

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,

As summer’s warmth gives way to the softer light and cooler air of fall and winter, our Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District parks reveal a different kind of beauty. The trails grow quieter, the landscapes shift in color and texture, and new opportunities for discovery emerge in every season. These special places continue to invite connection—with the changing rhythms of nature, with family and friends, and with the simple peace that comes from time spent outdoors.

Through the shifting seasons, our mission remains unchanged: “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.” It continues to inspire us to protect and cherish MPRPD lands, and we warmly invite you to join us—whether for quiet reflection on a crisp morning trail or for shared learning and celebration at one of our programs.

Inside this Fall / Winter *Let’s Go Outdoors!* catalog is a rich selection of curated experiences designed to engage you and your loved ones with the outdoors. From guided explorations and hands-on workshops to family discoveries, volunteer opportunities, and community gatherings, there is something here to deepen your connection to these remarkable lands.

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

- An introduction to the Fascinating World of Fungi with a local mycologist
- Tracks, Trails and Tiny Worlds: a hands-on nature investigation for young scientists
- A live Owl Encounter featuring local species and their ecology
- A family-friendly Tidepool Bioblitz with the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History
- Aging in Harmony with Nature: an exploration of Eco Gerontology and the health benefits of nature connection
- The Monterey Bay Festival of Birds and the free Birder’s Night Market in October

We encourage you to visit our parks and notice the seasonal changes. New memories with family and friends await in the lands you love.

We look forward to seeing you out there!

Warm regards,

Eric Morgan
General Manager
Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District



Photos: Welcome background - Stephen Sheeter. Cover - Big Sur Land Trust volunteer Bradley Dunbaugh

What’s Inside

- 2 WELCOME MESSAGE
- 3 REGISTRATION/INFORMATION
- 4 PARKS PROTECT
- 6 GET TO KNOW YOUR MPRPD PARKS
- 8 GET OUT, GET HEALTHY
- 9 WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, & EXPLORATIONS
- 10 FAMILY DISCOVERIES
- 12 COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS
- 14 MPRPD PARK MAP
- 15 ADVENTURE PLANNER
- BACK COVER STARGAZING

ICON KEY

Physical Activity

Seated Activity

Flashlight Advised

Binoculars 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 | ngo@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 APRIL 4 | 2027

California

Wildlife

Day

PALO CORONA REGIONAL PARK

Nature Booths | Kid Zone

Food for Purchase | Nature Walk & Talks

April 4 | 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 migrant birds that call Monterey Bay home in the Fall and Winter below:

A

B

C

D

E



Pictured: Carmel River State Beach

Photos courtesy of High Orbit Media, Stephen Sheeter, and USFWS.

Connected by Nature

MPRPD lands encompass thousands of acres within various watersheds in the Monterey Peninsula area. The image above represents Carmel River State Beach, where all of the fresh water from Carmel Valley Watershed drains.

While this beach is outside MPRPD’s park system, birds and other wildlife don’t follow park boundaries and rely on healthy, connected habitats to survive as they move across the watershed and beyond. With more than 3,464 acres within the Carmel River Watershed, MPRPD helps protect important habitats that provide food, water, and refuge for migratory birds and other wildlife.

ANSWERS

- 1 sooty shearwater
- 2 ruby-crowned kinglet
- 3 whimbrel
- 4 yellow-rumped warbler
- 5 sanderting

Registration Required

Scan here to register



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

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, MPRPD Volunteer

Ages 10-Adult
Friday | 5 pm-8:30 pm
Nov. 13; March 5
Palo Corona Hwy 1, Carmel
Elevation change: 150-200 ft.
Distance: Approx. 3 Miles.
Must be pre-registered to enter HWY 1 gate.

Intensity: 1 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
Oct. 25; Jan. 17
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Dec. 20; March 21
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel

Elevation change: 20-80 ft.
Distance: 3-4 miles.
Intensity: 1 0 0 0 0


Seasons of Garland

Experience the changing landscape of Garland Ranch on a moderately strenuous 5-mile hike to Mesa Pond and the waterfall. Each session highlights the park's seasonal character, from autumn foliage, colors, and birdlife to winter creeks, waterfalls, native plants, and early signs of spring. Instructor: Bruce Merchant, MPRPD Volunteer.

Ages 10-Adult
Saturday | 10 am-1:30 pm
Autumn: Nov. 14
Winter: Jan. 23
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 700 ft
Distance: Approx. 5 miles.
Intensity: 2 2 3 0 0

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. 17; Nov. 21; Dec. 19;
Jan. 23; Feb. 20
Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 50 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 Miles.
See online listing for specific meeting times.
Intensity: 1 0 0 0 0

Winter Bird Walk

Discover the birds that return from northern latitudes each year to spend the winter on the Central Coast! We'll seek out these winter migrants as well as our year-round residents and practice using the free birding app Merlin by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Binoculars will be available to borrow. Instructor: Patrick Furtado, Wildlife Biologist and Naturalist.

Ages 10-Adult
Saturday | 9 am-12 pm
Dec. 5
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 20-60 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 miles.
Intensity: 1 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
Dec. 12; Feb. 13
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: Approx. 300 ft.
Distance: Approx. 5 miles.
Intensity: 2 2 0 0 0

Children MUST be registered and accompanied by a registered adult.

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
Sunday | 9:30 am-1 pm
Nov. 15; Feb. 28
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 600 ft.
Distance: 5 miles; uneven, rocky terrain.
Intensity: 2 2 3 0 0

Discover Kahn Ranch

Enjoy a strenuous hike through Kahn Ranch, featuring spectacular vistas and an enchanting waterfall. Hike a steep, one-mile ascent along Hitchcock Loop, descend to Manzanita, and climb to Fern Falls while taking in beautiful scenery throughout. Instructor: Sharon Osgood, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult
9 am-12 pm
Sunday | Dec. 6; Jan 17
Saturday | March 27
Kahn Ranch, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 1,100 ft.
Distance: Approx. 4 miles.
Intensity: 2 2 3 0 0

Birding in San Jose Creek

Hop aboard the shuttle from Palo Corona to San Jose Creek for a morning of birding and exploration. Discover birds in their natural habitats, learn to recognize their songs and calls, and take in the beauty of the canyon as you explore this special corner of the park. Instructor: Rita Carratello, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalist.

Ages 18+
9:00 am-12 pm
Wednesday | Oct. 28
Thursday | Nov. 19
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: Approx. 20 - 40 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1 mile
Intensity: 1 0 0 0 0

Hidden Views of Garland Ranch

Explore some of Garland Ranch's quieter trails and scenic overlooks on this approximately 4-mile guided hike. You'll wander through oak woodlands, shaded maple groves, and historic ranch landscapes, stopping at the Rumsen Grinding Rock before enjoying peaceful views along the Carmel River. Along the way, discover the park's diverse habitats and some of the lesser-traveled trails of Garland Ranch. Instructor: Sharon Osgood, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult
9:00 am-12:00 pm
Thursday | Nov. 19
Sunday | Feb. 21
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation gain: Approx. 500 ft.
Distance: Approx. 4 miles.
Intensity: 2 2 3 0 0

Palo Corona Backcountry

Hike to Inspiration Point and Animas Pond and venture into the expansive Palo Corona Backcountry. Wander through oak woodlands, chaparral, open hillsides, and redwood groves while enjoying sweeping coastal views. Discover creeks, birdsong, and ever-changing landscapes as we explore the quieter reaches of the park. Instructor: Susi Diallo, MPRPD Volunteer.

Ages 18+
Sunday | 8am-4pm
Oct. 18; Jan. 3
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation gain: 2,200 ft.
Distance: Approx 15 miles
Intensity: 2 2 2 2 2

Palo Corona Backcountry - San Jose Creek

Start with a shuttle from Palo Corona to San Jose Creek, then hike through riparian habitat into the Backcountry. Discover fern-lined creeks, enchanting fairy rings, remnants of the area's ranching past, and the quiet beauty of this rarely visited corner. Instructor: Susi Diallo, MPRPD Volunteer.

Ages 18+
Saturday | 8am-4pm
March 13
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation gain: 2,000 ft
Distance: Approx 12 miles
Intensity: 2 2 2 2 2

Hike Intensity Rating

1 0 0 0 0  **Terrain:** Mostly level or with a slight incline.
Distance: Up to 3 miles.
Gain: Up to 300 ft.

2 2 0 0 0  **Terrain:** Moderate incline and may have some steeper sections.
Distance: 3 to 5 miles.
Gain: Up to 500 ft.

2 2 3 0 0  **Terrain:** Steady and often steep incline.
Distance: 5 to 8 miles.
Gain: Up to 1200 ft.

2 2 2 4 0  **Terrain:** Longer and steeper, deemed challenging because of elevation gain.
Distance: 7 to 10 miles.
Gain: Up to 1800 ft.

2 2 2 2 5  **Terrain:** Maximum elevation change and length. May include uneven terrain and stream crossings.
Distance: 8 miles and over.
Gain: Up to 2500

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.

Registration Required

Scan here to register



Icon key on back cover.

Get Out, Get Healthy

Tai Chi for Beginners

Learn the fundamentals of Yang-style Tai Chi through the subset of the popular 24 Forms. This beginner-friendly series introduces warmups, Qigong postures, foundational movements, and essential Tai Chi principles to improve balance, strength, flexibility, and tranquility. Build a solid foundation for safe, satisfying movement that supports everyday well-being. Instructor: Liana Olson, Senior Trainer & Board-Certified Tai Chi for Health Institute.

Ages 10-Adult
Mondays | 3:30 pm-4:30 pm
Series I: Oct. 12; Oct. 19; Oct. 26;
Nov. 9; Nov. 16; Nov. 23
Series II: Jan. 11; Jan. 25; Feb. 1;
Feb. 8; Feb. 22; March 1
Marina Library Community Room,
Marina



Explore Fort Ord

Come explore through Fort Ord National Monument at a comfortable medium pace. We'll explore maritime chaparral, oak woodland and rolling grasslands, enjoying spectacular manzanitas, a vernal pond and wildlife along the way. We'll also learn a little about Fort Ord's military history and how its past shaped this remarkable place. Instructor: Susi Diallo, MPRPD Volunteer.

Ages 18+
Sunday | 9am-3pm
Nov. 1
Creekside Terrace Trailhead, Fort
Ord National Monument
Elevation gain: 1,200 ft
Distance: Approx 9.5 miles
Intensity: ●●●●○



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. 28; Jan. 9; Feb. 27
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: 180-1800 ft.
Distance: 3-9 mi.
See online listing for more detail.



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
8:30 am-12 pm
Sunday, Nov. 8
Saturday, March 6
Garland Park East Garzas Trailhead,
Carmel Valley
Elevation gain: Approx. 1,000 ft.
Distance: Approx. 5 miles.
Intensity: ●●●○○



Registration
Required



Scan here
to register

Aging in Harmony with Nature

Explore how nature can support health, well-being, and quality of life as we age. This indoor/outdoor experience introduces Eco Gerontology through current research and guided experiences, exploring how connection with nature and local parks can support healthier people and stronger communities. Instructor: Monica Eastway, M.S., Eco Gerontologist.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 9:30 am-12:00 pm
March 6
Palo Corona Park, Discovery Center
Elevation gain: Approx. 0-20 ft.
Distance: 1.2 mile
Intensity: ●●●●○



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
Sunday | 8:30 am-12 pm
Oct. 25; Feb. 7
Creekside Terrace Trailhead-Ft. Ord
National Monument, Salinas
Elevation: 600-800 ft.
Distance: Approx. 4 miles.
Intensity: ●●○○○



Photo courtesy of Sandra Gray

Workshops, Seminars, & Explorations

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



The Fascinating World of Fungi

Join local mycologist Phil Carpenter for an introduction to the fascinating world of fungi. Learn the basics of mushroom identification while exploring their biology, ecology, and important roles in our ecosystems. Discover what makes fungi unique and gain a deeper appreciation for these often-overlooked organisms. Instructor: Phil Carpenter, Amateur Mycologist.

Ages 13-Adult
10 am-1 pm
Sunday | Nov. 29
Saturday | Dec. 19; Jan. 30
Palo Corona Park, Discovery Center



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. 24
Marina Library, Marina



Registration
Required



Scan here
to register

Plants of the Moving Dunes

Explore the remarkable plants of Marina Dunes Preserve and discover how native species adapt to wind, sand, and salt. Learn to identify these resilient plants and how they hold and shape the dunes, creating habitat and sustaining this unique coastal ecosystem. Instructors: Susi Diallo, MPRPD Volunteer & Bruce Delgado, Botanist.

Ages 12-Adult
Sunday | 10 am-12 pm
Dec. 6
Marina Dunes Preserve
Elevation gain: 20-80 ft
Distance: Approx 1.5 miles





Leaves & Lines: Meeting and Sketching Trees

Come take a walk with nature journals to visit the diversity of trees at Laguna Grande Park. We'll practice how to sketch them simply, notice more details about leaf, bark and branch and record them in a nature journal in simple loose ways. As we meet the trees, we'll tune into the hidden wonder and capture our nature conversations on paper. Open to all levels. Instructor: Melinda Nakagawa, MSc., Naturalist and Nature journal mentor.

Ages 13-Adult
Monday | 10 am-12 pm
Nov. 2
Laguna Grande Park, Monterey Side
Elevation change: Approx. 10 ft.
Distance: 1 mile



How to Identify Native Trees

Come join this short walk and learn to identify the common native trees of Garland Ranch. We'll look at leaves, bark, fruit, and other tree identification characteristics and become familiar with local natives such as Coast Live Oak and California Buckeye. Instructor: Patrick Furtado, Plant and Wildlife Biologist.

Ages 13-Adult
Saturday | 10 am-1 pm
March 6
Garland Park Visitor Center,
Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 200 ft.
Distance: 1-2 miles.



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
Oct. 25; March 7
Garland Park Visitor Center,
Carmel Valley
Elevation change: 80-100 ft.
Distance: 1.5 miles.



Bugs in the River

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

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 2 pm-5 pm
Nov. 21; March 13
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation Change: Approx. 50 ft.
Distance: Approx. .5 mile.
Uneven ground and wet surfaces.



Family Discoveries

Spring Equinox Wildflowers and Plants

Celebrate the arrival of spring on this leisurely 2-mile walk through Garland Ranch Regional Park. We'll take our time discovering wildflowers, native plants, and other seasonal highlights while enjoying beautiful scenery and learning about the vibrant spring landscape. Instructor: Bruce Merchant, MPRPD volunteer.

All Ages
Saturday | 10 am-1:30 pm
March 20
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: 20-60 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 miles.
This will be an observational walk, not a strenuous hike.



Tracks, Trails, and Tiny Worlds

Explore the hidden life in parks through insects, tracks, feathers, plants, and other natural clues. Young scientists will use observation tools and guided inquiry to investigate habitats, food webs, and signs of wildlife while learning how to explore responsibly using Leave No Trace principles. Instructor: Berta Chatman, Founder of Owl STEAM Academy.

Ages 5-11
Saturday | 10:00 am-11:30 am
Oct. 17; Nov. 7
Marina Dunes Preserve
Distance: 1.5 miles
Elevation change: approx. 70 ft.
Jan. 16; Feb. 20
Laguna Grande Park, Seaside
Distance: 1.5 miles
Elevation change: Approx. 10ft.



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-1:30 pm
Feb. 20
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: 20-60 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 miles.
This will be an observational walk, not a strenuous hike.





Moon Movement & Mysteries at Garland Ranch

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
Nov. 15; Feb. 14; March 14
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
Oct. 11; Dec. 13; Jan. 17
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
Nov. 7; Feb. 6
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation: Approx. 80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 mi.



Garden Nature Journaling

Come find the hidden wonder in nature, whether flowers, trees, birds or mushrooms. You'll learn very easy, playful ways to sketch and describe nature with ease while learning about the plants in your garden or nature area. We'll start in the community garden next to the library, and wander on the trail. Open to all levels. Instructor: Melinda Nakagawa, MSc., Naturalist and Nature Journal Mentor.

Ages 13-Adult
Thursday | 10 am-12 pm
March 11
Locke Paddon Community Park, Marina



Children MUST be registered and accompanied by a registered adult.

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. 17; Feb. 20; March 20
Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: Approx. 80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 3 miles.



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
Sunday | 1 pm-3 pm
Nov. 8 | E. Garzas, Garland Ranch Park
Dec. 13 | Locke Paddon Community Park
Feb. 21 | Palo Corona Park
March 14 | Kahn Ranch
Elevation change: 40-80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 miles.
See online listing for specific meeting locations.



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. Instructor: Farm Discovery Staff.

All Ages
Saturday | 10 am-12 pm
Nov. 7; Jan. 23
Farm Discovery at Live Earth, Watsonville
Optional picnic lunch opportunity from 12pm-1pm
Elevation: Approx. 80 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 mi



Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande

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

Ages 12-Adult
4th Saturday of the month
9 am-11 am
Oct. 24; Nov. 28; Jan. 23; Feb. 27; March 27
Laguna Grande Park, Monterey
Elevation change: Approx. 10 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1 mile.



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
Oct. 18; Nov.15; Dec.6
Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel
Distance: Approx. 1. Mile
Elevation gain: Approx. 0-20 ft.



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: MPPRD Staff

All Ages
Saturday | 10 am-1:30 pm
Feb. 27
Kahn Ranch, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 100 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1 mile.
No restrooms or benches available at the picnic site.



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.

Follow the journey!



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

www.palocorona restoration.org

Community Happenings

ANNUAL & SPECIAL EVENTS

BIRD SCHOOL PROJECT

Monterey Bay Festival of Birds

Join us for three days of birding adventures, hands-on learning, and community events throughout Monterey Bay. With many free activities and additional field trips and workshops available by registration, there's something for birders of every experience level.

Oct. 9–11
Various locations

Birder's Night Market

Celebrate birds, art, and community at this free evening event! Create nature-inspired art, browse local artists and nonprofits, enjoy a live raptor presentation by Kenny Elvin, and connect with fellow nature enthusiasts over food and family-friendly activities.

Saturday, Oct. 10 | 4–8 pm
Sand City Art Park

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

FRIENDS OF THE MARINA LIBRARY AND MARINA TREE AND GARDEN CLUB

Film event in honor of Native American Heritage Month

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, Friends of the Marina Library and Marina Tree and Garden Club will be hosting a showing of the documentary “Gather”. The film was produced by the First Nations Development Institute and tells the story about Indian resilience and the renaissance of Native food systems.

FREE - Come early - Limited seating.
Ages 16-Adult
Saturday, Nov. 14 | 2 pm
Marina Library, 190 Seaside Circle
Marina, CA 93933

VISIT: friendsofthemarinalibrary.org,
marinatreeandgarden.org
EMAIL: info@marinatreeandgarden.org

MONTEREY AUDUBON SOCIETY

127th 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.

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

VISIT: montereyaudubon.org/cbc

SPCA MONTEREY COUNTY

Halloween Tricks & Treats

SPCA Monterey County invites children and their families to our second annual Halloween Tricks & Treats! Join us for treats, spooky decorations, adoptable animals, and family fun. Costumes are encouraged!

All Ages
Saturday, Oct. 24 | 11 am-1 pm
1002 Monterey-Salinas Highway, Salinas

VISIT: SPCAmc.org
EMAIL: info@spcamc.org

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-12 pm. For more information:

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 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

Join us for family friendly weekend service events! We will restore habitat and clean up degraded sites at Marina Dunes Preserve, Fort Ord National Monument, Moss Landing beaches, and more. Tools, water, and snacks provided. Contact for groups of 10+.

Marina Dunes Preserve Planting Events
Nov. 14; Dec. 5; Jan. 9; Jan. 30

VISIT: habitatstewardshipproject.org
EMAIL: cmcknew@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

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
Oct. 10; Nov. 21; Dec. 12
& more at rotating locations.

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

Free Events & Programs Offered by Community Organizations

TOURS & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

BIG SUR LAND TRUST

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

San Jose Creek Trail Meander

Oct. 24 | 9 am

National Hiking Day Guided Hike

Palo Corona Backcountry

Nov. 17 | 8 am

VISIT: bigsurlandtrust.org/eve/
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

OWL STEAM ACADEMY

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

Pumpkin Dissection | Oct. 17
Kitchen Chemistry | Nov. 21
Engineering Challenge | Dec. 19
Ages 6-12
Saturdays | 10:30 am-12 pm
Marina Library, Marina

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

PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Garden Work Bee

Help tend one of the oldest native plant gardens in California! Learn basic skills about gardening with the UC Master Gardeners. Garden supplies provided. Open to all ages, no registration required.

First Saturday of each month
10 am-12 pm
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

Science Saturday

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

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

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 oaks of Rana Creek Preserve, Carmel Valley!

Stewardship events | Nov. 14 & Dec. 12

Docent-led hike | Nov. 14 (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

Let's Go Outdoors! is published by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) ©2026 MPRPD. All rights reserved.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

WARD 2 James Covel
jcovel@mprpd.org
Seaside, northern Sand City, southern Ft. Ord

WARD 3 Kevin Raskoff
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 (President)
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.

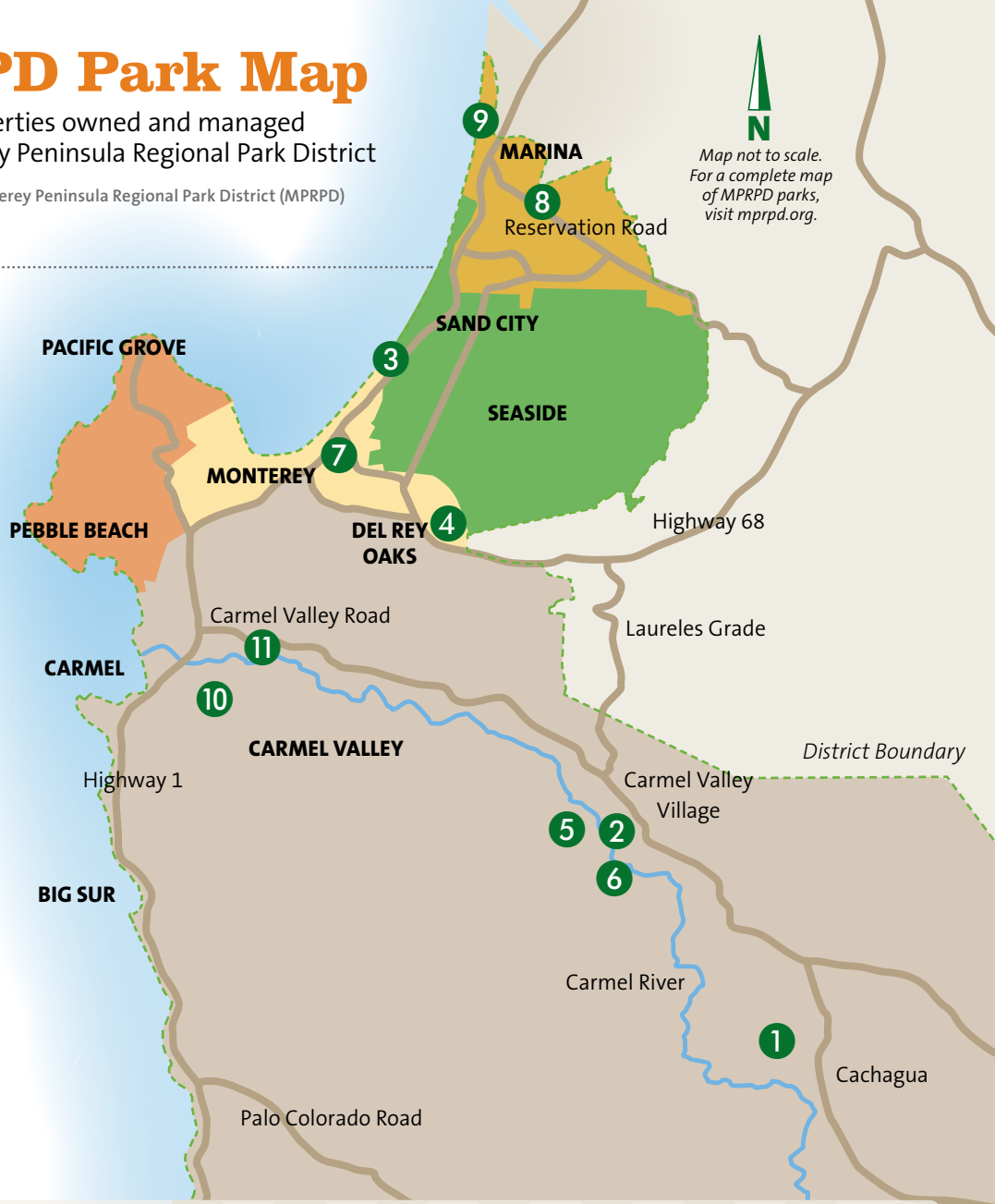
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH (EECO) TEAM

Eric Morgan | General Manager
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

Igo@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

OCT			PAGE
9-11	Fri-Sun	Monterey Bay Festival of Birds	12
11	Sun	Solar System Stroll	10
12	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners I	8
17	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	11
17	Sat	Night Hikes	6
17	Sat	Tracks, Trails and Tiny Worlds	10
18	Sun	Awe Walk	11
18	Sun	Palo Corona Back Country	7
19	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners I	8
24	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
24	Sat	Owl Encounter	9
25	Sun	Nature Walks	6
25	Sun	Steinbeck Views	8
25	Sun	Walk with Poems	9
26	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners I	8
28	Wed	Birding in San Jose Creek	7
NOV			PAGE
1	Sun	Explore Fort Ord	8
2	Mon	Leaves & Lines: Meeting & Sketching Trees	9
7	Sat	Exploring Nature with Children	10
7	Sat	Farm Discovery: Winter Watersheds	11
7	Sat	Star Party - Night Sky Gazing	BACK COVER
7	Sat	Tracks, Trails and Tiny Worlds	10
8	Sun	Art in Nature	11
8	Sun	Best of Garzas Canyon	8
9	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners I	8
13	Fri	Coastal Sunset Hike	6
14	Sat	Seasons of Garland	6
15	Sun	Awe Walk	11
15	Sun	Moon Movement & Mysteries	10
15	Sun	San Jose Creek Loop	7
16	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners I	8
19	Thu	Birding in San Jose Creek	7
19	Thu	Hidden Views of Garland Ranch	7
21	Sat	Bugs in the River	9
21	Sat	Night Hikes	6
23	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners I	8
28	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
28	Sat	Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running	8
29	Sun	The Fascinating World of Fungi	9
DEC			PAGE
5	Sat	Winter Bird Walk	6
6	Sun	Awe Walk	11
6	Sun	Discover Kahn Ranch	7
6	Sun	Plants of the Moving Dunes: Botanical Walk	9
12	Sat	Vista Lobos Ocean Views	6
13	Sun	Art in Nature	11
13	Sun	Solar System Stroll	10
19	Sat	Night Hikes	6
19	Sat	The Fascinating World of Fungi	9
20	Sun	Nature Walks	6
20	Sun	Tidepool Bioblitz	BACK COVER

JAN			PAGE
3	Sun	Palo Corona Back Country	7
9	Sat	Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running	8
11	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners II	8
16	Sat	Star Party - Night Sky Gazing	BACK COVER
16	Sat	Tracks, Trails and Tiny Worlds	10
17	Sun	Discover Kahn Ranch	7
17	Sun	Nature Walks	6
17	Sun	Solar System Stroll	10
23	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
23	Sat	Farm Discovery: Winter Watersheds	11
23	Sat	Seasons of Garland	6
23	Sat	Night Hikes	6
25	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners II	8
30	Sat	The Fascinating World of Fungi	9
FEB			PAGE
1	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners II	8
6	Sat	Exploring Nature with Children	10
7	Sun	Steinbeck Views	8
8	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners II	8
13	Sat	Vista Lobos Ocean Views	6
14	Sun	Moon Movement & Mysteries	10
20	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	11
20	Sat	Night Hikes	6
20	Sat	Tracks, Trails and Tiny Worlds	10
20	Sat	Winter Wildflowers and Plants	10
21	Sun	Art in Nature	11
21	Sun	Hidden Views of Garland Ranch	7
22	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners II	8
27	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
27	Sat	Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running	8
27	Sat	Feel the Falls	11
28	Sun	San Jose Creek Loop	7
MAR			PAGE
1	Mon	Tai Chi for Beginners II	8
5	Fri	Coastal Sunset Hike	6
6	Sat	Aging in Harmony with Nature	8
6	Sat	Best of Garzas Canyon	8
6	Sat	How to Identify Native Trees	9
7	Sun	Walk with Poems	9
11	Thu	Garden Nature Journaling	10
13	Sat	Bugs in the River	9
13	Sat	Palo Corona Back Country - San Jose Creek	7
14	Sun	Art in Nature	11
14	Sun	Moon Movement & Mysteries	10
20	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	11
20	Sat	Spring Equinox Wildflowers and Plants	10
21	Sun	Nature Walks	6
27	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
27	Sat	Discover Kahn Ranch	7
27	Sat	Star Party - Night Sky Gazing	BACK COVER
APR			PAGE
4	Sun	California Wildlife Day	3

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
4860 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923
Post Office Box 223340, Carmel, CA 93922
Tel: 831-372-3196



www.mprpd.org

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MONTEREY, CA
PERMIT NO. 255

ECRWSS

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! NIGHT SKY GAZING

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

Star Parties at Garland Ranch - Sunset

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.



- 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.

All Ages
Saturday | Sunset
Planets & Deep Sky Objects
Nov. 7 | 5:30 pm
March 27 | 8:00 pm
Moon, Planets & Deep Sky Objects
Jan. 16 | 5:45 pm

Garland Park Visitor Center
Carmel Valley



Please recycle, be green! A paper version is sent to district residents via bulk mail, and listings of our classes are available online.

WALK-INS
WELCOME

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 Dec. 20 | 2:30 pm-3:30 pm
Global iNaturalist
City Nature Challenge

The Great Tidepool
Pacific Grove
Free. No registration required.

