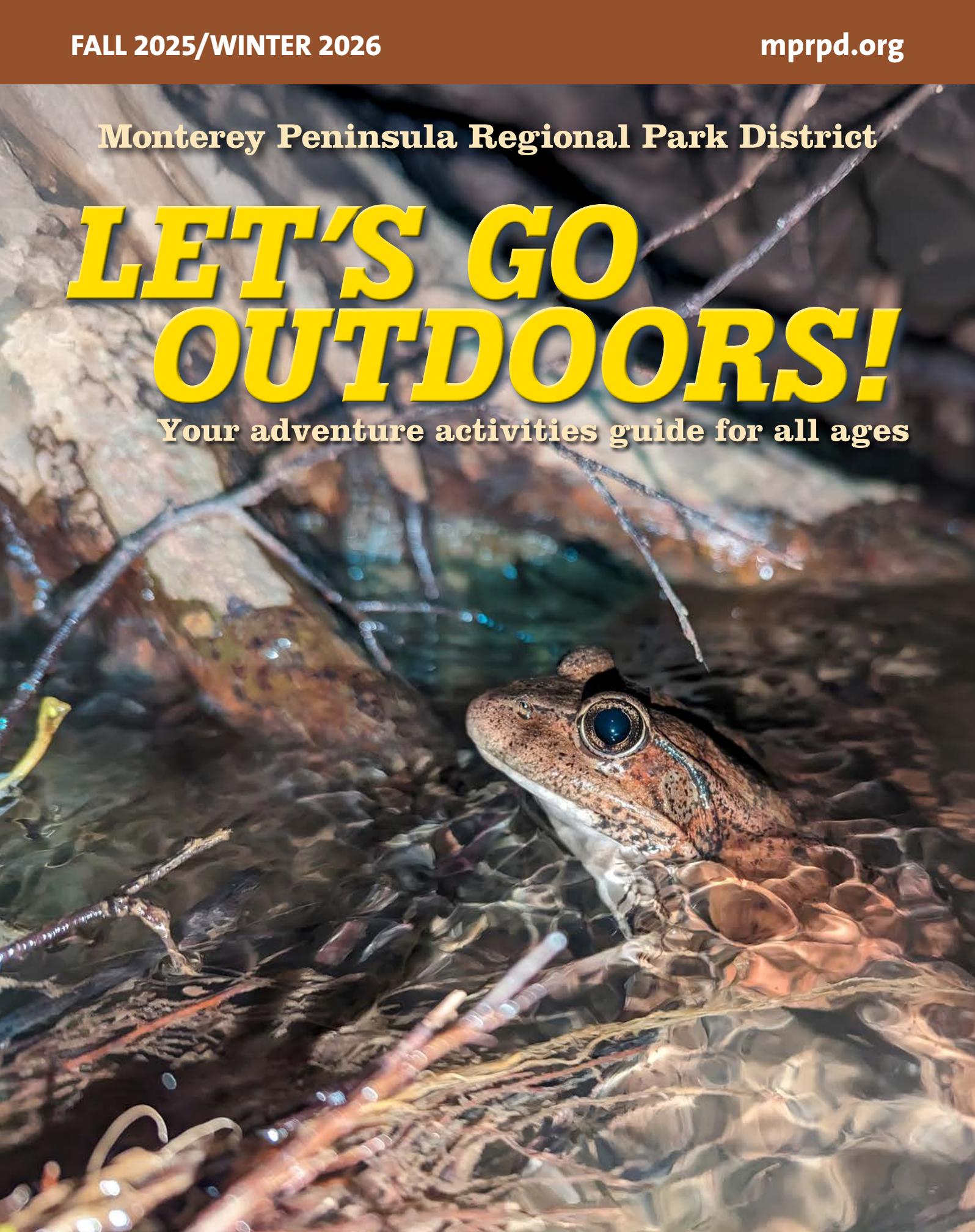


Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

LET'S GO OUTDOORS!

Your adventure activities guide for all ages



Welcome

Dear Park Friends,

As the newly appointed General Manager of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, I am excited to guide the stewardship of our treasured regional parks and smaller open spaces, confident that their brightest days are yet to come. My team and I are fully committed to serving you with dedication, preserving the natural beauty and biodiversity of these lands, fostering community connections, and enhancing urban vitality through collaborations with local cities, nonprofits, and community organizations. We assure you that our cherished, long-established parks will continue to receive devoted care and attention as we pursue new initiatives.

Our Regional Parks, encompassing over 20,000 acres, including landmarks like Garland Ranch, serve as vibrant community gathering places ideal for recreation, relaxation, and unity. Our smaller open spaces are equally essential, safeguarding native plants, pollinators, and wildlife that sustain the Peninsula's rich ecosystems. In urban areas, we partner with others to create green spaces that inspire joy and community pride.

To ensure all our parks remain welcoming and accessible, we are revitalizing aging infrastructure, including trails, restrooms, and administrative facilities, to maintain safety and functionality. Innovative projects like the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project will restore natural water flows, enhance biodiversity, and provide inviting areas for exploration, while we continue to nurture our established parks. Our Let's Go Outdoors! programs and upgraded trails will make it easier for you to engage with these remarkable landscapes.

We are eager to build a thriving future for our parks together. Please join us—volunteer, participate in a program, or share your ideas. Contact us at info@mprpd.org or (831) 372-3196 to get involved.

Sincerely,

Eric Morgan
MPRPD General Manager



Cover photo: California Red-legged Frog, Zack Abby, iNaturalist

What's Inside

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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.

WALK-INS WELCOME

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>



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.

Name the signature flora and fauna that can be found in the Fall and Winter below:

- A _____
- B _____
- C _____
- D _____
- E _____



ANSWERS

- Ⓐ California newt
- Ⓑ California red-legged frog
- Ⓒ Banana slug
- Ⓓ Honey mushrooms
- Ⓔ Wild turkey

Registration Required

Scan here to register

Icon key on back cover.

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

PAGE 6

- Nature Walks
- Bird Walks - Fall Migration
- Night Hikes

PAGE 7

- Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project
- Feel the Falls
- Bugs in the River

PAGE 9

- ParkIT!
- Owl Encounter

PAGE 11

- Coffee with Cows

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.



Call for Volunteers

Do you have a passion for sharing your knowledge of natural history and park trails with others? Join our volunteer team to help preserve, protect, educate, and inspire!

Join us as a visitor center host, hike guide, or outdoor educator!

CONTACT US TODAY!
 VISIT: mprpd.org/volunteer
 EMAIL: wyatt@mprpd.org
 CALL: 831-372-3196 x113



Get to Know Your MPRPD Parks

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

Coastal Sunset Hike

Get out your hiking shoes and camera for this limited-access, relaxed-pace hike. Pack your picnic blanket, bota bag, cheese, and crackers to watch the beautiful sunset over Point Lobos with sweeping views of Carmel Bay and Monastery Beach. Instructor: Jackie Nelson.

Ages 10-Adult
Sunday | 5 pm-8:30 pm
Oct. 12

Palo Corona Hwy 1, Carmel
Elevation change: 150-200 ft.
Distance: Approx. 3 Miles.
Must be pre-registered to enter HWY 1 gate.



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.

Ages 12-Adult
Sunday | 9:30 am-12 pm
Nov. 16; Jan. 11

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Dec. 21
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel

Elevation change: 20-80 ft.
Distance: 3-4 miles.



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
Oct. 11; Nov. 15; Dec. 6; Jan. 3; Jan. 31; Feb. 28

Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 50 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 Miles.
See online listing for specific meeting times.



Bird Walks - Fall Migration

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. Instructor: Patrick Furtado, Wildlife Biologist and Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 8 am-11 am
Nov. 15 | Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley

Elevation change: 20-60 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 miles.



Winter Wildflowers & Plants

Did you know that flowers will bloom in the winter? Bring your family and come explore the lower trails of Garland. Bring your curiosity and take a close look at the plants just before spring. Instructor: Bruce Merchant, MPRPD Volunteer.

All Ages
Saturday | 10 am-11:30 am
Feb. 28; Mar. 14

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: 20-60 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 miles.

Garland's Canyons and Ridges

Meander through the steep canyons and ridges of Garland Ranch. Each guided hike will take you through various sections of Garland to the highest park ridges with a focus on the seasonal plants and animals that call these habitats home. Instructors: Stanley Dudek and Andrea Eisler, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalists.

Ages 12-Adult
9 am-3 pm
Tues, Oct. 21 | Veeder to Redwood Canyon

Sat, Jan. 10 | East Garzas to Vasquez Sat, Feb. 14 | Snively's Ridge through Maple Canyon
Garland Park Various Trailheads, Carmel Valley

Elevation change: 800-1800 ft.
Distance: 6-7 miles.
Please see the online listing for more detail.



San Jose Creek Loop

Explore San Jose Creek by hiking out and back from 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 and then climb uphill to spectacular views. Instructors: Mary Dainton and Cath Farrant, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalists.

Ages 12-Adult
Friday | 9:30 am-1 pm
Oct. 17; Mar. 20

Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 600 ft.
Distance: 4-5 miles.



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 up a steep, one-mile ascent on Hitchcock loop, down to Manzanita, and up to Fern Falls. Instructor: Sharon Osgood, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 9 am-12 pm
Nov. 22; Feb. 7

Kahn Ranch, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 1,100 ft.
Distance: Approx. 4 miles.



Sensory Stream Stroll

Jump on our shuttle out and back from the Garland Ranch Visitor Center to Kahn Ranch. Slow down and awaken your senses with a short, guided walk through forests, intersecting streams, and a waterfall. Afterwards, enjoy your own packed lunch at a sit-spot as we share stories about nature. Instructor: MPRPD Staff.

All Ages
Saturday | 10 am-1:30 pm
Feb. 21

Garland Ranch Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 100 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1 mile.
No restrooms or benches available at the picnic site. Please inquire about car seats.



Feel the Falls

Join us at Kahn Ranch, where we will enjoy a short, guided walk that takes us through the forest, streams, and to a waterfall. Here you will have the opportunity to slow down and connect with your senses in nature. Afterwards, enjoy your own packed lunch at a sit spot as we share stories about nature. Instructor: MPRPD Staff.

All Ages
Saturday | 10 am-1:30 pm
Mar. 7, Mar. 21

Kahn Ranch, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 100 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1 mile.
No restrooms or benches available at the picnic site.



Palo Corona Back Country

Only accessible through MPRPD, this strenuous all day 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. Instructor: Stanley Dudek and Andrea Eisler, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalists.

Ages 18+
9 am-5pm
Sunday, Nov. 23

Saturday, Dec. 13
Sunday, Jan. 25
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: Approx. 1000 ft.
Distance: Approx. 15 miles.



Palo Corona Back Country - San Jose Creek

Nearly identical to the Palo Corona Back Country program, this route starts with a shuttle to San Jose Creek trailhead. 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. Instructor: Stanley Dudek and Andrea Eisler, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalists.

Ages 18+
9 am-5pm
Friday, Oct. 31

Sunday, Feb. 22
Saturday, Mar. 14
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: Approx. 1000 ft.
Distance: Approx. 14 miles.



Bugs in the River

Uncover the living mysteries beneath the river rocks of Carmel River. Learn how scientists use bugs as indicators of stream health by helping to identify types of macroinvertebrates through this lecture, workshop, and in-river collection activity. Instructor: CSUMB Representative and MPRPD Staff.

Ages 12-Adult
Sunday | 2 pm-5 pm
Oct. 19

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation Change: Approx. 50 ft.
Distance: ¼ mile.
Uneven ground and wet surfaces.



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

Tai Chi for Energy I & II

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 with 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

Tuesdays | 4:30 pm-5:30 pm

Series I

Oct. 14, Oct. 21, Oct. 28, Nov. 18, Nov. 25, Dec. 2

Series II

Jan. 13, Jan. 20, Jan. 27; Feb. 3, Feb. 10, Feb. 17

Marina Library Community Room, Marina



Mindful Walking & Meditation

Take a break and immerse yourself in the natural world by being present, moving slowly, being still, and consciously opening your senses. Mindfulness in nature cultivates relaxation, mental wellbeing, and awareness of all that's taking place within and around you, inviting wonder and awe. Instructor: Katie Dutcher, AMFT and mindfulness teacher.

Ages 18+

Saturday | 10 am-11:30 am

Oct. 11; Mar. 28

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley

Elevation change: 50-80 ft. Distance: 1.5 miles.



Registration Required



Scan here to register

Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running

Explore Palo Corona 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

Nov. 29; Jan. 24; Mar. 7

Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel

Elevation change: 180-1800 ft. Distance: 3-9 mi.

See online listing for more detail.



Pole Walking and Pole Hiking, Training

Whole-body exercise outside! Only offered once a year to veterans and military family members and friends, get expert training with poles. Learn how to use poles for maintaining mobility and improving balance, spine function, strength, power, posture, endurance, and confidence. Instructor: Jayah Paley.

Ages 18+

Saturday | 9:45 am-2 pm

Oct. 25

Palo Corona Park Multipurpose Pad, Carmel

Elevation change: Approx. 100 ft. Distance: 1-2 miles.

Quality poles provided upon request.



Snively's Ridge from Holt Road

"Holt-on" to your hat to experience awe-inspiring views from the mountain tops of the Santa Lucias to the Carmel Valley below. This strenuous hike meets at the Visitor Center, takes a shuttle ride to Holt Road, and is a one-way hike back to the Visitor Center that includes steep inclines and long distances. Instructor: Sharon Osgood, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult

Saturday, Dec. 13 | 8:30 am-1 pm

Thursday, Feb. 26 | 9:30 am-2 pm

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley

Elevation change: Approx. 1500 ft.

Distance: Approx. 7 miles.

Shuttle to Holt Rd. trailhead provided.



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 Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult

8:30 am-12 pm

Thursday, Oct. 23

Saturday, Jan. 24

Saturday, Mar. 21

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley

Elevation change: Approx. 1500 ft.

Distance: Approx. 6 miles.



Workshops, Seminars, & Explorations

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

Mushroom Mania

Set out for a morning of exploration in search of the elusive fungi of Garland Ranch Regional Park. Join a local expert as he deciphers these mysterious life forms. Learn how to detect which mushrooms are friend or foe on this informative hike in the woods. Instructor: Phil Carpenter, Amateur Mycologist.

Ages 13-Adult

10 am-1 pm

Saturday, Dec. 20

Sunday, Jan. 4

Saturday, Jan. 31

Garland Park Meeting Room, Carmel Valley

Elevation change: 80-100 ft.

Distance: 1-2 miles.



Owl Encounter

Who, who? Who are you? Meet several of our local owl species up close. This live presentation focuses on their ecology, biology, and conservation. Instructor: Antonio Balestreri, Master Falconer & Bruce Elliott, Ecologist.

Ages 12-Adult

Saturday | 6 pm-8 pm

Oct. 25

Marina Library, Marina



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

Oct. 11

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley



Tule Mat Weaving

Tule reeds were historically used for many day-to-day functions like boat construction, toys, housing, and even sleeping mats. Learn to weave tule into a mat and bring it home with you the same day. Instructor: Blake Bufford, MPRPD Volunteer.

Ages 12-Adult

Saturday | 9 am-11 am

Feb. 7

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley



Registration Required



Scan here to register



ParkIT! Point Lobos Shuttle Demo

Discover the answer to Highway 1 congestion at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve with a guided tour on the proposed shuttle route. Learn about ParkIT!, the flexible, recommended reservation system, and how it enhances public safety, visitor experience, and Reserve conservation. Instructors: Point Lobos Foundation Staff, and Steve Dennis, Organizational Consultant.

Ages 18+

Saturday | Nov. 15

9 am-10:45 am

3 pm-4:45 pm

Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel



Walk with Poems

Many poets are inspired by nature, so let's bring poems with us as we walk through Garland Park. Enjoy a short walk with frequent stops to look and listen as we speak poems aloud. Come with a poem if you have one or poem cards will be shared. Instructor: Laura Hooper.

Ages 18+

Sunday | 2 pm-3:30 pm

Feb. 22; Mar. 22

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley

Elevation change: 80-100 ft. Distance: 1.5 miles.



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Family Discoveries

SLC Redwood Forest Hike

Can environmental management practices aid the recovery of forested land after a wildfire? Enjoy a bus ride and hike to see the results of a 20-acre restoration project in a redwood grove at the edge of the 2016 Soberanes Fire scar on the Santa Lucia Preserve. Upon return to Palo Corona, enjoy a brief center tour hosted by MPRPD. Instructor: Santa Lucia Conservancy (SLC) Representative.

Ages 10-Adult
Saturday | 9:30 am-12:15 pm
Nov. 22
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation: 100-120 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 mi.
Shuttle provided.



SLC Fire Mitigation Tour

Starting at Palo Corona Regional Park, enjoy a brief center tour hosted by MPRPD. Then, for the main event, jump on a bus to the Santa Lucia Preserve to a prescribed burn area to learn about pro-active ways to reduce the risk of wildfire, an introduction to our conservation grazing program, and approaches to harden built environments against fire risk. Between stops, enjoy views from Carmel Valley to Monastery Beach. Instructor: Santa Lucia Conservancy (SLC) Representative.

Ages 10-Adult
Saturday | 12:45 pm-4:30 pm
Nov. 22
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Shuttle provided.



Monarch Sanctuary Stroll

Enjoy a guided walk of Pacific Grove's Monarch Grove Sanctuary. Learn what makes monarch butterflies so unique and the latest science behind monarch and pollinator conservation. Instructor: Natalie Johnston, PG Museum Coordinator.

All Ages
10 am-11 am
Saturday, Nov. 8 | Sunday, Nov. 9
Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, Pacific Grove
Elevation: Approx. 20 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1 mi.



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: MIRA Astronomer.

All Ages
Sunday | 2 pm-3 pm
Oct. 26; Jan. 25; Feb. 22
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 Park. Get some astronomical perspective and learn about the different bodies in our Solar System. Instructor: MIRA Astronomer.

All Ages
Sunday | 2 pm-3:30 pm
Nov. 9; Dec. 7; Mar. 15
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 20-30 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 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
Oct. 18; Feb. 21
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation: Approx. 80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 mi.



Steinbeck Views

Follow in the footsteps of the famous author, John Steinbeck. Tap into your natural need to be outdoors. 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, Nov. 2; Saturday, Jan. 10; Sunday, Mar. 8
Creekside Terrace Trail Head-Ft. Ord National Monument, Salinas
Elevation: 600-800 ft.
Distance: Approx. 4 miles.



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. 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
Oct. 18; Nov. 15; Feb. 21; Mar. 21
Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: Approx. 80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 3 miles.



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 between nature and our food system and incorporate environmental stewardship and nutrition. Instructor: Farm Discovery Staff.

All Ages
Sunday | 10 am-12 pm
Oct. 26; Nov. 9; Dec. 7
Farm Discovery at Live Earth, Watsonville
Elevation: Approx. 80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 mi.
Optional picnic lunch opportunity, 12 pm-1 pm.



Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande

Curious about a bird you saw? Learn how to use binoculars (provided), other 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 necessary. Instructor: Monterey Audubon Representative.

Ages 12-Adult
4th Saturday of the month
9 am-11 am
Oct. 25; Nov. 22; Jan. 24; Feb. 28; Mar. 28
Laguna Grande Park, Monterey
Elevation change: Approx. 10 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1 mile.



Farm Discovery: Winter Watersheds

Learn about watersheds, water access, and ecology with Farm Discovery. Live Earth is a patchwork of working organic farm, riparian corridor, oak and redwood forest, which makes it an excellent place to investigate water systems, observe winter wildlife, and connect to nature.

All Ages
Saturday | 10 am-12 pm
Jan. 17; Feb. 21
Farm Discovery at Live Earth, Watsonville
Optional picnic lunch opportunity from 12pm-1pm
Elevation: Approx. 80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 mi.



Coffee with Cows

Do you ever wonder why there are so many cows at Palo Corona? Grazing is a widely used tool for grassland management in coastal California. Grab your cup and join experienced ranchers for coffee in the pastures and discuss grazing strategies, cattle husbandry, and other cow-related topics. Instructor: Emily & Luke Gardner.

Ages 6-Adult
Saturday | 9 am-11 am
Dec. 6
Palo Corona Barn, Carmel
Elevation: 50-100 ft.
Distance: 1-2 miles.
Walking elevation and distance dependent on cow location.



JUST FOR KIDS! — Parent chaperones welcome

Afterschool Activities in Nature
 Encourage your children to slow down and connect with nature. Children will walk around the lake, play, and engage with nature through song, movement, games, and art. Instructor: Beccy Breeze.

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 temporary nature art with the materials Mother Nature provides. Instructor: Beccy Breeze.

Ages 5-10
Saturday | 1 pm-3 pm
Nov. 1 | E. Garzas
Jan. 10 | Kahn Ranch
Elevation change: 40-80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 miles.
Trail head listing available online.



Registration Required



Scan here to register

Icon key on back cover.

Community Happenings

Free Events & Programs Offered by Community Organizations

ANNUAL & SPECIAL EVENTS

BIRD SCHOOL PROJECT

Birder's Night Market

The Birder's Night Market is back again! This free event will have arts and crafts. There will be food, non-profit and art vendors, and presentations.

Oct. 11 | 4-8 pm
Sand City Art Park, Sand City

Monterey Bay Festival of Birds

Free events are happening all weekend during the Monterey Bay Festival of Birds. Check out our website for specific trips and registration.

Oct. 10-Oct. 12
Locations throughout Monterey Bay

VISIT: birdschoolproject.org/festival
EMAIL: jess@birdschoolproject.org

CITY OF SEASIDE

Seaside's Certified Farmers' Market

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

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

FRIENDS OF THE MARINA LIBRARY

Native American Heritage Celebration Film

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, Friends of the Marina Library will be hosting a showing of the documentary "Contemporary Indigenous Voices of California's South Coast Range". The documentary is a series of short films that features the voices of leaders from tribal groups from the South Coast Range and beyond. The film will be followed by a discussion with filmmaker Kirti Bassendine. Seating is limited. Registration required, contact Cosette Moeller.

Agnes 16-Adult
Saturday, Nov. 8 | 2 pm Marina Library, Marina

VISIT: friendsofthemarinalibrary.org
CALL: 831-204-0531
EMAIL: cocomoeller@gmail.com

MONTEREY AUDUBON SOCIETY

126th Annual Christmas Bird Count

Participate in the nation's longest-running bird monitoring project! This bird watching activity is fun for beginners and experts alike. Join a group or fly solo. Multiple counts occur in and around Monterey County.

Agnes 13+
Dec. 27 | Monterey Peninsula
More dates, times, locations, and RSVPs online.

VISIT: montereyaudubon.org/cbc

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

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

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 native species, 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 community members to weekend community service events! Stewards plant native plants and clean-up degraded sites in Salinas, FONM Marina, Marina Dunes Preserve, and other locations.

Marina Dunes Preserve Planting Events
Dec. 6; Jan. 31; Feb 7; Feb. 21

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

SAVE OUR SHORES

Get involved in coastal conservation! Join a beach, river, or inland cleanup to participate in community action and community science data collection. Cleanup events are hosted year-round at a variety of locations. All are welcome!

VISIT: saveourshores.org/events/
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, and environmental art projects. Activities for every age and families!

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

TOURS & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

BIG SUR LAND TRUST

Join Big Sur Land Trust on the lands you love! Choose from guided hikes, project tours, special events, and more.

San Jose Creek Trail walk

Oct. 24 | 9 am

National Hiking Day guided hike:

Williams Canyon to Rancho Cañada
Nov. 17 | 8 am

Carmel River FREE Project tours

Mar. 20 | 9 am & 10 am

REGISTRATION: bigsurlandtrust.org/event/
EMAIL: info@bigsurlandtrust.org

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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, including an annual celebration of Women's History in March.

VISIT: parks.ca.gov/asilomar
FOLLOW: [@asilomarstatebeach](https://twitter.com/asilomarstatebeach)
EMAIL: asilomar.interp@parks.ca.gov

ELKHORN SLOUGH RESERVE

Visit the Reserve to hike and explore the habitats around Elkhorn Slough! Open Wed-Sun, 9am-5pm for self-guided hikes on trails and Visitor Center exploration. Family friendly activities, guided hikes every weekend, and special events are on our online calendar.

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

PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Join us for Sea Otter Awareness Week at Berwick Park or fun family activities and adventures at the Museum with free Science Saturdays (themes change monthly).

Sea Otter Awareness Week Spotting Station

Sep. 21 & Sep. 26 | 11 am-2 pm
Berwick Park, Pacific Grove

Science Saturday

Last Saturday of each month | 10 am-3 pm
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

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

SANTA LUCIA CONSERVANCY

Join us for a bus ride and hike on Saturday, November 22 to learn about our environmental management practices for redwood forests and grasslands. Meeting, registration, and experience details are available on page 10, see:

SLC Redwood Forest Hike | 9:30 am
SLC Fire Mitigation Tour | 12:45 pm

VISIT: slconservancy.org

VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Condor Zoom Chats

Tune in for real-time answers to your burning condor questions as Senior Wildlife Biologist Joe Burnett and the Ventana Wildlife Society Condor Crew take you through the latest updates on the central California condor flock.

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

VISIT: ventanaws.org/thecondorchat.html

THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY

Come wander under the sprawling oak trees of Rana Creek Preserve in Carmel Valley! Monthly 2nd Saturday stewardship events, docent-led hikes on Nov. 16 and Jan. 1 (with dates being added all the time) and more.

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



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 Shane Anderson
shanea@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

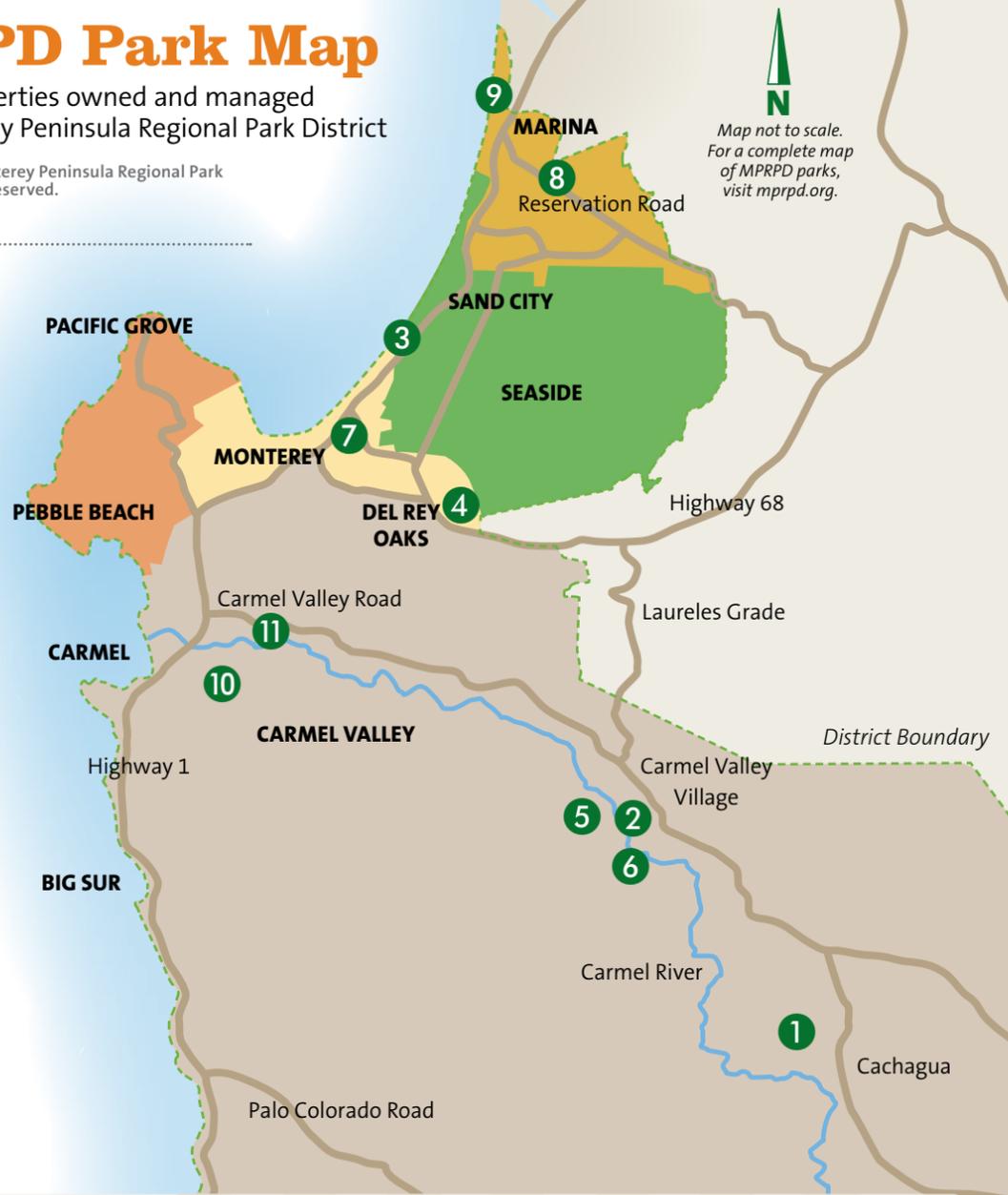
Board meetings are typically held the first Wednesday of each month. Check mprpd.org for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH (EECO) TEAM

Eric Morgan | General Manager
Debbie Wyatt | Coordinator-Volunteers
Savannah Peña | Coordinator-Programs
Jocelyn Mendoza | Specialist
Megan Mach, PhD | Specialist
Nicole Bonello | Specialist
Alina Marzano | 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)	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Management Partnership
** Access Permit Required

Adventure Planner

OCT			PAGE
4	Sat	Intl. Observe the Moon Night	BACK COVER
8	Wed	Afterschool Activities in Nature	10
11	Sat	Making Cordage from Native Plants	9
11	Sat	Mindful Walking & Meditation	8
11	Sat	Nature Night Hike	6
12	Sun	Coastal Sunset Hike	6
14	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy I	8
17	Fri	San Jose Creek Loop	6
18	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	11
18	Sat	Exploring Nature with Children	10
19	Sun	Bugs in the River	7
21	Tue	Garland's Canyons and Ridges	6
21	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy I	8
23	Thu	Snively's Ridge Loop	8
25	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
25	Sat	Owl Encounter	9
25	Sat	Pole Walking and Pole Hiking Training	8
26	Sun	Farm Discovery: Family Farm Field Trips	11
26	Sun	Moon Movement & Mysteries	10
28	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy I	8
31	Fri	Palo Corona Back Country - San Jose Creek	7
NOV			
1	Sat	Art in Nature	10
2	Sun	Steinbeck Views	11
8	Sat	Monarch Sanctuary Stroll	10
9	Sun	Farm Discovery: Family Farm Field Trips	11
9	Sun	Monarch Sanctuary Stroll	10
9	Sun	Solar System Stroll	10
12	Wed	Afterschool Activities in Nature	10
15	Sat	Bird Walks - Fall Migration	6
15	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	11
15	Sat	Nature Night Hike	6
15	Sat	ParkIT! Point Lobos Shuttle Demo	9
16	Sun	Nature Walks at Garland	6
18	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy I	8
22	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
22	Sat	Discover Kahn Ranch	7
22	Sat	SLC Redwood Forest Hike	10
22	Sat	SLC Fire Mitigation Tour	10
23	Sun	Palo Corona Back Country	7
25	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy I	8
29	Sat	Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running	8
DEC			
2	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy I	8
6	Sat	Nature Night Hike	6
6	Sat	Coffee with Cows	6
7	Sun	Farm Discovery: Family Farm Field Trips	11
7	Sun	Solar System Stroll	10
10	Wed	Afterschool Activities in Nature	10
13	Sat	Snively's Ridge from Holt Road	8
13	Sat	Palo Corona Back Country	7
13	Sat	Star Party	BACK COVER
20	Sat	Mushroom Mania	9
21	Sun	Nature Walks Palo Corona	6

JAN			PAGE
3	Sat	Nature Night Hike	6
4	Sun	Mushroom Mania	9
10	Sat	Garland's Canyons and Ridges	6
10	Sat	Steinbeck Views	11
10	Sat	Art in Nature	10
11	Sun	Nature Walks at Garland	6
13	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy II	8
14	Wed	Afterschool Activities in Nature	10
17	Sat	Farm Discovery: Winter Watersheds	11
20	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy II	8
24	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
24	Sat	Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running	8
24	Sat	Snively's Ridge Loop	8
25	Sun	Moon Movement & Mysteries	10
25	Sun	Palo Corona Back Country	7
27	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy II	8
31	Sat	Mushroom Mania	9
31	Sat	Nature Night Hike	6
FEB			
3	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy II	8
7	Sat	Discover Kahn Ranch	7
7	Sat	Tule Mat Weaving	9
10	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy II	8
11	Wed	Afterschool Activities in Nature	10
14	Sat	Garland's Canyons and Ridges	6
14	Sat	Star Party	BACK COVER
17	Tue	Tai Chi for Energy II	8
21	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	11
21	Sat	Exploring Nature with Children	10
21	Sat	Farm Discovery: Winter Watersheds	11
21	Sat	Sensory Stream Stroll	7
22	Sun	Moon Movement & Mysteries	10
22	Sun	Palo Corona Back Country - San Jose Creek	7
22	Sun	Walk with Poems	9
26	Thu	Snively's Ridge from Holt Rd	8
28	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
28	Sat	Winter Wildflowers & Plants	6
28	Sat	Nature Night Hike	6
MAR			
7	Sat	Feel the Falls	7
7	Sat	Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running	8
8	Sun	Steinbeck Views	11
11	Wed	Afterschool Activities in Nature	10
14	Sat	Palo Corona Back Country - San Jose Creek	7
14	Sat	Winter Wildflowers & Plants	6
15	Sun	Solar System Stroll	10
20	Fri	San Jose Creek Loop	6
21	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	11
21	Sat	Feel the Falls	7
21	Sat	Snively's Ridge Loop	8
22	Sun	Walk with Poems	9
28	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
28	Sat	Mindful Walking & Meditation	8
29	Sun	California Wildlife Day	3

Icon key on back cover. Register now at mprpd.org. Registration required for programs. Events with bold font indicate special events where walk-ins are welcome.



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



www.mprpd.org

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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! NIGHT SKY GAZING

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

WALK-INS WELCOME

International Observe the Moon Night & Telescope Workshop

Local amateur astronomers will join thousands of others across the world in a night dedicated to highlighting the many features of the Moon. Need tips on how to use your telescope? Astronomers will be available before the main event to help you with your own telescope.

All Ages

Saturday, Oct. 4

6 pm-7 pm Telescope Workshop

7 pm-9 pm Moon Observation

Palo Corona Multi-purpose Pad
 Carmel

Location subject to change based on cloud cover. Check online listing 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 for this two-hour program.

All Ages

Saturday | Sunset

Dec 13 | 4:45 pm

Feb 14 | 5:45 pm

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 permitted.

