

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

LET'S GO OUTDOORS!

Your adventure activities guide for all ages

FREE
ACTIVITIES
INSIDE



Preserving and Protecting Parks and Open Space since 1972

Welcome

Dear Friends,

Our Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District parks are treasures in every season, each bringing fresh wonders to discover. These special places invite you to connect deeply—with the rhythms of nature, with loved ones, with friends old and new, and even with your own sense of peace and reflection as you wander our trails or centers.

As our mission beautifully states: “To acquire and maintain open space in the District for preservation and use, working with partners and the community, for public benefit, enjoyment and environmental protection.” We live this mission every day, and we warmly invite you to join us—whether for quiet solitude or joyful shared experiences.

In the pages of this Spring/Summer Let's Go Outdoors! catalog, you'll find a vibrant array of opportunities tailored for all ages and interests. Explore ways to stay active with invigorating hikes and exercise programs, expand your knowledge through workshops, seminars, and guided explorations, spark curiosity with family-friendly discoveries, give back as a volunteer, or celebrate at one of our special community events in a park near you.

Thanks to wonderful collaborations with our partners, we're excited to offer highlights such as:

- The Tidepool Bioblitz community science project in Pacific Grove
- Earth Day celebrations at Locke-Paddon Wetland Community Park in Marina
- Laguna Grande’s milestone anniversary festivities where Seaside and Monterey intersect
- The beloved Summer Wildflower Show at Garland Ranch Regional Park
- The lively Cachagua Country Fair
- The ever-popular California Wildlife Day
- And our ongoing monthly stewardship events along our trails and beaches

Now is the ideal moment to step outside, breathe in the coastal air, and make new memories with family and friends. Visit a park near you and dive into the adventures waiting in this catalog.

We look forward to seeing you out there!

Warm regards,

Eric Morgan, General Manager

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District



Cover photo: Stephanie Coates, Point Blue Conservation Science

What's Inside

- 2 WELCOME MESSAGE
- 3 REGISTRATION/INFORMATION
- 4 PARKS PROTECT
- 6 GET TO KNOW YOUR MPRPD PARKS
- 8 GET OUT, GET HEALTHY
- 10 WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, & EXPLORATION
- 12 FAMILY DISCOVERIES
- 14 CAMPS, PAID PROGRAMS
- 16 COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS
- 18 MPRPD PARK MAP
- 19 ADVENTURE PLANNER
- BACK COVER STARGAZING

ICON KEY

- Physical Activity
- Seated Activity
- Binoculars Advised
- Flashlight Advised
- Pack Additional Materials

Registration required for all programs

Scan here to register



ALL PROGRAMS FREE

How to Register

Online | Go to our website at mprpd.org or scan the **MPRPD QR code**.

Walk-in | Available Friday – Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm at Palo Corona Discovery Center or Thursday – Sunday at Garland Ranch Visitor Center.

Phone | Call 831-372-3196, extension 102.

Email | lgo@mprpd.org

Registration | Opens 1 calendar month prior to the activity and closes at 4 pm the day before the activity. **Important: You must register for all programs unless otherwise stated.** An email confirmation receipt is sent upon successful online registration. Contact staff if you do not receive a receipt.

Waitlist | Waitlisting does not guarantee admittance. If a spot becomes available, you will be contacted by either email or phone and have 24 hours to respond. Generally, this occurs within 1-5 days of the program start.

Cancellations | MPRPD may cancel programs due to low registration, weather conditions, or unforeseen circumstances. Cancellation notices will be sent by email. If you must cancel your registration, please let MPRPD staff know by email or telephone at least one calendar day prior to the class. **Registration cannot be canceled online; contact us directly to cancel.**

Reminders | Email reminders will be sent approximately 3-5 days prior to the start of class.

Policies | Only service dogs are allowed at activities unless otherwise indicated. All policies are available online.

Looking for a program? Look for the yellow bandanas!

Our volunteers and staff wear yellow bandanas during activity check in, making it easier for you to find and participate in our events!





Conservation. Restoration. Education. Recreation.

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) aims to protect and preserve parks and open spaces through resource management that considers public benefit and conservation of the natural environment.

HOW MANY WILDFLOWER SPECIES CAN YOU FIND?



Donate to make a difference.

Our **LET'S GO OUTDOORS!** fund is an easy way to help support maintenance, environmental protection, and better access to the outdoors.





Summer 27TH ANNUAL Wildflower Show

Second Weekend of June
Saturday & Sunday
June 13-June 14
10 am-4 pm



Garland Ranch Regional Park Visitor Center
Carmel Valley
FREE admission | mprpd.org

Check out these programs to learn more about the resources parks protect and how we manage the land:

PAGE 6 Night Hikes Nature Walks Spring Wildflowers & Plants	PAGE 10 How to Identify Native Trees
PAGE 7 Bird Walks Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project	PAGE 11 Carmel River Watershed Tour (Upper)

Registration Required

Scan here to register



ANSWER: 10

STAY IN THE KNOW

Sign-up for our eNewsletter here!

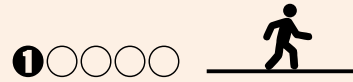



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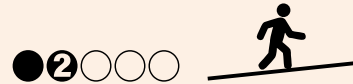
Get to Know Your MPRPD Parks

Children **MUST** be registered and be accompanied by a registered adult.

Hike Intensity Rating



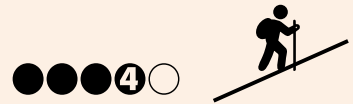
Terrain: Mostly level or with a slight incline.
Distance: Up to 3 miles.
Gain: Up to 300 ft.



Terrain: Moderate incline and may have some steeper sections.
Distance: 3 to 5 miles.
Gain: Up to 500 ft.



Terrain: Steady and often steep incline.
Distance: 5 to 8 miles.
Gain: Up to 1200 ft.



Terrain: Longer and steeper, deemed challenging because of elevation gain.
Distance: 7 to 10 miles.
Gain: Up to 1800 ft.



Terrain: Maximum elevation change and length. May include uneven terrain and stream crossings.
Distance: 8 miles and over.
Gain: Up to 2500 ft.

Ratings are relative to terrain found at MPRPD parks. This rating approximates difficulty and is imperfect. When choosing a hike, always consider the total elevation gain and distance in addition to the given difficulty rating.

Night Hikes

Come to the dark side; we have owls! Quietly prowl the woodlands and meadows in search of life that only comes out after the sun sets. Learn about our nocturnal neighbors and how they live. Reconnect with your skills of moving and listening like a wild thing, while observing owls, bats, and other predators. Instructor: Rick Berg, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | Sunset
May 2, Jun. 27, Jul. 25, Aug. 29, Sep. 26
Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 50 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 miles.
Intensity: 1 0 0 0 0
See online listing for specific meeting times.



Spring Wildflowers & Plants

Welcome to spring! Bring your family and come explore the wildflowers of Garland. Get ready to be amazed by Carmel Valley's parade of flowers. Instructor: Bruce Merchant, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalist.

All Ages
Saturday | 10 am-1:30 pm
May 9
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: 400 ft.
Distance: Approx. 5 miles.
Intensity: 2 0 0 0 0



Nature Walks

Designed for those who enjoy the outdoors at a slower pace. Explore lower elevation trails that avoid steep hills. We'll make brief stops to point out any interesting plants or wildlife that we encounter along the Carmel River and various trails at Garland Ranch and Palo Corona. Instructors: Mary Dainton and Cath Farrant, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalists

Ages 12-Adult
Sunday | 9:30 am-12 pm
May 3, Jul. 12
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Sep. 27
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 20-80 ft.
Distance: 3-4 miles.
Intensity: 1 0 0 0 0



Discover Kahn Ranch

Enjoy a strenuous hike with breathtaking views. Located on the southeastern end of Garland Ranch Regional Park, Kahn Ranch boasts spectacular vistas and an enchanting waterfall. Enjoy the beautiful scenery as you hike the one-mile steep ascent up Hitchcock loop, down to Manzanita, and up to Fern Falls. Instructor: Sharon Osgood, MPRPD Volunteer.

Ages 12-Adult
Sunday | 9 am-12 pm
May 17, Aug. 2
Kahn Ranch, Carmel Valley
Elevation gain: Approx. 1,100 ft.
Distance: Approx. 4 miles.
Intensity: 3 0 0 0 0



Bird Walks

Fall is migration season along the Pacific Flyway, and birds are on the move! Join us on this walk while we "bird" (formerly known as bird watching) and learn the basics of bird migration. Loaner binoculars available. Instructor: Patrick Furtado, Wildlife Biologist and Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 9 am-12 pm
Sep. 12
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 20-60 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 miles.
Intensity: 1 0 0 0 0



Steep Spring Discovery

Explore the steep mountains and canyons of the eastern portion of Garland Ranch. Each guided hike will be strenuous with moments to observe the seasonal wildlife that call these habitats home. Instructors: Andrea Eisler, MPRPD Volunteer.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 9 am-2:30 pm
Apr. 18 | Vasquez Knob
Intensity: 3 0 0 0 5
Saturday | 9 am - 1 pm
Jun. 6 | Veeder to Redwood Canyon
Intensity: 3 0 0 0 0

Garland Park East Garzas Trailhead, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: 1700-2300 ft.
Distance: 4.5-7 miles.
See online listing for more detail.
Hiking poles strongly recommended.



San Jose Creek Loop

Explore San Jose Creek by hiking out and back from the San Jose Creek Trailhead. Only accessible through LGO; a shuttle will take you to and from your destination to meander through fields of flowers, lush redwood groves, and dry chaparral that climb 600 ft to spectacular views. Instructors: Mary Dainton and Cath Farrant, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalists.

Ages 12-Adult
Sunday | 9:30 am-1 pm
May 31, Aug. 9
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 600 ft.
Distance: 4-5 miles.
Intensity: 3 0 0 0 0



Vista Lobos Ocean Views

Get your heart rate up by enjoying a brisk, quick-paced hike to the Vista Lobos Trail in Palo Corona Park. This activity is best suited for those that want to get outdoors and get some exercise while enjoying spectacular views of Point Lobos and the Pacific Ocean. The Vista Lobos Trail is only accessible via MPRPD. Instructor: Steve Ibrahim, MPRPD Volunteer.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 10 am-12:30 pm
May 30, Sep. 5
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: Approx. 300 ft.
Distance: Approx. 5 miles.
Intensity: 2 0 0 0 0



Whisler Overlook to the Redwoods

Get a breathtaking view of the Carmel Bay from the Whisler Overlook, then hike down to the redwood trees of the San Jose Creek and back up to Animas Pond and Inspiration Point. This heart pumping and strenuous trek to the Whisler Overlook is sure to get you energized. Instructor: Andrea Eisler, MPRPD Volunteer.

Ages 18+
Saturday | 9 am-3 pm
Jul. 11
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation gain: Approx. 1900 ft.
Distance: Approx. 12 miles.
Intensity: 3 0 0 0 5
Hiking poles strongly recommended.



Palo Corona Back Country – San Jose Creek Hike

Only accessible through MPRPD, this all day, strenuous nature hike will lead you to a small hunting cabin and nearby orchard that still stand as remnants of the former ranch's agricultural past. This route starts with a shuttle to San Jose Creek. Instructor: Andrea Eisler, MPRPD Volunteer.

Ages 18+
Saturday | 9 am-5 pm
May 2, Sep. 12
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation gain: Approx. 2300 ft.
Distance: Approx. 14 miles.
Hiking poles strongly recommended.
Intensity: 3 0 0 0 5



RANCHO CAÑADA FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT

RESTORING THE RIVER, ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

We're reviving the Carmel River's floodplain so wildlife can thrive, floods are managed naturally, and our community grows stronger.



Scan the QR code or visit the website for updates, learning resources, tours, and events to see the restoration in action.

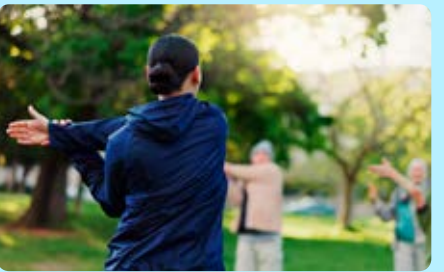
www.palocoronarestoration.org

Registration Required

Scan here to register




Get Out, Get Healthy



Hot on the Trail: Summertime Trail Running

Explore Palo Corona Park with a local running group! Each event in this trail-running series will showcase different parts of the Palo Corona property: Inspiration Point, San Jose Creek, and Oak Knoll. Prior running experience strongly recommended. Instructor: Wednesday Night Laundry Runners Representative.



Ages 16-Adult
Saturday | 8:30 am
Jun. 6, Jul. 25, Sep. 26
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 180-1800 ft.
Distance: 3-9 miles.
See online listing for more detail.



Tai Chi for Energy

Tai chi for energy combines the oldest style of Tai Chi, Chen, with the newest style, Sun, to improve energy, balance, awareness, relaxation, and increase strength and flexibility. Tai Chi principles will be introduced in each session. Tai Chi principles provide tools to assist with daily activities. Instructor: Liana Olson, Senior Trainer & Board-Certified Tai Chi for Health Institute.


Ages 10-Adult
Saturdays | 1 pm-2 pm
Jun. 13, Jun. 20, Jun. 27, Jul. 11, Jul. 18, Jul. 25
Marina Library MLK Statue, Marina

Best of Garzas Canyon

Explore Garzas Canyon and discover how this region of the park connects back to the well-known trails of Garland Ranch. The loop hike will start at the Garzas trailhead and hike Terrace Trail to Redwood Canyon. After crossing Garzas Creek you will take a steep-ascent up Garzas Canyon trail to the Mesa and loop back on Via Los Encinas to your car. Instructor: Sharon Osgood, MPRPD Volunteer.


Ages 12-Adult
Sunday | 9 am-12 pm
Apr. 26, Jul. 26
Garland Park East Garzas Trailhead, Carmel Valley
Elevation gain: Approx. 1,000 ft.
Distance: Approx. 5 miles.
Intensity: ●●●○○



Steinbeck Views

Hike above the Salinas Valley, made famous by John Steinbeck. Take in the "pastures of heaven" and the hills that surround our Monterey Peninsula. Learn basic trail etiquette, safe practices, and the simple joys of being outdoors while looking out over the beautiful Salinas Valley. Instructor: Sharon Osgood, MPRPD Volunteer.


Ages 12-Adult
9 am-12 pm
Sunday, Jun. 7
Thursday, Sep. 10
Creekside Terrace Trailhead-Ft. Ord National Monument, Salinas
Elevation gain: 600-800 ft.
Distance: Approx. 4 miles.
Intensity: ●●●○○



Snively's Ridge Loop

Get your heart pumping on this 3-4 hour hike up to Snively's Ridge and back. More elevation gain in less distance than the route from Holt Road, the panoramic views of the ocean and Carmel Valley make the steep trek worth it! Instructor: Sharon Osgood, MPRPD Volunteer.


Ages 12-Adult
8:30 am-1 pm
Thursday, May 7
Saturday, Jun. 27
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 1500 ft.
Distance: Approx. 6 miles.
Intensity: ●●●●○



Awe Walk

Breathe Deep and BEE Happy! Experience boundless wonderment and get out of your head and into nature. Increase joy, vitality, and gratitude and awaken your sense of childlike curiosity. These are just a few of the side effects of Awe Walking. Discover the awe-inspiring power of nature's splendor. Instructor: Monica Eastway, M.S., Eco Gerontologist.

All Ages
Sundays | 2 pm-4 pm
Apr. 26, May 17
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Intensity: ●○○○○



Tidepool Bioblitz

Join naturalists from the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History for a family-friendly guided tidepool bioblitz at the Great Tidepool. We will be using the iNaturalist app to take pictures and identify as many species as possible.

Sun April 26 | 1:15 pm-2:15 pm
Global iNaturalist City Nature Challenge
Great Tidepool, Pacific Grove

Sat June 6 | 9:30 am-10:30 am
Statewide Solstice Sea Star Challenge
Lovers Point, Pacific Grove

Free program.
No registration required.



Celebrate at Laguna Grande!

50-year JPA Anniversary Event

Join Seaside, Monterey, and MPRPD as we honor 50 years of collaboratively managing Laguna Grande Regional Park through our Joint Powers Agency. We will be celebrating in the morning with free family-friendly guided activities and outreach booths.



Stay for Seaside Earth Day

Free, family-friendly afternoon focused on celebrating our Earth through education, hands-on activities, community connection, and fun.

All Ages
Sunday, April 19
10 am-12:30 pm | 50-Year JPA Celebration
1 pm-4 pm | Seaside Earth Day
Laguna Grande Regional Park, Seaside

No registration required.



FREE!!!

"Celebrate our Planet and our City by working together on fun environmental service projects."
—Grover The Plover

20TH ANNUAL

EARTH DAY MARINA LOCKE-PADDON PARK

Saturday, April 18th 2026 – 10am to 2pm

At 190 Seaside Circle near the Marina Library





Registration Required

Scan here to register




Workshops, Seminars, & Explorations

Children **MUST** be registered and be accompanied by a registered adult.

How to Identify Native Trees

Hike and identify the common native trees of Garland Ranch Regional Park. Take a look at the tree's leaves, bark, and fruit to help identify the species and become familiar with the Coast Live Oak, Black Cottonwood, and California Buckeye. Instructor: Patrick Furtado, Wildlife Biologist and MPRPD Volunteer Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult
Sunday | 10 am-1 pm
May 24
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 200 ft. Distance: 1-2 miles.




Flint Knapping Demo-



Making Stone Tools

Come and watch a demonstration of basic stone tool creation from the earliest 3.7 million years old tools of the Paleolithic to the more refined tools of the Neolithic using Chert and Obsidian. Instructor: Blake Bufford, MPRPD Volunteer.


All Ages
Saturday | 9 am-10 am
Jun. 20, Aug. 29
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley



Moth Party!

What do you know about moths? Join us in celebrating National Moth Week by finding and appreciating moths of all stripes and colors. Attract these nocturnal pollinators using a light station, then learn how to identify and record your findings on *iNaturalist* and contribute to community science. Instructor: MPRPD Staff and Volunteers


Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 8 pm-9:30 pm
Jul. 18
Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel



Medicinal Plant Tour

There's plant medicine all around us! Come meet some of our plant allies while taking a leisurely stroll through a lovely nature preserve. We'll meet several non-native plants, and a few native ones too. Some are medicine, some are food...some are both! Learn how to identify and understand the uses for these plants. Instructor: Lianne Neptune, Herbalist.


Ages 8-Adult
Saturday | 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Sep. 19
Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, Del Rey Oaks
Elevation change: Approx. 10 ft. Distance: Approx. 1.5 miles. Location subject to change. Tour not for medical advice.



Wildflower Wonder: Journaling Nature

Slow down and notice the quiet beauty of wildflowers through nature journaling as a gentle, creative practice. You'll spend time observing nature up close—sketching, writing, and recording sensory details in a relaxed “sensory scrapbook” style. No prior art or science experience is needed. All levels are welcome. Instructor: Melinda Nakagawa, MSc., Naturalist and Nature Journaling Mentor.


Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 10 am-12 pm
May 2
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley



Making Cordage from Native Plants

The oldest evidence of handmade string dates to about 50,000 years ago in a Neanderthal cave. This hands-on program will allow you to make rope and string from local native plants. Be prepared to get your clothes a little damp and dirty. Instructor: Blake Bufford, MPRPD Volunteer.


Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 9 am-10:30 am
May 23, Jul. 25
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley



Carmel River Watershed Tour (Upper)

Once considered a top-10 most threatened river, this waterway now plays host to a wide variety of life. Learn about Carmel River's impact on natural and man-made communities in its watershed. This driving tour includes a visit to Los Padres Dam, de Dampierre Park and more. Instructors: Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, and MPRPD Staff and Volunteer Naturalists.


Ages 12-Adult
Thursday | 9 am-1:30 pm
Sep. 10
Garland Park Eastern Parking Lot, Carmel Valley



Steelhead Trout in the Carmel River

What threatened fish calls the Carmel River home? Learn about the steelhead trout, their history in the valley, and what efforts are occurring to protect this sensitive species. This presentation is part lecture, part guided walk. Instructor: Steve Park, Carmel Valley Steelhead Association.

Ages 12-Adult
Sunday | 10 am-12 pm
Jun. 28
Palo Corona Discovery Center, Carmel
Elevation change: 30-60 ft. Distance: Approx. 2 miles.




Call for Instructors

Do you have a passion for the outdoors? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge and skills about nature with others? Join MPRPD as an LGO! Instructor to become an outdoor educator.

CONTACT US TODAY!
VISIT: mprpd.org/let-s-go-outdoors
EMAIL: bonello@mprpd.org
CALL: 831-372-3196 x102

Become a Weekend Weed Warrior

Join our public volunteer event, where each month we focus on different invaded habitats of our Regional Park District. Staff will demonstrate various best management practices for invasive species control efforts.

All Ages
2nd Saturday of the month
9 am-1 pm (as you are able)
Apr. 11, May 9
Garland Ranch Visitor Center Carmel Valley

Bring: water, snacks, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, closed-toed shoes, gloves, a cheerful attitude, and a will to make a positive impact in your parks!

EMAIL: lgo@mprpd.org
CALL: 831-372-3196 x102



Invasive Genista

Registration Required



Scan here to register




Icon key on back cover.

Family Discoveries


Moon Movement & Mysteries

Enjoy family-oriented activities with a local astronomer that bring light to how we see and understand the moon. Explore the moon and its motion across the sky through stories, drawings, and movement. See the daytime moon through a telescope. Instructor: Dr. Jean Perkins, MIRA Astronomer.

All Ages
Sunday | 2 pm-3 pm
Jun. 21, Jul. 19
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley



Solar System Stroll

Start with a simple paper model of the Solar System and then scale it up as we walk out the space between planets along the trails at Palo Corona Regional Park. Get some astronomical perspective and learn about the different bodies in our Solar System. Instructor: Dr. Jean Perkins, MIRA Astronomer.

All Ages
Sunday | 2 pm-3:30 pm
May 10, Sep. 13
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation: 20-30 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 mi.



Birding by Bird School Project

Join the Bird School Project (BSP) for this beginner, family friendly bird walk. No prior experience is necessary, and binoculars are available to borrow. Instructor: BSP Staff.

All Ages
Sunday | 10 am-12 pm
Jun. 7, Jul. 5, Aug. 30
Marina Library Parking Lot Locke-Paddon Park, Marina
Elevation: Approx. 50 ft.
Distance: 1 miles



Exploring Nature with Children

Join an experienced outdoor educator and learn new ways to engage children in the outdoors. We'll cover fun, educational, and reflective activities to help all ages engage meaningfully with nature. Instructor: Ventana Wildlife Society Educator.

All Ages
Saturday | 3 pm-4 pm
May 16, Aug. 22
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel



Art in Nature

Encourage your children to unplug, slow down, and connect with nature through art and play. Children will hike through the park, play, and create art with natural materials inspired by the season. Instructor: Beccy Breeze.

Ages 5-10
Sunday | 1 pm-3 pm
Apr. 26 | Kahn Ranch
Aug. 23 | Palo Corona
Carmel Valley, various trail heads
Elevation change: 40-80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 miles.


Rumsen Story Telling

The Ohlone sisters will highlight their culture from the past and current revitalization efforts. Share songs, stories, regalia, and Rumsen language with an interactive land acknowledgement and short question and answer session. Instructors: Carla Marie & Desiree Muñoz, tribal members of the Costanoan-Rumsen Carmel Tribe.

All Ages
Saturday | Time TBA
May 9
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley


Children MUST be registered and accompanied by a registered adult.


Farm Discovery: Family Farm Field Trip

Come explore Live Earth's 150-acre organic farm! Learn farming and gardening skills, play with farm animals, and taste some of our seasonal harvests. With each tour, we cultivate relationships to nature and our food system and incorporate environmental stewardship and nutrition. Instructor: Farm Discovery Staff.

All Ages
Saturday | 10 am-12 pm
May 16, Aug. 15, Sep. 5
Farm Discovery at Live Earth, Watsonville
Optional picnic lunch opportunity from 12pm-1pm.


Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park

Crisscross this vibrant coastal stream over a series of wooden bridges on this out and back interpretive adventure. A shuttle will take you to and from your destination where you will immerse yourself in diverse plant life, including iconic coast redwoods; wonder at the curious clues of animal life; experience the remarkable natural and cultural significance of this truly unique California ecosystem. Instructor: CA State Parks Staff.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 9:30 am-12:30 pm
May 16, Jul. 18, Aug. 22, Sep. 19
Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation: Approx. 80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 3 miles.


Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande

Curious about a bird you saw? Learn how to use binoculars (provided), resources to learn more about birds, and go on a bird watching trip around this special urban park, home to 263 different species of birds! No prior experience is necessary. Instructor: Monterey Audubon Representative.

Ages 12-Adult
4th Saturday of the month
9 am-11 am
Apr. 25, May. 23, Jun. 27, Jul. 25, Aug. 22, Sep. 26
Laguna Grande Park, Seaside
Elevation change: Approx. 10 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1 mile.


Cold Blooded Friends


Celebrate Father's Day while you interact with snakes, frogs, salamanders, and other cold-blooded reptiles and amphibians from your local area. Be sure to hold and see these animals up close and learn about their homes and importance. All family members are welcome. Instructor: Bruce Delgado, Biologist and Mayor of Marina.

All Ages
Sunday | 2 pm-4 pm
Jun. 21
Marina Library MLK Statue, Marina
Optional rock painting activity after program.




Sharp as a Hawk

Ever wondered who's watching from the treetops? Join this live presentation with the talon-ted DD the Red-Tailed Hawk and get an inside look at our local wild neighbors. Instructor: SPCA Monterey County Wildlife Center.

All Ages
Friday | 5 pm-6 pm
Jul. 24
Garland Ranch Visitor Center, Carmel Valley




Save the Date

SUNDAY MARCH 29TH 2026

California

Wildlife

Day

PALO CORONA REGIONAL PARK

Nature Booths | Kid Zone

Food for Purchase | Nature Walk & Talks

March 29 | 11 am to 3 pm

Palo Corona Regional Park, Carmel

FREE event, all are welcome

<https://www.carmelriverwatershed.org/california-wildlife-day>

Registration Required

Scan here to register



Paid Camps, Programs, & Events



VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Summer Programs
 Meaningful experiences in nature inspire passion for stewardship of the planet. Whether it's journaling in the shade of a giant redwood, exploring tide pools, or having a condor soar so close overhead the rustle of its feathers can be heard, Ventana Wildlife Society programs generate memories that will last a lifetime.

Cost: \$40-\$365/child. Scholarships available.
Camp weeks: Jun. 15-19; Jun. 29-Jul. 3; Jul. 13-17

Wee Ones in the Woods
 Ages 4-7
 Weekdays | 8:30 am-11:30 am; 12:30 pm-3:30 pm
 \$250/week, two spaces available daily at \$65/session

Natural Science Discovery Camp
 Ages 8-12
 Weekdays | 8 am-4 pm*
 *Thursday overnight campout, pick up Friday 12pm
 \$435/week

Outdoor Leadership Training
 Ages 13-16
 Weekdays | 8 am-4 pm*
 *Thursday overnight campout, pick up Friday 12 pm
 \$435/week

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION
 VISIT: ventanaws.org
 EMAIL: grodriguez@ventanaws.org
 CALL: 831-800-7422



Cooking & EcoExplorer
Summer Camp
 JUNE 15th - JULY 31st



WEEKDAYS 9AM-3PM

Explore nature
 Cook
 Create
 Garden
 Grow
 Unplugged fun!

\$499+ PER WEEK
 10% SIBLING DISCOUNT
 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

June 15-19 ages 6-8
 June 22-26 ages 9-12
 July 6-10 ages 6-8
 July 20-24 ages 9-12
 July 27-31 ages 6-8


(831) 624-1032
mauricio@mearthcarmel.org



Scan here to learn more and to register.

PACIFIC GROVE
MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY

Spend Summer Outside!




K-2 Camp Themes
 Be a Scientist 6/8-12
 Animals 6/15-19
 Space 6/23-27
 Dinos 7/6-10
 Ocean 7/13-17
 Field Science 7/20-24

3-5 Camp Themes
 Field Geology 6/8-12
 Marine Ecology 6/15-19
 Engineering 6/22-26
 Habitats 6/29-7/3
 1 Night at the Museum 7/17

Family Museum Members & Above \$410
 General \$460
 All prices are per week

Register: pgmuseum.org/camp
 Contact: education@pgmuseum.org



Paid Camps, Programs, & Events

Give your child a summer of fun and compassion!

From meeting rescued wildlife, barn animals, and other pets to crafting pet toys and learning rescue basics, our camps offer a unique mix of education and excitement. Kids explore SPCA grounds, make fun crafts, gain hands-on experience in responsible pet care, and of course meet our adoptable pets!

Join us on select weeks this summer!

Ages 7-12:
 Mon-Fri, 9 am-3 pm
 \$500/week

Ages 10-12 (Jr. Vet):
 Mon-Fri, 9am-Noon | \$325/week

Ages 5-7 (ABCs):
 9 am-Noon | \$275/week

Scholarships are available.
 Registration opens March 1st, and space is limited.
 Scan the QR code to learn more and register!




BIG SUR LAND TRUST'S
RACE FOR OPEN SPACE
 MAY 9, 2026

Choose your own adventure in the conserved backcountry of Palo Corona Regional Park!

Join us on **May 9** to support Big Sur Land Trust's Race for Open Space.

- 5k Front-Ranch Lollipop
- 12k Whisler Wilson Out-and-Back
- 25k Williams Canyon Out-and-Back
- 35k+ Lunch Bench Lollipop
- and a 1-mile Fun Run for all ages!



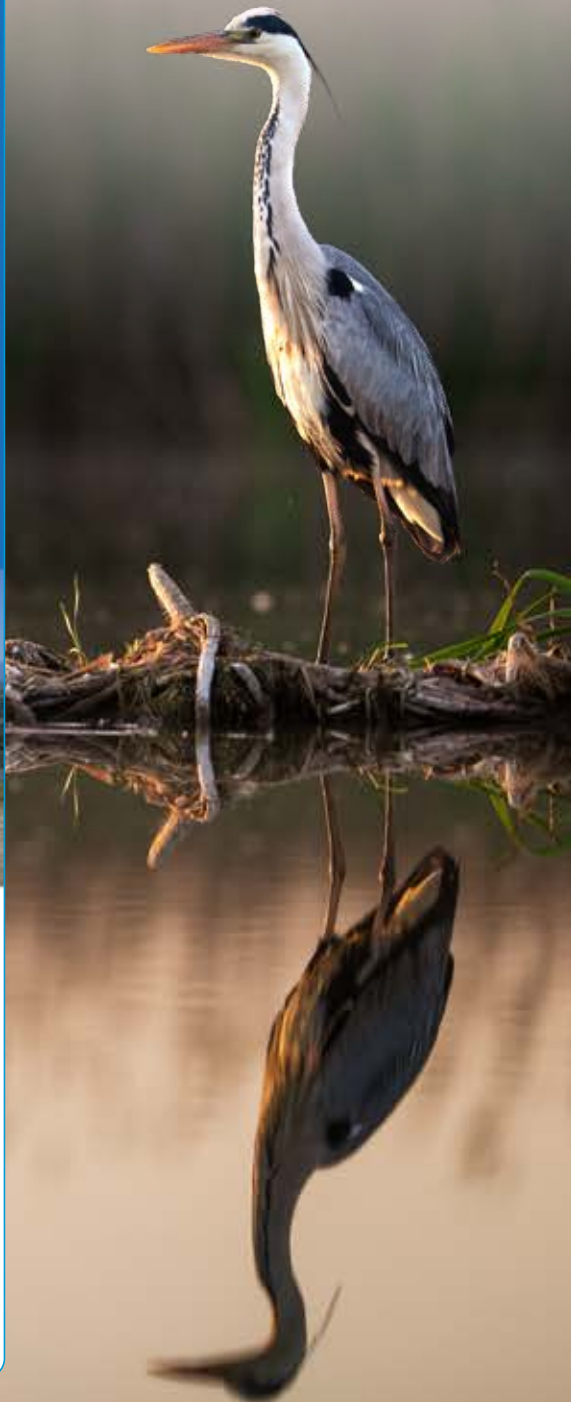
Please visit bit.ly/ros_2026 or scan this QR code to learn more, register, and check out our volunteer opportunities!



For the Lands You Love

Big Sur Land Trust is a non-profit organization with a mission to inspire love of land across generations, conservation of our unique Monterey County landscapes, and access to outdoor experiences for all.

Since 1978, our generous donors and partners have helped us conserve over 45,000 acres throughout Monterey County!

Community Happenings

Free Events & Programs Offered by Community Organizations

ANNUAL & SPECIAL EVENTS

BIG SUR LAND TRUST

Since 1978, Big Sur Land Trust has conserved over 45,000 acres of open space across Monterey County. Help us grow this legacy! Opportunities include inclusive stewardship workdays, project tours, and guided hikes, including hikes along San Jose Creek and across the Palo Corona Regional Park backcountry.

REGISTER: bigsurlandtrust.org/event/

CITY OF SEASIDE

Seaside's Certified Farmers' Market

Thursdays | 3 pm - 7 pm
Laguna Grande Park, Seaside

VISIT: www.everyonesharvest.org
EMAIL: info@everyonesharvest.org

COSTANOAN RUMSEN CARMEL TRIBE

Rumsen Ohlone Dance: Dancing Our Ancestors Home

All ages
Sunday | 11 am-1 pm
July 19
Garland Ranch Regional Park,
Carmel Valley

VISIT: costanoanrumsen.org
FOLLOW: @coastanoanrumsencarmeltribe



Cachagua Country Fair
Saturday, July 11
12 pm to 6 pm
Cachagua Community Park
37210 Nason Rd.
Carmel Valley

WALK-INS WELCOME

CACHAGUA COMMUNITY PARK
DEDICATED TO THE CACHAGUA COMMUNITY BY THE MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

STEWARDSHIP & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Natural Resources Volunteer Program

Join us at one of our 10 monthly volunteer projects spread out among eight local state parks! Activities include planting native plants, removing weeds, picking up trash, and more. All volunteer events are from 9 am to 12 pm.

VISIT: parks.ca.gov/mdnrvp
EMAIL: volunteer.monterey@parks.ca.gov

FARM DISCOVERY AT LIVE EARTH

We host a variety of volunteer opportunities, like assisting with field trips, caring for the garden or animals, and working on the farm. We cultivate relationships with nature and food systems while incorporating environmental stewardship and nutrition.

VISIT: farmdiscovery.org
EMAIL: education@farmdiscovery.org
CALL: 831-728-2032

FRIENDS OF SEASIDE PARKS

Join us each Saturday from 10 am-12 pm as we beautify and create habitat in Seaside parks! All ages can help plant natives, remove weeds, prune, and water while learning about how drought-resistant and pollinator-friendly gardening benefits all.

VISIT: friendsofseasideparks.org
EMAIL: pkennedy1950@gmail.com

HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Stewardship Events

The Habitat Stewardship Project invites the public to community service events! Stewards plant native plants and clean-up degraded sites in Salinas, Carmel, Marina, and other locations.

VISIT: habitatstewardshipproject.org
EMAIL: cmcknew@csumb.edu

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION

Beach Cleanups and Yoga

Join our monthly beach clean-ups. Optional free yoga at 9am, cleanup starts at 10am. Bring a towel for yoga, and we'll cover the cleanup supplies. Pre-registration encouraged but not mandatory.

Saturdays | 9 am-12 pm

Apr. 25, May 23, Jun. 20, Jul. 25,
Aug. 22, Sep. 19

VISIT: monterey.surfrider.org
EMAIL: chair@monterey.surfrider.org

SUSTAINABLE MARINA

Join us every Saturday morning at the Oak Woodland Community Garden at Marina Library. Here you can help maintain the native plants in the woodland, tend garden beds, or paint kindness rocks. We also organize regular community cleanups, removal of invasive French Broom, and planting and maintaining native species at local parks.

VISIT: csmc.eco/marina-home
EMAIL: Marina@csmc.eco

SAVE OUR SHORES

Get involved in coastal conservation and community action! Join our beach, river, or inland cleanups happening throughout the year.

Annual Coastal Cleanup Day

Saturday, Sep. 19, 9am-12pm: Join volunteers around the world for the largest cleanup event of the year! Save Our Shores will be hosting over 50 cleanup locations around the Monterey Bay area.

VISIT: saveourshores.org
EMAIL: volunteer@saveourshores.org

SAVE THE WHALES

Join us for outdoor activities to enhance the Monterey County environment! Staff will lead litter cleanups, pollinator garden maintenance, recycling efforts, adhering storm drain emblems, environmental art projects and Monterey Whalefest help with Dee, the life size whale on April 11 and 12.

Activities for every age and families!

VISIT: savethewhales.org
EMAIL: maris@savethewhales.org

TOURS & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

ASILOMAR STATE BEACH & CONFERENCE GROUNDS

Asilomar is rich in natural beauty and fascinating history. Visit the Dunes Natural Preserve, fabled tide pools, and historic buildings designed by Julia Morgan for the YWCA. Free public tours offered Fridays & Saturdays (subject to staff availability). Special events throughout the year.

VISIT: www.parks.ca.gov/asilomar
FOLLOW: @asilomarstatebeach
EMAIL: asilomar.interp@parks.ca.gov

ELKHORN SLOUGH RESERVE

Visit the Reserve to hike and explore the habitats around Elkhorn Slough! Explore self-guided hikes on trails and stop by the Visitor Center. Family friendly activities, guided hikes every weekend, and special events are on our online calendar.

Wednesday-Sunday | 9 am-5 pm

VISIT: elkhornslough.org/visit/calendar
CALL: 831-728-2822

OWL STEAM ACADEMY

FREE monthly Backyard Science workshops at Marina Library! Hands-on science activities exploring plants, simple machines, and more. Ages 6-12. Sponsored by Friends of Marina Library.

Saturdays | 10:30 am-12 pm

Apr. 25 | Plants & Growth
May 23 | Simple Machines
Marina Library, Marina

VISIT: owlsteam.com
EMAIL: info@owlsteam.com

PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Adventures, discoveries, and fun at family days, science talks, camps, and more! Themes: reptiles, dinos, monarchs, micro world, and spooky critters.

Science Saturday

Last Saturday of each month 10 am-3 pm

VISIT: pgmuseum.org
EMAIL: education@pgmuseum.org
CALL: 831-648-5716

SANTA LUCIA CONSERVANCY

Robinson Canyon Hike

Join us for an ecologist-guided hike along Robinson Canyon Trail within the Santa Lucia Preserve. Enjoy grassland birds, wildflowers, redwoods, pines, and more! Wear layers and sun protection, bring water. Camera, binoculars optional.

All ages

Apr. 25 | 8 am - 12 pm
1 Rancho San Carlos Road, Carmel
RSVP online or by email

VISIT: slconservancy.org/
EMAIL: outreach@slconservancy.org

THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY

Join us at Rana Creek Preserve in the beautiful Carmel Valley!

Stewardship Events

Second Saturday of the month.

Docent Led Hikes

Apr. 18, May 9, and more.

VISIT: wildlandsconservancy.org/preserves/ranacreek/events
EMAIL: ranacreekpreserve@wildlandsconservancy.org

VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Big Sur Discovery Center

Join us Sundays at 10am (June-August) for a 1-hour nature talk, walk, or documentary screening.

Saturdays and Sundays | 10 am-4 pm
May 23-Sep. 7

Andrew Molera State Park, Big Sur

Condor Zoom Chats

Tune in for real-time updates on our local condor flock, with Sr. Wildlife Biologist, Joe Burnett, and the Ventana Wildlife Society Condor Crew.

All Ages | Last Thursday of each month
4 pm | Online

VISIT: <https://www.ventanaws.org/thecondorchat.html>



MPRPD Park Map

Parks and properties owned and managed by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WARD 1 Jeffrey Markham
jmarkham@mprpd.org
Marina, northern Ft. Ord

WARD 2 James Covell
jcovell@mprpd.org
Seaside, northern Sand City, southern Ft. Ord

WARD 3 Kevin Raskoff (President)
kraskoff@mprpd.org
Monterey, southwest Seaside, southern Sand City, Del Rey Oaks

WARD 4 Kathleen Lee
klee@mprpd.org
Pacific Grove, New Monterey, northern Pebble Beach

WARD 5 Monta Potter
mpotter@mprpd.org
Carmel, Carmel Valley, Big Sur, southern Pebble Beach

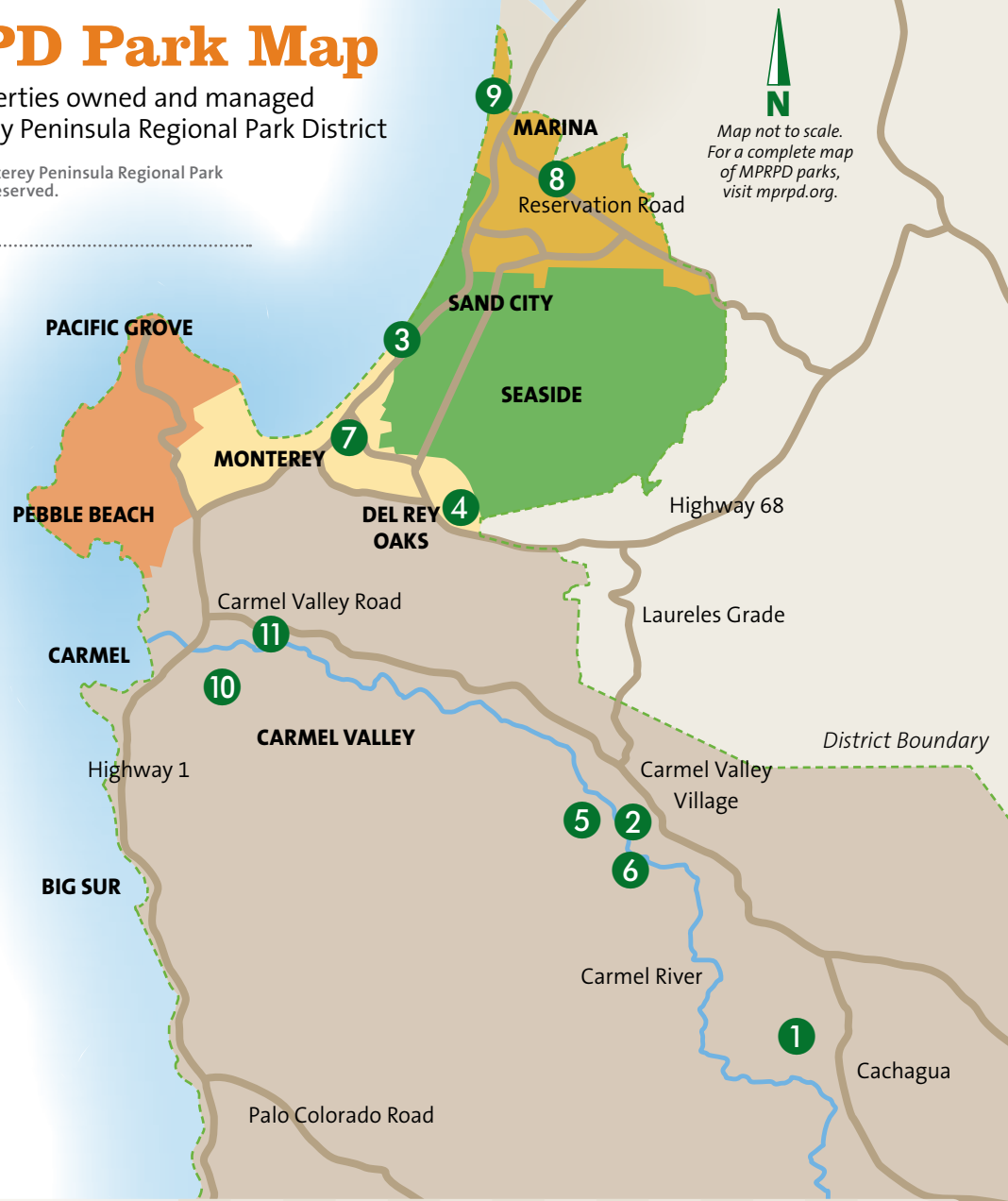
Board meetings are typically held the first Wednesday of each month. Check mprpd.org for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH (ECEO) TEAM

Eric Morgan | General Manager
Savannah Peña | Supervisor
Debbie Wyatt | Coordinator-Volunteers
Nicole Bonello | Coordinator-Programs
Megan Mach, PhD | Specialist
Adele Swing | Specialist
Alina Marzano | Specialist
Holly Julson | Specialist
Jocelyn Mendoza | Specialist
Peggy Queen | Temp Specialist

lgo@mprpd.org

A special thanks to the MPRPD Volunteers.



Map not to scale. For a complete map of MPRPD parks, visit mprpd.org.

MPRPD Parks and Preserves	Hiking Trails	Equestrian Trails	Bicycle Trails	Coastal Access	Sports Fields	Children's Play Areas	Volunteer-led Activities	Picnic Areas	Dogs Allowed	Restrooms	Scenic/Env. Resources	Historic Resources	Visitor Center	Meeting Room	Accessibility Trail Info
1 Cachagua Community Park*					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
2 de Dampierre Park (unit of Garland Park)*	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
3 Eolian Dunes Preserve	✓			✓							✓	✓			
4 Frog Pond Wetland Preserve	✓						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
5 Garland Ranch Regional Park (Garland Park)	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
6 Kahn Ranch (unit of Garland Park)**	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
7 Laguna Grande Regional Park*	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
8 Locke-Paddon Wetland Community Park*	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
9 Marina Dunes Preserve	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
10 Palo Corona Regional Park (Front Ranch)	✓						✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
11 Rancho Cañada (unit of Palo Corona Regional Park)	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Adventure Planner

MARCH			PAGE
29	Sun	California Wildlife Day	12
APRIL			PAGE
11	Sat	Weekend Weed Warriors	11
17	Fri	Star Party - Night Sky Gazing	BACK COVER
18	Sat	Steep Spring Discovery	7
18	Sat	Marina-Earth Day	8
19	Sun	50th Anniversary Celebration JPA of Laguna Grande	9
25	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	13
26	Sun	Tidepool Bioblitz	9
26	Sun	Art in Nature	12
26	Sun	Awe Walk	9
26	Sun	Best of Garzas Canyon	8
MAY			PAGE
2	Sat	Night Hikes	6
2	Sat	Palo Corona Back Country - San Jose Creek	7
2	Sat	Wildflower Wonder: Nature Journaling	10
3	Sun	Nature Walks	6
7	Thu	Snively's Ridge Loop	9
9	Sat	Rumsen Storytelling	12
9	Sat	Spring Wildflowers and Plants	6
9	Sat	Weekend Weed Warriors	11
10	Sun	Solar System Stroll	12
16	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	13
16	Sat	Exploring Nature with Children	12
16	Sat	Farm Discovery: Family Farm Field Trips	13
17	Sun	Awe Walk	9
17	Sun	Discover Kahn Ranch	6
23	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	13
23	Sat	Making Cordage from Native Plants	10
24	Sun	How to Identify Native Trees	10
30	Sat	Vista Lobos Ocean Views	7
31	Sun	San Jose Creek Loop	7
JUNE			PAGE
6	Sat	Tidepool Bioblitz	9
6	Sat	Hot on the Trail: Summertime Trail Running	8
6	Sat	Steep Spring Discovery	7
7	Sun	Birding by Bird School Project	12
7	Sun	Steinbeck Views	8
13-14	Sat-Sun	27th Annual Summer Wildflower Show	5
13	Sat	Tai Chi for Energy	8
20	Sat	Flint Knapping-Making Stone Tools	10
20	Sat	Tai Chi for Energy	8
21	Sun	Cold-Blooded Friends	13
21	Sun	Moon Movement & Mysteries	12
27	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	13
27	Sat	Night Hikes	6

27	Sat	Snively's Ridge Loop	9
27	Sat	Tai Chi for Energy	8
28	Sun	Steelhead Trout in the Carmel River	11
JULY			PAGE
5	Sat	Birding by Bird School Project	12
11	Sat	Cachagua Country Fair	16
11	Sat	Star Party - Night Sky Gazing	BACK COVER
11	Sat	Tai Chi for Energy	8
11	Sat	Whisler Overlook to the Redwoods	7
12	Sun	Nature Walks - Garland	6
18	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	13
18	Sat	Moth Party!	10
18	Sat	Tai Chi for Energy	8
19	Sun	Moon Movement & Mysteries	12
24	Fri	Sharp as a Hawk	13
25	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	13
25	Sat	Hot on the Trail: Summertime Trail Running	8
25	Sat	Making Cordage from Native Plants	10
25	Sat	Night Hikes	6
25	Sat	Tai Chi for Energy	8
26	Sun	Best of Garzas Canyon	8
AUGUST			PAGE
2	Sun	Discover Kahn Ranch	6
9	Sun	San Jose Creek Loop	7
15	Sat	Farm Discovery: Family Farm Field Trips	13
22	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	13
22	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	13
22	Sat	Exploring Nature with Children	12
23	Sun	Art in Nature	12
29	Sat	Night Hikes	6
29	Sat	Flint Knapping-Making Stone Tools	10
30	Sun	Birding by Bird School Project	6
SEPTEMBER			PAGE
5	Sat	Farm Discovery: Family Farm Field Trips	13
5	Sat	Vista Lobos Ocean Views	7
10	Thu	Steinbeck Views	8
10	Thu	Carmel River Watershed Educational Tour	11
12	Sat	Bird Walks	7
12	Sat	Palo Corona Back Country - San Jose Creek	7
13	Sun	Solar System Stroll	12
19	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	13
19	Sat	International Observe the Moon Night	BACK COVER
19	Sat	Medicinal Plant Tour	10
26	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	13
26	Sat	Hot on the Trail: Summertime Trail Running	8
26	Sat	Night Hikes	6
27	Sun	Nature Walks - Palo Corona	6

Registration required for programs. Events with bold font indicate special events where walk-ins are welcome.



Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
 4860 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923
 Post Office Box 223340, Carmel, CA 93922
 Tel: 831-372-3196

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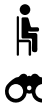
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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

ICON KEY



Physical Activity



Seated Activity



Binoculars Advised



Flashlight Advised



Pack Additional Materials

The MPRPD MISSION:

To acquire and maintain open space in the District for preservation and use, working with partners and the community, for public benefit, enjoyment and environmental protection.

Out of this World! Stargazing

Programs presented in cooperation with the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club and the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy (MIRA) Club.

International Observe the Moon Night & Telescope Workshop

Local amateur astronomers will join thousands of others across the world on a night dedicated to highlighting the many features of the moon. Additionally, astronomers will be available before the main event to assist members of the public with setting up and using their own telescopes.

All Ages

Saturday, Sep. 19

6 pm-7 pm | How to Use Your Telescope Clinic

7 pm-9 pm | Moon Observation

Check online listing or call for updates.



Star Party

Look up at the night sky and revel in its vast and seemingly endless mysteries. Come and join us as amateur astronomers share their knowledge of the cosmos. Observe planets and faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters during this two-hour program.

All Ages

Friday, Apr. 17 | 8 pm

Planets & Deep Sky Objects

Saturday, Jul. 11 | 8:45 pm

Venus & Deep Sky Objects

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley



- Portable chair, warm clothing, and hot drinks encouraged.
- Rain, fog, or cloud cover cancels event.
- For up to date weather conditions, call 831-659-6065 within an hour of program.
- Bring a red light flashlight.
- Minors must be accompanied by an adult.
- Only service dogs are permitted.

