

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
STAFF REPORT**

**BOARD MEETING:** January 04, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Monthly Staff Report

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Rafael Payan, General Manager

**REPORT:** The following briefly summarizes some of the key tasks and projects the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) Staff undertook from mid-November through mid-December 2022 in addition to performing MPRPD's regular business. This work was accomplished in compliance with the CDC's, State's, and County's COVID-related guidelines.

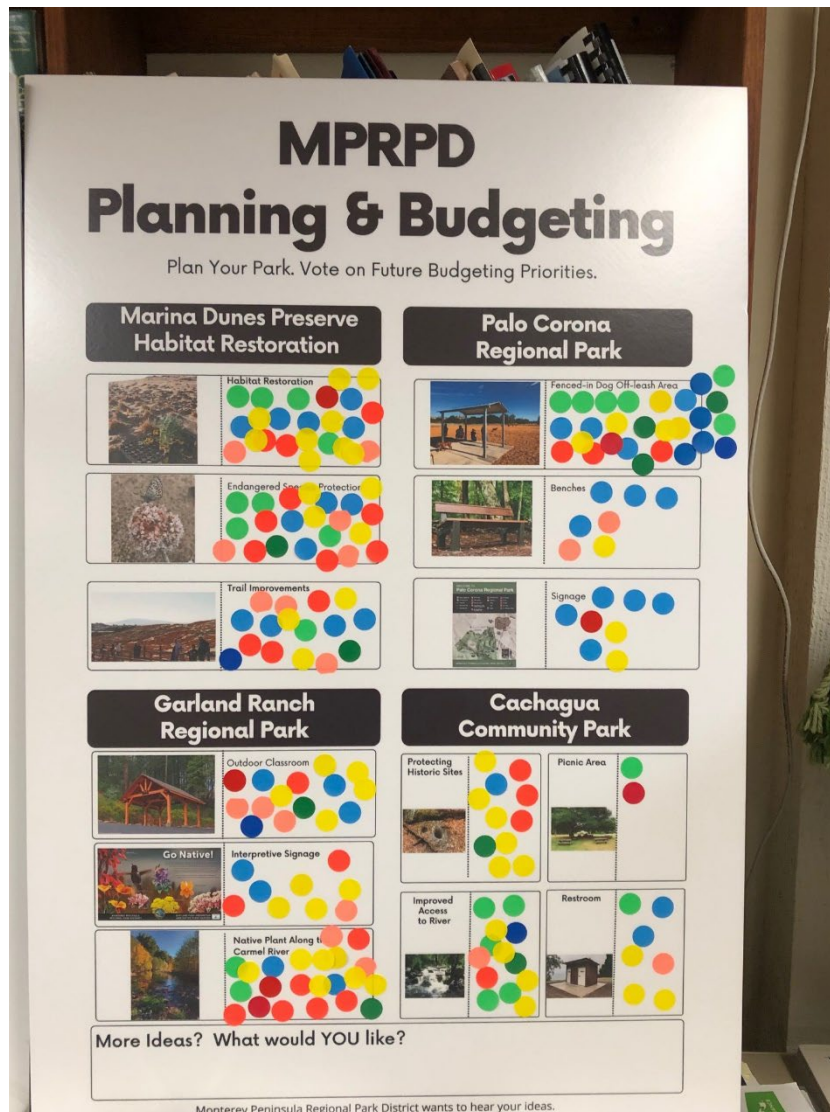
**ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

- 1. Annual Audit and Financial Statements:** Staff continue to work with MPRPD's auditors on the annual audit and financial statement preparations. The Draft Annual Audit and Financial Statements Report is expected to be presented at the 04 January 2023 Board Meeting. The Final Report may be presented as early as the February 2023 MPRPD Board Meeting.
- 2. California Red-legged Frogs (CRLFs):** Staff continued working closely and coordinating with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and MPRPD Project-B's consultants and contractors re: CRLFs at the Rancho Canada Unit's entrance pond, adjacent to the construction site. As of the writing of this report, all parties were satisfied with the care MPRPD's consultants, contractors and staff have undertaken. Following the rain/storm event on December 10 & 11 a CRLF was found just inside the fence in the Northeast corner of the project. The consulting biologist worked with the contractor to set up new exclusionary fencing inside the project and subsequently removed the previously installed fencing on that exterior corner, allowing the CRLF to move freely away on it's own.
- 3. Classification & Compensation Study (Study):** Staff met with MPRPD's Personnel Committee (Committee) to discuss the Study's results and potential next steps. The Committee is planning for another meeting in January.
- 4. "F.I.D.O." (Fenced In Dog "O-rena") at Palo Corona Regional Park:** Staff continued to meet with the "Dog Park 4" and the park's Floodplain and Upland Restoration Project engineer to discuss and coordinate the FIDO's future construction in a manner that does not compromise the Floodplain and Restoration Project's development or function.

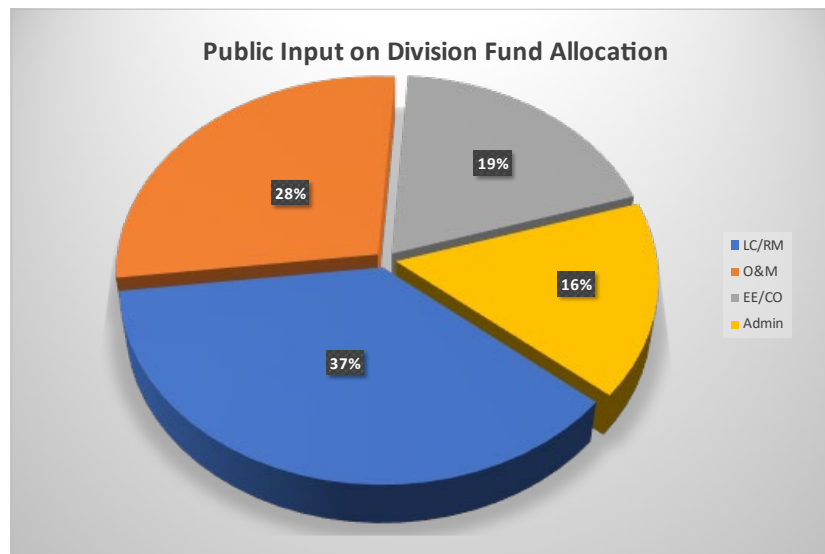
5. **50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration:** Admin staff hosted a table at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The table featured two participatory budgeting exercises. The first option was a chart allowing the public to select by dot what their opinion was on priority items at four different District parks.

Each participant was given 4 dots which they could place on any project they felt should be a priority for the District on future budgets. They could select from:

- A. Monterey Dunes Preserve: Habitat Restoration, Endangered Species Protection or Trail Improvements
- B. Garland Ranch Regional Park: Outdoor Classroom, Interpretive Signage, Native Plants along the Carmel River
- C. Palo Corona Regional Park: Fenced in Dog Off-leash Area, Benches, Signage
- D. Cachagua Community Park: Protecting Historic Sites, Improved Access to River, Picnic Area, Restroom



The second budget exercise offered participants the opportunity to spend money (\$20) in the Division they felt was a priority for them. Each participant was given four \$5-dollar “MPRPD bills” to drop in one of four boxes: Administration, Environmental Education & Outreach, Operations & Maintenance or Land Conservation & Resource Management. The photos below show the boxes and funds. The pie chart depicts the results of participant budgeting priorities.



**6. Palo Corona Project-B’s Construction Completion:** Construction activities advanced throughout December, bringing primary scope items’ construction to completion. The restroom building’s exterior finishes have been installed. Interior plumbing/fixtures, electrical/mechanical components are installed and in working

order. Concrete flatwork and asphalt at the bus drop-off area is completed, as is the Granitecrete Multi-purpose Event Pad that will host MPRPD's and our partners' educational programs and events such as MPRPD's Annual Wildflower Show. The bus drop-off's seating area's metal trellis and wooden shade-slat elements are installed. The site's contouring and landscaping irrigation were also being finalized. Hydroseeding and landscape vegetation were completed in late December. Staff is collaborating with the consultant and contractor re: developing, scheduling, and finalizing punch-list items.



**Trailhead entrance with bus drop-off shade seating**



**Restroom facility with Granitecrete permeable pathway  
(and Event Pad in foreground)**

7. **Palo Corona Project-B's Progress Reports:** Progress reports have been jointly prepared by MPRPD's Project Manager and Rangers, and the Ausonio Construction's management team. Ausonio's team coordinated closely with Wedgewood to ensure Project-B's construction activities did not negatively impact Wedgewood's events.

Tribal Monitors remained on-call to monitor construction activities, and identify and avoid any potential negative impacts to cultural sites when trenching or excavation occurred. No cultural artifacts were encountered in the past month. The Ranger and Ausonio team have also been working closely with SWCA's biologist to monitor the site for, and to protect, the federally listed California Red Legged Frog.

8. **ParkIT! Initiative:** The initiative's Steering Committee, which includes MPRPD, visited Big Basin State Park to analyze that park's reservation and shuttlebus systems, and their potential application for the ParkIT! initiative. The Steering Committee determined that a reservation system must first be developed and be ready for implementation prior to launching a pilot project. As previously reported, a portion of the existing Rancho Canada Unit's parking area may be designated for use by the ParkIT! initiative. This Unit's infrastructure and facilities may permanently support this initiative. The Board will be provided a post-field trip update during a future meeting.
9. **Recruitment:** Recruitment efforts continue for the Operations & Maintenance, and the Environmental Education & Community Outreach divisions' vacant positions were launched, with interviews conducted in December 2022. We hope to have new staff on board in January.
10. **Training:** Staff attended training on employment law provided by Liebert Cassidy Whitmore (LCW) and workers compensation, by the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA).

#### 11. **Wedgewood Tenant Improvements:**

**A. Event Venue Facility Improvements at the Rancho Canada Unit:** MPRPD's concessionaire, Wedgewood Weddings and Banquets, continues its planning and near-future implementation of various substantial improvements for the Rancho Canada Unit's event venue facilities. These improvements' substantial costs are being underwritten by the concessionaire. The updated and upgraded facilities shall continue to be available for MPRPD's functions, as well. The securing of all applicable building permits is in process.

**B. Roof and HVAC Replacement:** Wedgewood Weddings and Banquets continues to underwrite, coordinate, and execute numerous construction-focused tenant improvements at MPRPD's Rancho Canada Unit. Roofing replacement of the Merienda Room, Pub, and Discovery Center gabled roofing is complete, and other sections of the complex's roofing project are nearing completion.



**Tile roofing replacement over MPRPD's offices**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH (EECO) DIVISION**

### **1. Community Outreach:**

- A. 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration:** MPRPD's 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary celebration was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Palo Corona Regional Park's Rancho Canada Unit, from 10am to 2pm. Festivities included 16-exhibitors from various community organizations, 4-regional leaders as keynote speakers, 12-volunteers, several subject-matter presentations, live animal demonstrations, outdoor food vendors, guided walks, and other public-engaging activities. The day's events centered around the theme of "valuing parks and open space," unity, inclusion, and providing all people access to nature.

Amid very rainy and windy weather conditions, approximately 150-community members attended the event. Over 70-people who had previously registered for the "50Kfor50Years" hiking campaign were awarded commemorative t-shirts during the celebration. Many of the event's participants received special stickers for taking selfies on park properties. Each MPRPD division hosted its respective engagement/information booth in the exhibitor hall, and all division representatives agreed that the event was a great success, despite the uncooperative weather.



**MPPRD's 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration**

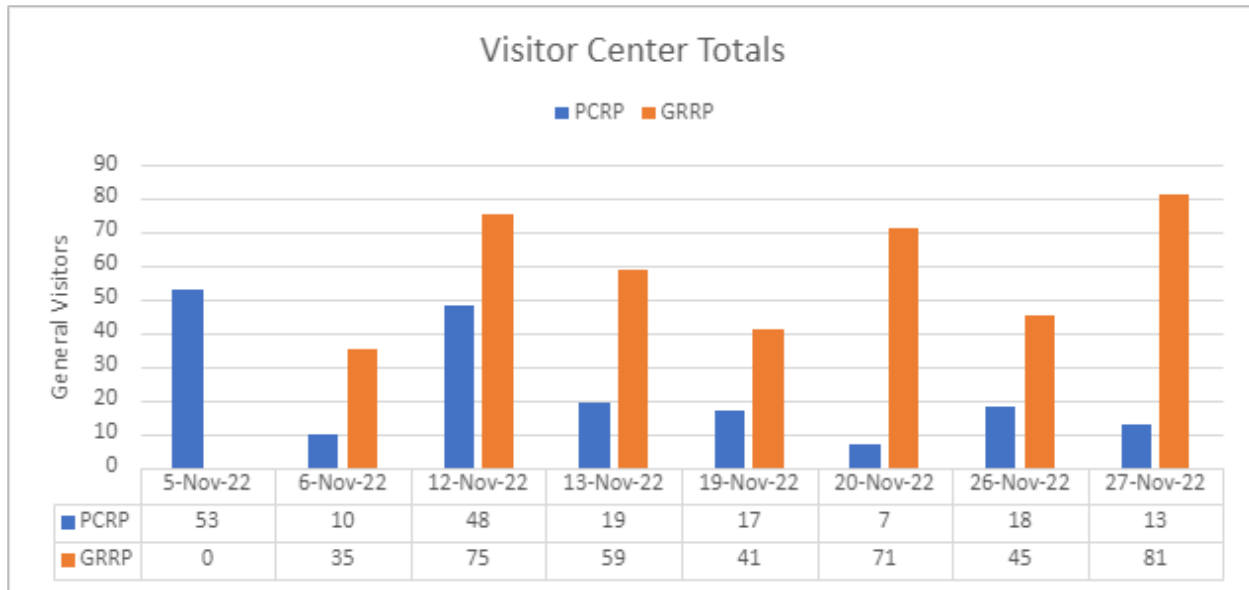


**Banner at Frog Pond Wetland Preserve and Commemorative Park Stickers**

To highlight the successes of the past 50-years, staff created a poster for each of the five Wards featuring the parks preserved, Ward representatives, partnerships, and wonderful imagery. These posters are accessible via MPRPD's website and will be displayed at PCRPD. Please see **ATTACHMENT** for Ward Posters.

- B. Visitor Center Totals:** Staff has been monitoring and collecting visitation data during weekends, 10am-4pm, at both the PCRPD Discovery Center (DC) and the GRRP Visitor Center (VC). The chart below summarizes weekend visitor contacts in November 2022. Note that the VC was closed on 11/5/22.





**PCR** DC visitation continues to be impacted by area construction; statistics for PCR may also include visitor contacts by “park greeter” volunteers stationed at the temporary trailhead.

**C. Social Media Posts:** For this reporting period, posts consisted of District event news and educational content about the plants, wildlife, history, trails, and center exhibits of MPRPD’s parks, preserves, and open spaces.

Posts promoted upcoming LGO! programming, the November #50kfor50years campaign, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in-person celebration, and highlighted specific parks and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary park stickers.

The following of MPRPD social media accounts grew in November-December:

- i. Facebook stats - @MPRegionalParkDistrict: [\(1\) Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District \(MPRPD\) | Carmel CA | Facebook](#)
  - 1. Dec. 14 Follower Count: 2,038 (+20)
  - 2. Facebook Page Reach: 15,400 (↑ 53 %)
  - 3. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions: Nov 16 – Dec 14
    - a. Nov. 20: Garland Ranch trail pictures 50k (214 views) (47 likes/reactions)
    - b. Dec. 4: 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration after event thank you (111 views) (44 likes/reactions)
    - c. Nov. 19: Post on all six 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary park stickers (333 views) (16 likes/reactions)

ii. Instagram stats - @mprpd\_lgo: [Monterey Peninsula Parks \(@mprpd\\_lgo\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

1. Dec. 14 Follower Count: 1,037 (+36)
2. Instagram Page Reach: 1,124 (↑ 8.2 %)
3. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions: Nov 16 – Dec 14
  - a. Nov. 19: Post on all six 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary park stickers (436 views) (80 likes/reactions)
  - b. Nov. 20: Garland Ranch trail pictures 50k (262 views) (54 likes/reactions)
  - c. Dec. 4: 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration after event thank you (328 views) (53 likes/reactions)

**D. Popularity of Palo Corona as a Destination Increases:** It was “all-hands-on-deck” as the Operations and EECO staff welcomed the 300+ Salinas, CA elementary school students that stopped at Palo Corona for lunch after attending the Nutcracker at the Sunset Center.

Bus drivers, chaperones, and teachers worked with MPRPD staff to accommodate this group amidst planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary event, Project-B’s construction, and event deliveries. Staff followed up with the school district to ensure special use permits are sought for their next outing. This visit highlights the demand, popularity, and benefit that places like Palo Corona Regional Park offer our surrounding communities -- especially our region’s youth.



**School students enjoying Palo Corona Regional Park**



### School students enjoying Palo Corona Regional Park

**E. California Wildlife Day:** Carmel River Watershed Conservancy has hired Cedar and Stone Events and Atlas Hospitality, LLC to assist in the planning of the 5th annual CA Wildlife Day (CWD). The event will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2023, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Palo Corona Regional Park’s Rancho Canada Unit. This year’s theme is **“We are a part of nature, not apart from nature.”**

### F. Education:

- a. Transportation Grant:** A final draft agreement for the LGO! Transportation Grant between MPRPD and Community Foundation of Monterey has been reviewed, is undergoing finishing touches, and will be presented at MPRPD’s February Board meeting for review and action.

This grant is designed to provide funding to bring organized groups from the surrounding tri-county area to MPRPD properties to overcome one of the biggest barriers for folks to get outside: lack of transportation.

- b. K-12 Education Programs:** Staff are piloting two MPRPD education programs for students (grades 5-9) at Palo Corona Regional Park. The two programs consist of:

1. *“Healthy Habitats”* – A riparian-ecosystem-focused, hands-on learning and exploratory program, and,
2. *“Pollinator Garden”* – focusing on connecting students to floodplain restoration.

*Healthy Habitats* is being presented to a homeschooled group of children, ages 10-15, and *Pollinator Garden* is being conducted with *The Village Project* members, an after-school group from Seaside (pictured below).

Both groups have limited access to environmental and outdoor education. These MPRPD programs reach students living specifically in the cities of Monterey and Seaside. There are approximately 7-students for each program, for a total reach of 14-different students.

One goal of these small pilot groups is to ultimately provide a model and foundation for collaborating with larger schools or school districts on similar programming at Palo Corona Regional Park.



### **School students enjoying Palo Corona Regional Park**

Discussions with Bay View Academy (BVA), a public charter school in Monterey, are developing into a partnership designed to engage 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to get outdoors and experience local habitats in a way that complements BVA's interdisciplinary curriculum. The goal is to create an enriched, robust, and comprehensive *Heathy Habitats* program by collaborating with the curriculum writers and teachers from BVA.

Staff will be collaborating with Salinas Unified High School District, Bird School Project, Pacific Grove Museum, and other environmental educators through a Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant to provide teacher

workshops and student experiences on high school campuses and at Palo Corona Regional Park during spring 2023.

**G. Let's Go Outdoors! (LGO!) Guide and Program Updates:**

- a. **Interruptions:** Half-way through the 2022/2023 Fall/Winter Season, programs continue to be impacted by the cold and flu season, holidays, and stormy weather conditions. This reinforces the need for dependably available, accessible educational programming for the public.
  
- b. **Call for Instructors & Community Happenings:** Call for LGO! instructors and community offerings has been released in preparation of the next LGO! Guide for 2023 Spring/Summer, which will run from March 25<sup>th</sup> through September 24<sup>th</sup>. All interested educators and organizations are encouraged to submit their proposals and descriptions to Savannah Peña at [pena@mprpd.org](mailto:pena@mprpd.org) by January 12, 2023.

Any public MPRPD-related events from March-September 2023 may be advertised in this next publication and should also be submitted by the January 12 deadline.

The next guide is scheduled to be published and delivered in March 2023.

- 2. **Volunteers:** MPRPD's volunteers assisted staff with preparation, set-up, and staffing the District's 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary event. Our wonderful volunteers enjoyed their first social gathering (since Covid's restrictions were imposed) with staff and each other after the event.



**MPRPD Volunteers and Staff celebrating after the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**

## **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

- 1. Cal-am Test Well for Rancho Canada Village (RCV):** Ops staff facilitated a 2<sup>nd</sup> site visit for Cal-Am's drilling subcontractor (Cascade Drilling) to drill a 2<sup>nd</sup> bore hole on MPRPD property. Unfortunately, the 1<sup>st</sup> test site on MPRPD property proved unsuitable (in addition to 2 additional sites on RCV property). Thus, this will be RCV's 4<sup>th</sup> attempt at identifying a suitable location for placement of a well to provide potable water service to the future RCV housing development.

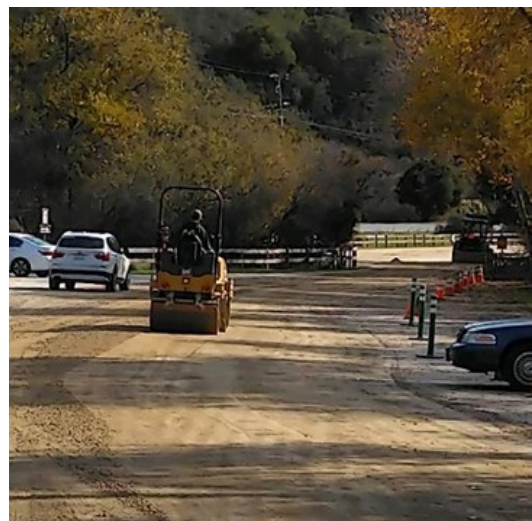


**Cascade Drilling on-site at PCRP**

- 2. GRRP Parking Lot Repairs:** Rangers spent a day ripping, importing, and grading a transfer load of Class-2 base rock at the GRRP parking lot following the recent rainfall that dropped 3"+ in Carmel and Carmel Valley. Material was purchased and delivered from Assured Aggregates for this project.



**Ranger Jeff on the JD Tractor**



**Ranger Hatton on the CAT Roller**

3. **MPRPD 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Event:** Operations & Maintenance staff assisted with the preparation and breakdown of the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary event at Palo Corona Regional, including posting parking signage, relocating District vehicles, installing banners and signage, and other coordination. During the event, Rangers staffed the Operations & Maintenance Division outreach booth, to share and discuss project photos and updates with the public.



**Rangers Narvaez and Vandervort at the O&M outreach booth**

4. **PCRP Backcountry Storm Damage:** The region's recent rainfall significantly impacted PCRP's backcountry. Particularly in areas that were recently reconstructed and/or are vulnerable to erosion due to highly erosive soil composition. Rangers will spend several weeks addressing these areas in preparation of the next weather event.



**Minor landslide at Chamise Ridge**



**Soil erosion along PC Trail**

- 5. Project-B Construction Project:** Rangers continued to engage with Avila Construction and provide support to Project-B, including leading the irrigation equipment testing and improvements, identifying security fencing and alignment, providing punch list items, and participating in weekly check-in meetings. Rangers and Administration staff coordinated with Monterey Bay Services to provide janitorial services for the new restrooms.



**Project-B Concrete Pour**

- 6. Trees Down:** Most of the past week has been spent clearing downed trees along District trails and roadways, including Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, Palisades Trail, Oakview Trail, Live Oak Trail, Vaquero Trail, Laureles Trail. Hitchcock Canyon, Osbourne Loop, Garza's Canyon, and Maple Canyon trails were also affected. The oak tree on Siesta Point Trail was especially difficult and required the District's long-bar chainsaw and pole saw.



**Oak tree at Frog Pond Wetland Preserve**





**Oak tree at Hitchcock Trail**



**Large oak tree at Siesta Point**

## **PLANNING & CONSERVATION DIVISION**

- 1. Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation and Management Plan:** The project team is developing an outline for the plan and are continuing to work on development of a palette of fuels and vegetation treatment measures that will be used as the basis for the 15-year plan. Staff expect to have a draft plan that will be ready to share in late February/early March 2023.
- 2. Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation Projects:** In addition to finalizing scopes of work and grant funding agreements with the Monterey County Resource Conservation District and the California Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy), staff provided Conservancy personnel a tour of the proposed eucalyptus thinning and removal project area at Garland Ranch Regional Park.
- 3. Garland Ranch Riparian Tree Mitigation Plantings:** MPRPD staff are working with Monterey County Public Works (County) to formulate a plan for a potential riparian tree mitigation planting area at Garland Ranch Regional Park. This proposed project would help restore historic riparian and upper floodplain forests on the property as mitigation for riparian trees that are proposed to be removed as a part of the County's Robinson Canyon Bridge Project. The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCD) may also assist with project design, implementation, monitoring and maintenance activities. Staff will provide updates as project and agreement specifics

are develop with the County and RCD. Subject to the proposed project being advanced, staff expect implementation to occur in late 2023, at the earliest.

4. **Multi-Benefit Community Trail:** Staff continue to work with the State's resource agencies and grant funders to develop a plan for realignment of sections of the Multi-Benefit Community Trail to ensure it is compatible with the Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project, upland soils placement, and the Rancho Canada Wildlife Corridor.
5. **Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project:** The project team has prepared a draft Notice of Intent and application package to apply for project coverage under the State and Regional Water Quality Control Board's new **Statewide Restoration General Order (SRGO)** and its associated **Programmatic Environmental Impact Report**. The SRGO is a part of the state's new **Cutting Green Tape Initiative** that seeks to expedite consultation, authorization, and permitting of eligible restoration projects. The project team is also developing permit applications for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' Nationwide Permit 27 for aquatic habitat restoration, enhancement, and establishment activities, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Programmatic Permit for enhancement projects, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Section 7 Consultation. The Project's Technical Advisory Committee is also providing comments on the projects 65% basis of design report, which will be reviewed by the project team in January of 2023.
6. **Laidlaw-Apte Vegetation Management Project:** Staff are working with the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District and Cal Fire to reduce unnaturally high vegetation levels and fuel loading in the Laidlaw-Apte Preserve. Staff are still working with Cal FIRE to confirm all necessary permits and approvals are in place before mechanical thinning occurs in early 2023.

# Ward Posters

Designed and fabricated in recognition of MPRPD's 50th anniversary. For more information contact [pena@mprpd.org](mailto:pena@mprpd.org).

# Ward 1

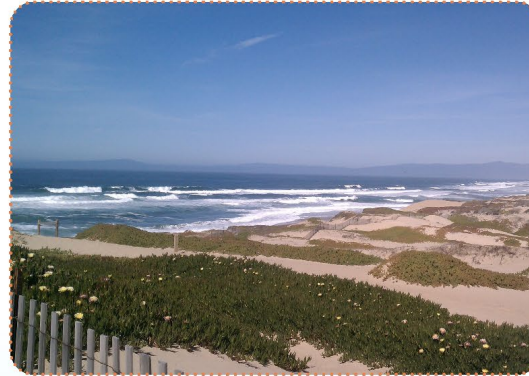
Marina, northern Fort Ord

## Conservation · Restoration · Education · Recreation

The northernmost ward is a mosaic of coastal urban landscapes, agricultural land, oak woodland, wetland, and extensive sand dunes. MPRPD continues to restore its landscapes through the removal of homogeneous, invasive ice plant to establishment of diverse native dune communities of coastal sage brush and wetlands to provide habitat for sensitive species such as amphibians, western snowy plovers, and Smith's blue butterfly.

MPRPD has completed projects which include fencing to prevent trampling of sensitive habitat, planting a variety of native plants, trail maintenance, and installation of interpretive signage.

Grants funded by MPRPD have provided over \$250,000 for projects that included camping experiences for youth, habitat restoration, walkway and park improvements, education projects, playground improvements, and native gardens.



Marina Dunes - ocean view



Marina Dunes - native planting effort



Marina Dunes - installation of "Closed to Entry" signs to protect sensitive habitat



Locke-Paddon Wetland Community Park - pond view

### Featured Park

#### Marina Dunes Preserve

A sandy, wind-swept landscape, this park is a publicly accessible, coastal access point in Marina. A former sand mining site and off-road vehicle recreation area, this three-parcel, 62-acre property was purchased from 1988-2001 with the support of MPRPD, the Coastal Conservancy, California State Wildlife Conservation Board, and Big Sur Land Trust. The 1988 purchase was to prevent development of a resort, protect dune habitat, and restore native vegetation along the Monterey Bay seashore.

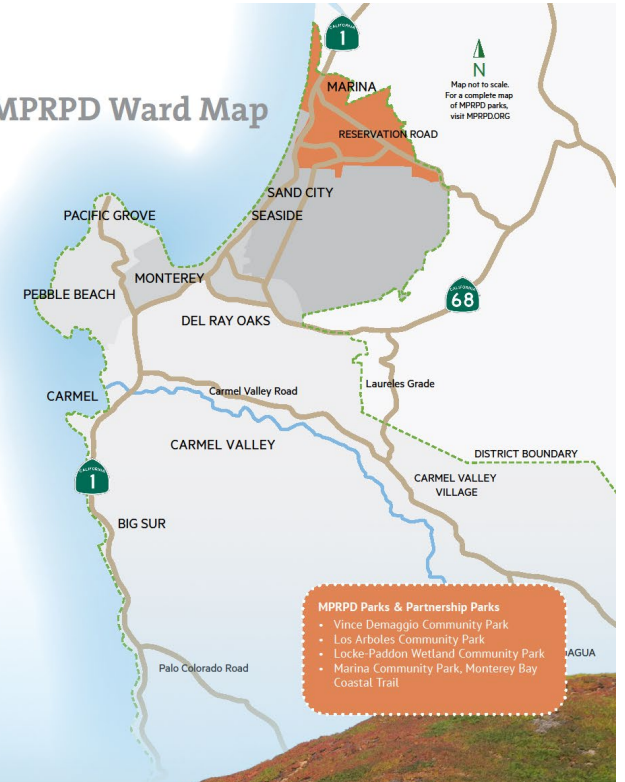
After acquiring the land, MPRPD's first act was to remove the old sand processing plant. Its foundations can still be seen on the foredune and the public access path follows the old sand mining roadway. Since 1990, MPRPD has slowly and steadily restored the area and continues to restore it today. New educational opportunities will be added through interpretive panels describing the sensitive coastal dune ecosystem.

#### Past & Present Board Representatives

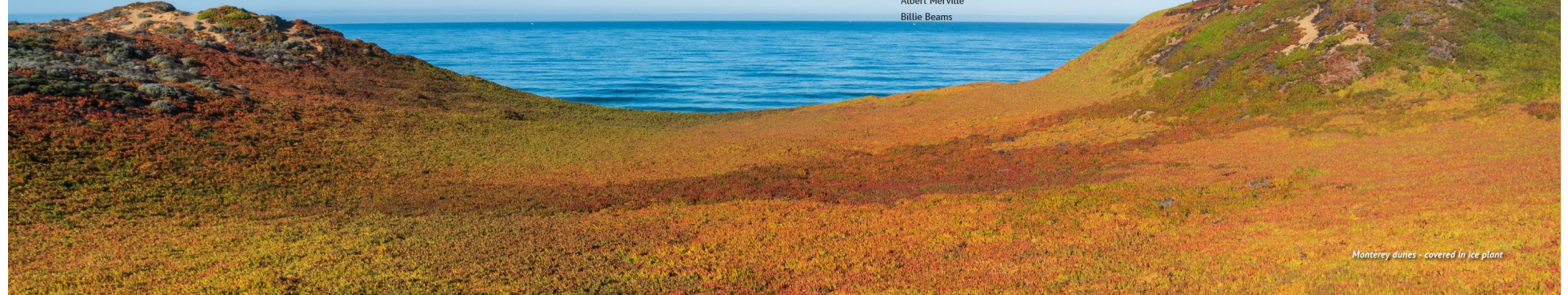
- Kelly Sorenson, current Director
- Jennifer Lagier Felguth
- David Salazar
- Patricia Hutchins
- Jane Ouye
- Lane Calvert
- John Pidgeon
- Clyde Varney
- Albert Merville
- Billie Beams



## MPRPD Ward Map



- MPRPD Parks & Partnership Parks**
- Vince Demaggio Community Park
  - Los Arboles Community Park
  - Locke-Paddon Wetland Community Park
  - Marina Community Park, Monterey Bay Coastal Trail



Monterey dunes - covered in ice plant

# Ward 2

Seaside, northern Sand City, southern Fort Ord

## Conservation · Restoration · Education · Recreation

Encompassing most of Seaside, this ward hosts a combination of coastal urban landscapes, dune complexes, and historical industrial and commercial areas. MPRPD has completed restoration and mitigation efforts at Eolian Dunes, a former landfill, and acquired and constructed a portion of the recreational Monterey Bay Coastal Trail.

MPRPD has completed projects which include ice plant removal by the School for the Blind and various volunteers.

Grants funded by MPRPD have provided over \$240,000 for projects that included horticultural education programming, ADA access improvements, multiple park infrastructure improvements, and a dog park.



Eolian Dunes - native planting



Eolian Dunes - ice plant pull with the School for the Blind



Monterey Bay Coastal Trail - Sand City construction



Monterey Bay Coastal Trail - Sand City ribbon cutting

## Featured Park

### Eolian Dunes Preserve

Eolian [E-O-li-an] Dunes is an open space preserve, only accessible by the beach and Monterey Bay Coastal Trail in Sand City. A former "burn dump" (pre-1945) and landfill (1945-1955), MPRPD purchased this 26-acre property in 1995 to prevent a go-kart race track, further development, and waste erosion along the Monterey Bay Dune Complex.

After acquiring this land, the remediation work at the landfill site was conducted with the assistance of the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The landfill material was excavated and sorted, and

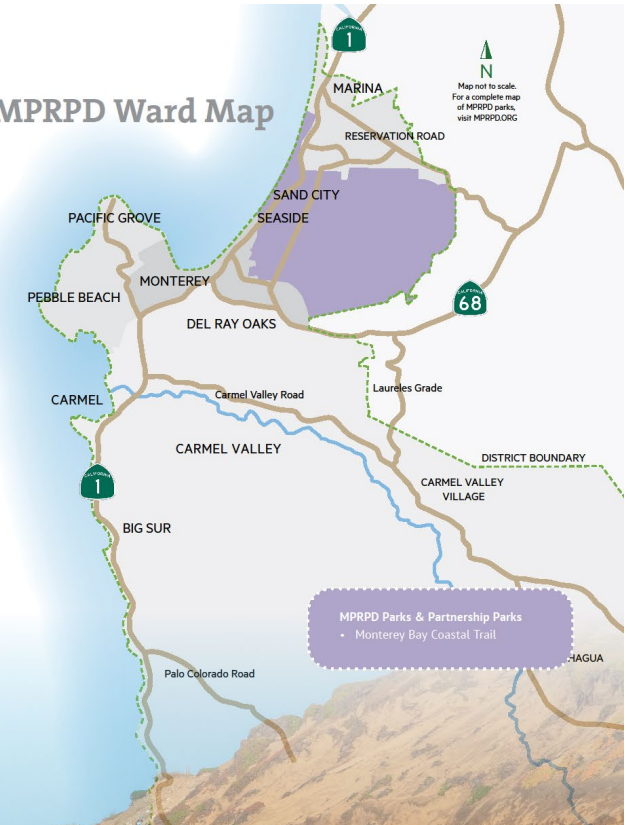
any recoverable and recyclable materials were removed. The remainder was re-buried behind the projected 50-year erosion set-back and capped with new sand. In 2007, the name of this property was changed from Landfill to Eolian, in reference to the wind-swept dunes that dominate the landscape. MPRPD has worked to restore this native coastal dune habitat and provided a trail connection and extension of the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail, which includes one of the most breathtaking views of the bay.

### Past & Present Board Representatives

Shane Anderson, current Director  
 Christine Dresslar Moss  
 Ben Post  
 Ira Lively  
 Robert Griffin  
 Linda Lee Bassett  
 Alice Cantu



## MPRPD Ward Map



Map not to scale.  
 For a complete map of MPRPD parks, visit MPRPD.ORG

MPRPD Parks & Partnership Parks  
 • Monterey Bay Coastal Trail



Monterey Dunes - beach view

# Ward 3

Monterey, Southwest Seaside, southern Sand City, Del Rey Oaks

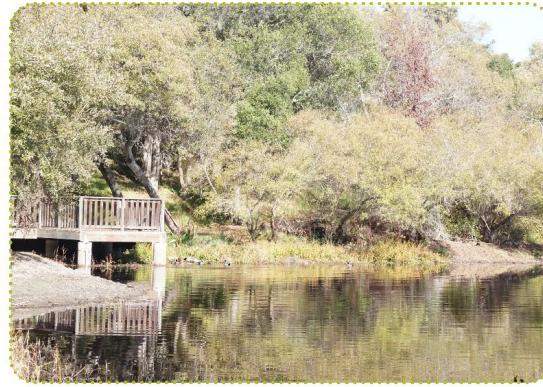
## Conservation · Restoration · Education · Recreation

Ward 3 hosts a variety of urban landscapes, dune complexes, wetlands, oakwoodland, and commercial land use. MPRPD has completed substantial restoration and conservation efforts at Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, Robert's Lake, and Laguna Grande Community Park.

MPRPD has completed projects which include native restoration through park cleanups, invasive removal, native planting,

and seed collection, regular mowing and dredging to maintain wetlands, and building trails, decks, and walkways to prevent damage to sensitive habitat.

Grants funded by MPRPD have provided over \$165,000 for projects that included trail realignment, garden and nursery enhancements, installation of water-saving synthetic turf, and a variety of park improvements.



Frog Pond viewing deck



Laguna Grande to Robert's Lake cleanup effort



Robert's Lake - buckwheat seed collection



Frog Pond dredging to maintain pond catchment

## Featured Park

### Frog Pond Wetland Preserve

An isolated remnant of a much larger wetland ecosystem, Frog Pond is a publicly accessible, open space preserve with limited trails in Del Rey Oaks. MPRPD and the Land and Water Conservation Fund purchased 17 acres around the main pond in 1977 and 6.9 acres of space just east of General Jim Moore Blvd in 2020.

Historically used as ranch land for grazing, a spring water bottling source, and private property, Frog Pond was proposed to be a 175-unit townhouse development. Instead,

MPRPD and the local community sought to preserve this sensitive area and provide improved public access to the loop trail. MPRPD provides perimeter access to the central pond/wetland habitat core, which provides refuge for resident and migratory wildlife as well as humans. Maintenance practices such as dredging occur on a regular basis to prevent the natural succession of plant growth into an oak woodland to preserve this wetland refuge.

### Past & Present

#### Board Representatives

Kevin Raskoff, current Director  
 Katie Pofahl  
 Michael Adamson,  
 Don Edgren,  
 Judi Lehman-Ellis  
 Sean Flavin



## MPRPD Ward Map



- MPRPD Parks & Partnership Parks**
- Laguna Grande Community Park
  - San Carlos Beach Community Park
  - South Monterey Bay Dunes
  - Del Monte Dunes Open Space
  - Robert's Lake Open Space
  - Del Monte Beach Open Space
  - Joyce Stevens Pine Forest Preserve
  - Monterey Bay Coastal Trail

Frog Pond Wetland Preserve - July 2021



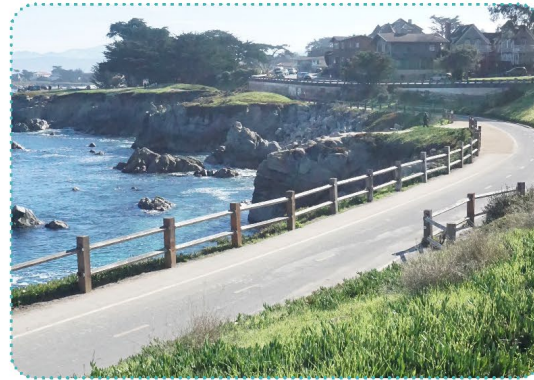
# Ward 4

Pacific Grove, New Monterey, northern Pebble Beach

## Conservation · Restoration · Education · Recreation

Covering a majority of the Monterey Peninsula, this ward hosts a mix of rocky shoreline, pine forests, cypress forests, oak woodlands, and urban landscapes. MPRPD made its first open space purchase of Lynn "Rip" Van Winkle in 1974 in Pacific Grove and has provided access to recreational trails as part of the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail.

Grants funded by MPRPD have provided over \$220,000 for projects that included the Pt. Pinos Lighthouse Restoration, increased coastal access, and improvements to park signs, trails, playground structures, and accessibility.



Coastal Trail - Pacific Grove



Lynn "Rip" Van Winkle - entrance view



Coastal Trail - former train route near Lover's Point



Lynn "Rip" Van Winkle fern landscape

### Featured Park

#### Monterey Bay Coastal Trail

Locally known as "the Rec Trail," this trail is a 14.2-mile, publicly accessible, multi-use pathway for pedestrians and cyclists. MPRPD, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Coastal Conservancy were granted the right-of-way across the former railroad route in multiple municipalities in 1976, 1982, and 1998 to provide a mostly contiguous trail system that runs from Lover's Point in Pacific Grove to Castroville along the Monterey Bay coast.

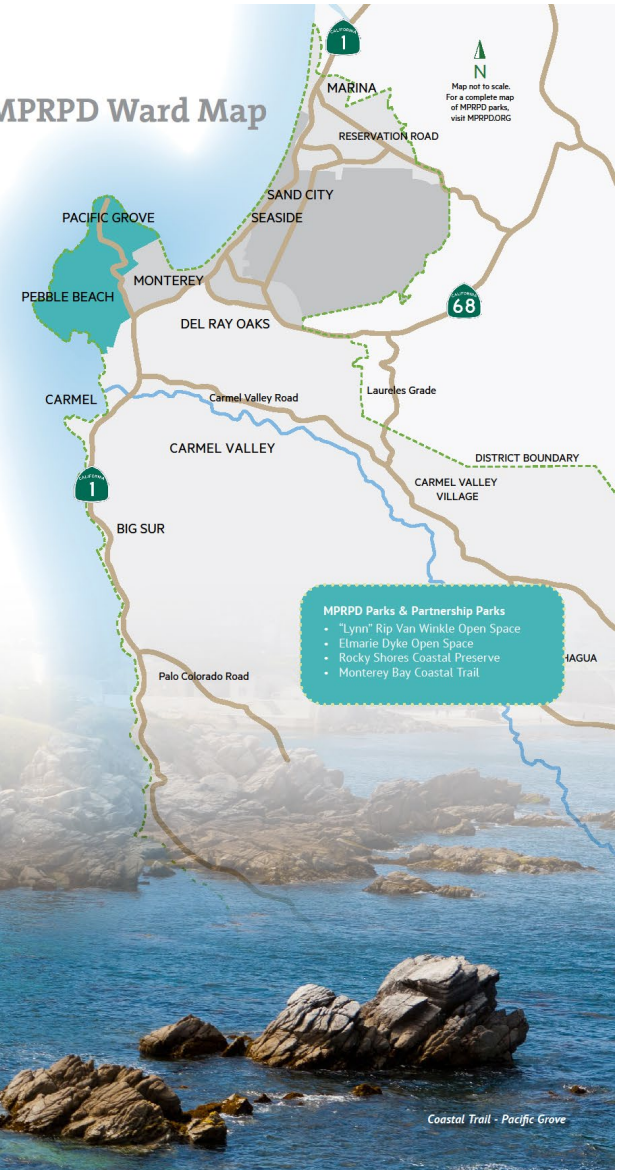
The Coastal Trail is now managed by its respective municipalities, and the community continues to work together to make more connections with this trail. MPRPD strives to work collaboratively with the community to create trail systems that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused from vehicles and provide further accessibility to those that commute along the Monterey Bay.

#### Past & Present Board Representatives

Kathleen Lee, current Director  
 Mary Dainton  
 Dina Stansbury  
 Rudd Crawford  
 Kathleen Corsaut  
 Richard Little  
 John Lord



## MPRPD Ward Map



Coastal Trail - Pacific Grove

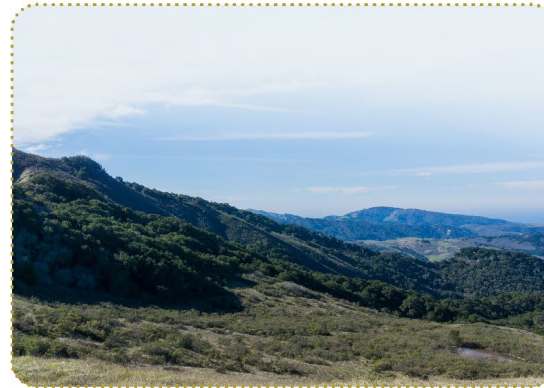
# Ward 5

Carmel, Carmel Valley, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Big Sur, southern Pebble Beach

## Conservation · Restoration · Education · Recreation

The largest ward by landmass, this area hosts urban landscapes, rocky shoreline, freshwater lagoon, the Carmel River (which provides most of Carmel Valley's and Monterey Peninsula's drinking water), pine forests, grasslands, redwood forests, chaparral, and oak woodlands. MPRPD has completed substantial projects such as native plant restoration, increased recreational access to open spaces, educational

programming, preservation of pine forest habitat, and preservation of sensitive habitat along and near the Carmel River. Grants funded by MPRPD have provided over \$320,000 for projects that included educational resources and programs, irrigation improvements for native plant gardens, enhanced safety plans, a sports complex, and park improvements of trails, infrastructure, and ADA access.



Garland Ranch - mountain view



## MPRPD Ward Map



Garland Ranch Visitor Center construction and farm equipment



Cachagua Community Park playground



Palo Corona new trail construction

## Featured Park

### Garland Ranch Regional Park

The "grand daddy" of MPRPD's properties, Garland Park, as it is also known, represents MPRPD's first parkland acquisition, and second overall acquisition (the first was Lynn "Rip" Van Winkle Open Space in Pacific Grove.) It has the longest publicly accessible trail system in the District, with over 50 miles of trails. Originally a village to Indigenous people, this area provided homesteads, hunting grounds, logging grounds, ranch land, and was purchased in 1975 from William Garland II. With the addition of multiple later land purchases, there are over 3,400 acres protected within this park.

This area contains over five different habitat types and continues to provide a home that is essential to the wildlife and humans that have resided here for thousands of years. MPRPD hosts many educational and volunteer opportunities at this park year-round, and it continues to be voted the Best Hiking Trails in Monterey County by the Monterey County Weekly.

### Past & Present Board Representatives

Monta Potter, current Director  
 John Dalessio  
 Zad Leavy  
 Rod Holmgren  
 John Sigourney



Palo Corona Regional Park - Pond View