

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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Images available

Fire Fuel Management Efforts – Garland Ranch Regional Park

Carmel Valley CA, summer and fall 2021 – Fire fuel mitigation efforts have begun at the eucalyptus tree grove on the Rancho Loop trail at Garland Ranch Regional Park.

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) has begun fuel mitigation efforts to reduce wildfire risk. The community is encouraged to help prevent wildfire by avoiding open flames, barbecues, or smoking in their parks to support wildfire safety.

In July 2021, MPRPD’s Board approved funding for the initiation of fire fuel load mitigation plan for Garland Ranch Regional Park. The project was launched in August 2021 by MPRPD staff and an inmate crew from Gabilan Conservation Camp to create “shaded fuel breaks” at the eucalyptus grove along the Rancho Loop Trail at Garland Ranch. Shaded fuel breaks, a technique accepted by fire experts, are the strategic removal of tree limbs and understory debris and brush to prevent high heat fires from erupting and moving upwards towards the trees’ canopy. Wildfires that reach treetops, also known as the tree canopy, tend to be very destructive and can spread rapidly as wind helps fires to jump from treetop to treetop. By adding space between tree limbs and reducing fuel below the canopy, a fire has a better chance to cool and drop to the ground where fuel is limited. This technique is often used near roads, ridgetops, and structures to allow for safer access for emergency personnel or evacuation.

These ongoing efforts are the first step to creating a wildfire management plan at Garland Ranch Regional Park. The community can expect to see more planning and fuel reduction efforts in the next 12-18 months. The plan will help evaluate landscape health, determine the best fuel reduction and mitigation methods for the specific needs of the park, and the creation of a long-term fuel management plan. MPRPD recognizes the urgency and need for fuel reduction and fire management for any fire prone park lands and will be working towards a well-informed, strategic, and actionable plan.

Fuels reduction guide 2021: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/4jgerfjh/fuels-reduction-guide-final-2021-interactive.pdf>

For more information visit the MPRPD website at: www.mprpd.org OR follow us on Facebook.

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About the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) has been preserving and protecting parks and open space since 1972. MPRPD is committed to being an inspirational, inclusive, respected, sustainable, and valued open space district that collaborates with and serves the community and its conservation needs through interconnected open spaces, public parks, education, and advocacy for the entire community. For more information on the MPRPD and its mission, vision, and open spaces, please call 831.372-3196 or visit www.mprpd.org.



