

## PRESS RELEASE



### For Immediate Release

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### Honoring 50 Years of MPRPD

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary by encouraging people to hike 50 kilometers during the month of November.

Carmel CA, Tuesday, November 1, 2022 – The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) invites the community to move “naturally” throughout the month of November in honor of its 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary with a #50Kfor50Years campaign that kicks off today! Registered participants can earn limited-edition commemorative stickers and special 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary t-shirts by logging miles and taking selfies between Tuesday, November 1 and Wednesday, November 30, 2022.

“It’s fun, healthy, and exciting to participate,” stated Jackie Nelson, MPRPD Environmental Education Supervisor. “We can’t imagine a better way to honor our 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary than to get people moving and celebrating our amazing parks and open spaces.” MPRPD staff selected six of their favorite hikes at specific parks for participants to explore during this campaign. Participants are encouraged to “snap a selfie” and track their hikes on social media using the hashtag #50Kfor50Years to earn six limited-edition commemorative stickers. “Move Naturally” t-shirts, sponsored by the Blue Zone Project of Monterey County, will be awarded to the first 200 registered participants who track 50 kilometers, which is approximately 30 miles, during the month of November. Participants can register and track their miles [here](#). The anniversary stickers and t-shirts will be available for pick-up during MPRPD’s in-person 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, at Palo Corona Regional Park in Carmel.

In 1971, the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, and National Audubon Society joined forces to create the Committee for Open Space. In November 1972, Monterey Peninsula voters took to the polls and MPRPD was officially established to create a special district for parks, preserves, and open space. From the start, MPRPD has been entrusted to acquire lands for the express purpose of preserving and restoring natural and cultural resources, and open space, and providing recreational and educational opportunities. In the 50 years since its formation, the District has successfully protected approximately 14,000 acres of open space while maintaining balanced budgets and minimal overhead. MPRPD has acquired or helped to acquire a total of 24 parks for the seven incorporated cities on the Monterey Peninsula, and unincorporated communities including, Carmel Valley, Pebble Beach, and along the Big Sur Coast.

“Our commitment to 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’ is stronger than ever,” said Rafael Payan, MPRPD General Manager. “We are dedicated to being flexible and inclusive in our efforts to manage this ever-changing landscape for public benefit and for the protection of our precious natural habitats now and for the next 50 years -- and beyond!”

Participants can find out more and register by visiting the [www.mprpd.org](http://www.mprpd.org) website or [bit.ly/MPRPD\\_50Kfor50Years](http://bit.ly/MPRPD_50Kfor50Years). For more information call (831) 372-3196 ext. 102.

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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](http://www.mprpd.org).