

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

LET'S GO OUTDOORS!

Your adventure activities guide for all ages



Preserving and Protecting Parks and Open Space since 1972

Welcome

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.

Thanks to you we all win!!

Hello Friends,

Thanks to YOU, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) is grateful to receive, and proud to announce, that MPRPD is the recipient of two major awards.

- **Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Business Excellence Award - 2024 - for Government, Public Utilities, and Transportation**
- **Special District Leadership Foundation
District Transparency Certificate of Excellence – June 2021 to June 2024**

These would not be possible without your steadfast support. Together, we continue to protect, enhance, and enjoy one of the most magnificent places on earth!

MPRPD is an innovative leader in recreation, resource conservation, and environmental and cultural education. By partnering with other governments, not-for-profits, and private parties, we achieve more!

Environmental and Cultural Education: Our wonderful volunteers, instructors, partnering not-for-profit and other governmental organizations, and MPRPD's brilliant staff combine to provide an array of opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. Our vision is to greatly increase awareness and participation by providing you a broad spectrum of high-quality hikes, programs, and discovery centers. This LGO! catalog highlights the many adventures and educational programs that await you!

Recreation: MPRPD is perennially awarded the distinction of having the Best Trails and ease of access to our parklands in the region! Whether it is a quiet stroll at Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, the redwood groves at San Jose Creek, or birding at Laguna Grande – or a rigorous hike at Garland Park and its expansive vistas of the Carmel Valley, or Palo Corona and its birds-eye views of the Pacific Ocean, you can't go wrong.

Conservation: First envisioned in 2016 and incorporated into the Park's General Development Plan in 2018, the summer of 2025 will shepherd construction of the monumental Floodplain Restoration Project at Palo Corona Regional Park. This project is possible thanks to the generosity and diligent work of community members, private firms, not-for-profits, state and federal agencies, and MPRPD's team. The former Rancho Cañada Golf Club will be restored into native habitat, and one-mile of the Carmel River into a dynamic tree-canopied floodplain. We are also mindful of our region's vulnerability to wildfire and have embarked on several wildfire mitigation projects.

At the end of each visit, we hope that everyone who partakes in MPRPD's or our wonderful partners' public lands and programs leaves as a better and inspired person – eager to come back for more!








Dr. Rafael Payan
MPRPD General Manager

What's Inside

- 2 WELCOME MESSAGE
- 3 REGISTRATION/INFORMATION
- 4 IN THE KNOW
- 6 GET TO KNOW YOUR MPRPD PARKS
- 8 GET OUT, GET HEALTHY
- 9 WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, & EXPLORATION
- 10 FAMILY DISCOVERIES
- 12 COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS
- 14 MPRPD PARK MAP
- 15 ADVENTURE PLANNER
- BACK COVER OUT OF THIS WORLD STAR GAZING!

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 weekends from 10 am to 4 pm at Palo Corona Discovery Center or Garland Park 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. Cancellations 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

California Wildlife Day 2025

Sunday, April 6, 2025
Palo Corona Regional Park
Carmel Valley

Nature Booths
Kid Zone
Food for Purchase
Nature Walk & Talks!

What Does Your Regional Park District Do?

Conservation. Restoration. Education. Recreation.

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District’s regional parks protect and preserve open space through resource management that considers public benefit and conservation of the natural environment. Check out these programs and resources below to learn more:

PROTECT HABITAT & WILDLIFE

PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY



FIRE FUEL REDUCTION

FLOOD RISK REDUCTION

PAGE 5

- ParkIT!

PAGE 6

- Bugs in the River
- Bird Walks – Fall Migration

PAGE 7

- Walk & Steward the Land at Marina Dunes Preserve
- Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration
- Fire Fuel Mitigation Projects
- Nature Walks

PAGE 8

- ParkRx

PAGE 9

- Watershed Educational Tour

Registration Required

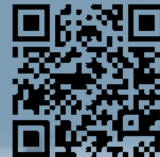
Scan here to register



Expanding Transportation

ALL ABOARD FOR MPRPD PARKS

Grants are available to help with travel to MPRPD parks! Non-profit clubs, groups, and schools apply today at: cfmco.org



HEALTHY OUTDOOR SPACES



Here for Good
Community Foundation
for Monterey County



Point Lobos Reserve Shuttle Van Proposed Route & Stops

LEARN MORE: parkitforparks.com/solutions

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 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. 23
9 am-10:45 am
3 pm-4:45 pm
Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel
Registration required.



Community ALIVE! Act Locally In Volunteer Endeavors

California Native Plant Garden

- Seminars
- Planting Events
- Garden Cleanup

Ages 12-Adult
 Garland Ranch Regional Park, Carmel Valley
 EMAIL: LGO@mprpd.org
 Check online LGO! registration for upcoming opportunities.



Get to Know Your MPRPD Parks

Garland's Canyons and Ridges – Fall and Winter

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
9:30 am-3:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 24 | Snively's Ridge through Maple Canyon
Saturday, Jan. 11 | East Garzas to Vasquez
Thursday, Feb. 13 | East Garzas to Visitor Center
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: 800-1800 ft.
Distance: 6-7 miles.
Please see the online listing for more detail.



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
9:30 am-2 pm
Thursday, Oct. 17
Saturday, Dec. 14
Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 1500 ft.
Distance: Approx. 7 miles.
Shuttle to Holt Rd. trailhead provided.



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
10 am-2 pm
Sunday, Nov. 10
Thursday, Jan. 23
Kahn Ranch, Carmel Valley
Elevation change: Approx. 1,100 ft.
Distance: Approx. 4 miles.



Waterfall Walk and Picnic by the Stream

Jump on our shuttle out and back from Garland Ranch Visitor Center to Kahn Ranch. Take a short walk while observing forests, intersecting streams, a waterfall, and a sit spot to enjoy your own packed lunch as we share stories about nature. Instructor: Savannah Peña, MPRPD Program Coordinator.

All Ages
Saturday | 10 am-1:30 pm
Mar. 22
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.



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 MPRPD Volunteer Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 8:30 am-11 am
Oct. 19 | Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Nov. 16 | Laguna Grande Park, Monterey
Elevation change: 20-60 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 miles.



Back Country – San Jose Creek

Only accessible through MPRPD, 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. This route starts with a shuttle to San Jose Creek. Instructor: Stanley Dudek and Andrea Eisler, MPRPD Volunteer Naturalists

Ages 18+
Thursday | 9 am-5 pm
Oct. 31
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel
Elevation change: Approx. 1000 ft.
Distance: Approx. 14 miles.



Bugs in the River

Uncover the living mysteries under the river rocks in the Carmel River. Learn how scientists use bugs as indicators of stream health and 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. 27
Palo Corona Discovery Center, Carmel
Elevation Change: Approx. 50 ft.
Distance: 1 mile.
Uneven ground and wet surfaces.



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

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. 27; Jan. 12
Garland Park Visitor Center,
Carmel Valley

Dec. 15; Feb. 23
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry,
Carmel

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



Fire Fuel Mitigation Projects

What are the fire fuel management options when humans and nature coexist? Learn about what MPRPD is doing to manage fire fuels and how it benefits residents and wildlife. Walk through the non-native eucalyptus grove at Garland Ranch to see this actively managed area. Instructor: MPRPD Staff.

Ages 12-Adult
Thursday | 4 pm-6 pm
Oct. 10

Garland Park Visitor Center,
Carmel Valley

Elevation change: 50 ft.
Distance: Approx. 2 miles.



Walk & Steward the Land at Marina Dunes Preserve

Enjoy the ocean air on this guided walk through Marina Dunes Preserve. Learn about some of the sensitive species that live in the Monterey Bay Dunes Complex and what makes this habitat so unique. Plant new native habitat after the walk with Habitat Stewardship Project's (HSP)* planting days. Instructor: MPRPD Staff.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 9:30 am-10:30 am
Jan. 18; Feb. 1, Feb. 22

Marina Dunes Preserve Trailhead,
Marina

Elevation Change: Approx. 70 ft.
Distance: 1 mile.

**Optional HSP planting event at 10:30am*

Medicinal Plant Tour

There's plant medicine all around us! Come meet some of our plant allies while taking a leisurely stroll through a local park. We'll meet several non-native plants and a few native ones too. Some are medicine, some are food... some are both! Learn how to identify and understand the uses for these plants. Instructor: Lianne Neptune, Herbalist.

Ages 8-Adult
Saturday | 10:30 am-12 pm
Oct. 12, Mar. 15

Frog Pond Preserve, Del Rey Oaks

Elevation change: Approx. 10 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 miles.



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
Nov. 15; Mar. 14

Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel

Elevation change: 600 ft.
Distance: 4-5 miles.



Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project

What is happening at Palo Corona? Why are we restoring the floodplain? Learn about this large-scale ecosystem restoration effort and how it can help prevent flooding, increase climate resilience, and improve conditions for many species. Walk through the Carmel River floodplain ecosystem at Palo Corona. Instructor: MPRPD Staff.

Ages 12-Adult
Saturday | 10 am-12 pm
Feb. 8

Palo Corona Discovery Center, Carmel

Elevation change: 100 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1 mile.



**Registration
Required**

Scan here
to register



Get Out, Get Healthy

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. 23; Jan. 18; Mar. 15
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel

*Elevation change: 180-1800 ft.
 Distance: 3-9 mi.
 See online listing for more detail.*



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, Eco Gerontologist.

All Ages
Sunday | 2 pm-4 pm
Jan. 19; Feb. 16; Mar. 16, Mar. 30
Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry, Carmel

*Elevation change: Approx. 60 ft.
 Distance: Approx. 2 miles.*



New Mom Movement

New moms unite! Enjoy brief exercise sessions tailored for postpartum recovery, gain insights into your changing body, and connect with fellow moms. This community-focused initiative promotes holistic well-being, providing a supportive space for sharing experiences and building lasting connections. Play session afterwards. Babies and kids welcome. Instructor: Season Hathaway, Certified Personal Trainer.

All Ages
Tuesday | 11 am-11:45 am
Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29; Nov. 5;
Jan. 7, Jan. 14, Jan. 21, Jan. 28
Marina Library, Marina



Tai Chi for Energy

Tai Chi for Energy combines the oldest style of Tai Chi, Chen, with the newest style, Sun, to improve energy, balance, awareness, and relaxation. Tai Chi principles will be introduced with each session. Tai Chi and its principles provide tools to assist with daily activities. Instructor: Liana Olson, Senior Trainer & Board-Certified Tai Chi for Health Institute.

Ages 10-Adult
Wednesday | 4:30 pm-5:30 pm
Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Oct. 30; Nov. 6,
Nov. 13, Nov. 20
Marina Library, Marina



Qi Gong

Pronounced "chi-gong," it is a simple practice with profound results that combines movements, postures, breathing, and meditation for the purpose of physical, emotional, and spiritual improvements. No martial arts knowledge necessary. All physical levels are welcome. Instructor: Michelle Polkabla.

All Ages
Wednesday | 10 am-11 am
Mar. 5, Mar. 12, Mar. 19, Mar. 26
Palo Corona Multi-Purpose Pad, Carmel

Indoor location available for inclement weather.



ParkRx is coming to Monterey County!



Did you know that just going outside can help improve your overall health and well-being?

Learn about opportunities in nature that will get you physically active, lower the risk of chronic disease, and provide you with other health benefits. ParkRx Monterey County is here to help connect you with the open spaces on the central coast.



ParkRx
 Monterey County

MORE INFORMATION:
www.ParkRxMontereyCounty.org

Registration Required



Scan here to register

Workshops, Seminars, & Explorations

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

How to Bird with Modern Tools

Birdwatching, or “birding,” is a great way to connect with the natural world. Develop your bird knowledge and identification skills with in-class and outdoor field training. Learn tips and tricks to identify birds using binoculars, field guides, and phone apps. Loaner binoculars available. Instructor: Patrick Furtado, Wildlife Biologist and MPRPD Volunteer Naturalist.

Ages 13-Adult

Saturday, Jan. 25 | 10 am-2:30 pm

Palo Corona Discovery Center, Carmel

Elevation change: 50-80 ft.

Distance: 0.5 miles.

30-minute lunch break included in program time.



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, Naturalist.

Ages 13-Adult

10 am-1 pm

Saturday, Dec. 7

Sunday, Jan. 5

Saturday, Jan. 18

**Garland Park Meeting Room,
Carmel Valley**

Elevation change: 80-100 ft.

Distance: 2-3 miles.

Sufficient rain is needed for mushrooms.



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 | 2 pm-3:30 pm

Jan. 4; Feb. 1

**Garland Park Visitor Center,
Carmel Valley**



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-7:30 pm

Oct. 26

Garland Park Visitor Center, Carmel Valley



Nature Journal at Night: Moth Party!

Explore the lesser-known world of nocturnal insects through nature journaling and field sketching. We'll set up a light station to attract moths and other fly-by-night critters, and you'll be guided through basic techniques to capture what you see on paper. Instructor: Morgan Lewis, Artist and Naturalist.

Ages 10-Adult

Friday | 7 pm-9 pm

Oct. 25

Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel

Elevation change: 30-60 ft.

Distance: Approx. 0.5 miles.



Steelhead Trout in the Carmel River

What threatened fish calls the Carmel River home? Learn about the steelhead trout, their history in the valley, and what efforts are occurring to protect this sensitive species. This presentation is part lecture, part guided walk. Instructor: Steve Park, Carmel Valley Steelhead Association.

Ages 13-Adult

Saturday | 2 pm-4 pm

Dec. 7

Palo Corona Discovery Center, Carmel

Elevation change: 30-60 ft.

Distance: Approx. 2 miles.



Watershed Educational Tour

Carmel River Watershed Conservancy (CRWC) invites you on a driving tour of key sites within the Carmel River Watershed, such as the Los Padres Reservoir and the Sleepy Hollow steelhead rescue facility. Conservationists will explain the rich history and ecology of the area. Instructor: CRWC Representatives.

Ages 8-Adult

Saturday | 9 am-2 pm

Nov. 9

**Carmel Valley Historical Society,
Carmel Valley**



**Registration
Required**

Scan here
to register



Family Discoveries

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. 2

Sunday, Nov. 3

**Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary,
Pacific Grove**



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: Dr. Jean Perkins, Astronomer.

All Ages

Saturday | 2:30 pm-3:30 pm

Nov. 9; Dec. 7

**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: Dr. Jean Perkins, Astronomer.

All Ages

Sunday | 2 pm-3:30 pm

Jan. 26; Mar. 9

**Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry,
Carmel**

*Elevation: 20-30 ft.
Distance: Approx. 1.5 miles.*



Cold-Blooded Friends

Interact with snakes, frogs, salamanders, and other cold-blooded reptiles and amphibians from your local area. Be sure to hold and see these animals up close and learn about their homes and importance. *Paint your animal friend on a rock and add it to the garden. Instructor: Bruce Delgado, Naturalist.

All Ages

Sunday | 2 pm-4 pm

Jan. 12

Marina Library, Marina

**Optional rock painting activity after program.*



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

3 pm-4 pm

Sunday, Oct. 20

Saturday, Feb. 8

**Palo Corona Park Plaza Entry,
Carmel**



Neighborhood Nature Journaling

We don't need to venture into the wild unknown to explore nature. Using activities involving sketching and writing, participants will learn how to start a relationship with the nature that is in their neighborhood. Each class will be independent. Attend one or all. Instructor: Morgan Lewis, Artist and Naturalist.

All Ages

Saturday | 1 pm-3 pm

Jan. 11; Feb. 8; Mar. 8

**Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center,
Monterey**

Optional: bring your own journal and pencil.



SPECIES ON THE EDGE

Did you miss us in July at Garland Ranch? Keep your eyes peeled online to see what other learning opportunities we have about sensitive species in our parks.

All Ages | Location and Times TBA

#SpeciesontheEdge

**POP-UP
PROGRAM
WALK-INS
WELCOME**



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

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 Naturalist.

Ages 12-Adult

9 am-12:30 pm

Thursday, Nov. 21

Sunday, Feb. 9

Creekside Terrace Trailhead

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

Nov. 16; Feb. 15; Mar. 15

Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel

Elevation: Approx. 80 ft.

Distance: Approx. 3 miles.



Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande

Curious about a bird you saw? Learn how to use binoculars (provided) and 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

Saturday, Oct. 5 | 9 am-12 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 12 | 9 am-12 pm

Sunday, Dec. 1 | 9 am-12 pm

Saturday, Feb. 8 | 2:30 pm-5:30 pm

Laguna Grande Park, Monterey

Elevation change: Approx. 10 ft.

Distance: Approx. 1 mile.

Binoculars provided.



San Jose Creek with Children

Enjoy this unique access to beautiful wildflowers and iconic coast redwoods with your little ones, in an area usually accessible only by advanced hikers. Bring your booster or car seat (for children under 8), enjoy a short shuttle ride, and walk along the San Jose Creek with your family. Instructor: MPRPD staff.

All Ages

Saturday | 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Mar. 1

Palo Corona Plaza Entry, Carmel

Elevation: Approx. 80 ft.

Distance: Approx. 3 miles.

Booster/car seat space is limited to 3.

Each family member must be registered.



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

All Ages

Saturday | 10 am-12 pm

Nov. 9 | Fall harvest

Mar. 15 | Spring harvest

Farm Discovery at Live Earth,

Watsonville

Optional picnic lunch opportunity from 12 pm-1 pm.



Monterey Bay Festival of Birds

Friday-Sunday

October 11-13

Birding adventures, workshops, and hands-on activities

All Ages | Monterey Bay area

Register at:

birdschoolproject.org/festival

Contact:

info@birdschoolproject.org



Registration Required



Scan here to register

Community Happenings

ANNUAL & SPECIAL EVENTS

BLUE ZONES PROJECT MONTEREY COUNTY

Get Involved!

Blue Zones Project® is a community-led, well-being improvement initiative designed to make healthy choices easier. We work to create healthier environments by offering free resources, volunteer opportunities, as well as educational and fun activities!

All Ages

Times vary | Monterey County

VISIT: montereycounty.bluezonesproject.com

BIRD SCHOOL PROJECT

Birder's Night Market

Join us for a live nature journaling demo from 6 to 7 pm! Enjoy button making, screen printing, learning from local organizations, shopping nature-related arts and crafts, music, and food.

Oct. 12 | 5 pm-9 pm

Sand City Art Park

VISIT: birdschoolproject.org/festival

EMAIL: jess@birdschoolproject.org

CITY OF SEASIDE

Movies in the Park

Movies start at dusk.

Friday, Oct. 4 | 7:15 pm

Friday, Nov. 15 | 5:30 pm

Laguna Grande Park, Seaside

VISIT: www.ci.seaside.ca.us

EMAIL: kparker@ci.seaside.ca.us

Seaside's Certified Farmers' Market

Thursdays | 3 pm-7 pm

Laguna Grande Park, Seaside

VISIT: everyonesharvest.org

EMAIL: info@everyonesharvest.org

MONTEREY AUDUBON SOCIETY

125th 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 Monterey County between December 14 and January 5.

Ages 13+

Date, times, locations, and RSVP online

VISIT: montereyaudubon.org/cbc

MONTEREY RECREATION

Halloween Movie Night and Trunk or Treat

The City of Monterey will be hosting the 3rd Annual Halloween Movie Night and Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 19 beginning at 5 pm on Colton Hall Lawn at Pacific Street. We are planning even more SPOOKY FUN, so mark your calendars now! For updates follow Monterey Recreation on Instagram.

VISIT: monterey.gov/rec

EMAIL: montereyrecreation@monterey.gov

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

CITIZENS FOR SUSTAINABLE MARINA

Get involved in Marina with the:

Oak Woodland and Community Garden

Every Saturday | 9 am-1 pm

EMAIL: bdelgado62@gmail.com

Community Cleanup

Every 2nd Sunday | 10 am-12:30 pm

EMAIL: steve@SL615.com

Hilltop Park Native Planting

Dec.-Mar.

Dates vary | 10 am-12:30 pm

EMAIL: steve@SL615.com

Broom Bash

Bi-monthly | Times vary

EMAIL: sustainableeastgarrison@gmail.com

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



TOURS & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

FRIENDS OF SEASIDE PARKS

Join us each Saturday from 10 am to 12 pm as we beautify and create habitat in Seaside parks! All ages can help plant natives, 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 cleanup degraded sites in Salinas, FONM Marina, Marina Dunes Preserve, and other locations.

VISIT: csumb.edu/hspmb
EMAIL: azwiley@csumb.edu

SANTA LUCIA CONSERVANCY

French Broom Bonanza and Star-Thistle Smackdown

Pull weeds and help native species thrive! Join us in April to remove French broom; come out in August to pull star-thistle. Bring a bag lunch; we'll provide drinks and beautiful coastland views.

Ages 10+
Thursday | 9 am-1 pm
Apr. 11, 25; Aug. 1, 15, 29

RSVP: outreach@slconservancy.org

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. Clean-up events are hosted year-round at a variety of locations. All are welcome!

VISIT: saveourshores.org/events/
EMAIL: volunteer@saveourshores.org

BIG SUR LAND TRUST

Join Big Sur Land Trust on the lands you love! Choose from docent-led hikes, project tours, and annual events.

Age ranges vary by activity
Palo Corona Regional Park

Williams Canyon to Rancho Cañada Guided Hike

Nov. 2 | 8 am

National Hiking Day Guided Hike: Mitteldorf Preserve to Rancho Cañada

Nov. 17 | 8 am

San Jose Creek Trail Walk

Mar. 8 | 9 am

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

ELKHORN SLOUGH RESERVE

Visit the Reserve to hike and explore the habitats around Elkhorn Slough! Open Wed-Sun, 9 am to 5 pm 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION
VISIT: elkhornslough.org/visit/calendar
CALL: 831-728-2822

PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Join us for fun family activities and adventures with our free Science Saturdays and Preschool Curiosity Club (PCC) outings. Fall themes include plants & animals, spooky science, butterflies & bees, and wonders of winter.

Science Saturday

Last Saturday of each month
10 am-3 pm

Preschool Curiosity Club

1st & 3rd Saturday of each month
10 am-11 am

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 Sr. 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 month | 4 pm
Online

VISIT: ventanaws.org/thecondorchat

Call for Volunteers & Instructors

YOUR PARKS NEED YOU

Do you have a passion for the outdoors?
Or for sharing your knowledge of natural history and trails?
Join our volunteer team or become an outdoor educator.

CONTACT US TODAY

VISIT: mprpd.org | EMAIL: LGO@mprpd.org
CALL: 831-372-3196 x102



MPPRPD 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 (MPPRPD) © 2024 MPPRPD. All rights reserved.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WARD 1 Kelly Sorenson
ksorenson@mpprpd.org
Marina, northern Ft. Ord

WARD 2 Shane Anderson
shanea@mpprpd.org
Seaside, northern Sand City, southern Ft. Ord

WARD 3 Kevin Raskoff (President)
kraskoff@mpprpd.org
Monterey, southwest Seaside, southern Sand City, Del Rey Oaks

WARD 4 Kathleen Lee
klee@mpprpd.org
Pacific Grove, New Monterey, northern Pebble Beach

WARD 5 Monta Potter
mpotter@mpprpd.org
Carmel, Carmel Valley, Big Sur, southern Pebble Beach

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

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH (EECO) TEAM

Jackie Nelson | Supervisor
nelson@mpprpd.org

Debbie Wyatt | Coordinator-Volunteers
wyatt@mpprpd.org

Savannah Peña | Coordinator-Programs
pena@mpprpd.org

Claire Ackland | Specialist
ackland@mpprpd.org

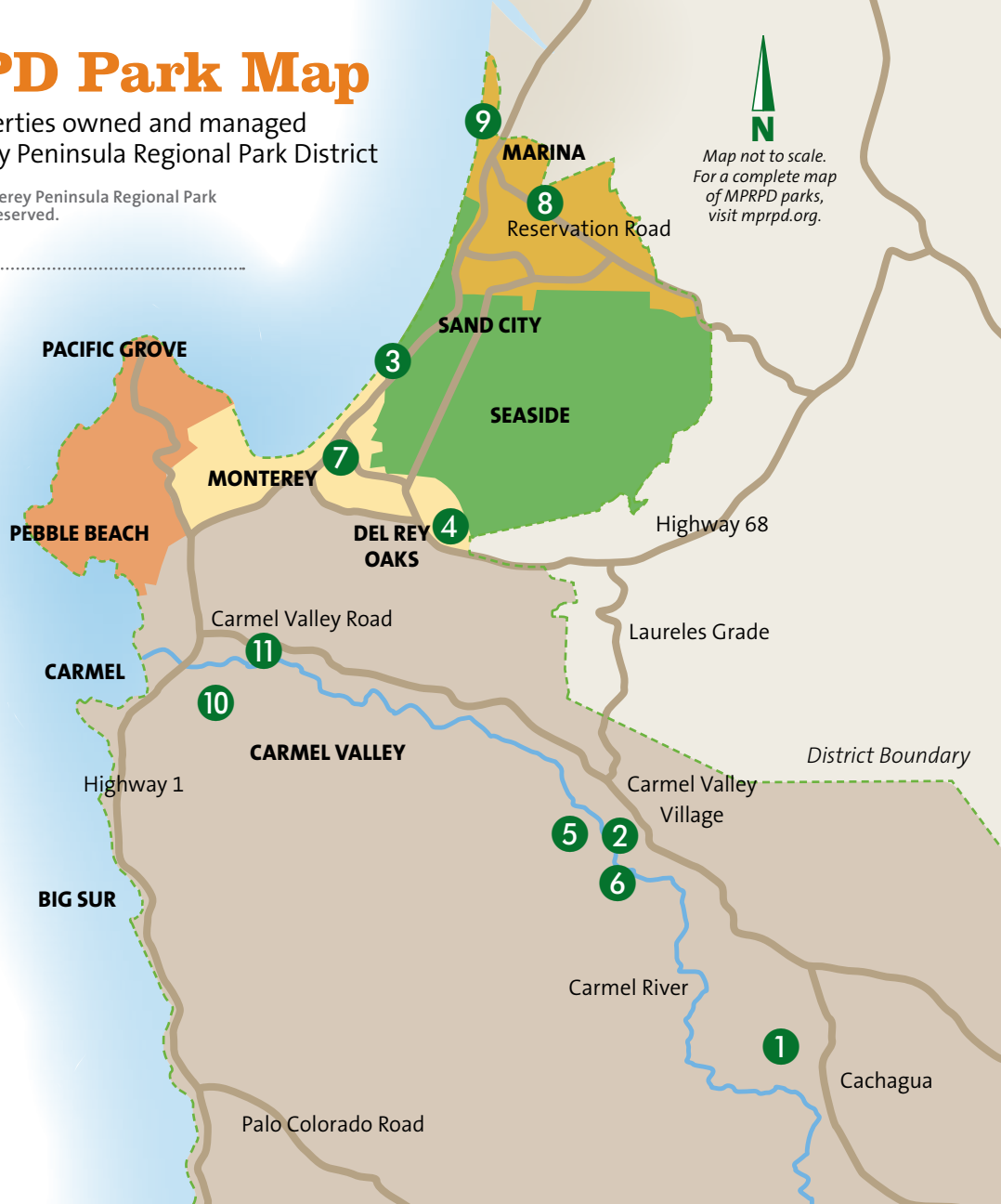
Jonathan David, PhD | Specialist
david@mpprpd.org

Megan Mach, PhD | Specialist
mach@mpprpd.org

Morgan Tschumi | Specialist
tschumi@mpprpd.org

Rafael Payan, PhD | General Manager
payan@mpprpd.org

A special thanks to the MPPRPD Volunteers.



* Management Partnership

** Access Permit Required

MPPRPD 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

OCTOBER			PAGE
5	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
9	Wed	Tai Chi For Energy	8
10	Thu	Fire Fuel Mitigation Projects	7
11-13	Fri-Sun	Festival of Birds	11
12	Sat	Medicinal Plant Tour	7
15	Tue	New Mom Movement	8
17	Thu	Snively's Ridge from Holt Road	6
19	Sat	Bird Walks - Fall Migration	6
20	Sun	Exploring Nature with Children	10
22	Tue	New Mom Movement	8
23	Wed	Tai Chi For Energy	8
24	Thu	Garland's Canyons and Ridges	6
25	Fri	Nature Journaling at Night: Moth Party!	9
26	Sat	Star Party	BACK COVER
26	Sat	Owl Encounter	9
27	Sun	Bugs in the River	6
27	Sun	Nature Walks (Garland)	7
29	Tue	New Mom Movement	8
30	Wed	Tai Chi For Energy	8
31	Thu	Palo Corona Back Country	6
NOVEMBER			
2	Sat	Monarch Sanctuary Stroll	10
3	Sun	Monarch Sanctuary Stroll	10
5	Tue	New Mom Movement	8
6	Wed	Tai Chi For Energy	8
9	Sat	Watershed Educational Tour	9
9	Sat	Farm Discovery: Family Farm Field Trips	11
9	Sat	Moon Movement & Mysteries	10
10	Sun	Discover Kahn Ranch	6
12	Tue	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
13	Wed	Tai Chi For Energy	8
15	Fri	San Jose Creek Loop Hike	7
16	Sat	Bird Walks - Fall Migration	6
16	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	11
20	Wed	Tai Chi For Energy	8
21	Thu	Steinbeck Views	11
23	Sat	Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running	8
23	Sat	ParkIT! Point Lobos Shuttle Demo	5
DECEMBER			
1	Sun	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
7	Sat	Moon Movement & Mysteries	10
7	Sat	Mushroom Mania	9
7	Sat	Steelhead Trout in the Carmel River	9
14	Sat	Snively's Ridge from Holt Road	6
15	Sun	Nature Walks (Palo Corona)	7

JANUARY			PAGE
4	Sat	Making Cordage from Native Plants	9
5	Sun	Mushroom Mania	9
7	Tue	New Mom Movement	8
11	Sat	Garland's Canyons and Ridges	6
11	Sat	Neighborhood Nature Journaling	10
12	Sun	Nature Walks (Garland)	7
12	Sun	Cold-Blooded Friends	10
14	Tue	New Mom Movement	8
18	Sat	Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running	8
18	Sat	Mushroom Mania	9
18	Sat	Walk & Steward the Land at Marina Dunes	7
19	Sun	Awe Walk	8
21	Tue	New Mom Movement	8
23	Thu	Discover Kahn Ranch	6
25	Sat	How to Bird with Modern Tools	9
25	Sat	Star Party	BACK COVER
26	Sun	Solar System Stroll	10
28	Tue	New Mom Movement	8
FEBRUARY			
1	Sat	Walk & Steward the Land at Marina Dunes	7
1	Sat	Making Cordage from Native Plants	9
8	Sat	Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration	7
8	Sat	Beginning Birding at Laguna Grande	11
8	Sat	Exploring Nature with Children	10
8	Sat	Neighborhood Nature Journaling	10
9	Sun	Steinbeck Views	11
13	Thu	Garland's Canyons and Ridges	6
15	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	11
16	Sun	Awe Walk	8
22	Sat	Walk & Steward the Land at Marina Dunes	7
23	Sun	Nature Walks (Palo Corona)	7
MARCH			
1	Sat	San Jose Creek with Children	11
5	Wed	Qi Gong	8
7	Fri	Star Party	BACK COVER
8	Sat	Neighborhood Nature Journaling	10
9	Sun	Solar System Stroll	10
12	Wed	Qi Gong	8
14	Fri	San Jose Creek Loop Hike	7
15	Sat	Cool Runnings: Wintertime Trail Running	8
15	Sat	Discover San Jose Creek, Ishxenta State Park	11
15	Sat	Farm Discovery: Family Farm Field Trips	11
15	Sat	Medicinal Plant Tour	7
16	Sun	Awe Walk	8
19	Wed	Qi Gong	8
22	Sat	Waterfall Walk and Picnic by the Stream	6
26	Wed	Qi Gong	8
30	Sun	Awe Walk	8
APRIL			
6	Sun	California Wildlife Day	3

Registration required for most 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

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








www.mprpd.org

ECRWSS

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

ICON KEY

	Physical Activity		Seated Activity		Flashlight Advised
			Binoculars 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! Stargazing

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

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 details on the moon and faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters during this two-hour program.

All Ages

Start at Sunset, 2 hour run time
Saturday, Oct. 26 – Planets & Deep Sky*
Saturday, Jan. 25 – Planets & Deep Sky
Friday, Mar. 7 – Moon & Planets

**Garland Park Visitor Center,
 Carmel Valley**

**Special start time: 7:30 pm.*




**WALK-INS
 WELCOME**

- 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.

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.



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