

Natural Resources

Beginning at near sea-level and rising to over 3,400 feet in elevation, Palo Corona provides a diverse wildlife experience.

Home to steelhead trout, rare amphibians and a variety of raptors, wildlife can be found nesting and feeding throughout the forest and grasslands. Some animals found in the park include: deer, mountain lion, bobcat, black bear, California condor, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, and spotted owl.



Red-legged Frog
Rana draytonii



Smiths' Blue Butterfly
Euphilotes enoptes smithi



Sticky Monkey Flower
Diplacus aurantiacus

Discovery Center

With the help of The Trust for Public Land, Santa Lucia Conservancy and Trout Unlimited, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District acquired the former Rancho Cañada Golf Course – permanently protecting the land and water, while keeping the area open to recreation.

The Discovery Center highlights the historic lands of the Carmel River Watershed and features exhibits of the land, nature, and people of the area. View a life-sized replica of a California condor and an authentic handmade tule boat.



What's with all the Cows?

Grazing makes for healthier grasslands. STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. When hiking near cattle, approach slowly, speak with a normal voice, and allow the cattle to move aside. Avoid walking between cows and calves. Walk, do not run. Move away quietly if they follow.



Photo by Doug Steakley

Palo Corona Regional Park

Recommended Hikes. Please remember to bring water and snacks.



River Loop
.5 miles from Discovery Center to River Loop.

Cross over the Carmel River and enjoy a short walk around a floodplain that is being restored back to natural habitat. Witness the change over time as you walk under cottonwoods, willows and grand old oaks.



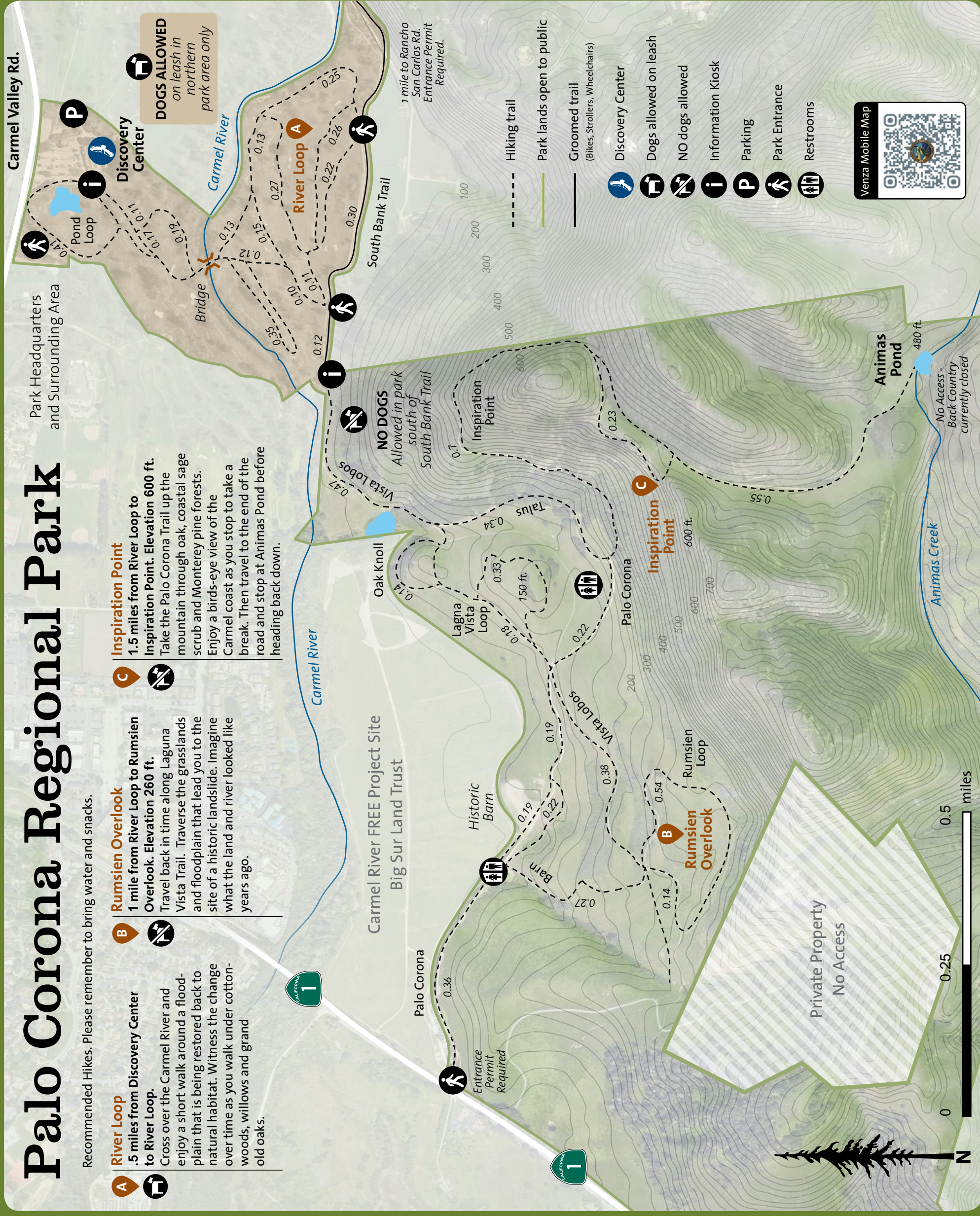
Rumsien Overlook
1 mile from River Loop to Rumsien Overlook. Elevation 260 ft.

Travel back in time along Laguna Vista Trail. Traverse the grasslands and floodplain that lead you to the site of a historic landslide. Imagine what the land and river looked like years ago.



Inspiration Point
1.5 miles from River Loop to Inspiration Point. Elevation 600 ft.

Take the Palo Corona Trail up the mountain through oak, coastal sage scrub and Monterey pine forests. Enjoy a birds-eye view of the Carmel coast as you stop to take a break. Then travel to the end of the road and stop at Animas Pond before heading back down.



Carmel Valley Rd.

Park Headquarters and Surrounding Area

DOGS ALLOWED
on leash in northern park area only

1 mile to Rancho San Carlos Rd. Entrance Permit Required.

- Discovery Center
- Dogs allowed on leash
- NO dogs allowed
- Information Kiosk
- Parking
- Park Entrance
- Restrooms



Private Property
No Access

No Access - Back Country currently closed