

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
STAFF REPORT**

**BOARD MEETING:** April 06, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Monthly Staff Report

**PRESENTER:** 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 2022 through mid-March 2022 in addition to performing MPRPD's regular business. This work was accomplished in compliance with the CDC's recommendations and the State's and County's COVID-related guidelines.

**ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

**1. Class & Compensation/Benefits Survey:**

- A. Phase I (Classification Analysis):** Staff continued working with consultants on Class & Comp Study after Board approved comparator agencies for compensation and benefits survey.
- B. Phase II (Compensation and Benefits Analysis):** This phase shall facilitate comparison between MPRPD's job classifications with those found in this region. It is understood that comparisons may include identical or similar job classifications. This analysis will help determine if compensation and benefits for each MPRPD classified position align with those found in the region.

We hope to complete Phase II this current Fiscal Year and shall present the consultant's analysis, findings, and recommendations to the Board for review and action shortly thereafter.

- 2. COVID-19:** Staff continued to participate in weekly meetings with the County OES and local jurisdictions. Health departments across the nation have expanded their research and recommendations to address the new Omicron BA.2 subvariant.
- 3. Cross-country Course at the Rancho Canada Unit:** Big Sur Marathon Foundation (Foundation) and MPRPD Staff reviewed the draft agreement with Don Chapin Company, Inc. This agreement will authorize construction of the 12' to 13' wide decomposed granite-surfaced cross-country course.

The course alignment has been staked and construction may begin within the next thirty-days. The Foundation and the region's school districts are in consultation in anticipation of holding this course's first cross-country meet in August 2022. The Foundation held a successful fund-raising campaign, reporting that the project's forthcoming construction is fully funded. Additional information is provided in the O&M Division Report, below.

4. **Dog Park at the Rancho Canada Unit:** Staff met with the "Dog Park Four" to discuss the project's design, grant and funding opportunities, and potential construction schedule that may concurrently take place during construction of Project B's restroom building and Discovery Center's bus staging area, and the riparian habitat restoration project.
5. **FORTAG Project:** On March 22, 2022, staff participated in the City of Del Rey Oaks Council Meeting to discuss the proposed State Route 218 underpass at the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve project in public session. Staff provided information on the State Appellate Court's recent ruling wherein the court ruled favorably regarding Park District's authority in solely determining land use on their respective property(ies). MPRPD stated its overall support for the FORTAG project.
6. **Fire and Fuel Load Mitigation Committee:** Staff met with the committee to discuss options to maintain focus on this important matter during the latest monthly meeting. Grants and funding options, grazing opportunities, and other related topics, were discussed.
7. **Government Compensation In California Report:** Staff completed and submitted the annual *Government Compensation In California Report*, required by the State Controller's Office. The report is viewable online at the following url: <https://publicpay.ca.gov/Reports/SpecialDistricts/SpecialDistrict.aspx?entityid=1910&year=2020>. Links to this report and other District Financial data are available on the District website under the District Transparency page.
8. **Interpretive Exhibits:** Progress continued to be made on several interpretive exhibits currently undertaken by staff. These projects include:
  - A. **Condor Wingspan:** The exhibit wall was framed-in, providing much-needed space for this exhibit. This exhibit allows visitors to compare their "wingspan" with that of an adult California Condor's up to 10' wingspan.

- B. Jade:** This exhibit will feature a specimen(s) of Big Sur Jade, feature the geological facts that have facilitated this gem's formation, and stories and laws regarding its collection.
- C. Ruk (Rumsen House):** Staff continues to work with the Rumsen Tribe planning, designing, and subsequently constructing the ruk (pronounced: rook) within the Palo Corona Regional Park's Discovery Center at the Rancho Canada Unit.
- D. Tule Boat:** The exhibit's base is nearing completion. Additional items for this exhibit will include a Rumsen fish trap, cordage fishing nets, baskets with abalone, mussel shells and other ocean-based foodstuffs, etc. Interpretive panels will describe these items and shall also provide information on the Kelp Highway – a theory that posits that the Americas' first settlers utilized watercraft to travel from Asia to the Americas along the Pacific coast. The Kelp Highway theory supplements the long-standing Asia-Alaska land bridge theory.



**Tule Boat Dry-docked "After a Day of Fishing"**

- 9. Notary Commission:** MPRPD's Finance Manager serves as the District's in-house Notary. The Notary commission must be renewed every four (4) years. Staff recently completed the required training and proctored exam to renew the commission for an additional four-year period.
- 10. OPEB/CERBT Actuarial Valuation:** Staff recently worked with the actuarial *North Bay Pensions* to complete the required biennial actuarial valuation of the California Employers Retirement Benefit Trust (CERBT). These are the funds set aside for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). The trust investments are performing well,

and the plan is currently 147% funded. A more detailed review of the plan is being presented at the April 06, 2022, Board meeting.

#### **11. Personnel Recruitment:**

**A. Recruitment Process for Vacant Positions:** The recruitment and selection processes continued for the Planning & Conservation, Ranger, Environmental Education Specialist, and Accounting Tech positions. Applications continue to trickle in.

**B. Planning and Conservation Program Position:** Interviews for the Planning and Conservation Program position were conducted. Four (4) highly qualified candidates were interviewed. The interview panel consisted of five (5) panelists. Two (2) of the five panelists represented external organizations that the selected candidate will be coordinating the RCU Riparian Habitat Restoration project with. The three other panelists included MPRPD executive staff. It is anticipated that the position shall soon be filled.

**12. Project-B (Restroom, Outdoor Classroom, and Bus Staging Area) Project:** Staff continued to advance the project towards the construction phase. The project was placed out to bid on the *ProcureNow* electronic procurement site. Bids were publicly opened on March 24, 2022. Two contractor's submitted bids. The low bidder was Avila Construction Company, and that contract is being presented to the Board for review and approval at the April 06, 2022, meeting.

**13. Riparian Habitat Restoration Plan:** Staff continued to meet with the State Coastal Conservancy and McBain Associates (the project's project designers) and other parties to advance the project's planning and design. More information shall be presented to the Board as this project moves forward.

**14. RIRE and Per Capita Grants:** Staff continues to work on grant requirements prior to being able to submit costs for reimbursement. One requirement is a sign recognizing the source of funding. Signage is to be placed at the site of the improvements. Signage is being designed and developed with the assistance of the EECO Division. Staff anticipates viewing the sign's initial proof within the next two weeks.

A second requirement includes a deed restriction which must be recorded on the property. Staff is preparing the deed restriction and expects to record that within the next few weeks, as well.

**15. Senate Bill 88 Water Diversion Reporting:** Staff met with water rights consultant Nancy Isakson, regarding the District's annual water diversion reporting, and the requirements of Senate Bill 88, which added measurement and reporting requirements for a substantial number of diverters, statewide.

The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights (a/k/a: State Water Board) relies on diversion measurements and annual reports for water resource planning and to keep diverters informed, particularly in times of drought. The District reports, on an annual basis, water diverted from the Carmel River at Cachagua Community Park for the site's potable water system.

**16. San Jose Creek Trail:** Staff continued outreach with the Big Sur Land Trust and California State Parks regarding the opening of portions of the San Jose Creek Trail for public use. Two concepts are being rolled out:

**A. Docent Led Tour:** This pilot project entails a docent led tour wherein guests register to join a docent led hike, convene at the Rancho Canada Unit's parking area, take a shuttle van to the State Parks' maintenance compound at San Jose Creek, and are provided an interpretive hike to and across the redwood canyon's three pedestrian bridges, then return to the van awaiting them at the State Parks' maintenance compound which provides transportation back to the Rancho Canada Unit parking area. A future version may offer the opportunity for some guests to hike back to the Rancho Canada unit rather than taking a van ride.

**B. Out-and-Back Hike:** Another option that may be offered as early as this summer will allow hikers to obtain an MPRPD Backcountry Permit that will allow a limited number of day-use patrons to venture to the San Jose Creek Trail from the Rancho Canada parking area and trailhead. More information will be provided as this excursion's details are further refined.

**17. Training:** Staff participated in several training sessions. These included the Hacking Human Resources (HR) Conference; Strategic Partnerships and Organizational Alignment for HR Professionals hosted by the *Human Resource Certification Institute*; and Spring into Candidate Experience session hosted by the *TalentBoard*.

Staff also participated in training for performance evaluation writing, capital asset accounting, fraud prevention, and attended the annual CSMFO conference, where staff met with the CalPERS actuary to review the status and funding of MPRPD's pension plan.

The Finance and Budget Divisions especially continue to focus on fraud recognition and prevention training and will provide training to all MPRPD personnel at upcoming All Staff Meetings.

**18. Wildlife Bridges:** Staff met with several parties to discuss the potential of constructing wildlife bridges in the region to reduce the number of animals killed when crossing high-speed highways. This is in the early exploratory stage and shall require a substantial multijurisdictional and public outreach coordination effort. In summary:

- A.** MPRPD is interested in developing mitigation solutions that reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity. We have identified funds that are available for this purpose, including the new \$350 million grant for the federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program that encourages states to adopt “wildlife- vehicle collision safety counter-measures”;
- B.** The recent passage of California Senate Bill 790 that allows the California Wildlife and Fisheries Department and CalTrans to use mitigation credits to modify roadways or plan new projects to improve wildlife connectivity to their habitats; and,
- C.** The proposed California Assembly Bill 2344 submitted for Governor Newsom’s signature that requires CalTrans to develop a comprehensive plan and to build projects every year to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve the habitat connectivity for wildlife.



**Sample Wildlife Bridge**

## **EECO DIVISION**

### **1. Community Outreach:**

- A. California Wildlife Day (CWD):** CWD was celebrated on Saturday, March 19. The celebration was held as a hybrid event with a live, virtual opening ceremony and panel discussions in the morning, and in-person interpretive walks and guide hikes in the afternoon. The event was held at Garland Ranch Regional Park.

The three panel discussions included: “Creating Fire Safe Communities,” “Water and Wildlife,” and “The Intersection of Wildlife & Humans,” with Director Kelly Sorenson on this last panel. Open and closing ceremonies include land acknowledgement messaging from Ohlone Rumsen, Esselen, Costanoan Rumsen tribal members.

This rainy-day event drew an estimated 80-100 participants.

- B. Social Media Posts:** For this reporting period, posts consisted of highlighting park happenings and educational content related to native plant species, National Recreation Day, and Park habitats.

MPPRPD used social media to update the public on the status of the 2022 California Wildlife Day. After a busy Jan-Feb for MPPRPD social media due to high reach from posts, Feb-Mar reports saw consistent growth from both Facebook and Instagram platforms.

#### **i. Facebook stats - @MPRegionalParkDistrict:**

1. March 16 follower count: 1,691
2. Facebook Page Reach: 1,565 (↓ 89.8%)
3. Top 3 most popular posts: February 16 – March 14
  - a. 3/5 Two weeks out from CWD (720 views)
  - b. 3/7 Community Park Planning Event (647 views)
  - c. 2/25 Fiesta Flowers (300 views)

#### **ii. Instagram stats - @mprpd\_igo:**

1. March 16 follower count: 704
2. Facebook Page Reach: 490 (↑ 11.1%)
3. Top 3 most popular posts: February 16 – March 14
  - a. 3/7 community Park Planning Event (222 views)
  - b. 3/5 Two weeks out from CWD (195 views)
  - c. 3/11 CWD Panelists (164 views)

🏠
📺 9
👤
📄

**Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)**

Page · Sports & recreation

4860 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA, United States, California

+1 831-372-3196

nelson@mprpd.org

Message

mprpd.org


Promote Website

Open now

Rating · 4.0 (16 Reviews)

Edit details

Add Hobbies



+ 8

Featured

Edit featured

Photos [See all photos](#)

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

**Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)**


Published by Let's Go Outdoors · March 5 at 9:00 AM

We are officially 2 weeks out from the 2022 California Wildlife Day Event! 🦋🐿️🐻

Join us on Saturday, March 19 in celebrating California's unique biodiversity with this exciting hybrid event. This year's program will highlight the amazing natural communities and watershed of the Monterey Peninsula through a combination of virtual and in-person activities! 🥰

Pre-registration for FREE guided walks will begin March 14. More information about this year's event can be found at: [ht...](#) See more


Weeks Out!



California Wildlife Day

March 9, 2022

Free For All Ages



California Wildlife Day!

Presented by Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

March 9, 2022

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

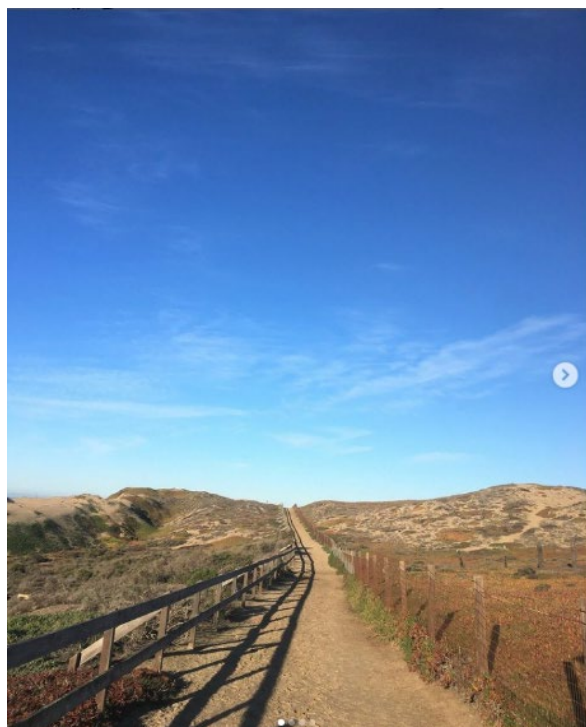
Free For All Ages

See Insights Boost post

8 7 Shares

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...



**mprpd\_igo**

mprpd\_igo Happy National Recreation Day from MPRPD! 🦋🐿️🐻

Here's just a few of our favorite spots around the Peninsula 📸 How will you get outside today?

#nationalrecreationday #outdoors #hiking #biking #letsgooutdoors

3w

**sarah.m.moss** i want to be here! ❤️

2w 1 like Reply

**vicbmoss** Beautiful! ❤️

3w 1 like Reply

[View Insights](#)

👍 🗨️ 📌

Liked by **returnofthenatives** and 35 others

FEBRUARY 22

Add a comment... Post



## 2. Education:

### A. K-12 Education Programs:

- i. The Camel Middle School (CMS) Monterey Bay Outdoor Education (MBOE) is tentatively scheduled for May. The entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade takes 3-days of field trips exploring biodiversity, habitats, and history of the region's watersheds. This year, students shall visit Palo Corona Regional Park, Hastings Natural History Reservation, and Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.
- ii. Discussions have begun with current partners to expand, enhance, and add to school programming on MPRPD's properties.

### B. Service Learning – CSU Monterey Bay:

- i. MPRPD staff, working with CSUMB Service Learners, spent hours restoring the native plant garden and arboretum at Garland Ranch Regional Park. Staff and two (2) Service Learners are developing plans on the long-term management of the native plant garden and arboretum through invasive species removal, native species planting, and watering.
- ii. Rangers and EECO staff collaborated on beautification of the native plant garden and arboretum in preparation for the March 19 California Wildlife Day event.
- iii. The native plant garden and arboretum will be a showcase at the annual summer wildflower show, scheduled to be held in early June 2022.

## 3. Exhibits:

- A. **Anthropocene:** Staff met with Donna Zahn and Ed Clifton to develop an Anthropocene Exhibit as an extension to the geology exhibit installed in 2018. The geology exhibit is being renovated with anticipated completion in June 2022.
- B. **Carmel River Watershed Terrain Map:** Staff, working with the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, contracted with White Clouds Inc., to fabricate a 6' x 7' 3-D Carmel River Watershed terrain map. Installation of the exhibit is scheduled for May 2022.
- C. **Marina Dunes Preserve:** Staff from MPRPD and Burleson Consulting, Inc., interviewed and selected a Scientific Illustration intern to create graphics and illustrations for interpretive signs for the public access trail at the Marina Dunes Preserve. The project will begin in July 2022.

#### **4. Let's Go Outdoors! (LGO!) Guide and Programs:**

##### **A. Winter 2022 Guide concludes March 26, 2022:** Summary Statistics (January 2022-March 2022):

- i. Approximately 500 participants served by LGO! programs
- ii. ~60 sessions
- iii. 1 special event
- iv. 9 community partners (serving an unknown number of participants)
- v. 15 instructors

##### **B. Spring/Summer 2022 Guide begins April 23, 2022:** Guide became available online Friday, April 1, 2022. Registration begins at mid-night, one (1) calendar month before the official activity start date. The printed catalog will become available on the second week of April. Summary statistics:

- i. ~70 sessions
- ii. 4 special events
- iii. 13 community partners
- iv. ~20 instructors

The high interest and demand for participation in programs, especially on MPRPD properties, demonstrates the opportunity to develop a "return to on-site service" for volunteer instructors and facilitators.

#### **5. The California Society for Ecological Restoration (SERCAL) Event:** SERCAL is hosting its annual conference themed, "Think Big, Start Small, Restore Now," at Palo Corona Regional Park the week of May 10-13, 2022. The organizers have requested that MPRPD staff present on the Marina Dunes Preserve restoration and Smith's Blue Butterfly mitigation projects and lead a guided hike on the San Jose Creek Trail. The Discovery Center shall be the host site for the event's evening welcoming get-together and for several sessions.

#### **6. Special Use Permits:** The following special use permits (SUP) were issued during this reporting period:

**A. Montage Health – Walk for Health:** February 7, 2022, Marina Dunes Preserve.

**B. Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History – Watershed Guardians:** March dates will vary for these sessions at Garland Ranch Regional Park.

7. **Training:** Staff participated the *National Association for Interpretation Sierra Pacific Region Workshop*. Presentations included: Elevating Indigenous Voices in Interpretation; Accessible Design; Interpreting History to Inspire Climate Action; Exploring Human Impacts on Biodiversity; and, Creating Programs for varying ages.

8. **Volunteers:**

**A. Dr. Ed Clifton – Geologist:** Dr. Clifton gave an amazing presentation to MPRPD’s Volunteers. The presentation was entitled “*An Explosion in The Earth Sciences: Origins and Applications Of Plate Tectonic Theory - Key To Understanding The Geology Of The World (and Central Coast of California)*”. Ed was the first geologist-aquanaut in 1969, living for 60-days beneath the ocean’s surface in an undersea habitat, with an additional 20-days in 1970, as part of the Tektite Man-in-the-Sea Program. Dr. Clifton showed how plate tectonic theory explains some of the major geological features of the earth and its role in shaping the geology of California’s Central Coast.

**B. Return of the Natives Team and Other Students:**



**Marina Dunes Preserve February 28, 2022:** In the foreground lays piles of iceplant to make room for the planting of native vegetation. The blue flagging reminds K-12 students to avoid stepping on the freshly planted areas. The background shows grey hillside highlighting the diversity of native vegetation. This is one example of the Return of the Natives team’s and other students’ important accomplishments.

- 9. Restoration and Stewardship of Marina Dunes Preserve:** The following was accomplished during this reporting period:
- A.** Seven (7) sand gilia plants were sited. Monitoring the population will continue over the next month and a half;
  - B.** RA-10 (Restoration Area-10) was prepped for spraying by pulling invasive ice plants away from natives to avoid impacts from herbicide;
  - C.** Weed eradication priorities were adjusted in preparation of receiving PG&E grant funds;
  - D.** RA-3 erosion control materials were maintained and look good; and,
  - E.** RA-3 sand fencing and laminated signs were removed due to their deterioration.

## **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

- 1. Big Sur Marathon Foundation (BSMF) Cross-country Course:** MPRPD approved an alignment creating a 3.1 mile, 12' to 13' wide running course at Palo Corona's Rancho Canada Unit. Proposed by the BSMF, this alignment avoids the floodplain restoration project footprint, and keeps runners north of the Carmel River.

The BSMF will provide construction-related plans and performance specifications for MPRPD's review and approval. The approved alignment is shown below:



**BSMF Cross-country Course Map**

- 2. CPR/First-Aid Recertification Training:** OPS and EECO staff participated in a 2-hour training course at Garland Ranch Regional Park to renew their CPR & First-aid certifications. The course was taught by long-time MPRPD volunteer Lee Warner at the Garland Park Ranger Station.



**Ranger & EECO Staff Performing Skills Test**

- 3. Garland Ranch Regional Park Agricultural Display Fencing:** Rangers recently completed replacement of split-rail fencing around farm equipment displays at the Cooper Barn/Packing Shed area of Garland Ranch Regional Park. Broken, aged posts and rails on the previous fence were causing it to lean and fail in multiple locations. This new fence is much stronger than before and will likely last 20+ years.



**Ranger Vandervort Tamping Split-rail Posts**

- 4. Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation and Fire Management Plan:** Proposals from Five (5) qualified firms were received in response to the District's Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation and Fire Management Plan. Staff, in consultation with RGS Consultants, selected the most qualified firm which is being recommended for a contract to complete the

plan. According to the proposal, the GRRP FMFMP is likely to take approximately ten (10) months to complete and will be a comprehensive approach to fuel mitigation and wildfire preparedness for Garland Ranch Regional Park.

Staff also continued to meet monthly with the Concerned Citizens of Carmel Valley group to provide updates and coordinate efforts. Last month, representatives from Senator John Laird's office attended this meeting to demonstrate support for the group's efforts.

Rangers also continue to haul away eucalyptus logs that were produced during the initial phase of the fuel reduction project along the Rancho Loop eucalyptus grove. This work is completed using the District's excavator and the (2) Ford F-350 dump trucks.



**Ranger Jake Loading Eucalyptus Logs Into the Dump Truck**

- 5. Garland Ranch Regional Park Open Space Mowing:** Rangers recently completed mowing of the Thomas Open Space, an approximate 5-acre open space located between Garland Ranch Regional Park and the Carmel Mid-valley Shopping Center. Rangers also began mowing grassy areas adjacent to parking areas and roadways. New for this year, a 30-foot-wide swath was mowed around Rancho loop and Lupine Loops trails, adjacent to the eucalyptus grove, at the recommendation of Cal Fire.



**Mowed Fuel Break Around Rancho Loop Trail**

- Hatton Canyon Fuel break:** Staff has been collaborating with the High Meadows II Homeowners' Association (HOA) to identify and approve creation of a shaded fuel break on the District's Hatton Canyon property. Recently, the fuel break was mowed by a local contractor in preparation of fire season. The HOA's President stated *"We really appreciate the opportunity to reduce the fuel load which will help us mitigate the fire potential in our community. Thank you so much for your support and approval of this project!!"*



**Shaded Fuel Break at Hatton Canyon**

- 7. Memorial Bench Installation on Laureles Trail:** Ranger Jeff Niewenhuis, MPRPD's memorial bench coordinator, built and installed a memorial bench at the junction of Laureles and Vasquez trails at Garland Ranch Regional Park. Redwood salvaged from the Soberanes Fire was utilized to produce this bench.



**In Memory of Charles L. Clark**

- 8. Opening Day at DeDampierre Ballfields:** Carmel Youth Baseball (CYB) held opening day ceremonies and games on Saturday, March 12. Part of Garland Park, MPRPD leases the ballfields to Carmel Youth Baseball League for \$1/year. That league operates said sports facility. Board President Monta Potter was in attendance and said a few words during opening ceremonies. Rangers also graded and compacted the ballfields' parking lot in preparation for opening day.



**MPRPD's President Potter Speaking at CYB Opening Day**



- 9. Palo Corona Backcountry Perimeter Fence Project:** Rangers are working with Bayview Construction to complete this project, which includes installation of approximately 12,050 linear feet of wildlife-friendly perimeter fencing, braces, and gates. As of March 14, Bayview Construction is approximately 80% complete with the project. As expected, the steep, rugged terrain has challenged the contractor and MPRPD’s staff, who routinely visit the project site to conduct quality control inspections. During a recent site visit, Rangers photographed a historic “steam donkey”, used long ago as part of a redwood logging operation in the area (see: second photo, below).



**Finished Perimeter Fencing Along MPRPD/SLC Property Boundary**



**Old “Steam Donkey” Used for Redwood Logging**

**10. Palo Corona Barn Roof Stabilization Project:** Sharp Engineering and Construction has begun stabilization work on the Palo Corona Regional Park Barn Roof. Rangers met with the owner of Sharp Engineering on March 8, 2022, to kick-off the project and provide site access. This project will protect the barn roof from further damage sustained during significant wind events.



**Sharp Engineering Working on Palo Corona Barn Roof**

**11. Race for Open Space:** Big Sur Land Trust has been issued a Special Use Permit to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Race for Open Space at Palo Corona Regional Park. Runners will traverse the Palo Corona backcountry, Mitteldorf Preserve, and portions of the San Jose Creek Trail, before returning to the parking lot at the Rancho Canada Unit. This event is scheduled for the weekend of April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**Race for Open Space Course Map**

**12. Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration:** Rangers continued to participate and provide guidance and on-the-ground intel to the Technical Advisory Committee and McBain Associates. A virtual community workshop was conducted on March 9, 2022, to inform stakeholders and the community of the District's floodplain restoration efforts and plans. A presentation from McBain Associates and SWCA received mostly positive feedback from the community and adjacent neighborhood property owners.

**13. Rancho Canada Mowing:** Staff coordinated the season's first mowing of the Rancho Canada Unit during the month of February, ahead of bird-nesting season which began on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Ventana Forestry continues to be the District's contractor, performing mowing services, which takes approximately 2-weeks start-to-finish each time. The next round of mowing will be scheduled for some time in July, after nesting birds have migrated or relocated from their nesting grounds.



**Ventana Forestry Mowing Rancho Canada Unit**

**14. Ranger Nico de Paolo Leaving:** After 5-years of service, Nico de Paolo has resigned from his position as Ranger for the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. Some of Nico's parting words were, *"I want to express to you all how grateful I am for my time on these lands, and with this organization. I have learned so much working here and it's been a privilege to work with an amazing group of people."* Nico's final day was February 27, 2022. He shall be missed.

**15. Seasonal Footbridges at GRRP:** The 3-seasonal footbridges across the Carmel River have been installed for the 2022 spring/summer season. Rangers installed the

footbridges with assistance from the Gabilan Conservation Camp inmate crews. The seasonal crossings in Garza's Canyon will be installed sometime in early April.



**Gabilan Inmate Crew Installing Seasonal Footbridge**

**16. Trail Work at Garland Ranch Regional Park:** Rangers took advantage of the limited March rainfall to continue trail reconstruction efforts at Garland Ranch Regional Park. Work included out-sloping and reestablishing drain dips along the Saddle and Spring trails. Rangers used the District's mini-excavator exclusively for this project. The District's Sweco trail dozer remains staged at the Vasquez Trail in hopes that late-season rainfall will create ideal soil conditions for additional work.

**17. Wood Chips at GRRP Visitor Center:** Rangers and EECO staff collaborated on Garland Park Visitor Center Arboretum improvements in preparation of California Wildlife Day. This project included the hauling of wood chips by Ranger Joe and EECO Specialist Michael, with spreading of wood chips by the Gabilan inmate crew.



**Ranger Joe, EECO Specialist Michael, and Inmate Crew Spreading Wood Chips**