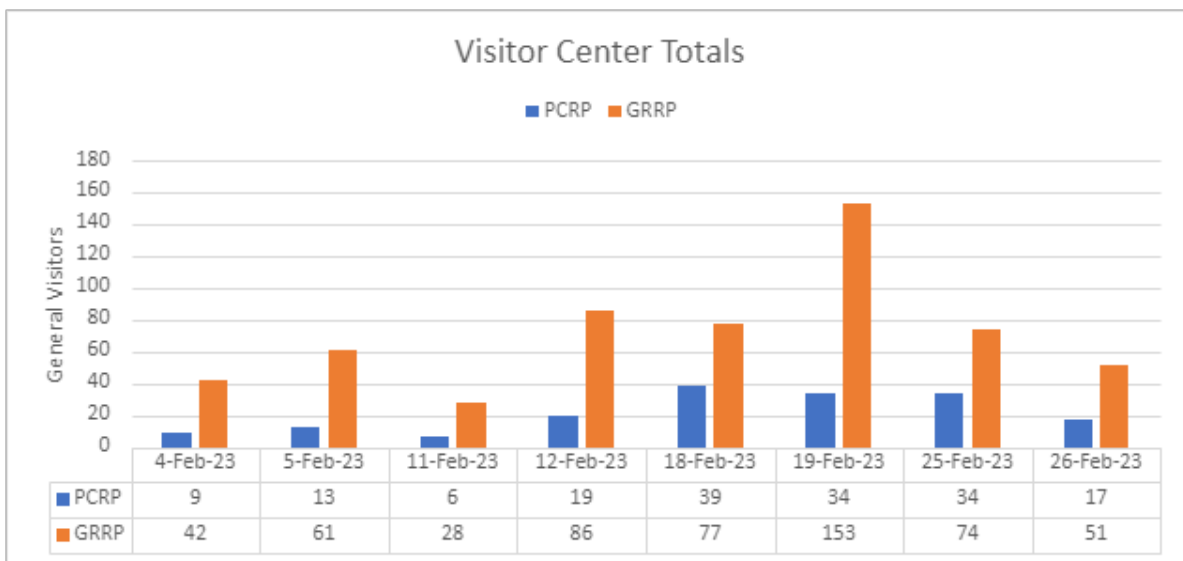
🌳 Did you know that this native California tree can live for 200 years. Look for its pink and white flower clusters in the mid-summer and its large brown namesake fruit (TOXIC) in the late summer!

#mprpdandme #carmel #carmelvalley #carmelriver #carmelriverwatershed #garlandranchregionalpark #monterey #montereybay #montereypark #montereycounty #montereypeninsula #winter #wintergarden #spring #springtime



7. Visitor Center Totals

Staff has been monitoring and collecting visitation data during weekends, 10am-4pm, at both the PCRPP Discovery Center (DC) and the GRRP Visitor Center (VC). The chart below summarizes weekend visitor contacts with staff or volunteers in February 2023. Weather conditions and flood events continued to impact park visitation during the first two weeks of February.



8. Ward Posters

The Ward posters developed for MPRPD's 50th anniversary, which provide an overview of each ward, highlight parks and open spaces within each area, and introduce the public to their elected Board Director. These posters were installed in the breezeway by the Palo Corona Regional Park's Rancho Canada Unit Discovery Center (DC) and the administration offices. The public is responding positively to the posters, and are more likely to visit all our parks and preserves, and the DC to find out more.



9. Welcome Desk and Entrance

The rearranged area looks fantastic, showcases the room better, and allows for an easier public ingress and egress. It also frees up some space for better use of the center area during events/gatherings, such as our Board meetings.



10. Volunteers

- A. Returning to work after three years of remote work and isolation has its challenges. April 1 marks the first Volunteer Recognition event held by MPRPD since 2019. Taking advantage of PCRPs newly constructed restrooms and outdoor venue, the event will take place on the new multi-purpose event pad. Please join in the celebration.
- B. Big Sur Land Trust staff and MPRPD volunteers assisted Maintenance and Operations Division staff with scouting and reporting on MPRPD's parks and backcountry trails after this winter's wind storm and flood events.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE DIVISION

1. Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council

Staff attended the March convening of the Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council. Updates were provided to the public including a flood damage report, Palo Corona Regional Park floodplain restoration project, Project-B capital improvement project, and an invitation to California Wildlife Days on March 26. Officials from local, state, and federal agencies were present including Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Supervisor Mary Adams, and others.

2. Cachagua Community Center Apartment Roof

The small apartment's roof suffered additional damage as a result of January and March wind events. Staff initiated the project on Procure Now, and conducted a mandatory site visit for interested contractors on March 2. Proposals have been submitted and the District is in the process of selecting the most responsive contractor. This project will provide a significant increase in the park's resiliency against extreme conditions during the hot summer days and cold winter nights, and will include the installation of rain gutters and downspouts. This project is being coordinated by Rangers, with assistance from RGS Consultants and Admin staff.



CCC Apartment Roof Damage

3. Cachagua Community Park Classroom Tree Damage

A large Maple tree recently fell onto the Carmel Unified School District (CUSD) classroom located at Cachagua Community Park. Fortunately, the tree did not fall with enough force to significantly damage the building. CUSD staff assessed the building, then hired a tree service contractor to remove the tree and haul the debris.



Tree down on CUSD Classroom

4. Carmel Youth Baseball Opening Day

Opening day for the Carmel Youth Baseball League (CYBL) at Dedampierre Ballfields was delayed due to inclement weather and unsuitable field conditions. Opening day ceremonies will be rescheduled, however, practice and games have already begun. Staff continues to coordinate park improvements and field repairs with CYBL, including any claims for flood damages. The outfield chain-link fencing damaged by flood water was made a priority and has since been replaced.

5. FEMA Recovery Meetings & Site Visits

Ops and Admin staff met with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel to discuss recent flood and storm damage suffered by the District during the month of January. This Recovery Scoping Meeting (previously known as a kick-off meeting), included discussion concerning the District's damage inventory and related information requirements, documentation needed for projects, and other damages incurred by the District. Ops staff provided a PowerPoint presentation of the District's damage assessment, similar to what was presented to the MPRPD Board on February 1, 2023. Recurring follow up meetings have been scheduled every Tuesday until the District's claim is closed out.

6. Fiscal Year 23/24 OPS Budget

Rangers met recently to discuss and finalize the Operations and Maintenance Division fiscal year 23/24 proposed budget request. Each year, Rangers are given the opportunity to propose projects and/or equipment to be included in the O&M Division proposed budget, which then goes to the Finance Committee, and eventually the full Board, for consideration.

7. Frog Pond Wetland Preserve Trailhead Flooding

On Friday, March 10, 2023, the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve was closed due to flooding at the base of the Preserve's entrance stairs. This was a 2-day closure and resulted in no significant damage to the stairs, signs, or trail system. After the high water receded, it was determined that a blockage entering the large drainage culvert under Highway 218 may have contributed to the temporary flooding.



Flooded FPWP Trailhead



HWY 218 Culvert Inlet

8. Garland Park Ranger Station ADA Improvements

Staff continued to work with Kasavan Architects to complete an ADA assessment of the Garland Ranch Regional Park Ranger Station and Meeting Room. Once completed, a list of recommendations will be utilized to prioritize ADA improvements at this facility. Drawings will also be provided that will guide the construction of a new ADA ramp from the parking pad to the meeting room. The previous ramp was removed due to rotten decking and framing.

9. Marina Dunes Preserve Tree Trimming

Gabilan Conservation Camp inmate crews spent two days at the Marina Dunes Preserve's (MDP) south entrance high limbing trees and chipping brush to address the recent increase in homeless activity at this site. Rangers also removed surplus lumber, kiosk panels, and fencing from the restoration site. These materials will be used at other locations.



Gabilan Crew highlimbing eucalyptus trees at MDP



Cypress brush staged along Dunes Drive to be chipped

10. Ops & MPRPD Training Days

Staff recently coordinated with JPIA to schedule three additional safety trainings for Rangers and other MPRPD personnel during our an All Staff Meeting. Sessions will include Backhoe, Front End Loader, and Skidsteer training on May 19 (Rangers), Bloodborne Pathogens, Biohazard, Hearing Conservation and Heat Stress on June 16 (Rangers), and Fire Extinguisher Training on July 12 (MPRPD staff).

11. Palo Corona Temporary Ranger Station

Rangers are proposing the purchase (or lease) of a mobile office trailer to be utilized as a temporary Ranger Station until funding for Project-A. This temporary office will allow more Rangers to be stationed at Palo Corona Regional Park and will be located adjacent to the Rancho Canada Unit's extant maintenance shop.

12. Project-B Irrigation Connection

Rangers continues to work with Avila Construction (Project-B's contractor), BFS Landscape Architects, and Maggiora Brothers to diagnose, repair, and program the existing irrigation infrastructure at Rancho Canada. This existing infrastructure will be connected to new Project-B irrigation infrastructure to create a single, automated, programmable irrigation system.



Existing RCU Irrigation Panel

13. Race for Open Space Preparations

Following each significant storm system, Rangers assessed Palo Corona Regional Park's backcountry for additional damages and current conditions. These conditions were shared with Big Sur Land Trust for their consideration in determining the date for the upcoming postponed Race for Open Space event, now rescheduled for May 27, 2023. Recently, BSLT's Special Use Permit was amended to allow BSLT staff to conduct maintenance activities on MPRPD properties in preparation for the event. Rangers are looking forward to working with BSLT in the removal of trees, rock and mud slides, and other obstacles from event routes identified by BSLT.

14. Seasonal Ranger Staff Addition

The Operations and Maintenance Division is happy to welcome its newest member, Mr. Ira Comello, to the team. Ira brings experience as a member of the Big Sur Fire Brigade where he was formerly a captain on Engine 7811. Ira grew up in the area, and is very excited to be given the opportunity to contribute to the preservation and protection of MPRPD's parks and open spaces. Ira will be stationed at Garland Ranch Regional Park until the mobile Ranger office is finalized at Rancho Canada. Please join me in welcoming Ira to the team.

15. Storm Damage Update

As anticipated, Mother Nature was not finished following the series of atmospheric river events that pummeled the Central Coast during the month of January, which significantly impacted District parks, preserves, and infrastructure. On March 10, an atmospheric river event caused the Carmel River to come within a few feet of the sandbag retaining wall.



Carmel River on March 10 @ Dedampierre Park

For the past several months, Rangers have been focusing on assessing damages, prioritizing repairs, and implementing the necessary (sometimes minimal) measures to reopen parks as quickly as possible following each event that requires the closing of District properties in the interest of public and staff safety. Rangers are hopeful that the worst is behind us, and we can begin to implement permanent repairs and

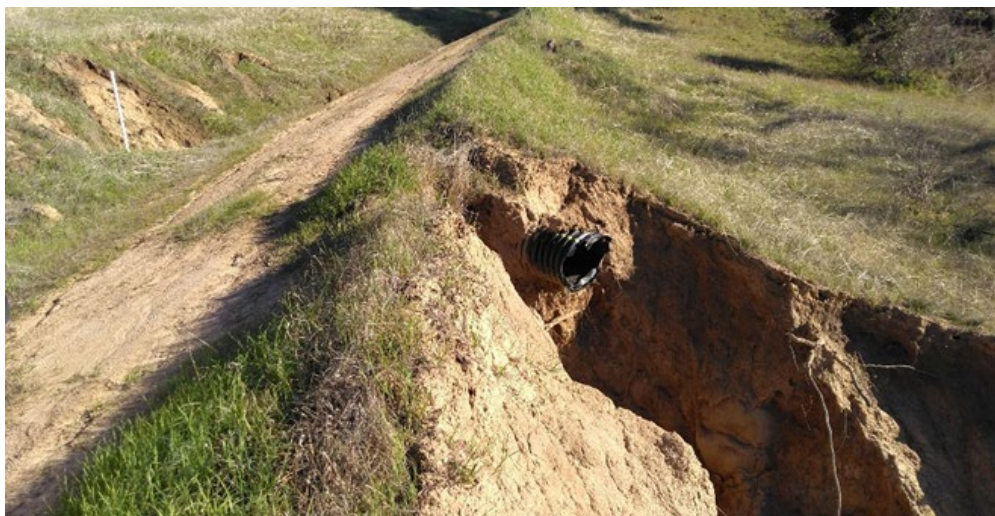
contract with equipment operators to affect those repairs that require specialized equipment. Those repairs that require hiring a specialized equipment contractor include Palo Corona's backcountry road repairs and mitigation project, DeDampierre Ballfields parking lot resurfacing project, and the San Clemente Blue Rock Open Space road repair and debris removal project.



Road damage along PC Trail



Undermined road in PCRP Backcountry



San Clemente-Blue Rock erosion caused by culvert drainage



San Clemente Blue Rock road slide

When there was a break in the weather, Rangers moved quickly to address those items that were of greatest threat or benefit to the public, including removal of downed trees, parking lot repairs, and reuniting lost pets with their owners.



Rangers Joe and Jared removing a fallen tree on Fern Trail



Ranger Jeff re-grading GRRP's parking lot



Lost dog reunited with owner

16. Wind Events on March 9-10 and 14

Rangers closed all MPRPD parks and preserves due to a series of wind events occurring on March 9, 10, and 14. These events included wind gusts of up to 70 mph. Rangers worked quickly and efficiently to close each park, then staffed the most popular trailheads to address incidents of trespass and/or vandalism. Once these events passed, Rangers reopened parks and preserves as quickly as possible to allow public access to resume. All MPRPD Divisions paid special attention to weather forecasts to help inform decision making.

PLANNING & CONSERVATION DIVISION

1. Cachagua Community Park Water System Improvements

Staff are working with representatives from the Carmel Unified School District to review new state regulations for water systems which may require additional improvements, monitoring, and reporting for the park's water systems that also provides water to CUSD's classroom which is located in their lease area in the park.

2. Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024 Work Plan and Budget Development

Staff continued to work across and with MRPPD's divisions to develop a workplan, budget, and staffing proposal for the 2023/2024 FY budget proposal. Staff anticipated that some active or proposed 23/24 FY projects may need to be due to a lack of staff within the Planning and Conservation Division.

3. Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation and Management Plan

The Fuel Mitigation and Fire Management Plan (FMFMP) has required more time than originally anticipated to develop priority fuel treatment areas and potential treatment prescriptions within the park. Staff expect to bring a draft plan to the public before the end of the fiscal year, but do not expect to have a plan ready for Board adoption until late summer 2023 (last planned for June 2023). Staff are also focusing limited resources on advancing already funded fuel reduction projects within GRRP to help prepare for the 2023 fire season.

4. Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation Projects

Staff are scheduling site visits with the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) staff to scope fuel breaks on Garland Ranch Regional Park and San Clemente-Blue Rock Open Space Preserve as a part of the Cal Fire funded Carmel Valley Fuel Break Project. RCDMC has also secured Denise Duffy & Associates to assist with environmental review and permitting for additional Coastal Conservancy funded projects on Garland Ranch Regional Park, including thinning of the eucalyptus grove near the Rancho Loop Trail and a shaded fuel break along East Garzas Road. Staff will be meeting with RCDMC and DDNA in early April to develop a scope and timeline for their work.

5. Laidlaw-Apte Vegetation Management Project

Staff are working with the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District and Cal Fire to reduce unnaturally high vegetation levels and fuel loading in the Laidlaw-Apte Preserve. Initial pre-construction surveys were completed in early March however, project implementation is expected to be delayed until June 2023 due to heavily saturated soil conditions at the site and contractor scheduling conflicts.

6. Locke-Paddon Wetland Community Park

Staff are working with the City of Marina to coordinate review and approval of multiple community and city-led projects in the park to ensure they are compatible with any property restrictions and coastal zone regulations. MPRPD and City staff are also using this as an opportunity to update their staff points of contact and reaffirm how MPRPD and the City of Marina will work together on issues in the park, including management and future projects.

7. Marina Dune Preserve Restoration Project

Staff received Board approval to proceed with PG&E funded restoration work according to Coastal Conservancy approval requirements and are now working with Burleson Consulting to develop an updated 23/24 FY workplan for restoration activities, including environmental review, permitting, and implementation.

8. 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.

9. Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project Permitting

The project team has completed its CEQA assessment and is in the process of finalizing its state and federal permit applications. The project team also met with County staff to identify a County permitting approach for the project.

10. Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project Plant Propagation

MPPRPD staff are securing the services of Denise Duffy & Associates (DDNA) to coordinate initial seed collection and plant propagation activities that must begin this spring to provide sufficient plant stock for the Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project. One of DDNA's initial tasks will be to assist staff with evaluating and selecting 1-3 local nurseries that can propagate collected plant seed and cuttings. Staff expect to return to the Board as soon as May 3rd to seek approval to fund agreements with these nurseries.

11. Rancho Canada Unit's Landscaping Irrigation Water Budget

Staff received a water budget from BFS consultants that quantified the water consumption of different irrigated landscaping areas in the unit. This information, along with historic well data, is now being used by staff and Wedgewood Weddings to develop an updated plan for irrigated landscaping that will ensure water consumption is under 5 acre-feet per year. Staff expect that landscaping activities will need to be reduced to stay under the 5-acre-foot allotment. Wedgewood and MPPRPD have favorably discussed the replacement of non-native plants with native vegetation for a substantial of the park's entrance areas as part of the park's Floodplain Restoration project.