

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT**

BOARD MEETING: November 02, 2022

SUBJECT: Monthly Staff Report

PRESENTER: Dr. Rafael Payan, General Manager

REPORT: The following briefly summarizes some of the key tasks and projects the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) Staff undertook from mid-September through mid-October 2022 in addition to performing MPRPD's regular business. This work was accomplished in compliance with the CDC's, State's, and County's COVID-related guidelines.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

- 1. Annual Audit and Financial Statements:** Staff continue to work with MPRPD's auditors on the annual audit and financial statement preparations.
- 2. Best Trail and Favorite Park on the Monterey Peninsula Awarded to MPRPD:** Ms. Jessica Caird, of the Carmel Pine Cone, has notified MPRPD that:

“Congratulations! You [MPRPD] are a 2022 Carmel Pine Cone Golden Pine Cone Winner! The Carmel Pine Cone readers voted Palo Corona Regional Park as Best Trail and Garland Park as My Favorite Park on the Monterey Peninsula.”

Ms. Caird further informed MPRPD that, “We are publishing our special Golden Pine Cone edition on Friday, October 28th profiling the winners.”

MPRPD is humbly appreciative of being so favorably recognized and supported by our community. Palo Corona's Multi-Benefit Community Trail has been an exceedingly positive asset for our community, offering an array of healthful physical, social, and environmental opportunities for folks of all physical capacities and demographics. MPRPD is concurrently collaborating with our esteemed partners, donors, and stakeholders to restore a substantial portion of the former Rancho Canada Golf Club into vital native habitat.

The following photographs represent some of the trail's users:



The Multi-Benefit Community Trail Serves Many Different Purposes and Users

- 3. California Red-legged Frogs (CRLFs):** As previously reported, federally listed CRLFs were confirmed at the former Rancho Canada Golf Club's water trap pond located near the Project-B construction site. Project-B includes the construction of a much-needed public restroom building at Palo Corona Regional Park's main trailhead, a school-bus drop-off/staging area so that children do not have to cross traffic lanes within the extant parking area, accessible parking, and a special event pad to host environmental education-based and other similar activities.



**California Red-legged Frog
(*Rana draytonii*)**

Upon CRLF's being confirmed at this pond, staff promptly contacted the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and SWCA Environmental Consultants to ensure mandated practices were immediately implemented. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife was also contacted, and they aligned with the direction the USFWS and SWCA provided MPRPD.

Project-B's best management practices ensure compliance with the USFWS's directives and SWCA's strategies. These included training sessions for MPRPD's, Project-B's, and Wedgewood Weddings and Banquets' personnel. Silt fence was promptly erected around the construction site to reduce the potential of CRLFs finding their way into the project site. MPRPD's consulting biologist continues to perform visual sweeps of the site to determine if any frogs are within the construction zone.

The discovery of this federally listed species at this site is heralded as an enormous success for MPRPD. This demonstrates that MPRPD indeed continues to enhance, provide, and even create and expand potential habitat for some of our threatened and endangered fellow beings including CRLFs, California condor, and steelhead trout, and commonly found native species seen at Palo Corona and other regional parks.

- 4. Classification & Compensation Study:** Results from the District's Classification and Compensation studies were presented to MPRPD's Board at its October meeting. Staff is compiling some recommendations to be presented to the Personnel Committee, after which the ultimate recommendations will be presented to MPRPD's full Board for their review and consideration.
- 5. Exhibit Designs and Construction for the PCRCP Discovery Center:** Staff continued the in-house design of several additional cultural/environmental-based interpretive exhibits that shall be constructed within the next few months. These include:
 - A.** Construction of a replicated Indigenous people's dwelling, known as a Ruk, that may have been commonly found in the region prior to colonialism and for a period of time thereafter;
 - B.** An "Appliance Wall" that juxtaposes traditional Indigenous peoples' and contemporary societies' commonly used implements such as comparing and contrasting the use of a mussel shell with the use of a metal spoon;
 - C.** The Carmel River Watershed's 3-D model;
 - D.** Enhancement of the mountain lion exhibit;
 - E.** The showcasing of our partners' environmental/habitat restoration projects including the reintroduction of federally and state listed flora and fauna to their former range by several organizations, and projects such as the Big Sur Land Trusts' Carmel River FREE and the State Coastal Conservancy's and MPRPD's

collaborative Floodplain and Upland Restoration Project which may serve as a national and international model regarding native habitat restoration opportunities.

6. **“F.I.D.O.” (Fenced In Dog “O-rena”):** Staff met with several interested parties to continue the planning and near-future development of this fence-enclosed off-leash canine facility. This site improvement was included in the Palo Corona Regional Parks’ general development plan, and proved to be one of the public’s most desired facilities for this park. The project will be carefully coordinated with our stakeholders to ensure that the facility is strategically integrated with other site and habitat improvement projects, and that all parties are kept informed as this project advances. Staff shall provide MPRPD’s Board updates as this project advances.
7. **Floodplain and Upland Restoration Project at PCRPD’s Rancho Canada Unit:** MPRPD has embarked on a project strategy that integrates the united foci of for-profit, not-for-profit, and governmental agencies to advance the complex and costly endeavor of restoring a former golf course into carefully planned accessible public open space and restored native habitat.

The State Coastal Conservancy, McBain Associates, several stakeholder groups, and MPRPD continue to advance this project which may serve as a national/international model that highlights what can be accomplished through a multi-faceted integrated approach that yields habitat restoration, public access, education, research, and monitoring – especially in the face of global climate change and demographic shifts.

8. **Laguna Grande Regional Park Meeting with JPA Members and Others:** The cities of Monterey, Seaside, and Del Rey Oaks, have met with MPRPD, jointly and separately, to discuss the formulation of plans that will greatly benefit Laguna Grande Regional Park’s continued planning, development, operation, public safety, and environmental monitoring. Discussions have also explored means by which this park and valuable open space may provide connectivity to the region’s other nearby parks and open spaces, including the California Coastal Recreation Trail, Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, and the regional FORTAG project. MPRPD’s Board and the public shall be provided details as this vital effort advances.
9. **Meeting Room Improvements:** Staff is researching and assessing a recently sourced technology that may greatly and cost effectively enhance virtual meetings’ broadcasts. Staff hopes to pilot this technology as early as the November 2022 MPRPD Board meeting, or shortly thereafter. This technology will help MPRPD determine if the subject device can offer a useful and reliable option for hybrid and/or general meeting broadcasts.

The California Governor’s Office has cautiously announced possible plans to possibly lift the emergency COVID-19 related protocols as early as February 2023. Of course, this could always change due to an unforeseen uptick regarding the pandemic. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 epidemic has resulted in the creation of opportunities that should be embraced and enhanced where feasible. This includes the expanded

use of available, and creation of innovative, technology that will enhance public meeting participation and the dissemination of information.

- 10. New Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) Walking Trail:** CAWD recently announced that they are exploring the possibility of creating a new community walking trail. The proposed new trail would connect existing trails at the Palo Corona Regional Park's Rancho Canada Unit to the nearby Mission Trail.

CAWD's project web page is near completion and will include drone video to provide a bird's-eye flyover of the proposed trail. CAWD's General Manager - Barbara Buikema, said, "We hope to connect Mission Trail Park to Palo Corona Park."

- 11. Palo Corona's Project-B Construction:** Construction activities have significantly advanced during the month of October. The restroom building roof has been installed, and all fascia and soffits have been painted. The exterior of the building has been lathed in preparation for integrally colored plaster (stucco) coats. Site work is underway and new retaining walls have been formed and concrete has been paced providing their smooth concrete finishes. Irrigation trenching has been completed and water lines are being installed.

Progress reports are jointly prepared by MPRPD's Rangers and the Ausonio construction management team. Ausonio's team continues to coordinate closely with Wedgewood to ensure no negative impacts affect the concessionaire's events, as well as monitoring site deliveries, and to ensure continued public access to the clubhouse and modified trail entrances. Tribal Monitors remain on-call to identify and avoid any potential negative impacts to cultural sites when trenching occurs. No cultural artifacts were encountered in the past month. The Ranger and Ausonio team have also been working closely with SWCA's biologist to monitor the site for, and to protect, the federally listed California Red Legged Frog.



Doors Installed; Walkway Ready for Concrete



Accessible Parking & Bus Pull-out Being Prepared



Shade Structure/Bench Retaining Wall's Rough Forming

12. ParkIT! Initiative: The initiative's Steering Committee met to continue advancing this important item. The following provides a summary of the 18 October 2022 meeting:

- A.** The Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration is presently with State Parks for their review and certification. There will be a 30-45 day "cooling off period" before certification is considered. The Steering Committee will meet with Denise Duffy

and Associates (the project's consultant) to determine next steps and what role the consultant will play.

- B. A strategy meeting with the Coastal Conservancy shall be scheduled to formulate the best means to approach the Coastal Commission regarding this project.
- C. The Steering Committee concurs that it should participate in the Public Comment Period at the Coastal Commission's November 16-18 meetings. The meetings will be held at the Monterey County Board of Supervisors' Chambers, in Salinas.
- D. State Parks will continue to coordinate with their respective Partnerships Office to seek help with the development and issuance of an RFP for a visitation survey.
- E. The Steering Committee has scheduled a 09 November 2022 site visit to Big Basin State Park to research their reservation and shuttle system.
- F. SPOKE Consulting is performing preliminary interviews to help the firm develop the project's Communications Plan. The following folks will be, or have been, interviewed by SPOKE: Brent Marshall, Rafael Payan, Kate Daniels, Rob O'Keefe (from the Convention and Visitors Bureau), Butch Kronlund (of Community Association of Big Sur), Supervisor Mary Adams, Brian Call, Augie Louis, Martha Diehl, Dan Kieg, Rick Manning (of the Carmel Valley Association), and Michael Wizman (of the Carmel Highlands Association). Cynthia Buhl, of the Crossroads, declined to be interviewed.

SPOKE representatives shall provide a presentation at the 15 November 2022 Steering Committee meeting to provide an update and articulate actions going forward.

- G. The ParkIT! Initiative is again participating in this year's Monterey County Gives funding campaign. Challenge gifts were due by 24 October 2022. The Steering Committee agreed to place a ½ page advertisement in the Monterey County Weekly to promote ParkIT! Cost is estimated at \$575 per advertisement.
- H. The Steering Committee discussed filling the Project Coordinator position. How the position is filled shall depend on what the Steering Committee wants to accomplish in the new year.
- I. The next Steering Committee meeting will focus on goal setting. The date and time are 15 November 2022, at 3pm via Zoom.

13. Recruitment: MPRPD has openings for Environmental Education Specialist and Ranger positions. We hope to soon fill the position recently left vacant by the retirement of our highly esteemed and multi-talented Ranger, John Palaniuk.

14. San Jose Creek Trail Opening Steering Committee: All MPRPD Divisions are engaged in the opening of the San Jose Creek Trail for public use. The opening date

may be as early as 05 November 2022. Please review details listed below in the Planning and Conservation, and Operations and Maintenance staff reports.

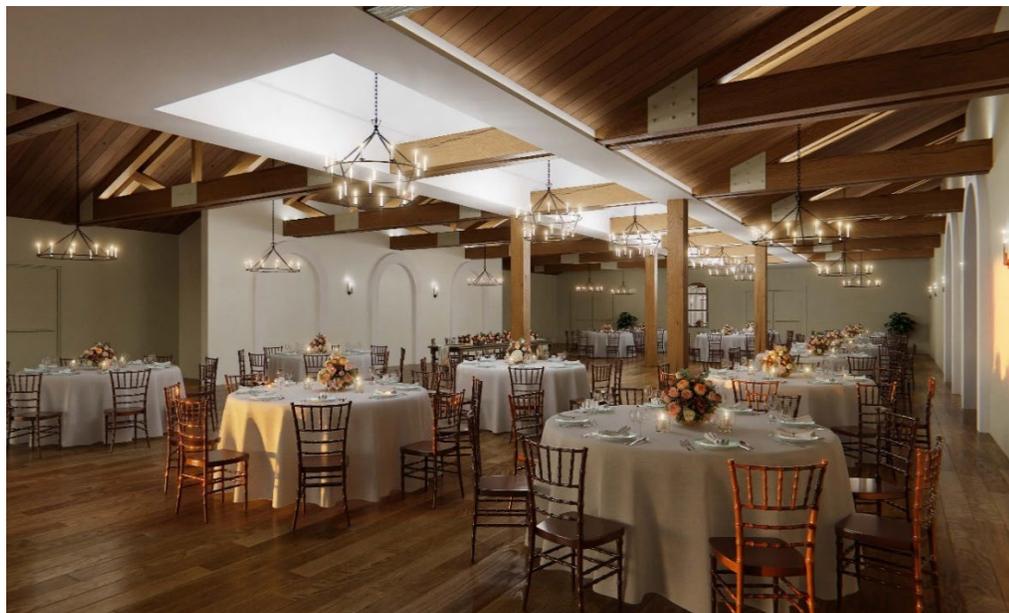
15. Santa Lucia Conservancy (SLC) Environmental Education Programs: SLC's and MPRPD's executive staff continue to meet to discuss and plan the potential of coordinated youth-based environmental education programs to minimize redundancy while maximizing the vast array of educational opportunities that may exist, and the careful integration of access by SLC's patrons to the Carmel River as part of the Rancho Canada Unit's Floodplain and Upland Habitats Restoration Project.

16. Training: Staff participated in the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC) Debt Essentials Seminar. Finance and Planning divisions' staff are jointly working on the identification of proposed Capital Improvement Planning needs. Finance Staff continue to research potential and available funding sources to accomplish the District's needed capital improvements.

17. Wedgwood Tenant Improvements:

A. Event Venue Facility Improvements at the Rancho Canada Unit: MPRPD's concessionaire, Wedgwood Weddings and Banquets, has exciting plans that include various improvements for the Rancho Canada Unit's event venue facilities. These improvements' costs are being underwritten by the concessionaire. These updated and upgraded facilities shall continue to be available for MPRPD's functions, as well. The securing of all applicable building permits is in process.

Below are photographic concepts for the two Banquet Rooms, the former Pub Room, and the Garden Wedding Venue.



Fiesta Room Concept



Merienda Room Concept



Pub Room Concept



Garden Lawn Concept

B. Roof and HVAC Replacement: Wedgewood Weddings and Banquets continues to underwrite and execute numerous construction-focused tenant improvements at MPRPD's Rancho Canada Unit. A key capital improvement includes the Banquet Facilities' and Pub Room's roofing and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) replacement project. As of the writing of this report, they are also working on the Palo Corona Regional Park's Discovery Center roof area. As should be expected for a 50-year-old building, dry rot was encountered, requiring replacement of some sections of the tongue and groove layer of the roof.



Dry Rot Removal of Discovery Center's Roof Sections

18. Wildlife Cameras: Staff are exploring potential placement locations for several wildlife cameras at various MPRPD properties. Information that is collected may help identify sites leading to the potential enhancement of wildlife corridors – possibly including a wildlife crossing over or under Carmel Valley Road. This photographic data will also be a valuable educational tool wherein footage may be used at MPRPD’s Discovery and Visitor Centers, and to establish a baseline time-series that shows the progression of climate change on our natural landscapes, spanning seasons, years, and decades.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION and COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIVISION

1. Arboretum: Volunteers Lois Davidson and Mary Gale have been weeding and pruning the trees and shrubs at Garland Ranch Regional Park’s Native Plant Arboretum. In preparation for the 2022/23 fall/winter rainy season (🌧️) a list of native plants has been created for purchase. Great care is being taken to ensure we maximize maintaining genetic fidelity by sourcing seeds and plants that are collected or propagated locally. Some plants have already been purchased and are being prepared to plant.

2. Community Outreach:

A. Anniversary Celebration: MPRPD’s 50th Year Anniversary shall be celebrated the entire month of November 2022. The month-long celebration will be highlighted via the social media campaign entitled: #50Kfor50Years.

MPRPD’s 50th Year Anniversary celebration shall continue into December, with a special event being held on 03 December 2022, from 10am to 2pm, at Palo Corona Regional Park. December’s event theme is: “Valuing Parks and Open Space.” This celebration shall include exhibitors, presentations, food, and booths to engage the public, highlighting MPRPD’s 50-years of conservation, restoration, education, and recreation.

A website page, <https://www.mprpd.org/celebrate-50-years-with-mprpd>, has been created to host updates and provide vital information. To get involved or to learn more about these celebrations, please contact Savannah Peña at: pena@mprpd.org or 831-242-0240.

Press releases, display ads, and social media posts are being drafted. Spoke Consulting is assisting and providing MPRPD expertise that will greatly enhance the 50th Anniversary’s public roll-out and delivery. All MPRPD staff, under the EECO Division’s leadership, are actively participating in the planning and implementation of the events’ activities.

B. Del Rey Oaks Fall Festival: On 01 October 2022, EECO Division staff hosted an outreach booth at the Del Rey Oaks Citizens Action Group’s annual Fall Festival. The event was held at Del Rey Park. Displays included a variety of photos,

volunteer signup information, safety pamphlets, park maps, mammal species pelts, animal track casts, and an arts-and-crafts table for kids where they colored various wildlife masks. MPRPD's Board of Directors' Dr. Raskoff and General Manager Payan assisted with hosting the event, and welcoming and speaking with the event's participants. More than 50-festival goers stopped by MPRPD's booth to ask questions, color, and assemble craft masks, and interact with various displays.

C. Social Media Posts: For this reporting period, posts primarily consisted of park event news and educational nature content. Posts promoted upcoming *LGO!* programming and *LGO!* instructor training, promoting, and planning the eucalyptus removal volunteer day, celebrating the second annual Indigenous People's Day, and highlighting various regional parks. The following of MPRPD social media accounts grew in September-October.

ii. Facebook stats - @MPRegionalParkDistrict:

Oct. 15 follower count: 1,990 (+18)

Facebook Page Reach: 1,392 (↑ 6.1%)

Top three most popular posts: Sep 16 – Oct 1

9/29 LGO! and MIRA Moon Adventures Program (283 views)

10/11 LGO! Instructor Training (263 views)

9/22 Autumn Equinox Palo Corona Plant Scavenger Hunt (222 views)

iii. Instagram stats - @mprpd_lgo:

Oct. 15 follower count: 940 (+34)

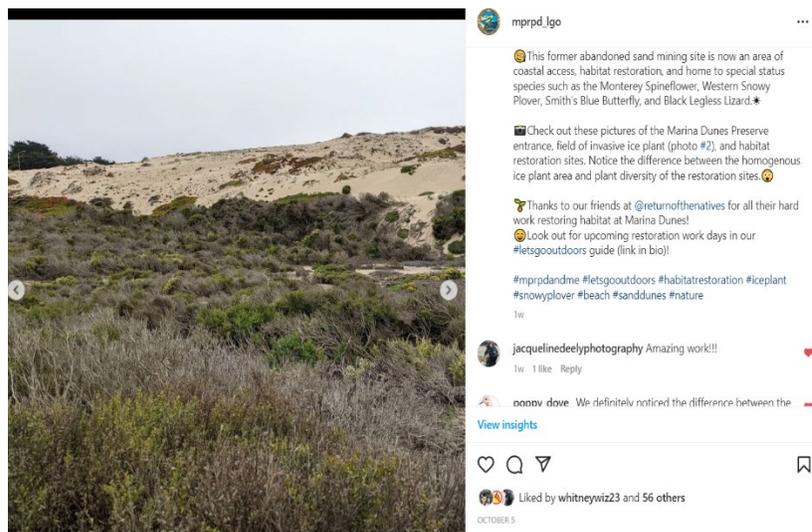
Instagram Page Reach: 716 (↑ 82.2%)

Top 3 most popular posts: Sep 16 – Oct 15

10/5 Marina Dunes Preserve Restoration (374 views)

10/12 Indigenous People's Day (359 views)

0/2 Name that MPRPD Park (Marina Dunes Preserve) (344 views)





mprpd_igo 🌍 In observance of Indigenous People's Day this week and every day honor and respect that we live on native land. 🌞

📖 Check out these pictures of the Tule Boat ("Kónon" in Rumsen language), made by local artist Linda Yamane, displayed in the Palo Corona Discovery Center! Come by the Discovery Center (open weekends) to learn more about the Indigenous heritage of the area.

🌿 The Kónon, constructed from bundled tule reeds, was once a common sight along local rivers, lakes, estuaries, and waters of the Monterey Bay 🌊

😊 Linda Yamane made this beautiful Kónon from tule plants following the tradition of her heritage with the Rumsen Ohlone people indigenous to the Monterey area.

📖 The second picture shows images of the Kónon being constructed, harvesting and drying of the cut tules, and Linda Yamane paddling a 9-foot Kónon!

🌿 The single-stemmed tule plants were bound together with

[View insights](#)

👍🗨️📌

👤 Liked by **stefhaniemariam** and 67 others

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)
3d · 🌍

📅 Only 3 days left to sign up for the Let's Go Outdoors! Instructor Training 🎉

👥 Meet MPRPD staff, volunteers, and fellow instructors and learn how to create your very own interpretive program!

📅 When: Saturday, Oct. 15 9:30 am-1:30 pm

📍 Where: Palo Corona Discovery Center

🔗 Sign up today at <https://secure.rect1.com/monterey-peninsula.../catalog> (link in bio)!

📞 For more information:
Contact Savannah:
EMAIL pena@mprpd.org
CALL 831-372-3196 x114

👉 You will need: good walking shoes, note pad, writing utensil, water, and comfortable, layered clothing.

See you there!

#letsGOoutdoors #mprpdandme #education #environmental #nature #botany #conservation #wildlife #volunteer #community



What you will do:
Meet and greet fellow interested instructors, MPRPD staff and volunteers. Participate in an interpretive walk around Palo Corona Regional Park. Participate in an interactive workshop to create your own program.

You will need:

- Good walking shoes
- Note pad and writing utensil
- Water
- Comfortable, layered clothing

For more information:
Contact Savannah:

Lunch break with current instructors to

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)
3d · 🌍

🏞️ Name that MPRPD park! 🎯

🌄 At which regional park can you see this stunning view of the valley and Pacific ocean?

🌿 This park stretches across more than 4,500 acres, includes the headwaters of thirteen watersheds, protects significant habitat areas, wildlife corridors, endangered species, and is one of the most significant undeveloped open spaces on the California Central Coast! 🌲

🦌 🐅 🦉 🦅 🐎 🐻 🦉 🦋 🐸 Deer, Mountain Lion, Bobcat, Golden Eagle, California Condor, Black Bear, Spotted Owl, Smith's Blue Butterfly and California Red-Legged Frog live in and range over the park. 🌲 🌿 🌱

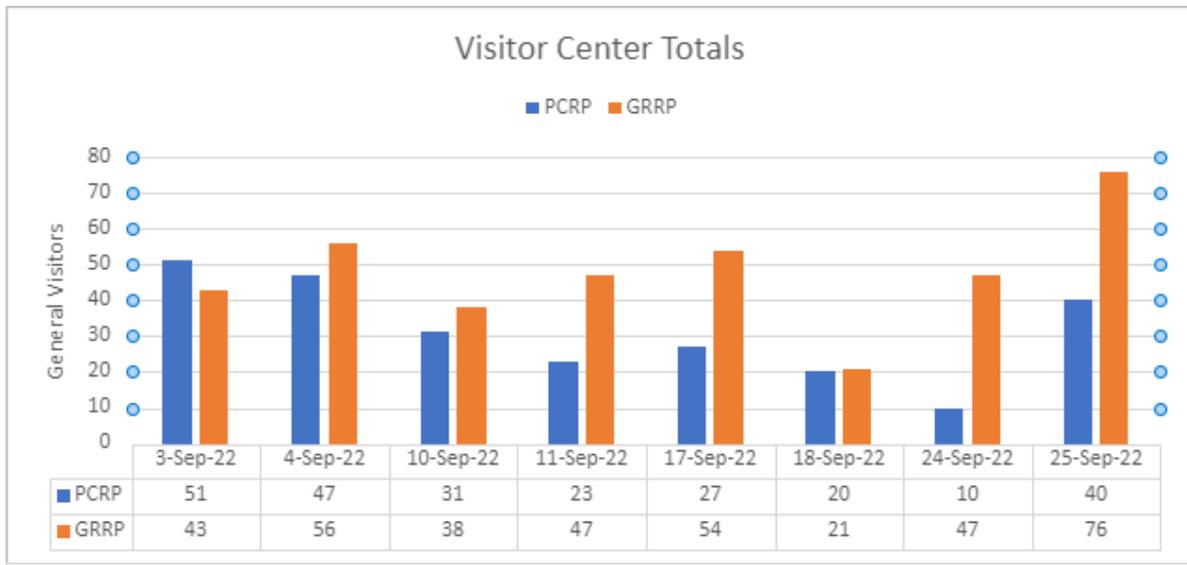
👉 Post your guesses in the comments. Bonus points if you can name the trail where the picture was taken in addition to the park!

#mprpdandme #letsGOoutdoors #wildlife #wildlifecorridors #wildlifeconservation #nature #hiking #mountainlion #owl



👍🗨️📌 6 4 Comments 2 Shares

D. Visitor Center Totals: Staff has been monitoring and collecting visitation data at both the PCRPD Discovery Center (DC) and the GRRP Visitor Center. On 09 October 2022, some visitors mentioned they came to the DC to see the heritage exhibits in honor of Indigenous People's Day which was celebrated the succeeding day. Below is a chart summarizing weekend visitor contacts in September 2022.



NOTE: Centers were closed during periods of zero visitation. PCRP visitation is presently impacted by area construction. Statistics for PCRP may also include visitor contacts by “park greeter” volunteers stationed at the temporary trailhead.

3. Education:

A. Education Webpages: Staff has identified and continues to research areas to improve the MPRPD educational webpages on www.mprpd.org by offering a “center information page,” and educational videos, 3D virtual tours, and including a teacher resource pool.

B. K-12 Education Programs: Staff is piloting MPRPD’s educational programs for 6-12 grades, reaching out to other communities, networking with teachers and our environmental education partners and constituents, co-hosting teacher development workshops, and building and enhancing the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History’s MOU. Other efforts include offering outings held at GRRP and PCRP, discussions with Bay View Academy, engaging in and with The Village Project. Local homeschoolers and Seaside Middle School have begun to identify needs and requesting the nascent pilot program’s material and participation.

4. Instructor Training: To recruit new *LGO!* instructors and expand MPRPD’s volunteer program, staff and MPRPD’s exceptional volunteers Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton advertised and hosted an instructor training on 15 October 2022. Thirteen interested new, and experienced instructors joined this four-hour, free, introductory training. Participants enjoyed an interpretive walk, a brief workshop on creating their own program(s), and review of the instructor handbook and sign-in procedures.

5. Interns (CSUMB Scientific Illustrator Intern): Cady DeLay created draft illustrations for a wayside panel interpreting the endangered Smith’s Blue Butterflies and

Buckwheat (critical habitat) of Marina Dunes Preserve. This is the second of three educational panels highlighting the important resources in the dune environment.

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

A. Guide Updates: The special MPRPD's 50th Year Anniversary edition of the *LGO!* guide reached over 65,000 residents.

B. Popular Programs: Our programs are proving to be exceedingly popular, well-attended, and are going strong. New mid-season programs are being added. The Rattlesnakes of the Central Coast program hosted by instructor Bruce Elliott, will be presented on 05 November 2022.

7. **Service Learners:** Service Learners from CSUMB continue to work with MPRPD personnel. This coalition has created 6-inspired designs for stickers and coloring pages for MPRPD's 50th Anniversary events.

8. **Special Use Permits:** The following Special Use Permit (SUP) was issued during the period spanning July through September 2022. The SUP's focus was **Filming eDNA Sampling for Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP)**. Independent film producer, Tanya Olson, received the SUP to film eDNA scientists taking water samples from the Carmel River at Garland Ranch Regional Park to demonstrate and document water sampling and collection procedures, and document critical protocol for species identification through eDNA processes.

A federal Department of Defense (DoD) grant funded this SERDP. This short instructional/educational film highlights the vital need for eDNA research and its supporting methodologies, and especially focuses on the need for conservation planning.



Sampling and Recording eDNA Processes

9. **Training:** MPRPD's Conservation and Planning (C&P) and Environmental Education and Community Outreach (EECO) staff and volunteers scouted the Vista Lobos Trail,

including the overlook area, to familiarize themselves with the variety of natural habitats and human-generated infrastructural features, and prepare for 2023's late winter/early spring programs. The rarely used Vista Lobos Trail is typically only accessible to the public on MPRPD-guided or sponsored hikes and activities.

A portion of the presently closed Vista Lobos Trail needs moderate clearing and repair prior to offering programs. MPRPD's Operation and Maintenance Division's (O&M) staff are scheduling trail clearing and repair work to take place this fall.



Dense Vegetation Along the Vista Lobos Trail

10. Volunteers:

A. 22 Oct 2022: Eucalyptus Removal Volunteer Workday: In support of the fuel reduction work done earlier this year, C&P, O&M, and EECO divisions worked collaboratively to host a eucalyptus removal public volunteer workday. EECO staff developed social media content, posted fliers at parks, and announced the event in the *LGO!* guide.

Firewise Group representatives assisted with the event's promoting by getting the word out with 15-different Carmel Valley groups via Facebook, on Next-door, and the with the Robles Firewise Group.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

FIRE FUEL MITIGATION

- Help make Garland Ranch Regional Park fire safe!
- Thin and remove invasive Eucalyptus trees
- Refreshments provided
- **Bring:** Close toed shoes, hat, gloves, long sleeves, and sunscreen

Ages 15-Adult

Garland Ranch Visitor Center

SATURDAY 10/22
9AM-12PM

For more information: Email wyatt@mprpd.org
Scan QR code to register

Fire and Fuel Mitigation Event Announcement

- B. In September, staff met with MPRPD’s Volunteers at their monthly meeting to discuss plans for MPRPD’s 50th Year Anniversary Celebration. Numerous key topics were discussed during this meeting including volunteer scheduling, training, enrichment fieldtrips, and thoughts and ideas for future in-person and remote meetings.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE DIVISION

1. **Aguajito Fire Suppression Repair:** Staff contacted Cal Fire during the Aguajito Fire to inquire about suppression repair needs along Aguajito Road, bordering the District’s Joyce Stevens Monterey Pine Preserve. Cal Fire utilized mechanized equipment to clear the roadside drainage in preparation for winter, and broadcast woody organic material over the roadside fuel break to prevent erosion during winter rain events.



Roadside Fuel Break Prior to Suppression Repair

- 2. Cal-am Water Well Improvements:** Rangers are coordinating with California-American Water to facilitate access for heavy equipment to complete water well improvements at Cal-Am's production well located along Lupine Loop at Garland Ranch Regional Park. The enormous size of heavy equipment required for this project necessitated Rangers to escort Cal-Am into Garland Ranch Regional Park's eastern administrative entrance via the Rancho Loop gate.



Cal-Am Equipment at Lupine Loop Production Well Site

3. **GRRP ADA Improvements:** Kasavan Architects were selected as the most qualified consultant to lead the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Assessment for Garland Ranch Regional Park's Ranger Station. MPRPD is currently in the process of entering into a contract with Kasavan the subject ADA Assessment. This project includes a comprehensive assessment of ADA compliance aspects at the Garland Ranch Regional Park Ranger Station, restroom, and meeting room. Following completion of the assessment, a qualified contractor will be hired competitively to implement the consultant's recommendations. A funding source for the construction phase shall be identified and pursued once the architectural firm has developed the architect's estimate for this project's development.
4. **GRRP Fuel Reduction Volunteer Event:** Saturday, 22 October 2022, marked the first-ever Fuel Reduction Volunteer Event at Garland Ranch Regional Park. MPRPD's President Potter, and the Environmental Education and Community Outreach, Planning and Conservation, and Operations and Maintenance divisions teamed-up to coordinate and facilitate this event, which focused on removal of eucalyptus stems sprouting from stumps where previously felled eucalyptus trees once stood.
5. **Lunch for Ranger John Palaniuk:** Staff celebrated the retirement of Ranger John Palaniuk by treating him to lunch at his favorite local restaurant, Baja Cantina. Staff told stories and shared laughs with John prior to his final day of MPRPD employment, which was 14 October 2022.



MPRPD Staff Wishing Ranger John Farewell

6. **Monastery Road Work:** Operations and Maintenance Division's staff are coordinating with Carmel Monastery personnel to repair and improve the access road leading to the Monastery Unit of Palo Corona Regional Park. Rangers and the park's

grazing lessee frequently utilize this road to access the Monastery well pump. Graniterock has been hired by the Monastery as the prime contractor that shall affect the repairs, which are scheduled to begin on 27 October 2022.

- 7. New Vehicle and Cattle Gates:** Rangers recently replaced several failing vehicle/cattle/pedestrian gates within Palo Corona Regional Park's backcountry. Specifically, these gates are located at the Quail Meadows property boundary, Palo Corona Trail near Animas Pond, and along the Whisler-Wilson Unit pasture fence line.



New Gate Along Palo Corona Trail at Animas Pond



New Gate at Property Boundary with Quail Meadows

8. **Pacific Grove Invitational Cross-country Meet:** The Big Sur Marathon Foundation and MPRPD Rangers teamed-up to maintain and repair sections of the Rancho Canada Unit's Multi-Benefit Community Trail. The project included procuring decomposed granite surfacing material, dragging the trail, and filling ruts created by the recent rainfall. Rangers and other MPRPD personnel continue to staff the meets, helping to prepare for and assist with coordination of medical incidents, enforcing MPRPD's rules and regulations, and ensuring spectators do not venture into closed areas.



Damage Caused by Recent Rainfall



Rangers Working at a Cross-country Meet

- 9. Project-B Construction Project:** Rangers continued to be engaged with Avila Construction and provide support to Project-B, including addressing on-site and unforeseen issues, updating construction signage, enforcing construction closures, and participating in weekly check-in meetings. Rangers also helped coordinate the project's landscaping irrigation and security camera systems' design and installation.
- 10. San Jose Creek Trail Opening Preparations at Palo Corona Regional Park's Whisler-Wilson Unit:** Operations and Maintenance Division's staff are making final preparations in anticipation of opening the San Jose Creek Trail to public access. These preparations include removing abandoned lawn furniture, garbage, and debris from the cabin site (which won't be accessible to the public), trail maintenance and mowing, and replacing vehicle/pedestrian gates (as mentioned earlier), and installation of signage. This work is being coordinated with MPRPD's other divisions and is being communicated to California State Parks to keep them informed.
- 11. Tree Down!** More trees have recently fallen, likely the result of the combined effects of the on-going drought and localized wind gusts. Clearing of downed trees have been addressed by Ranger and inmate crews. Treatment of downed trees has included removal of eucalyptus trees along Garland Ranch Regional Park's Rancho Loop and a willow tree across the park's seasonal footbridge, and oak trees at Frog Pond Wetland Preserve.



Willow Tree Across the Upper Ballfield Footbridge



Oak Tree at Frog Pond Wetland Preserve



Eucalyptus Trees Across Rancho Loop

PLANNING & CONSERVATION DIVISION

- 1. Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation and Fire Management Plan (FMFMP):** The first community meeting for the FMFMP took place on 25 October 2022. A community input survey for the project was, and shall continue to be, posted on the forthcoming project's website along with a recording of the meeting and other pertinent updates and vital information as it is compiled.
- 2. San Jose Creek Trail to Open for Public Access:** MPRPD, working in partnership with California State Park (CSP), the Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT) and Point Lobos

Foundation (PLF) will begin offering reservation-based access permits for the San Jose Creek Trail (Trail) starting in November 2022.



Pedestrian Bridge Spanning San Jose Creek

These permits will enable the public to have unsupervised access to the Trail, entering at Palo Corona Regional Park's Rancho Canada Unit Trailhead, and will include accessing a portion of the Trail on California State Parks' land. Detailed information shall be presented to MPRPD's Board of Directors and the public during the 02 November 2022 MPRPD Board meeting. The presentation shall highlight the array of hiking and environmental education experiences that will be offered by MPRPD, CA State Parks, and our valued partners.

- 3. Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project:** The Project Team is finalizing the 65% basis of design memo that will be shared with the project's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on 01 November 2022. Staff will subsequently provide a project update presentation to MPRPD's Board during its 07 December 2022 meeting, highlighting November's TAC meeting's findings and recommendations for the Board's review and consideration.
- 4. Rancho Canada Irrigation Water Demand and Landscaping Planning:** Staff have secured BFS Landscape Architects to evaluate the water demand of existing and proposed irrigated landscaping at the Rancho Canada Unit. Staff expect that existing and planned irrigated landscaping may need to be modified to ensure that total riparian water usage for irrigation stays under five acre-feet per year.

- 5. Palo Corona Regional Park Rancho Canada Unit's Multi-benefit Community Trail:** Staff have secured a consultant to design and implement soil stabilization and revegetation work adjacent to the recently constructed Trail at the park's east side, immediately adjacent to two former golf course water-trap ponds. Staff are in the process of onboarding the consultant team and will coordinate, integrate, and align the consultant's proposed recommendations with the State of California's site remediation requirements.



Portion of Trail to be Analyzed for Appropriate Remediation

- 6. Planning and Conservation Records Review:** Staff continue to work on consolidating and reorganizing digital property records including related planning and conservation projects and program records. A centralized data base will be established to facilitate record retention and retrieval, going forward.
- 7. MPRPD GIS Data Inventory & Consolidation:** Staff continue to inventory existing MPRPD GIS data and identify data that need to be consolidated into MRPPD's primary GIS, or to be archived.