

PRESS RELEASE



**For Immediate Release
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Photo Available

Frog Pond Wetland Preserve Enhancement Project

Carmel CA, August 31, 2021 – Large equipment deployed to the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's (MPRPD) Frog Pond Wetland Preserve (Frog Pond) is providing much needed clearing of sediment and vegetation to maintain the ponds health.

As a regular part of this man-made freshwater pond's maintenance, the "Frog Pond Habitat Protection, Interpretation, and Enhancement Plan" identifies the need to conduct periodic removal of soil and vegetation as vital measure to keep the area from filling-in with silt and debris and becoming a grassland or woodland. The strategic thinning of tule reeds and relocation of sediment build-up enhances the pond's holding capacity and increases the amount of surface water available to wildlife. For this project, MPRPD's staff operated heavy equipment including an excavator and bucket tractor to remove silt and debris and reestablish the pond's depth. Staff also used a dump truck to haul and relocate excavated materials and spoils.

For several decades, the Frog Pond site has served many purposes, including recently functioning as a wetland. Prior to the 1970s, the site was grazed by horses, cattle, and other livestock by the local ranchers. In 1977, MPRPD acquired its first parcel of this marshland to preserve it and provide access to the public through recreational trails. In July 2020, through a joint agreement between the former Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) and the MPRPD, a 6.9-acre FORA parcel, east of General Jim Moore Boulevard adjacent to the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, was deeded to the park district. Today, the preserve is over 37-acres, with the western portion of the preserve open for passive recreation.

The cities of Del Rey Oaks and Monterey, FORA, and other stakeholders have discussed road improvements, drainage issues, upstream development plans, public access, parcel delineation, and habitat protection plans. Dr. Rafael Payan, MPRPD's General Manager stated, "This project presents a great opportunity to illustrate why periodic dredging is needed to sustain and restore the pond's health -- especially for the benefit of the fauna that relies on it and the beauty it offers folks."

Caine Camarillo, MPRPD's Supervising Ranger, discussed the improvements recently completed at the Palo Corona Regional Park's Animas Pond which is now flourishing with California red-legged frogs, tadpoles, garter snakes, and healthy native vegetation. "The maintenance of these water features are a critical part of the work MPRPD's rangers do."

About the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) has been preserving and protecting parks and open space since 1972. MPRPD is committed to being an inspirational, inclusive, respected, sustainable, and

valued open space district that collaborates with and serves the community, and its conservation needs through interconnected open spaces, public parks, education, and advocacy for the entire community. For more information on the MPRPD and its mission, vision, and open spaces, please call 831.372-3196 or visit www.mprpd.org.