

2016 PARKS UPDATE – ♥ YOUR PARKS!



ThatsMyPark.org





#ThatsMy
PARK



DEAR PARK SUPPORTER,

Our state parks and beaches are healing places of beauty, solace and renewal. They provide opportunities for exercise, recreation and learning. They give us a chance to connect with family and friends.

Through strongly supported programs such as school field trips, guided hikes, living history demonstrations and restoration projects, park staff and volunteers set the stage for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to help preserve and enhance our natural world, history and culture in meaningful ways. Simply put, state parks and beaches help us build community.

This was a year of major milestones. We marked the 40th anniversary of a group of people who banded together to create the Monterey Bay Natural History Association, which would later become Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks. We also commemorated the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park and celebrated the people who endeavored to preserve the dynamic story of the native peoples who lived at the Santa Cruz Mission.

Community support fuels Friends' essential nonprofit partnership with California State Parks. Thanks to your generosity, in 2016 Friends substantially increased investments in our park staff, educational programs, historic preservation, deferred maintenance, cultural events and innovative programs.

Now, more than ever, our state parks and beaches are there for you.

We invite you to be there for them in the year ahead by visiting, volunteering, donating and shopping in our ParkStores.

See you in the parks!



Bonny Hawley, Executive Director



#ThatsMy TRAIL



#ThatsMy
BEACH

2016 WAS A GREAT YEAR!

Thanks to supporters like you, and our community partners, we:

- Expanded funding for State Parks interpretative staff at 17 state parks and beaches
- Piloted a summer program for Santa Cruz's Beach Flats neighborhood school students to visit the Santa Cruz Mission, Natural Bridges and Wilder Ranch
- Launched a new mobile-friendly, multi-language website, featuring plan-your-trip options
- Expanded credit/debit card acceptance at 15 remote park locations
- Provided underwriting for Mountain Parks Foundation's restoration of the Big Basin Nature Lodge
- Funded replacement of a trail bridge and signage at Nisene Marks
- Funded Natural Bridges' Mobile Beach Cart for interpretation of the Marine Protected Area (partner: California Marine Sanctuary Foundation)
- Funded monarch butterfly grove habitat restoration at Natural Bridges
- Funded repairs for Seacliff's saltwater aquarium
- Funded improvements for entrance station kiosks at Half Moon Bay
- Piloted Wilder Ranch's new Field Trip Scholarship Program
- Funded painting and repair of the Victorian at Wilder Ranch (partner: Wilder Ranch Docents)
- Completed Castro Adobe Phase 2 improvements, including installation of an accessible lift and new staircase, as well as second floor strengthening (partners: Community Foundation Santa Cruz County and Monterey Peninsula Foundation)
- Expanded Castro Adobe school field trips, focused on Pajaro Valley schools
- Commemorated the Santa Cruz Mission's 25th anniversary as a State Historic Park with numerous community events and the installation of a sidewalk mural (partners: Artist Kathleen Crocetti, Arts Council Santa Cruz County, the City of Santa Cruz Arts and Economic Development, Mission Hill Middle School and others)
- Funded the Guided Backpacking Tour program (partners: the Sempervirens Fund and Portola & Castle Rock Foundation)
- Honored the memories of Jim Munro, Harry Kelly, Fred Webster and Jim & Carol Toney by establishing specific initiatives that reflect their unique values and commitments



FRIENDS SUPPORTERS CAME TOGETHER

for our beloved parks and beaches through an impressive
array of local events and partnerships.

FRIENDS-FUNDED STATE PARKS EVENTS

- Welcome Back Monarchs Day and Migration Festival at Natural Bridges State Beach
- Spring Planting Day, Heritage Harvest Festival, Old-Fashioned Fourth of July, Life on the Ranch and Holidays on the Ranch at Wilder Ranch
- Open House events and Holidays on the Rancho at Castro Adobe State Historic Park
- Castro Coastal Connections program at Sunset State Beach

FRIENDS-HOSTED EVENTS

- Fourth of July Feed the Force
- 4th Annual Mole & Mariachi Festival at the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park
- 3rd Annual Stewardship Dinner at the Castro Adobe

FRIENDS CO-HOSTED EVENT

- 25th Anniversary Series at the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, including a fireworks watching party, a lecture series featuring expert presenters, PopUp Picnics in the Park and a First Friday basket and gourd art display

FRIENDS PARTNER EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- 7th Annual Kitayama Brothers Gerbera Festival
- PopUp Castro Adobe State Historic Park at the Museum of Art & History's Third Friday event
- Bookshop Santa Cruz event with author Terry Tempest Williams, who wrote 'The Hour of Land'
- Tide Pool Book Talk with Marni Fyelling at Natural Bridges with the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
- "Food What?!" fundraising dinner at the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park
- New Leaf Markets' Community Day at Felton and Boulder Creek stores
- Plantronics' Community Engagement Fair
- Friends ParkStore wholesale partners: American Cycling, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Down Works, Epicenter Cycling, Outdoor World, Santa Cruz Bicycles and the Waddell Creek Association

YOUR SUPPORT makes everything possible.

To help Friends continue to make a difference for our local state parks and beaches, please become a member. As always, your donation will be tax-deductible and all donated funds stay local.

- Online at ThatsMyPark.org/donate/membership (donate \$50 or \$25 for students/limited income)
- Mail to 144 School Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

In addition to membership, there are many other ways you can support Friends!

- Shop at our ParkStores – Natural Bridges State Beach, Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, Seacliff State Beach, Wilder Ranch State Park, New Brighton State Beach, online and at our PopUp ParkStores at special events
- Visit our parks and remember to pay your entrance fee!
- Attend events hosted by Friends and State Parks
- Volunteer
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube

ThatsMyPark.org     

Sustaining the legacy of our local
state parks and beaches



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