



### Chapter 3

# ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

## 3 ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

This chapter identifies the planning assumptions that, along with the California State Parks (CSP) mission, underpin the General Plan. Following the assumptions are descriptions and analyses of key issues to be addressed by the plan's goals and guidelines in Chapter 4.

### 3.1 Planning Assumptions

The following assumptions are based on current state and federal laws, regulations, and CSP policy. These assumptions form the planning context and set the parameters for addressing general planning issues.

CSP will do the following:

- Manage and protect rare, threatened, and endangered species and sensitive natural plant communities and wildlife habitats, including the marine, coastal, and inland resources, as required by federal and state laws, and by CSP's mission.
- Protect the rich prehistoric cultural resources and sites that occur within each of the park units. Consult with California Native American Tribes to obtain a mutually respectful understanding of the long-term needs for protection and treatment of heritage and sacred sites, objects, or human remains, as well as to define future consultations that would be required during subsequent planning, design, and project implementation.
- Preserve the park's cultural resources, including all identified archaeological or historic properties, which may be districts, landscapes, sites, buildings, features and objects, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- Continue to adapt to the changing climate, including anticipation of sea level rise and increase in wildfire risk over time.
- Work with state, regional, and local agencies and with non-governmental organization partners on inter-jurisdictional matters, such as transportation solutions in the State Route (SR) I corridor, regional transportation hub parking, regional trail connections, wildfire risk reduction and response, and management of the Carmel River and lagoon environs.



California State Parks' Mission:  
 "To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation."

For descriptions of current unit classifications, see Section 1.8, Planning Hierarchy (1.8.2 Classification). Section 4.1, Classification, outlines the classification decisions included in the plan for the two existing units and two unclassified properties.



Example of important historic resources, the Odello Farm buildings at the State Beach

See Interagency and Stakeholder Involvement in Chapter 1 for a summary of the public process used to engage the public throughout the planning process.

- Plan for transportation options and visitor facilities that resolve parking issues in the units.
- Emphasize enhancement of the visitor experience, which will include management of recreation opportunities among the units to reduce excessive visitation that results in the degradation of sensitive resources.
- Maintain ongoing, open communication with the surrounding community and seek input regarding plan implementation from local, regional, and statewide interests.
- Coordinate planning efforts between state parks and other public park and open space areas managed by Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD), U.S. Forest Service, Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT), City of Carmel, and Monterey County to evaluate and enhance connectivity and compatibility of recreation and interpretive opportunities and resource management programs.

## 3.2 Carmel Area State Parks Issues

The key issues that influenced the planning effort for the Carmel Area State Parks (CASP) units are discussed below. These issues are parkwide, because multiple units are affected, but also have implications for individual units or areas. The General Plan addresses these issues through the parkwide management goals and guidelines, which are presented in Chapter 4, Park Plan. Several, area-specific issues are also discussed in Section 3.3.

### 3.2.1 Visitor Capacity Management

Visitor overuse in sensitive resource areas can damage park resources and diminish the quality of visitor experiences. Overuse is an acute concern at the Reserve because of the richness of its iconic natural, cultural, and scenic resources and the extremely high demand for visitation. A 2016 survey of the coastal bluffs of the Reserve documented substantial trail degradation, creation of unauthorized trails, areas of soil and vegetation loss, and disturbance of marine wildlife (Noble 2016). Visitor management needs to take into account how to achieve sustainable uses in the Reserve, as well as the other units, whereby resource degradation can be prevented.



The 1979 General Plan estimated the capacity of the Reserve based on available parking spaces: 150 spaces x 3 persons per vehicle = 450 people maximum at one time. Assuming three parking space turnovers per day, the daily carrying capacity equaled 1,350 persons.

The appropriate visitor capacity of the Reserve has been a topic of both CSP management focus and public input for decades. Because of the national and international renown of the Reserve, large numbers of annual visitors and many peak-visitation days occur every year. The high level of visitor use continues to damage sensitive marine and coastal natural resources and cultural resources within the Reserve. The 1979 General Plan related the Reserve carrying capacity to a parking facility-capacity-based calculation of 450 visitors at one time, based on a vehicle parking capacity of 150 spaces and an average of three people per vehicle. Using an estimated parking lot turnover of three times per day, the daily facility carrying capacity was noted to be 1,350 visitors per day. The calculation did not attempt to correlate the parking lot capacity to resource impacts, visitor behavior, visitor destination, or visitor experience, but noted the importance of monitoring resource degradation and adapting management responses accordingly.

Currently, there is limited reliable data on total visitor attendance at the Reserve, because many visitors park on the highway and walk in to avoid the entrance fee or because parking inside the Reserve has been filled to capacity. Even with the limited data available, it is clear that the Reserve exceeds its visitor capacity. It is estimated that 400,000 visitors walked into the Reserve in 2016. Because of its State Natural Reserve unit classification, management priority is directed to protect important resources, and CSP staff need a sustainable use strategy to monitor, account for, and adaptively manage the unit to minimize resource degradation.

CSP is currently working with the Point Lobos Foundation (PLF) to fence trails to keep people on designated paths, placing interpretive and educational signs near sensitive areas to inform visitors why it is important to protect such resources, and restoring coastal bluffs to re-establish habitat that has been lost due to human foot traffic.

Overuse and the need for sustainable visitor management are not issues that only apply to the Reserve. Current and planned uses of all of the publicly open CASP units, including the impacts of special events on the park's sensitive resources, are ongoing issues. Resource degradation has occurred within the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve at the State Beach due to visitor overuse and special events. Visitor use management at Point Lobos Ranch will need to consider protection of areas with Natural and Cultural Preserve designations. Key considerations are visitor management at each of the CASP units to maintain the resource integrity and desired visitor experience. Special events should be evaluated with regard to regional opportunities for these events, the consistency with CSP's mission, and the purpose and vision of the park.



Park visitors painting and using Reserve trails



Interpretive display at Whalers Cove

Among the potential strategies to be explored to maintain sustainable use is implementation of CSP’s reservation system. Day use reservations could be required at one or more units (particularly the Reserve), operated continuously (annually) or during peak use periods (seasonally, holidays), coordinated with docent-led tours or self-guided visits, and implemented with digital and internet applications for convenience. Reservation software, web applications, and connection to mobile phones have substantially advanced and diversified opportunities for reservation systems in the last few years. The CSP reservation system offers additional opportunities for advances in reservation system planning to support sustainable use.

Another strategy to maintain sustainable use includes charging a day use fee for walk-in visitors should SR I parking not be removed. When a reservation and shuttle system is implemented, walk-in fees could be eliminated because park entry would require a reservation.

### 3.2.2 Resource Protection

Key parkwide resource protection issues include balancing park use with resource protection, climate change adaptation, water quality, and water supply.

#### Balancing Park Use with Resource Protection

CSP must take the needs of the native flora and fauna, sensitive habitats, the natural processes and functions that support sensitive aquatic and terrestrial communities, and important cultural resource sensitivity into full account when defining approaches to manage the recreational and operational needs of the park units. Where a unit classification is a State Natural Reserve, or where a natural or cultural preserve has been established, management priority is assigned to resource protection. With a state park or state beach classification, management considerations seek to balance resource protection and high-quality recreational objectives.

There are rare plant communities and endangered species that provide unique opportunities for education and research; however, research must be compatible with CSP’s mandate to protect these resources for future generations. Research also takes place in the marine reserve, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issues collection permits for certain species. There are opportunities to review and clarify policies for issuing collection permits and scientific research permits for all CASP units to ensure long-term sustainability of the processes.



Tidepools at the Reserve

In addition to protecting rare, threatened and endangered species, CSP must also address management of invasive and nonnative species in the park units. PLF will continue to map and eradicate nonnative invasive plant species within the Reserve, including cape ivy, poison hemlock, Harding grass, fireweed, velvet grass, and sea fig. California Native Plant Society (CNPS) will continue to eradicate French broom at Point Lobos Ranch.

Mapping the sensitive natural and cultural resources should occur prior to implementing park improvement projects to better assure sensitive resources are avoided or minimally impacted, are documented, and monitored over time. CSP and PLF continue to partner on a long-term wildlife disturbance research effort to inform park managers on how to minimize wildlife/human conflicts within the Reserve. Other studies include assessing small mammals within the coastal prairie meadows of the Reserve.

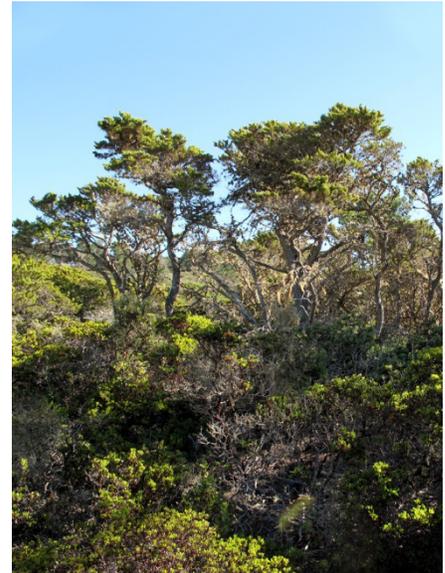
CSP and the PLF have also initiated a research program that looks at the Reserve's resource base and makes recommendations on how to reduce sediment delivery to the Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). As a result of this research, CSP has implemented south shore bluff restoration projects. CSP will continue research to gather needed resource data to help park managers make informed resource management decisions.

There is a continuing need for habitat restoration and CSP anticipates future restoration at Lower Sea Lion Point, Coal Chute Point, and Granite Point, among other places.

There is a need to balance educational and recreational uses and park management with the preservation and protection of the many historic and prehistoric resources in the parks. The Reserve, the State Beach, and Point Lobos Ranch all contain significant historic and prehistoric resources. Cultural and sacred sites important to Native people exist in the units. There are opportunities for CSP to protect these resources, while providing for high-quality outdoor recreation, interpretation, and education for visitors.

## Climate Change Adaptation

It is anticipated that climate change will cause ecological stressors, resource and property damage, and public safety risks in the coastal areas in California. Possible climate impacts include: increased temperatures of up to 6°F higher than the current average temperatures by 2100; precipitation changes of 4 to 8 inches less in annual rainfall by 2100; sea level rise up to 55 inches higher than current sea levels by 2100; reduced agricultural



Gowen cypress at Point Lobos Ranch

Ecological stressors refer to any physical, chemical, or biological constraint on the productivity of a given species and development of ecosystems.

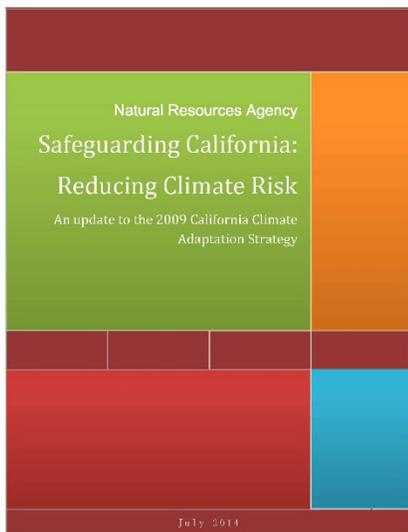
activity; biodiversity threats; loss of natural and cultural resources, shoreline retreat, facilities, and infrastructure due to erosion; public health threats; and increased wildfire risks of up to 100 percent by 2085. In the CASP units, sea level rise is the most apparent climate risk, but increased wildfire risk, changes in storms, flooding risk, and ecological responses will also be of concern. Planning must include adaptation to the changing climate, as well as consideration for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Regarding sea level rise, the California Climate Change Adaptation Policy Guide prepared by the California Emergency Management Agency and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) estimated that the entire coastal zone is susceptible to sea level rise, including beaches, bluffs, bays, and estuaries. While sea level rise predictions vary based on future GHG emissions scenarios, the most commonly used prediction for planning purposes is 1.41 meters by 2100. This prediction is included in the 2017 version of Cal-Adapt, the state’s internet climate adaptation tool, administered by CNRA and the California Energy Commission.

The 2009 California Climate Change Adaptation Strategy adopted six adaptation strategies for ocean and coastal resources that are important to address when planning for CASP. The six adaptation strategies laid out by the Coastal Adaptation Working Group, including CSP, are:

- Strategy 1: Establish State Policy to Avoid Future Hazards and Protect Critical Habitat;
- Strategy 2: Provide Statewide Guidance for Protecting Existing Critical Ecosystems, Existing Coastal Development, and Future Investments;
- Strategy 3: State Agencies Should Prepare Sea Level Rise and Climate Adaptation Plans;
- Strategy 4: Support Regional and Local Planning for Addressing Sea Level Rise Impacts;
- Strategy 5: Complete a Statewide Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment Every Five Years; and
- Strategy 6: Support Essential Data Collection and Information Sharing.

In 2014, CNRA published Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk as an update to the 2009 Adaptation Strategy. The 2014 report includes an Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems and Resources chapter



2014 Safeguarding California Report

with an update of sea level rise and other risk information. For sea level rise, it continues to rely on projections from a 2009 Pacific Institute study commissioned by the state that has been cited by most agencies with purview over coastal lands or resources.

CNRA updated the 2014 Safeguarding California report in 2018. A key component of the update is consideration of revised sea level rise predictions. In 2017, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) compiled updated science findings to indicate that predictions for sea level in 2100 will be higher than previously expected, because of an increased rate of ice sheet melt in Greenland and Antarctica. Ice sheet melt will overtake thermal expansion and glacial melt as the major source of long-term future sea level rise. In a 2017 Science Report, OPC describes the updated sea level rise predictions for the California coast that will be used to modify state agency guidance for addressing sea level rise. Sea level rise predictions will continue to evolve as understanding of ocean warming and ice-melt dynamics improves.

Together, the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets contain more than 99% of the freshwater ice on Earth (National Snow and Ice Data Center 2017).

CSP has developed a Sea Level Rise and Extreme Event Guidance document (CSP 2017) that includes recommendations for addressing sea level rise at California state parks located on the coast. This document anticipates effects to coastal park units resulting from the following:

- Inundation of significant cultural and natural resources;
- loss of beach area and width;
- accelerated bluff erosion;
- damage to park facilities and infrastructure owned by CSP and others;
- decreased public access;
- altered recreational opportunities; and
- change in revenue generation opportunities.

The projected increase in sea level and extreme events justifies the need for a careful evaluation of the potential vulnerabilities to and effects of flooding, inundation, and erosion on CSP's coastal resources.

The guidance document describes how proposed projects in the coastal zone would be evaluated, including anticipated level of sea rise, coastal storm surge, and extreme event potential impacts.

However, decisions will also be based on park unit needs and other local and statewide considerations. Given the level of uncertainty regarding the timing of anticipated sea level rise and extreme events, the document recommends planning for the worst-case scenario and provides tools and resources to inform decisions and to identify, document, and manage vulnerabilities early in the project management and planning process.

CSP will plan for management of sensitive natural and cultural resources along the coast to minimize damage or record information from locations that are infeasible to protect in areas that are prone to near-term inundation or storm-wave runup, such as at the State Beach, where cultural resources within the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve would be vulnerable to increased coastal erosion.

## Water Quality

The primary water resources in the CASP units include the ocean (including bays and coves), Gibson Creek, San Jose Creek, and the Carmel River. Groundwater in the area primarily occurs in unconfined deposits in alluvial material. Water quality in the Carmel River lagoon varies throughout the year, and is driven by changes in local weather, lagoon volume, stream flow, wave and tidal conditions, California American Water (CalAm) water usage, and whether the sandbar separating the river from the ocean is open or closed. During dry months, dissolved oxygen and temperature are managed to maintain water quality for south-central California coast steelhead habitat by augmenting lagoon water via an aerator using groundwater from a well near SR I. Sediment and pollutant discharge to marine water is also a critical issue, recognizing the presence of a designated ASBS and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Potential point sources of pollution to the streams in the park units include the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) wastewater treatment plant and existing package treatment plants located to the north of the Reserve and the State Beach. Package treatment plants are small on-site treatment plants designed to handle specific needs. Treated wastewater effluent from the CAWD plant is discharged into Carmel Bay through a pipeline that passes through the State Beach. Effluent from the two package treatment plants is discharged into the open ocean north of the Reserve.

Runoff from SR I is concentrated and conveyed in a series of corrugated metal pipes, with the outfall being conveyed through the pine forest in the Reserve, and discharged into Whalers Cove.



Carmel River — south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog habitat

Package plants are pre-manufactured treatment facilities used to treat wastewater in small communities or on individual properties. Package plants are designed to treat flows as low as 0.002 MGD or as high as 0.5 MGD (EPA 2000).

This runoff has caused erosion and silt flows into Whalers Cove impacting ocean water clarity. Runoff from the Whalers Cove parking lot is conveyed down the boat ramp and into the ocean contributing sediment and pollutants to the ASBS. The south shore unpaved parking lots also contribute sediment to the ASBS as noted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The SWRCB has identified these areas as point sources in need of pre-treatment prior to being discharged to the ASBS.

Soils in Hatton Canyon have high erosion potential that likely contribute sediment runoff to the seasonal creek. The existing unpaved service road within Hatton Canyon also causes water quality issues including sedimentation. The ephemeral creek can inundate the sewer manholes in the canyon, resulting in sewer spills into the creek.

Following the Soberanes fire in 2016, high levels of sedimentation have been observed in San Jose Creek. A few bank erosion sites, roads, and road crossings contribute to the fine sediment in the creek. Siltation of San Jose Creek has increased since the Soberanes fire which exposed soils within the watershed.

Groundwater within Point Lobos Ranch is primarily within the San Jose Creek aquifer. Saltwater intrusion is occasionally a problem for groundwater in this area. Salt water has been found in wells when dug to certain depths.

Maintaining and improving water quality in all CASP units is an ongoing consideration. Opportunities also exist for enhancing water quality by reducing sedimentation through improved trail and road design.

## Water Supply

It has been determined that the Carmel River groundwater basin is in an overdraft condition, leading to reduced river levels. Water is in short supply in the Monterey Peninsula area. The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) expects a water supply gap of up to 7,000-acre feet per year by 2021. Although MPWMD, CalAm, and other agencies are working on projects to increase water supply, it is expected that water supply constraints will be an ongoing issue in the community, including for CASP water needs, for the foreseeable future. CSP has been informed that no new water supplies are available for additional development. To provide an ongoing water supply for existing and new uses, CSP must become more efficient in how its existing water allocation will be used. Water efficiency and conservation guidelines for all units and all future park uses are an ongoing need.



Carmel River marsh at the State Beach

Aquatic and riparian habitats have been severely affected by the past diversions from the Carmel River and ongoing groundwater overdraft. There have been efforts to maintain the riparian vegetation along the river through irrigation in dry months and to prevent south-central California coast steelhead deaths by fish relocations. Significant opportunities exist for CSP to continue working with CalAm and MPWMD to manage the habitat needs within those portions of the Carmel River watershed that are in their jurisdiction and also continue as a partner in larger scale watershed planning efforts, as appropriate.

### 3.2.3 Circulation, Access, and Parking

Parkwide issues related to circulation, parking, and pedestrian access include vehicle access, parking adequacy, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and universal access. Currently, the vast majority of visitors rely on personal autos as the primary transportation mode to reach the Reserve and State Beach. SR 1 can become congested during periods of substantial visitation to the Monterey area.

#### Park Unit Access

Public access to the CASP units raises a number of issues, with long-established, well-developed circulation, parking, and pedestrian facilities serving the Reserve and State Beach, and the need to develop new facilities on acquired but not yet opened property (i.e., Point Lobos Ranch). Public access decisions are influenced by CSP's mission to provide both high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities and protection of the most valuable natural and cultural resources, as well as to meet the California Coastal Act requirement for maximum public access to the coastal zone (California Coastal Act, PRC Section 30210).

Public access to the Reserve is directly from SR 1, by turning onto Point Lobos Road. There is also a private entrance to the Reserve that provides access to the Hudson House (currently used as a park staff residence). The primary access issue for the Reserve is that more visitors arrive than can be accommodated with the available onsite Reserve parking. This leads to extensive parking along SR 1 outside the Reserve for walk-in visitors and visitors who want to park outside the Reserve to avoid the day use parking fee, traffic backing up onto SR 1 from the main access road, congestion along the highway corridor, and potential pedestrian safety issues.

The State Beach can be accessed from the parking lot on Scenic Road, a small parking lot adjacent to Bay School, and at Monastery Beach off SR 1. There are also walk-in access points adjacent to



Hudson House on the northern portion of the Reserve

the Bay School, via a driveway at Odello Farm, and via the service road/trail. CAWD, City of Carmel, BSLT, and CSP have also explored the potential for installing a foot bridge across the Carmel River near the northeast corner of the CAWD plant to facilitate public access from the City of Carmel to the State Beach and the Odello West field. This river crossing trail could be included in a coastal access trail alignment.

While the Point Lobos Ranch property is not open for public access, intersections exist with SR 1 at existing roadways. San Jose Creek Canyon Road provides access to the northern portion of Point Lobos Ranch. Red Wolf Drive and Riley Ranch Road provide access to the upper elevations. Homeowners on Red Wolf Drive have voiced concern about public access to Point Lobos Ranch that would allow visitor use of Riley Ranch Road and Red Wolf Drive due to concerns about loss of privacy, trespass, access, and heightened fire danger associated with public use.

Hatton Canyon can be accessed by pedestrians at the south and north ends, as well as from neighboring properties. There is a paved bike path in the southern portion of the property, accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists from SR 1, Carmel Valley Road, and the adjacent shopping centers. Residential neighbors have opposed increasing public access to the northern end of the property due to concerns about loss of privacy and potential fire hazards associated with public use.

CSP has created parking facilities and trails that are accessible according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) primarily in the Reserve, plus three visitor parking spaces at the State Beach parking lot off Scenic Road. There is potential to continue to improve ADA access where visitor facilities are developed on Point Lobos Ranch and at the Odello Farm area in the State Beach.

## Parking Locations in the Units

Adequate, safe, and well-located parking has been an ongoing management issue for the Reserve and the Monastery Beach area. The location of some parking areas contributes to increased degradation of natural and cultural resources, such as unpaved parking areas in the Reserve. Other parking areas, such as the State Beach parking lot off Scenic Road, has already been subject to inundation and erosion.

The Reserve contains approximately 150 public parking spaces for visitors in several parking areas (plus additional accessible parking and staff parking). Some of the parking near coastal bluffs is on unpaved surfaces or is close to sensitive cultural resource sites



CAWD force main crossing the Carmel River lagoon



Hatton Canyon multi-purpose trail



Parking along SR 1 at Monastery Beach



Carmel River Beach parking lot off Scenic Road

and native vegetation. There are plans to reconfigure some of the existing parking areas at the Reserve to increase parking efficiency and reduce negative resource impacts (i.e., at all unpaved parking areas located along the south shore of the Reserve). Recognizing the need to reduce visitor-caused degradation of natural and cultural resources, the relocation and/or removal of parking from the Reserve is an important consideration of the General Plan, in conjunction with other strategies for visitor use management, such as a reservation system, regional transportation center, and guided tours.

The State Beach has a parking lot off of Scenic Road that is used by visitors for access to the beach and Carmel River lagoon. This parking lot was severely damaged by river breaching activities in 2011, which resulted in the parking lot losing parking spaces. The parking lot at Scenic Road is still threatened by increased erosion and vulnerable to flooding and blowing sand, as well as to future sea level rise. General Plan issues for this area include whether it is feasible to maintain this parking area in the long-term and how to best provide public access to this section of the State Beach.

Additional parking for the State Beach also occurs along SR 1 at Monastery Beach. The approved 1987 General Plan Amendment included plans for two additional parking areas at the State Beach: a 75-space parking lot on the 36-acre area north of the Bay School and a 10-space parking lot near the southern portion of Monastery Beach. Neither of these parking lots were built due to a lack of funding, concern over development in these areas, and a desire by local residents to retain the areas in open space.

Visitor demand exceeding the parking capacity within the Reserve and at the State Beach has resulted in many visitors parking on the shoulders of SR 1 and walking into the park units. Hundreds of cars can be found parking within the highway right-of-way shoulders on busy days. Existing shoulder space within the right-of-way of SR 1 near the Reserve can support approximately 325 cars. Pedestrians walking along the highway shoulders have caused increased concern for pedestrian safety, because visitors try to cross SR 1, which has a 55-mph speed limit and no pedestrian facilities in this area. Parking along SR 1 has also resulted in park visitors shortcutting through the Reserve’s perimeter fence resulting in resource degradation.

High visitor demand for parking is region-wide. Palo Corona Regional Park has very little parking. MPRPD has used Palo Corona Regional Park’s 13 vehicle parking spaces to limit public visitation until a master plan is completed. A 58-space parking lot was recently constructed within Palo Corona Regional Park; however,

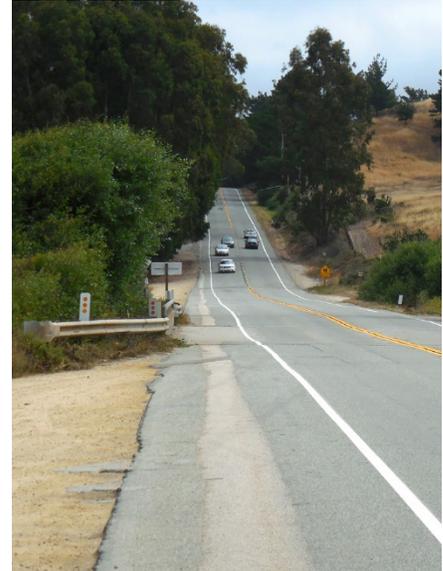
with existing traffic conditions along SR 1, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is requiring a southbound left-turn lane improvement and roadway widening at the intersection before public access to the parking lot is allowed. These improvements are to occur as part of the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE Project) causeway bridge and floodplain improvements, a two-year, \$25-million project that is anticipated to begin construction in 2020. Public vehicular access to Palo Corona Regional Park will be restricted from using the parking lot until these roadway improvements are completed (MPRPD 2017). MPRPD has expressed a desire to coordinate with CSP to provide visitor parking for the parks on a regional level.

## Potential Transportation Solutions

The addition of Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon to the CASP units provides opportunities to address current vehicular access, congestion, and parking problems and, in doing so, enhance visitors' experiences. A reservation system can be a primary management tool to address parking and degradation from visitor overuse in the Reserve. Implementing a reservation system for the Reserve will accomplish multiple objectives by managing daily visitation rates to sustainable levels to avoid or minimize resource degradation and will establish a formal Reserve entry system that does not depend on eliminating SR 1 parking and which can be augmented by a regional transportation center parking and shuttle system. Muir Woods National Monument implemented a parking and shuttle reservation system beginning in January 2018 to better manage visitor demand and improve visitor experience and congestion. Initial monitoring of the reservation system has shown many benefits, including decreased congestion and vehicle queuing at the park entrance, managed steady visitor levels throughout the day, and increased park/visitor experience (Golub, pers. comm., 2018).

In addition, visitor parking for the Reserve may be provided in Point Lobos Ranch. However, care in siting facilities is important because Point Lobos Ranch contains significant cultural and natural resources that could place limitations on development or visitor use. Areas near the A.M. Allan Ranch historic complex are examples of potentially suitable land for limited amounts of parking that may be developed in coordination with reduction or removal of parking from the Reserve.

The Lower Hatton Canyon area has potential to serve as a site for a multimodal transportation center, in partnership with local and regional transportation agencies and organizations. If CSP were to provide land for this center, transit and/or shuttle



SR 1 illustrating the absence of pedestrian facilities



Cyclists riding on SR 1 near Point Lobos Ranch



Visitors to the Reserve park on both shoulders of SR 1 and often cross the highway on foot

Known as “sleeper,” “sneaker,” or “king” waves, the sleeper wave is a large coastal wave that may appear in a wave train without warning.

operations could link to multiple park units in the region, including CASP units, and provide important alternative travel modes. Shuttles could be based here as part of a regional transportation hub with routes to the various regional and state park units, as well as to other local destination points of interest. Shuttles could be included in a future reservation system aimed at managing peak visitor use, including high season, holidays, and weekends.

## Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation

SR 1 is the primary highway in the vicinity of all four CASP units and the backbone of regional circulation. Pedestrian and bicycle circulation between park units is an important planning issue. All park units can be accessed via non-motorized and public transportation. SR 1 is classified as a Caltrans Class III Bikeway (Bike Route), which provides for shared use with pedestrian or motor vehicle traffic. This designation allows visitors direct access to all four of the CASP units by bicycle.

The most commonly mentioned issue for both pedestrian and bicyclist safety is the interaction with motorized traffic along SR 1. Because of the parking issues previously discussed, pedestrians often walk along or cross the busy highway. There is potential for additional connectivity and improved pedestrian and bicycle transportation opportunities between the park units.

### 3.2.4 Public Safety

Parkwide public safety issues within the CASP units primarily include visitor safety (i.e., aquatic, beach, and bluff hazards and pedestrians along SR 1) and wildfire danger.

#### Visitor Safety

Hazards related to aquatic recreation and trails along coastal bluffs are an ongoing issue. The shoreline of the State Beach and the Reserve can be hazardous. Monastery Beach (part of the State Beach) is known for its steep beach leading to an off-shore underwater canyon. Rip currents, combined with occasional “sleeper waves,” have caused injuries and deaths. From 2000 to 2017, there have been seven fatalities at Monastery Beach or Carmel River Beach. CSP has posted warning signs at Monastery Beach, but visitors continue to use this beach for swimming. Monastery Beach is a popular destination, as the beach and parking access are very visible to people traveling on SR 1. CSP has implemented various actions to improve aquatic safety through visitor education, posted signage, and patrols by lifeguards and rangers.

For visitors who park their cars on the shoulder of SR 1 to access the Reserve or coastline of the State Beach, pedestrian risks can arise from crossing the busy highway on foot. Visitors park their vehicles on the road shoulders which are within the Caltrans SR 1 right-of-way, and are outside the authority of CSP. Visitors often walk along SR 1 and cross the travel lanes of this state highway at multiple locations.

## Wildfire

Like many places in California, Monterey County experiences wildfires. Historically, fires burned regularly through the Reserve and surrounding area. More recently, natural fires have been prevented, leading to a buildup of fuels. Major regional wildfires have occurred recently near the parks, including the 2016 Soberanes Fire, which ignited in Garrapata State Park and touched the easternmost section of Point Lobos Ranch. Residents in the Carmel Knolls community adjacent to Hatton Canyon and along Red Wolf Drive adjacent to Point Lobos Ranch have expressed concerns that public access to these properties could increase fire danger. Wildfire risk is predicted to worsen with climate change.

CSP, in coordination with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), is currently working to reduce fuels along the SR 1 corridor between the Reserve and Point Lobos Ranch. Another fuel-reduction project is the ongoing stand density reduction of the pine forest at the Reserve.

Evaluating fire hazards and coordinating with CAL FIRE and local fire agencies to address fire hazards with appropriate management techniques, including updating and finalizing wildfire management plans for all of the CASP units, is ongoing and critical. The potential for wildfire to adversely affect cultural resources, including historic structures, also exists at three of the four CASP units.



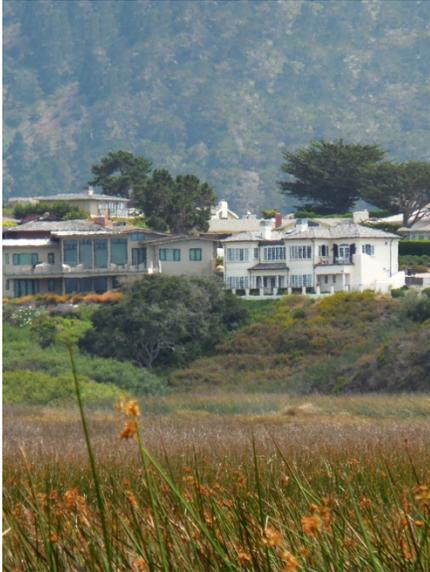
Open space on Point Lobos Ranch

### 3.2.5 Visitor Facilities

Visitor facilities within the Reserve include trails, benches, picnic areas/tables, an information station, a diver access ramp at Whalers Cove, stairs for beach access, restrooms, and interpretive displays. Visitor facilities within the State Beach include interpretive signs, restrooms at Monastery Beach and Carmel River Beach, and the service road/unpaved trail providing beach access. Within Upper Hatton Canyon, there is an unpaved service road/trail and there is a paved multi-purpose trail in the southern portion of the property. There are special event areas near the Barnyard Shopping Center and on Marathon Flats in the southernmost portion of Hatton Canyon. There are no visitor facilities within Point Lobos Ranch, because the site is not open to public access, although it is informally used by neighbors.



The Soberanes Fire, burning over 132,000 acres for three months from July to October 2016 in the coast range, reached the eastern edge of Point Lobos Ranch and became an expensive wildfire fight at over \$200 million.



View of Carmel Meadows neighborhood homes from the State Beach

A key planning issue is the degree to which visitor facilities that may increase demand should be added. Because of the sensitivity of natural and cultural resources in many locations (including preserves for both natural and cultural resources) and the existing traffic congestion in the SR 1 corridor, local input has raised concern about the need to avoid adding facilities that would increase visitation or increase traffic, such as a major visitor center. However, during the past several years, there have also been a wide range of suggestions from the public for new or improved facilities to serve visitors at CASP units, notwithstanding the competing input about avoiding new visitor-attracting facilities. The park units will be assessed with regard to providing high quality outdoor recreation opportunities to the people of California while also protecting the area's unique resources.

Some residents in surrounding neighborhoods have opposed development of new facilities near their homes. Some Carmel Highlands residents opposed improvements that may result in increased use at the Reserve. Residents of the Carmel Meadows subdivision, adjacent to the State Beach, have voiced opposition to developing any park visitor facilities at the Odello Farm complex. Residents along Red Wolf Drive and Riley Ranch Road have objected to visitor access and facilities in Point Lobos Ranch near their homes and residents of Hatton Canyon have expressed concerns about extending the paved multi-purpose trail to the top of the canyon. Local residents do not want to see these areas developed in a manner that will result in increased public use, increased noise, potential for increased trespass issues, and loss of solitude and sense of place.

The General Plan team will review facility constraints and opportunities and the General Plan will provide guidance about what facilities will be planned on each property and which existing facilities could be adapted to provide for the desired uses.

### 3.2.6 Recreation Opportunities

Both the Reserve and the State Beach allow for various types of outdoor recreation, such as sightseeing, walking/hiking, photography, sunbathing, sunset viewing, painting, nature appreciation, bird watching, picnicking, swimming, beachcombing, surf fishing, and whale watching. Bicycling is only allowed on paved roads within the Reserve. Snorkeling, kayaking, scuba diving, and paddle boarding are available in the Underwater Park at the Reserve by reservation. Both the Reserve and the State Beach are limited to day use only.

Some uses are not allowed in the Reserve because of the potential to damage sensitive resources. State Natural Reserves consist of areas with outstanding natural or scenic characteristics and, because of this, the law restricts manipulating resources to the “minimum required to negate the deleterious influence of man” (PRC Section 5019.65 [a]) in State Natural Reserves.

Recreation uses are not allowed if they would damage natural or cultural resources. Opportunities exist to consider new types of recreation, however, while preventing damage to sensitive resources and remaining consistent with the unit classification and desired visitor experience. One potential recreation opportunity is to provide wi-fi in the Reserve and use that wi-fi as part of interpretive tours.

Public outdoor recreation activities are not currently allowed at Point Lobos Ranch, because it has not yet been opened for public access.

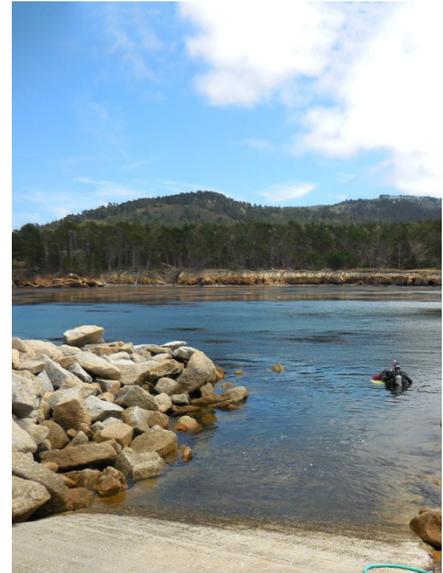
MPPRD’s Palo Corona Regional Park includes land adjacent to the San Jose Creek area of Point Lobos Ranch. MPPRD is preparing the Palo Corona Regional Park General Development Plan and has evaluated camping and other recreational uses on this portion of their property, assuming that access and parking is made available through Point Lobos Ranch, along the San Jose Creek Canyon Road easement. When Point Lobos Ranch is available for public use, it is anticipated that trails will connect CSP land to the adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park.

Hatton Canyon is currently used for walking and bird watching along the utility service road/trail in the upper portion, as well as for biking, walking, and special events on the lower portion of the property.

There are numerous opportunities to coordinate proposed recreational uses with other open space agencies and organizations, like MPPRD and the BSLT, who own and/or manage park or open space properties near or immediately adjacent to the CASP units.

### 3.2.7 Interpretation and Education

Interpretation is essential to allow visitors to interact with and learn about the park units. The issues and opportunities for interpretation and education are important to help visitors learn about the richness of the natural and cultural resources and scenic beauty of the park units and understand how to be better stewards of those resources when using the parks. Visitors can be



Diver access ramp at the Reserve’s Whalers Cove

better informed and understand the resources, rules, safety issues and hazards, and be inspired by the messages about resource qualities so they can help to preserve and protect sensitive resources and have a safe and enjoyable experience.

The parks are also visited by local school groups to explore the natural and cultural heritage. The parks can provide excellent opportunities to expand the educational programs for students of all ages, including college level and beyond.

The 1979 General Plan provided guidance for interpretive themes for the Reserve and the State Beach and many of these themes are currently used. With the two additional properties considered in this general planning effort, there are opportunities for more comprehensive and integrated interpretation and education.

The use of digital information delivery and social media technology improves the ability to communicate interpretive stories. To take full advantage, the mix of interpretive opportunities should rely on use of the latest communication and presentation technologies. A significant percentage of people, particularly younger generations, prefer to gather information through digital audio or audio-visual means. Internet sources provide information. GPS helps find places. Mobile applications (apps) both gather and convey information at specific sites and offer interactive opportunities. Staying connected with others online occurs through Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, texting, and many other internet sites and resources. These communication channels can be used effectively in the park units for staying connected with some target audiences, and consequently, being able to reach people quickly to publicize events, such as conservation-related work projects, and to keep people up to date on park events.

Social media can be very effective and it requires a significant amount of staff and/or volunteer time to keep content fresh and to interact with users. There are many opportunities to use new and evolving technology and social media to supplement brochures, signage, and static exhibits. In some areas new technologies can replace current signage and exhibits, thus reducing visual intrusion and associated needs for maintenance, while increasing the likelihood of engaging younger audiences.



Picnic area within the Reserve

### 3.2.8 Maintenance and Renovation Needs

The Reserve has been public property since 1933. The State Beach was acquired in 1953. Utilities, buildings, and various facilities and underlying park infrastructure were built decades ago with much in need of repair, renovation, or replacement. Utilities in the Reserve were not designed to support modern demands. The existing entrance station has a phone line and electricity, but no restroom to accommodate the park staff who must leave the facility to use the public restroom nearby. Restrooms have had several ongoing maintenance issues because of the age of the sewer system. Some public locations within the Reserve do not have electricity. The parking lot surfaces near the Information Station have been damaged by tree roots making for rough pavement. There is also minor flooding where trails are not appropriately graded and several roads and trail sections need maintenance. Maintenance and facility renovation issues include better maintenance of the trails, such as vegetation and erosion control; enhancement of the Reserve's Information Station; adding phone service to Rat Hill; and renovation of maintenance and storage areas.

The parking area and restroom at the State Beach along Scenic Road have been damaged because of erosion. Stairs to the State Beach from the Carmel Meadows subdivision are in need of repair. The State Beach contains the Odello Farm complex, a group of historic buildings that should be assessed for potential adaptive reuse. However, the buildings are in an extremely dilapidated condition and have been subject to interim stabilization until decisions are made on their disposition. The structures are historic resources, which must be addressed during planning and potential reuse evaluations.

Point Lobos Ranch has several existing buildings and barns. Some buildings are currently being renovated for use as staff housing, while others are in need of repair and upgrades if they were to be used for official park use. Many of the buildings are historic resources, which has implications for future rehabilitation and use.

Except for the paved multi-purpose trail and unpaved service road/trail, there are no existing facilities within Hatton Canyon. The service road is used for sewer line access by CAWD. The unpaved service road/trail through Upper Hatton Canyon is in need of redesign because it acts as the drainage in many areas and erodes considerably when there is significant rainfall. The multi-purpose trail at the south end of the unit is in good condition and there are no specific renovation needs at this time.



Existing buildings on Point Lobos Ranch



Storage and maintenance facilities at the Reserve

## 3.2.9 Partnerships and Regional Integration

### Partnerships



The Point Lobos Foundation is one source of funding for the Reserve's volunteer program. Long-time partners, the Foundation helps protect the Reserve's environmental health by funding maintenance of trails and facilities, invasive plant removal, and visitor education programs.

Many organizations and agencies have interests in the CASP units and their protection and/or use and have established partnerships with CSP. Partners include nonprofit organizations like the PLF, Carmel River Steelhead Association, and BSLT; educational organizations such as local school districts and California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB); park and open space agencies like the MPRPD; transportation agencies like Caltrans, Monterey-Salinas Transit, and Transportation Agency for Monterey County; resource agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, CDFW, and others.

One of the potential partnership opportunities relates to the coordinated use and management of federal, regional, state, and local parks and open space areas, including other state parks, the MPRPD regional parks, and the Los Padres National Forest. The MPRPD is preparing a General Development Plan for Palo Corona Regional Park, including trail connections. Attention to potential trail connections, mutually supportive planned uses, and coordinated resource management strategies among these agencies will create substantial benefits for resources and outdoor recreation in the region.

Many agencies and organizations are currently working together in their individual purviews for the Carmel River, the Carmel River lagoon, and its associated resources. The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County leads the Carmel River Watershed Task Force to address issues in the watershed, including water supply, flood control, habitat, and education. CSP should continue to work with the organizations in the task force to coordinate efforts in the watershed. Management of the lagoon will include close coordination with CSP, Monterey County RMA, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Coastal Commission, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. CSP is working with Caltrans, Monterey County, and the California Coastal Commission to plan and build a coastal trail from Hatton Canyon to the Reserve.

Improved partnerships and coordination are needed to define and implement transportation solutions for the existing and expected future congestion in the community and the current reliance on personal autos to access CASP units. Caltrans, Monterey-Salinas Transit, and Monterey County will be key participants in



Point Lobos Ranch

developing multimodal approaches to improve mobility, including transit, shuttles, and a transportation center in the urban community that would help reduce congestion on the region's highways. CSP should also work closely with Caltrans, Monterey County, and elected officials in developing creative solutions to SR 1 parking.

Other important partnerships involve coordination of resource management actions to meet multiple objectives. CSP is working with CAL FIRE to guide fire fuel reductions to locations that would not damage sensitive natural or cultural resources. CSP and CDFW are working together to manage important marine resources with effective coordination. CDFW has responsibility for marine protected areas that border CSP's marine reserve, while CSP maintains management of the Underwater Park portion of the Reserve.

## Regional Integration

Coordinated planning and management can identify recreation needs and desires and expand recreation opportunities by integrating recreation into a regional open space and recreation network, enhancing regional natural resource preservation and management, enhancing regional interpretation, and improving the effectiveness of maintenance, administrative, and visitor services. In addition, CASP units can benefit from improved regional transportation opportunities. The planning and management of the CASP units should consider interagency and regional coordination as key elements.

The CASP units are located near Garrapata State Park, BSLT lands, MPRPD's Palo Corona Regional Park, Santa Lucia Preserve, Jacks Peak Park, and other local parks and open space. The proximity of these properties and the similarity of natural, cultural, and recreational resources provide opportunities to manage these lands in a coordinated and integrated way. Coordination among the region's open space and park agencies as well as with adjacent private property owners can strengthen natural and cultural resource protection, enhance park operations, improve recreational and educational opportunities, and protect private property interests.

A regional planning effort has been initiated that aims to create an unbroken chain of public access parks and open space between the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur. In 2013, the BSLT, CSP, MPRPD, and the PLF initiated a partnership effort known as the Lobos-Corona Parklands Project to support the creation and implementation of a collaborative, long-term vision for the



Source: Walkifornia (BLOG) 2/5/12  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEa7FmdlMmg>

Palo Corona Regional Park



Many visitors walk into the Reserve after parking on SR 1

collective landscape of state and local parklands and open space in the region, from Carmel south to Garrapata State Park. In 2014, the four organizations signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to formalize their collaboration.

This collaborative planning effort is looking to create a significant recreation and open space experience, foster an effective wildlife corridor, and enhance management opportunities by linking the Palo Corona lands with the BSLT and CSP adjoining park and open space lands. The Lobos-Corona Parklands Project partners are working together to develop a model partnership that will result in improved coordination and enhanced land management practices, trail planning and networks, regional transportation opportunities, public access and safety, and visitor educational and recreational experiences that will serve the community and the land.

## Relationships with Neighbors

Several residential neighborhoods are located near or adjacent to the Reserve, State Beach, Point Lobos Ranch, and Hatton Canyon. CSP seeks to maintain open communications with neighbors to address concerns that arise. Concerns raised by neighbors are addressed in the General Plan. CSP concerns involving neighbors also exist, such as perceived privatization of public lands by neighbors who may encroach onto CSP-owned land with private landscaping and/or other site improvements.

### 3.2.10 Communication and Public/ Stakeholder Involvement

The Carmel area contains many informed and involved residents, organizations, agencies, and Native American tribes with interest in the CASP units. In addition, there are many visitors who live outside the region, and even outside the country. Ongoing communication with all interested parties, including neighbors, stakeholders, other agencies, Native American tribes, and the general public is key to the planning process. Multiple public and stakeholder meetings have been held at key planning milestones. District staff have met with residents of adjacent neighborhoods, organizations, tribes, and agencies during the planning process, in addition to the noticed public meetings.

See Planning Process in Chapter 1 for a summary of the process used throughout General Plan development to receive public and stakeholder input.

### 3.2.11 Financial Sustainability

To sustain and improve park operations, reliable and adequate funding is necessary. Numerous suggestions have been offered about how the park units could financially contribute to their own operations; however, many ideas have been controversial. There is some controversy regarding whether CSP should establish more concessions, restrict concessions, take advantage of leasable facilities and property, provide revenue-producing recreational activities, or rely on user or parking fees.

The Reserve experiences substantial visitation by walk-in visitors. A day use fee for walk-in visitors is a topic for consideration in the General Plan. The issue is complex and community input has been mixed. The opportunity exists to link a primary need for better management of walk-in visitors to improve resource protection with a secondary benefit of day use fee revenues.

An important component to past, present, and likely future funding for the Reserve is the PLF, which has raised and provided funds for multiple projects at the Reserve. The mission of PLF, a nonprofit organization, is to protect and nurture Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, to educate and inspire visitors to preserve its unique natural and cultural resources, and to strengthen the network of Carmel Area State Parks.



Marine mammals and birds at the Reserve

## 3.3 Area-Specific Issues

Because the CASP General Plan addresses four existing park units (two classified units and two unclassified properties), many of the parkwide issues described above have area-specific implications. In addition to the parkwide issues, several area-specific issues are highlighted.

### 3.3.1 Visitor-Caused Resource Degradation at the Reserve

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve is iconic as a coastal landscape, with an internationally renowned reputation for its scenic beauty, marine and coastal ecosystems, and rich cultural history and prehistory. This beauty and richness of the Reserve's resources and its easy accessibility have resulted in a strong attraction as a visitor destination, substantially elevating its popularity. Because of the popularity of the Reserve, the visitation has exceeded facility capacity on a regular basis and the high level of visitor use has resulted in degradation of natural and cultural resources. Concern has been expressed by park staff and the public about "loving the

Reserve to death.” Degradation includes erosion on slopes, trail incision and widening, vegetation trampling and loss, soil loss and conveyance of sediment into nearby marine waters, damage to cultural resources, and disturbance of marine and terrestrial wildlife. A key need is to reduce the overuse of the Reserve’s sensitive resource areas by visitors, which has resulted in substantial degradation. This issue is a key driver of goals and guidelines for the Reserve.

In light of rising visitation rates, there is a need to minimize off-trail use and resource impacts consistent with the classification of the Reserve as a State Natural Reserve. A strategy discussed in the Park Plan is to employ CSP’s reservation system to better manage visitation to reduce overuse impacts to sensitive resources. Another strategy is the increased use of guided tours.

### 3.3.2 Traffic Congestion and Access to the Reserve



Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve

SR 1 in the Carmel area is a popular highway for tourists and a key community travel and commuter route for local residents. It is part of the Pacific Coast Highway, a 650-mile, north-south route that runs along most of the Pacific coastline. Access to the Reserve is currently dominated by visitor use of personal autos. This popularity and predominance of auto travel results in traffic challenges for park users and managers of all the CASP units, but most urgently at the Reserve. The popularity of the Reserve has resulted in lines of cars extending out from the Reserve entrance onto SR 1 on weekends, holidays, and during the busy summer vacation season. There is a dedicated left-hand turning lane for vehicles entering the Reserve from northbound SR 1 but no dedicated right-hand turn lane for those traveling southbound. In addition, visitors park their vehicles along the shoulders of SR 1 and walk into the Reserve. This adds to the traffic congestion and creates safety hazards because of visitors walking along or across the highway where there are no pedestrian facilities. Drivers on this popular route may not be aware that traffic is stopped near the entrance of the Reserve or by on-highway parking and pedestrian activity. Slow-moving or stopped cars substantially interfere with the flow of traffic on SR 1.

The SR 1 right-of-way, where visitors park vehicles on highway shoulders, is owned and managed by Caltrans and is not under CSP control. CSP supports the elimination of on-highway parking near the Reserve, because it contributes substantial numbers of walk-in visitors who contribute to overuse problems, is not safe, allows visitors to avoid paying fees, makes it difficult to control

visitor numbers, and creates a potential human health and safety issue. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors recently voted for a resolution proposing the removal of parking along SR 1 near the Reserve for safety purposes. CSP will continue cooperating with regional partners to help respond to traffic congestion issues near the park units and along SR 1. Resolution of traffic, transit, and access issues at the Reserve will require extensive cooperation among CSP, transportation agency officials in the region, Monterey County, local political representatives, and the California Coastal Commission.

### 3.3.3 Carmel River and Lagoon Flooding

Flooding has been a long-standing concern for the low-lying neighborhoods surrounding the Carmel River lagoon. Most of the State Beach and some surrounding neighborhoods lie within the 100-year floodplain of the river and have experienced extensive and repeated flooding. Levees have been added along the river to address flood protection; however, neighbors directly adjacent to the Carmel River and next to the State Beach do not have physical flood-levee protection. The 1996 amendment to the 1979 General Plan changed the designation of the Odello West field in the State Beach from agriculture to riparian and wetland habitat to facilitate wetland and riparian habitat restoration and support this area as an active floodway for the Carmel River. Subsequent projects were undertaken to achieve this goal, including the 2004 Carmel River Lagoon Enhancement Project, which converted approximately 98 acres of fallow agricultural land at Odello West to lagoon, wetland, and riparian habitats. The Carmel River FREE Project would result in the reconnection and restoration of approximately 100 acres of historic floodplain including 23 acres of historic floodplain located on CSP property and would have the added benefit of restoring riparian habitat as well as natural hydrological processes.

Monterey County Resource Management Agency (RMA) is the lead CEQA agency on the Carmel River FREE Project and is a co-sponsor of the project with BSLT. The County is the project sponsor of the causeway component in a cooperative agreement with Caltrans. USFWS is the NEPA lead agency, and also has a cooperative agreement with Caltrans for the federal environmental review of the project within the highway right-of-way. Because this project affects CSP lands, CSP has been an active partner for many years. The project consists of two interdependent components: floodplain restoration and SR 1 causeway over the river. The floodplain restoration consists of



*Source: David Royal, Monterey County Herald  
6/13/2016*

Routine sandbar breaching activities at the State Beach



Visitors enjoying the Carmel River lagoon

removing earthen levees on the south side of the Carmel River channel upstream of SR 1, grading existing farmland above the 100-year floodplain elevation to create an agricultural preserve, grading on approximately 100 acres to restore the site's ecological function as a floodplain, and implementing a restoration management plan. The causeway project consists of replacing a portion of the SR 1 roadway embankment with a pile-supported causeway section to accommodate flood flows underneath it. The causeway project is in design development and undergoing environmental review. The Carmel River FREE Project would result in the reconnection and restoration of approximately 100 acres of historic floodplain.

The Monterey County RMA uses heavy equipment during regular, seasonal sandbar breaching activities to prevent flooding of adjacent neighborhoods. Mechanical sandbar management to prevent flooding results in impacts to resources around the lagoon. One of the routes for this heavy equipment to the mouth of the Carmel River used to include dirt roads that traversed through the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve which has been designated along the rocky headlands located immediately north of Monastery Beach in the State Beach. Previous heavy equipment use within the cultural preserve resulted in resource damage. Monterey County currently accesses the beach at the Carmel River State Beach parking lot on Scenic Road, avoiding use of the cultural preserve.

A number of residences in the neighborhood north of the lagoon have been constructed in the floodplain (with the approval of Monterey County), making the residential structures vulnerable to flooding. South-central California coast steelhead, listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, use the lagoon, and NOAA Fisheries has concerns about this sensitive fish habitat. Under pressure from NOAA NMFS, the Army Corps of Engineers, USFWS, CDFW, California Coastal Commission, and local special interests to address these issues, the Monterey County RMA has proposed a plan to address the natural floodplain function and habitat improvement for federally listed species associated with the lagoon (south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, and snowy plover) by allowing the lagoon to breach more naturally, thereby decreasing the flood and erosion risk to private structures. Flood protection would be provided by a proposed flood protection wall, also called the "Ecosystem Protective Barrier" (EPB). However, the EPB is proposed to be located on CSP property within the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve. Also included in the proposal are a Scenic Road Protection Structure

(consisting of 900 linear feet of rip-rap boulders placed in the Carmel River Beach) and an Interim Sandbar Management Plan.

CSP has expressed its opposition to the Ecosystem Protective Barrier and to the Scenic Road Protection Structure, based on conflicts with state law, the public trust, and the State Constitution. The county's plan has been undergoing regulatory and environmental review, including a 2014 biological assessment for the Endangered Species Act and a draft environmental impact report released for public review in 2016-2017.

Continued consideration of the constraints of flooding along the Carmel River and in and around the lagoon will be important in the General Plan.

### 3.3.4 Opening the Point Lobos Ranch Property

Acquisition of the Point Lobos Ranch Property preserved and protected a scenic, naturally sensitive, and culturally important landscape, including high-elevation vistas offering spectacular views of Carmel Bay and the coastline. The land supports one of the world's largest native Monterey pine forests, globally significant populations of the rare Gowen cypress, and other rare maritime chaparral plants. The property and surrounding public lands provide mountain lion habitat, and San Jose Creek supports habitat for the California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead. The property also contains important Native American archaeological sites, including a major Rumsen village site, and an historic ranch complex.

Currently, the property supports CSP staff housing and a few operational and maintenance facilities, but it has not yet been opened for public use. Opening the property presents an opportunity to help redistribute visitor use from other units where resource degradation from overuse has occurred; however, it must be carried out in a manner that protects Point Lobos Ranch's resources. Point Lobos Ranch can support the improved management and resource protection at the Reserve by accommodating a limited amount of new parking for Reserve visitors in coordination with removal of parking spaces there. The General Plan addresses the approach for use of Point Lobos Ranch in ways that protect its sensitive resources and takes advantage of new trail and day use opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

## 3.4 Planning Alternatives

The planning alternatives help CSP consider options for use and management of the units and properties and present choices to the public during the planning process leading to development of the Preliminary General Plan.

During the course of General Plan preparation, CSP considered alternative concepts for management, visitor access and uses, park facilities, and classification of the units and properties. CSP has maintained open communication with the surrounding Carmel community, has involved stakeholders for many years, and has been committed to substantial public outreach and involvement during the course of General Plan preparation. Development and review of planning alternatives have been key steps in gathering community input, understanding community and stakeholder concerns, and defining a preferred plan.

Two planning alternative concepts were initially developed with parkwide and area-specific issues in mind, along with public, agency, and stakeholder input received in the beginning stages of the planning process. The alternative concepts offered features and facilities that highlighted a range of visitor opportunities in each unit. These alternative concepts were presented to the public and provided opportunities for further public input and feedback before the final preferred alternative was developed.

Public input focused on natural and cultural resource protection and traffic congestion as two key topics of interest.

The draft preferred alternative responded to this public input by reducing the size or amount of new visitor facilities, including multimodal transportation options intended to reduce traffic congestion, and proposing a visitor reservation system to efficiently manage visitor use and optimize resource protection. The preferred alternative represents the Park Plan contained in this document and described in detail in Chapter 4.



## Chapter 4

# PARK PLAN

## 4 PARK PLAN

The Park Plan describes the purpose and long-range vision for the Carmel Area State Parks (CASP) and the proposed goals and supporting guidelines that outline how to achieve that purpose and vision. To the extent that subsequent, more detailed evaluation or site-specific planning is needed to develop facility or management solutions, a guideline may include direction to prepare a feasibility study or management plan.

The Park Plan presents the purpose, vision, and management guidance for the future of CASP. It describes the proposed new or changed uses and the resource management strategies for each park unit.

Goals and guidelines respond to known planning issues and provide the foundation for resource protection, enhancement, and restoration; facility development; high-quality visitor experiences; effective and efficient operations and maintenance; and inspirational interpretation within the CASP units. The General Plan also considers and emphasizes partnerships, where appropriate, with other agencies and organizations to develop the most effective and coordinated approaches for relevant management needs outside California State Parks (CSP) jurisdiction that may affect CASP units, such as infrastructure improvements, multi-agency operational issues (e.g., transportation), visitor use management within the array of regional public lands, coordinated education and interpretation programs, and natural and cultural resource management integrated with surrounding regional parks, public open space, and national forests. While goals and guidelines in the General Plan focus on the facilities and resources under the authority of CSP, collaboration with Monterey County, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Coastal Commission, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD), U.S. Forest Service, Point Lobos Foundation (PLF), Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT), Monterey-Salinas Transit, Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD), City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and other agencies and organizations will continue to be important to the implementation of goals and guidelines that address mutual interests.

### 4.1 Classification

Park management and facility planning are guided by the park unit's classification. The State Park and Recreation Commission establishes park unit classifications, consistent with the California Public Resources Code (PRC). The State Park System is organized by a ten-level classification system. Most properties fit into the following six classifications: State Park, State Beach, State Historic Park, State Recreation Area, State Natural Reserve, and State Vehicular Recreation Area. These classifications are described in

Sections 5019.50 et seq. of Article 1.7 of the PRC. The following discussion presents the recommended classifications and their associated definitions for units within CASP.

### 4.1.1 State Natural Reserve

State Natural Reserves consist of areas selected and managed for the purpose of preserving their native ecological associations, unique faunal or floral characteristics, geological features, and scenic qualities in a condition of undisturbed integrity.

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve lands and Underwater Park west of State Route (SR) 1 will continue in this classification because the vision and purpose of the unit are specifically to preserve the terrestrial and marine habitats, ecological processes, sensitive species, cultural resources, and exceptional scenic qualities exemplified by the unique land and waterscape of Point Lobos. The State Natural Reserve classification is most well suited to this purpose. Continuing the heritage of this unit as a State Natural Reserve emphasizes CSP's commitment to the long-term sustainable use and management. Under the PRC, the definition of a State Natural Reserve is:

**PRC Section 5019.65(a):** State natural reserves, consisting of areas selected and managed for the purpose of preserving their native ecological associations, unique faunal or floral characteristics, geological features, and scenic qualities in a condition of undisturbed integrity. Resource manipulation shall be restricted to the minimum required to negate the deleterious influence of man.

Improvements undertaken shall be for the purpose of making the areas available, on a day use basis, for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of their natural features. Living and nonliving resources contained within state natural reserves shall not be disturbed or removed for other than scientific or management purposes.

### 4.1.2 State Park

State Parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other similar values.

The eastern parcel of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve will be reclassified and combined with the Point Lobos Ranch Property and Hatton Canyon Property, which will together become classified as a new State Park.

This General Plan addresses multiple units and properties because of the many resource and visitor use management connections and relationships. There is an opportunity to evaluate park classification and organize the parks to most efficiently and effectively manage resources and visitors according to CSP's mission. Consolidating these units and properties into one State Park will provide more comprehensive and effective protection of

the park's natural and cultural resources and management of the opportunities for diverse recreational use. Benefits of the reclassification and consolidation include:

- Coordinated protection and management of a diverse array of natural and cultural resources through multiple Natural Preserves and Cultural Preserves.
- A clearer understanding by visitors of coastal and inland access and outdoor recreation opportunities through unified information about a consolidated state park. Wayfinding, interpretation, and educational informational will be integrated.
- Opportunity for efficient, visitor-friendly transportation options provided to all areas through an integrated transportation hub concept that offers streamlined revenue collection opportunities and can be implemented in partnership with local and regional transportation agencies.
- A well-coordinated approach to restoration and adaptive use of historic structures.
- Integrated management of resource protection, visitor use, staff assignments, fiscal investments, maintenance and operation.

The State Park classification is pursuant to the definition under the PRC, which states:

**PRC Section 5019.53:** State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other similar values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California, such as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, and desert and desert mountains.

Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.



Middle Beach adjacent to the Carmel Meadows neighborhood



China Cove and beach at the Reserve

Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as those improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements that do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.

State parks may be established in the terrestrial or nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environments of the state.

## Sub-Unit Classifications

Within the State Park there are existing and proposed sub-unit areas classified as Natural Preserve and Cultural Preserve, pursuant to PRC definitions.

## Natural Preserve

Within the State Park, there are three sub-units identified as Natural Preserve, defined per the PRC. Natural preserves focus on protection of the natural processes, functions, and qualities of the protected area. Limited visitor-serving facilities are allowed, typically interpretive elements and/or trails designed to provide access for visitors to appreciate a preserve's natural values.

**PRC Section 5019.71:** Natural preserves consist of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance established within the boundaries of other state park system units. The purpose of natural preserves shall be to preserve such features as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, representative examples of plant or animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of civilization, geological features illustrative of geological processes, significant fossil occurrences or geological features of cultural or economic interest, or topographic features illustrative of representative or unique biogeographical patterns. Areas set aside as natural preserves shall be of sufficient size to allow, where possible, the natural dynamics of ecological interaction to continue without interference, and to provide, in all cases,

Natural preserves focus on protection of natural processes, functions, and qualities of a protected area.

a practicable management unit. Habitat manipulation shall be permitted only in those areas found by scientific analysis to require manipulation to preserve the species or associations that constitute the basis for the establishment of the natural preserve.

## Cultural Preserve

Within the State Park there are two sub-units identified as Cultural Preserve, as defined by the PRC. Cultural preserves focus on complete protection of the cultural sites and resources that comprise the tribal or historic values of the preserve. Visitor facilities are restricted to those not affecting the integrity of the preserve's cultural resources.

Cultural preserves focus on the complete protection of cultural sites and resources that compose the tribal or historic values of the preserve.

**PRC Section 5019.74:** Cultural preserves consist of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California. Areas set aside as cultural preserves shall be large enough to provide for the effective protection of the prime cultural resources from potentially damaging influences, and to permit the effective management and interpretation of the resources. Within cultural preserves, complete integrity of the cultural resources shall be sought, and no structures or improvements that conflict with that integrity shall be permitted.

## 4.2 Purpose and Vision

The statement of purpose describes a park's broad purpose and significance to California, its key resources and values, and establishes a framework for future management and planning. A statement of purpose for each unit within the State Park System is required by PRC Section 5002.2(b), "setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the park consistent with the park's classification." The park vision describes the desired future condition, character, uses, and functions of a park after General Plan goals are realized. The vision expresses what each park should ultimately feel and look like, and what kinds of visitor opportunities should be provided. Changes that affect the character of a park may require an update to the park's statement of purpose, vision, and sometimes to its classification to ensure appropriate resource protection, management, and visitor opportunities. The statement of purpose and vision for CASP are as follows.

A park's statement of purpose describes its broad purpose and establishes the framework for future management and planning. The park vision describes the future condition and what each park should ultimately feel and look like after General Plan goals are realized.

## 4.2.1 Carmel Area State Parks Declaration of Purpose and Vision

### Declaration of Purpose

The Declaration of Purpose describes the unique role that CASP will play in meeting the CSP mission. The Declaration of Purpose defines the purpose of a unit as determined by its prime resource values, opportunities, and relationship to the larger context of the State Park System. The CASP units are intrinsically connected by their natural and human histories and, therefore, the parkwide Declaration of Purpose for CASP covers all of the units to provide a consistent and integrated purpose. An integrated Declaration of Purpose will help coordinate future planning efforts and decision-making, so that they consider the interrelationship of all units together. The proposed parkwide Declaration of Purpose for CASP is as follows:

*The purpose of the Carmel Area State Parks is to provide public access to the central coast of California and the recreational opportunities offered by its waters, shoreline, beach, inland areas, and adjacent community setting. With sensitive marine and terrestrial habitats and spectacular scenery, the parks highlight the dramatic convergence of land and sea, which has been an inspiration for artists, poets, photographers, and writers for many years. Subject to high, year-round, visitor demand, preserving the rich natural, scenic, and cultural resources is a delicate balance, achieved through innovative adaptive management strategies.*



Balancing resource stewardship and high-quality visitor experience

### Vision for Carmel Area State Parks

The parkwide Vision Statement for CASP presents a narrative of desired future conditions, character, uses, and functions of the parks. Like the parks' integrated purpose, the vision for CASP is comprehensive, addressing all the units. This holistic vision recognizes that visitors see the units as fitting together—marine, coastal, inland, and ridgeline elements of the same central coast landscape. The vision for CASP is as follows:

*The vision for the Carmel Area State Parks is to provide a world-class natural environment and outdoor recreational experience on the central California coast for local, regional, national, and international visitors. With the ever-changing forces that modify the complex landscapes and seascapes, the diverse resources, some unique to this area, will be closely monitored to ensure that they are protected. Environmentally sustainable visitor opportunities will be provided that are compatible*

*with the parks’ unique ecosystems and resources. The parks will offer high-quality public access and visitor experiences and will preserve resources in an integrated and balanced approach. The parks will be key destinations, playing an important role in providing access to the region’s coast and surrounding parks and open space lands.*

*High-quality recreational opportunities will be varied and focused on interpretation, education, and outdoor enjoyment that deepen visitor experiences and connection to park resources. The rich archaeological resources will be protected and managed, resulting in a comprehensive understanding of the complex and extensive Native American presence in the region. The significance and integration of historic buildings and historic-period archaeological resources will be protected. Select cultural sites and historic structures will be adaptively re-used, in keeping with their significance and integrity, to celebrate the original people and later settlers who lived on this land.*

*The park experience will inspire people to appreciate, protect, and steward park resources. Park visitation will be managed to protect sensitive resources and enhance the visitor experience. Ecological restoration and cultural preservation will enhance and preserve resource integrity. Transportation strategies will be expanded, and infrastructure will be improved to provide alternatives to personal auto access, reducing vehicular traffic in the parks and helping to preserve natural and cultural resources. Park staffing and facilities will be designed to effectively serve seasonal and annual visitor fluctuations, while emphasizing resource protection.*

*Managing the parks in a coordinated manner will result in focused, efficient, and integrated implementation of park directives for superior resource protection and the highest-quality visitor experiences.*



View from Point Lobos Ranch

Naming the new State Park will occur in conjunction with General Plan approval as a separate action by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

## 4.2.2 Unit Purpose and Vision

The following presents separate purpose and vision statements for the Reserve and Ishxenta State Park.

### Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

A Declaration of Purpose was adopted for the Reserve as part of the 1979 General Plan. In developing the current purpose statement, the themes articulated in the original general plan have been updated to reflect contemporary resource conditions, management needs, and planning issues.

Existing Park Units/Properties	Proposed Park Units
Point Lobos State Natural Reserve	Point Lobos State Natural Reserve
Carmel River State Beach	Carmel River State Beach
Point Lobos Ranch Property	New State Park (Ishxenta) – Point Lobos Ranch Property
Hatton Canyon Property	New State Park (Ishxenta) – Hatton Canyon Property

## Declaration of Purpose

The Declaration of Purpose for the Reserve is as follows:

*The purpose of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve is to protect and preserve forever, for public enlightenment, inspiration, and aesthetic enjoyment in environmentally sensitive ways, an area rich with unique natural resources and ecological significance. Its irreplaceable resources include the Monterey cypress-covered headlands, Monterey pine forests, coastal prairies, rocky coastal bluffs and shorelines, tidepools, sandy beaches, and ecologically unique marine habitat, together with the related natural, scenic, and cultural values and the marine and terrestrial flora and fauna.*

*The aquatic and terrestrial resources will be managed as a composite whole, preserving the natural ecosystems in accordance with sound scientific principles; interpreting these globally significant resources for the education, inspiration, and enjoyment of visitors; and providing necessary services and compatible facilities consistent with the restoration and preservation of scenic beauty and natural ecologic resources, processes, functions and values.*

## Vision

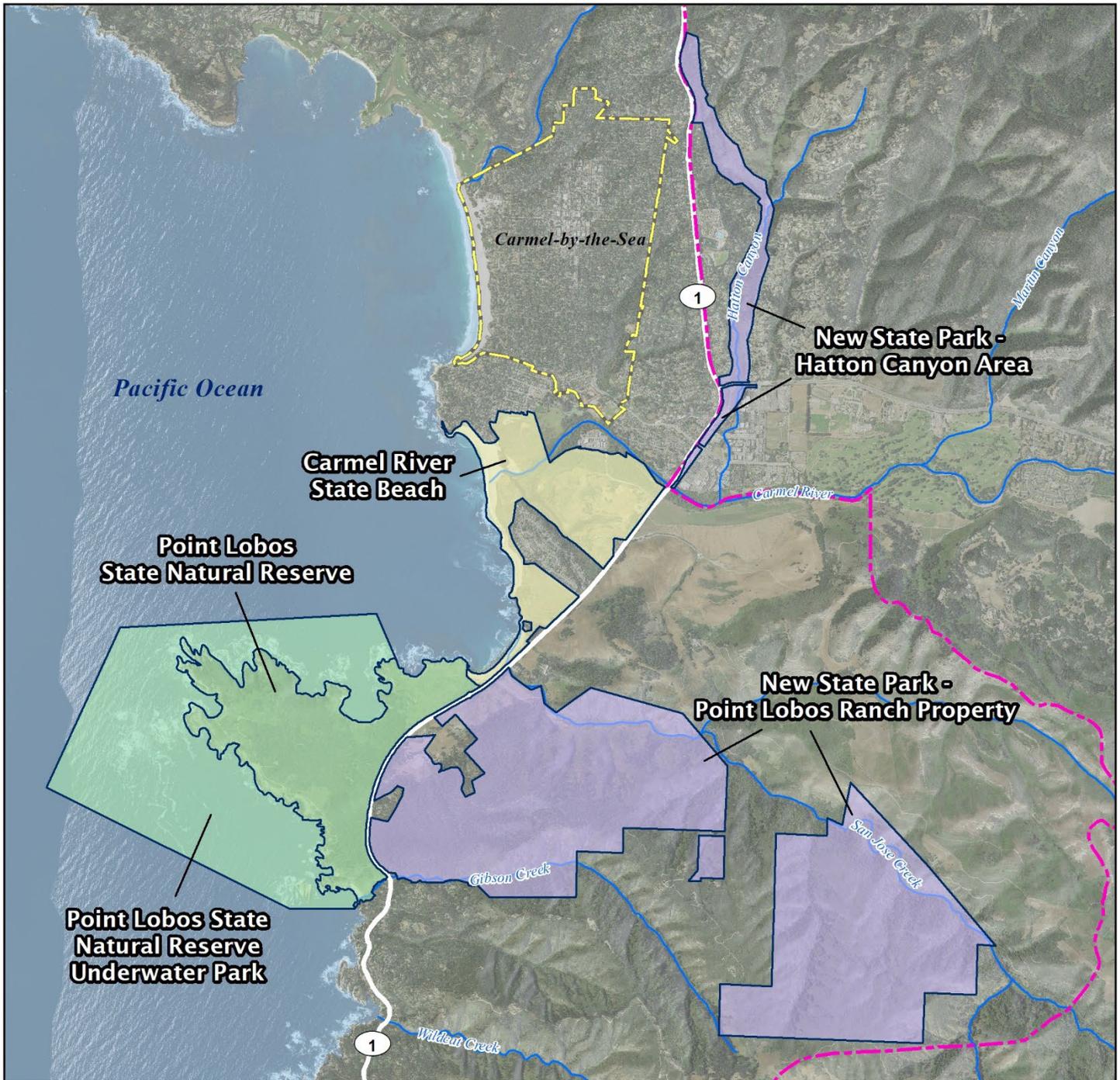
The vision for the Reserve is as follows:

*The Reserve will display the dramatic convergence of land and ocean where some of California's most unique plant and animal species are seen in their native environs. Trails will provide a variety of high-quality visitor experiences, ranging from the black cormorants nesting at Bird Island, to the bark of sea lions hauled out on Sea Lion Rock, to the shimmering clear waters of tidepools. Trails will connect visitors to historic places, rock outcroppings, and coastal forest, including Monterey pines and one of the most outstanding natural groves of Monterey cypress in the world. Sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and the waves crashing against rugged bluffs will be available to visitors, as well as diverse views of underwater geology and kelp forests rich with marine life, including sea lions, otters, harbor seals, rock fish, and brightly colored anemones, corals, and sea stars.*

*Beyond the value to visitors, the Reserve's resources are scientifically important, including rare terrestrial and marine plant and animal communities, sensitive archaeological sites, and unique geological formations, and each will be maintained in a state of undisturbed integrity for future generations to enjoy.*



The Reserve coastline



**Carmel Area State Parks General Plan**

**Proposed Park Plan Units and Classification**

**Legend**

-  Planning Area Boundary
-  City Limits
-  Highway
-  Coastal Zone Boundary
-  Creek/River

**Classification**

-  State Beach
-  State Natural Reserve
-  State Park

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions.  
 Source: Data provided by Caltrans in 2010 and CSP in 2012.  
 NAIP 2014 Aerial Imagery G13010017 01 088



**Figure 4-1 Proposed Park Plan Units and Classification**

## Ishxenta State Park

### Declaration of Purpose

The Declaration of Purpose for Ishxenta State Park is as follows:

*The purpose of Ishxenta State Park is to preserve, protect, interpret, and restore the outstanding cultural and natural resources of the park for the education, inspiration, enlightenment, and enjoyment of its visitors. Public access and recreational opportunities will be provided along with connectivity to local open space recreational resources.*

*The Park's extraordinary characteristics, outstanding scenic qualities, and mixture of forests, canyon streams, and ridgetop ocean vistas, combined with its cultural significance, and high-quality recreational opportunities, make Ishxenta State Park a desirable addition to the State park system and will provide new and enhanced recreational opportunities. Preservation and restoration of San Jose, Gibson, and Hatton Canyon Creeks are essential because of their ecological importance. The outstanding cultural, natural, and scenic values found in Hatton Canyon and Point Lobos Ranch and within the historic A.M. Allan Ranch Zone, along with the significant Native American sites, are to be protected.*

*The inland area of the Point Lobos Ranch Property, east of State Route 1, preserves and protects a wide variety of sensitive habitats and an extremely scenic portion of the northern Santa Lucia Range offering spectacular views of Carmel Bay and Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. It contains one of the world's largest native stands of Monterey pine forests, one of only two native populations of the rare Gowen cypress known to exist in the world, and rare maritime chaparral habitat. This area and surrounding public lands provide important mountain lion habitat and wildlife corridors, and San Jose Creek supports south-central California coast steelhead spawning grounds and habitat for California red-legged frog and Smith's blue butterfly, all protected species. Important cultural resources include significant Native American archaeological resources and culturally important sites and an early 20th century complex of ranch buildings. The natural, cultural, and scenic resources, features, and values will be preserved, protected, interpreted, and managed, making them available to the public for their education, inspiration, and recreation.*

*The Hatton Canyon area is an urban open space. The southern section serves as an informal recreation and community gathering space. The upper canyon area provides open space and wildlife habitat to be maintained for public use and enjoyment.*



Rocky coastline and beach

## Vision

The vision for the Ishxenta State Park is as follows:

*Ishxenta State Park will provide an opportunity to explore and experience the progression of landscapes and ecosystems of the Santa Lucia Mountains. The visitor experience will encompass the natural and scenic qualities of the coastal forests, including large expanses of unfragmented Monterey pine and Gowen cypress, and connect to the adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park via a regional trail network. Interpretation and education programs will enhance the visitor experience by inspiring people with the region's rich natural and cultural heritage. The historic farm and ranch structures will be adaptively re-used, providing visual and interpretive interest.*

*Adaptive management strategies will help to protect sensitive plant communities, wildlife habitat found in the natural preserves, and the sensitive archaeological resources associated with Native American lifeways found in the cultural preserves. The cultural preserves will also provide a place for Native American traditional, ceremonial, and special events. These exceptional resources will be protected and preserved for future generations.*

*Lower Hatton Canyon will serve as a resource for community gatherings and regional special events. With local and regional transportation agencies as partners, a transportation center in this area will provide multimodal options for convenient and efficient access to state and regional parks and open space.*



Multi-purpose trail in Lower Hatton Canyon

## Carmel River State Beach

### Declaration of Purpose

The Declaration of Purpose for Carmel River State Beach is as follows:

*The purpose of Carmel River State Beach is to make available for the people forever, for their inspiration, enlightenment, and enjoyment, in an essentially natural condition, the spectacular strand of coastal shoreline and beaches, including the confluences of the Pacific Ocean and San Jose Creek and the Carmel River, to preserve, protect, interpret, and manage these coastal resources and the Carmel River floodplain wetlands and lagoon resources, together with the outstanding recreational resources of this area and all related scenic, natural, and cultural values.*

*The coastal area provides a combination of beautiful sandy beaches, freshwater wetlands and lagoons, rocky bluffs, historic farm buildings, and adjacent coastal uplands, including coastal bluff and coastal scrub communities, which are managed for protection, interpretation, and*



Coastal vista

*environmentally sensitive day use. Preservation and restoration of the coastal wetland and lagoon ecosystems formed by the lower Carmel River are essential because of their ecological importance. The outstanding cultural, natural, and scenic values found in the historic Odello Farm complex, Native American sites, and the rocky coastline of Carmel Bay are to be protected.*

*The Carmel River floodplain and Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Preserve support over 325 species of migratory birds, while the lagoon supports western pond turtle, California red-legged frog, and central California coast steelhead. The floodplain and natural preserve habitat provide critical habitat for the continued conservation, restoration, and protection of these species. The natural, cultural, and scenic resources, features, and values will be preserved, protected, interpreted, and managed, making them available to the public for their education, inspiration, and enlightenment.*

*The Odello Farm Zone will serve as a formal recreation focal point and will provide recreational facilities, such as a parking area, shuttle stop, visitor interpretive and educational opportunities, and a recreation trail, and it will be maintained for public use and enjoyment.*

## Vision

The vision for Carmel River State Beach is as follows:

*Carmel River State Beach will provide an opportunity to explore and experience the spectacular Pacific Ocean shoreline and white, sandy beaches, along with the Carmel River wetland and lagoon habitat areas. Beachgoers will enjoy the white sands of the beach, hiking trails along the scenic coastal bluffs, the wildlife viewing area, and historic buildings. Children and families will recreate in the Carmel River lagoon, while trail users explore the rocky shore, and birders and naturalists enjoy walks along lagoon trails, observing and listening to the waterfowl, migratory birds, and other wildlife. The visitor experience will encompass the natural and scenic qualities of these ecosystems and connect to the adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park via a regional trail network. Interpretation and education programs will enhance the visitor experience by inspiring people with the region's rich natural and cultural heritage. The historic farm and ranch structures will be adaptively re-used, providing visitor parking and a shuttle area, as well as trail links to the coast and to the interior regions of the Palo Corona Ranch. Visual and interpretive interests, along with enhanced coastal access and nature trails for wildlife viewing, will further enhance the visitor experience as a place where visitors can experience personal renewal and gain inspiration and knowledge from nature's richness and beauty.*

*Adaptive management strategies will help to protect the wetland and lagoon ecosystem, sensitive plant communities, and wildlife habitat found in the natural preserves and the sensitive archaeological resources associated with Native American lifeways found in the cultural preserve. The Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve will also provide a place for Native American traditional, ceremonial, and other special events. These exceptional resources will be protected and preserved for future generations.*



## 4.3 Carmel Area State Parks Goals and Guidelines

The planning team incorporated public input in the development of goals and guidelines, including input received during public workshops and meetings and in comment letters and emails.

This section presents goals and guidelines that apply to the CASP units as a whole. The parkwide goals and guidelines have been developed to address existing issues, needs, and opportunities for improvement, protection, or change, and to provide guidance for the management of CASP to achieve the purpose and vision.

The purpose of the goals and guidelines, as defined below, is to present the desired future conditions and approach for achieving those conditions in the context of parkwide issues, opportunities, and constraints. Proposed primary themes for interpretation and education are also provided. Goals and guidelines are defined as follows:

Goals establish the purpose and define the desired future conditions, while guidelines provide direction for actions needed to achieve the goals.

- **Goals:** Overall purpose or intent toward which management will direct effort. Goals are not necessarily measurable except in terms of the achievement of component objectives that are involved in the attainment of the goal.

- **Guidelines:** General set of parameters that provide direction for accomplishing goals and outline strategies used to achieve the goal. Guidelines describe site-specific strategies that would contribute to meeting the goals.

Management zone-specific goals and guidelines are presented in Section 4.5.

Public input during General Plan preparation identified important priorities, including resource preservation and protection; circulation, parking, and access improvements that reduce reliance on personal autos for park access and thus decrease traffic congestion on SR 1; and adequacy of park staff to provide effective resource management and park user services to improve visitor experience and management. The following goals and guidelines, developed through the planning process with input from stakeholders and the public, are organized into six broad categories:

- Resource Management (MANAGE)
- Visitor Experience, Use, and Opportunities (VISIT)
- Circulation, Parking, and Access (ACCESS)
- Operations and Maintenance (MAINTAIN)
- Coordinated Planning and Partnerships (PLAN)
- Interpretation and Education (INTERPRET)

### 4.3.1 Resource Management

Sound stewardship of natural and cultural resources is essential for maintaining the significant resource values of the parks and for achieving the vision. The goals and guidelines included in this plan provide guidance specific to parkwide resources, actions, and functions and the overall framework for managing resources.

#### Natural Resource Management

Natural resource management goals and guidelines form the heart of the General Plan's direction for protection of the natural qualities and processes that create CASP's ecological significance and contribute to high-quality visitor experiences. The flora, fauna, and ecosystems of CASP units need to be protected, restored if needed, interpreted, and managed in balance with visitor use opportunities.

#### Vegetation Management

Protection of native vegetation is the critical starting point for effective ecosystem stewardship. The parks support considerable botanical diversity and many special status plants that warrant protection.

### MANAGE Goal 1

Protect, maintain, and, where needed, restore the botanical diversity of natural areas. Protect special status plants and manage resources for their perpetuation and enhancement.



Active management strategies can help to protect forests in the parks



Restoration of coastal prairie habitat includes closing user-created trails and replanting native bunchgrass

#### *MANAGE Guideline 1.1*

Inventory and monitor natural botanical resources, including natural communities and special status plants, on a periodic basis to document their abundance and distribution, gain a better understanding of resources, and to inform management decisions. Promote research opportunities with local universities to complete the inventories and monitoring.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 1.2*

Implement management actions using proven ecological principles and professionally accepted methods to maintain or enhance populations for those special status plant species identified as at risk or affected by known threats, including overuse.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 1.3*

Maintain a healthy forest stand consisting of mixed-aged trees by implementing forest management practices and monitor vegetation for diseases, fungi, and pathogens, such as pitch canker and beetle infestations.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 1.4*

Protect and restore native plant communities. Identify locations that are degraded from past management practices or visitor use, protect areas from future damage, and maintain or re-establish natural ecological processes. Restore areas through revegetation with native species appropriate to the site and with fenced enclosures. Protect restoration areas using adaptive management strategies as appropriate.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 1.5*

Manage non-native, invasive plant species to prevent their establishment and control their spread. Prioritize control efforts to those species that threaten special status plants, wildlife, or habitats; that are the most invasive or ecologically detrimental; and/or that are in conspicuous areas occupied by intact native habitat and plant communities.

*MANAGE Guideline 1.6*

Manage coastal prairie meadows and prevent encroachment from surrounding forest and coastal scrub species. Conduct periodic low intensity controlled burns combined with manual and mechanical tree and brush thinning to promote a healthy coastal prairie system and to control the encroachment of coastal scrub and tree species. Conduct annual weed surveys and control invasive non-native plants.

## Wildlife Management

Thriving, self-sustaining wildlife populations reflect a strong and healthy environment. A wide array of marine, aquatic, and terrestrial fauna occupies the diverse habitats of the parks and they are critical to protect.

MANAGE Goal 2

Protect, maintain, and, where needed, restore native marine, aquatic, and terrestrial wildlife to sustain wildlife populations and biodiversity. Protect special status wildlife and manage resources for their perpetuation and enhancement.

*MANAGE Guideline 2.1*

Inventory and monitor native wildlife, including conducting small mammal, bird, amphibian, and reptile surveys to identify existing habitats and population trends, and to develop and implement visitor management strategies for the protection and perpetuation of wildlife.

*MANAGE Guideline 2.2*

Identify and limit visitor access to important breeding and rearing areas, including visitor exclusion during marine mammal and shore bird breeding and rearing periods and aquatic habitat occupied by special status fish and amphibians.

*MANAGE Guideline 2.3*

Locate new facilities to minimize encroachment into native wildlife feeding, resting, breeding, and rearing habitats.

*MANAGE Guideline 2.4*

Reduce and eliminate wildlife access to human food and garbage by using wildlife-proof trash containers and dumpsters and educating visitors about the detrimental effects of human food on wildlife.



Source: ©2012 Charles M. Bancroft

Special status wildlife species known to occur include the western snowy plover

*MANAGE Guideline 2.5*

Protect common and sensitive wildlife and their habitats to establish and maintain self-sustaining populations in a natural ecological setting. Minimize human-induced disturbance and degradation of natural areas and restore wildlife habitat.

*MANAGE Guideline 2.6*

Use sound ecological principles to protect and rehabilitate special status animal populations and their habitats, including professionally accepted methods, such as considering the needs of special status species in the timing and implementation of any activity that would result in disturbance to their habitat and minimizing trail and facility building and park maintenance activities in or near breeding and rearing areas during breeding seasons.

*MANAGE Guideline 2.7*

Identify, maintain, and protect wildlife movement corridors and habitat linkages with federal, state, and local agencies to permit movement of wildlife and to increase species abundance and diversity. Collect baseline information to monitor the health and function of core habitat areas and these linkages. Monitor wildlife as necessary to gauge the effectiveness of linkages.

*MANAGE Guideline 2.8*

Cooperate with federal, state, local agencies, and open space organizations to promote effective and efficient park and regional wildlife resource management and planning, including coordinating efforts to identify and preserve habitat linkages.

*MANAGE Guideline 2.9*

Control and/or eradicate non-native animal species, such as bullfrogs and feral pigs, which may create stresses or threats to special status wildlife species. Priority for control efforts will be given to those species most detrimental to the environment.

## Physical Resource Management

The geological and hydrological characteristics of natural areas form the structures and processes that sustain ecosystem health. Embedded in underlying geology is the paleontological record of past floral and faunal life. Climate is another key element of the physical resources of the marine, coastal, and inland areas of the CASP units. With predicted climate change, hazard risks and management needs are actively evolving and will continue for decades.

## Geology

Forming the physical foundation of ecosystems, important geologic features warrant management. Marine rock formations, coastal bluff geology, plate tectonics, stream geomorphology, and beach sediment transport processes are all reflected in the parks.

### MANAGE Goal 3

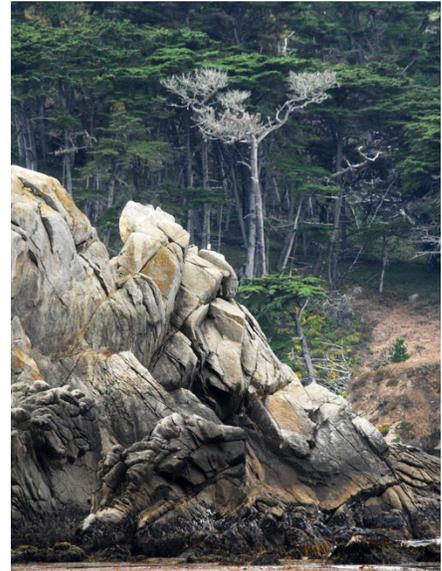
Study, interpret, and protect important geologic features.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 3.1*

Monitor, document, and study the geologic features and processes, including geologic events such as landslides, rockfall, stream channel and coastal erosion, and sedimentation. Identify the cause and effect relationships and implement corrective measures as needed to protect these features.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 3.2*

Identify areas of high risk for increased soil erosion, coastal erosion, landslides, and rockfall. Avoid locating visitor and operations facilities in areas prone to geologic hazards. Site-specific investigations shall be conducted by a registered geologist or certified engineering geologist before final siting of facilities. Redesign, take offline, or relocate facilities that exacerbate geologic problems or that might be damaged by natural events. Allow natural processes to occur as appropriate and support opportunities to restore natural processes that have been disrupted.



Source: ©2012 Charles M. Bancroft

Granite formations in the Reserve

## Hydrology and Water Quality

If geology is the physical foundation of ecosystems, hydrology is the fundamental natural process that can alter that foundation over time. Water quality is the chemistry of hydrologic systems; its condition is sometimes natural and sometimes degraded by human actions. Management of hydrologic systems, natural processes, water quality, and the aquatic and marine habitats that depend on hydrologic conditions is vital.

### MANAGE Goal 4

Protect, restore, and preserve wetlands and their natural hydrologic processes, water quality, and ecosystem functions.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 4.1*

Identify causes of water quality degradation in river, stream, open ocean-intertidal and estuary waters, and associated wetlands. Quantify performance targets and

pursue actions to correct degraded hydrologic and water quality conditions, if needed.

*MANAGE Guideline 4.2*

Monitor water quality and avoid or minimize ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion resulting in filling of wetlands. Install temporary or permanent sediment erosion control BMPs, restore wetland or riparian habitat, and provide temporary trail closure with informational signing.

*MANAGE Guideline 4.3*

Implement measures and adaptive management strategies to preserve sensitive stream and riparian habitat, which will benefit water quality, shaded aquatic resources, and critical fish and wildlife habitat. Effective stream and riparian habitat management actions are:

- Avoid excessive ground disturbance, grading, vegetation removal or trampling, and sedimentation to streams during trail construction along or across streams and riparian habitats and other facilities encroaching into riparian corridors;
- Design and locate trails to reduce ongoing erosion potential by avoiding, if feasible, steep slopes that require trail grades exceeding 7 to 10 percent and alignments that run parallel to Carmel River, San Jose Creek, Gibson Creek within 50 feet of riparian habitat;
- Install temporary or (if necessary) permanent sediment erosion control measures and/or BMPs to protect streams where monitoring has identified eroding soil;
- Where stream and riparian habitat conditions are known to be degraded along the Carmel River, San Jose Creek, and Gibson Creek, and their major tributaries, restore stream and riparian habitat, including natural hydrologic processes, aquatic ecosystem functions, and re-planting of native vegetation;
- Monitor and eradicate invasive aquatic and terrestrial weeds to protect and enhance stream aquatic ecosystems and native riparian vegetation and habitat; and
- Monitor stream embeddedness/pool/riffle sequencing to establish a baseline and monitor sedimentation at



Carmel River lagoon

select monitoring sites to document trends over time in relation to habitat quality indices.

*MANAGE Guideline 4.4*

Minimize overall CASP water demand through conservation practices, water use reduction features in facilities, and visitor education.

*MANAGE Guideline 4.5*

Prevent water quality degradation to sensitive water features, including Carmel River and lagoon, San Jose Creek, Gibson Creek and their tributaries, and Areas of Special Biological Significance.

*MANAGE Guideline 4.6*

Avoid placement of incompatible structures or uses within the 100-year FEMA floodplain hazard areas, which are the FEMA-mapped floodplains in the Carmel River lagoon; along the Carmel River, including the northern portion of the Odello West field; the mouth of San Jose Creek and upstream approximately 2,000 feet; and the southern portion of Hatton Canyon from approximately 700 feet north of Rio Road to the Carmel River. Support restoration of floodplains and hydrological processes.

*MANAGE Guideline 4.7*

As part of visitor interpretation and education, illustrate the importance of land use and management adjustments to reduce use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals harmful to wetlands and waterways.

*MANAGE Guideline 4.8*

Design infrastructure, facilities, and visitor use areas to minimize stormwater runoff and prevent soil erosion.

MANAGE Goal 5

Minimize degradation of environmentally sensitive aquatic and marine resources and impairment to water quality where access to scenic, recreation, and interpretive opportunity sites is provided.

*MANAGE Guideline 5.1*

Restore vegetative buffers adjacent to trails and unpaved parking areas to reduce sediment transport into surface waters. Close or move facilities that contribute to runoff directly into the ocean or directly to the Carmel River, San Jose Creek, and Gibson Creek.

*MANAGE Guideline 5.2*

Use trail design features and natural and constructed barriers to discourage the creation of unauthorized trails that would degrade ocean or stream water quality. Decommission and restore existing unauthorized trails that contribute sediment and other pollutants to aquatic and marine environments. Restore ecologically damaged areas to improve habitat, scenic value, and water quality.

## Paleontology

Paleobiological records are captured in ancient geologic strata, especially in the Carmelo Formation, and they warrant careful stewardship.

### MANAGE Goal 6

Protect and preserve significant paleontological resources.

*MANAGE Guideline 6.1*

Inventory, map, and monitor paleontological resources for their protection, preservation, and interpretation.

*MANAGE Guideline 6.2*

Coordinate with paleobiology resource specialists on protection and preservation of paleontological resources that have both natural and cultural resource value.

*MANAGE Guideline 6.3*

Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the formation, sensitivity, and importance of protecting paleontological resources.

## Climate Change

The changing climate will substantially influence natural and human conditions over the coming decades. Human-caused climate change from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions has set the course for warming temperatures, altered weather, and increased risks relevant to the park units from sea level rise, wildfires, and flooding. Precipitation is projected to decrease by nearly 8 inches throughout the century in the Big Sur region. By 2100, sea levels may rise up to 55 inches, posing threats to the Monterey Bay Area, with an estimated 11 percent increase in acreage vulnerable to flooding in Monterey County. Projected fire risks in southwestern Monterey County, near the Big Sur and Carmel Valley areas, is expected to increase by 70 to 100 percent by 2085 (Cal EMA and CNRA 2012).

See Table 2-2 for more projected effects of climate change on the central California coastal region.

### MANAGE Goal 7

Adapt to increased risks from sea level rise, flooding, wildfire, and other climate change effects.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 7.1*

Follow recommendations for climate adaptation actions in relevant CSP guidance documents prepared to address foreseeable climate change risks, with an emphasis on risks caused by sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire.

## Cultural Resources Management

The parks contain a diverse combination of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources and places, exemplifying the importance of the region for both its Native American heritage and historic significance.

### Archaeological Resources

Archaeological resources represent a record of the prehistoric and historic-era heritage of the park units. They can also possess tribal values to Native Americans whose ancestors occupied the region for generations. Protection of important archaeological resources is a critical priority, and interpretation of them has important learning value.

### MANAGE Goal 8

Protect, document, and interpret significant prehistoric archaeological and cultural resources.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 8.1*

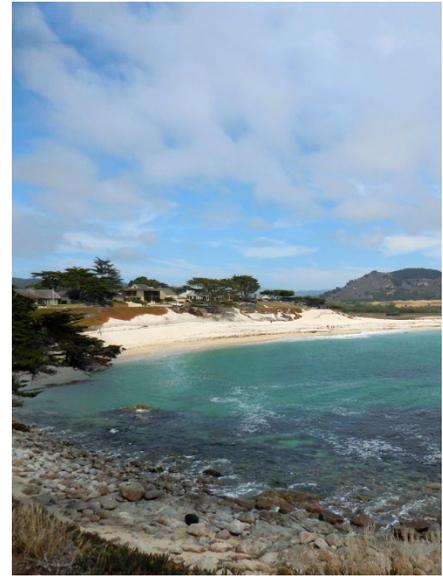
For areas not already inventoried, conduct inventories for cultural resources where and when development or other landscape disturbance is planned. Document and map resources identified or areas with high potential to contain resources.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 8.2*

Identify, document, catalogue, and curate artifacts and collections that have been recovered from cultural sites, according to the Office of Historic Preservation guidelines.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 8.3*

In consultation with local tribal representatives, prepare Cultural Resource Management Plans, as necessary, to further define a framework to identify, acknowledge, assess, and create effective management procedures for cultural sites and cultural preserves.



Coastal area

*MANAGE Guideline 8.4*

In coordination with local tribal representatives, monitor sensitive cultural resources to identify specific areas of degradation, inform a culturally sensitive adaptive management strategy, and determine the need for potential visitor access limitations or exclusions.

In consultation with local tribal representatives, stabilize cultural sites and recover data, where feasible, at sites at risk from erosion, damage, or sea level rise. Prevent degradation and looting of cultural resources by limiting visitor access, and increasing law enforcement to specific sensitive areas.

*MANAGE Guideline 8.5*

Collaborate with the local tribal representatives to expand Native American interpretation themes, features, and programs related to park resources.

## Historic Resources

From first European contact to the Mission Period, whaling, marine fish harvest, historic farming, and ranching, the parks offer rich and varied historic importance of human connection to the land and ocean. Protection and interpretation of the historic resources in the parks help improve understanding of those past periods.

### MANAGE Goal 9

Identify, protect, maintain, and preserve significant historic resources.



Historic Odello Farm barns

*MANAGE Guideline 9.1*

Complete an inventory and assessment of significant cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historic Resources to gain a better understanding of resources and to inform management decisions.

*MANAGE Guideline 9.2*

Complete Historic Structure Reports (HSRs) for those existing historic buildings that do not have them, and update existing HSRs as needed. The HSRs should be prepared by an interdisciplinary team that should include a historian or architectural historian, historical architect, and may also require a structural engineer. Provide documentation including graphic and physical information about a property's history and existing conditions, recommend appropriate treatments, management actions

and goals for preservation or rehabilitation and appropriate adaptive use of the property, and outline the scope of recommended work for current and future resource managers.

*MANAGE Guideline 9.3*

Prepare treatment plans for historic resources. Development strategies should include cultural resource treatments, as defined by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, for those historic buildings, structures, and features that have been identified as significant, combined with the interpretive objectives for the landscape as a whole, including the periods of significance; the integrity of the landscape and its character-defining features, and the existing condition of these individual features.

*MANAGE Guideline 9.4*

Repair and maintain buildings identified as historical resources according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

*MANAGE Guideline 9.5*

Identify and evaluate the historic significance of potential cultural landscapes.

*MANAGE Guideline 9.6*

Consult with local tribal representatives who have traditional ties to resources within CASP to ensure productive and collaborative working relationships during the planning and implementation of specific development projects, and especially when considering management practices of interest and concern to them.

*MANAGE Guideline 9.7*

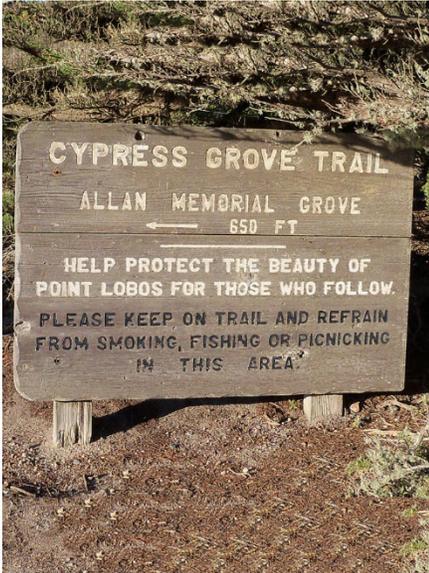
Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting historic resources.

## Aesthetic Resources Management

Striking, dramatic, and awe-inspiring are examples of descriptions of the scenic qualities of these parks. The aesthetics of the landscape and waterscape are primary attractions for visitors.

### MANAGE Goal 10

Identify and protect scenic qualities, vistas, and viewsheds to preserve the beauty of the parks.



Trail sign in the Reserve using natural materials and with scenic preservation message

#### *MANAGE Guideline 10.1*

Remove or screen from view built elements that have negative aesthetic qualities.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 10.2*

Design infrastructure, use areas, and facilities to integrate scenic quality protection, to maintain important views (including publicly accessible coastal views, consistent with the California Coastal Act), and to be visually compatible with the existing natural landscape or historic character of the location. To the extent feasible, new structures will be sited in currently developed areas near other existing structures and facilities to avoid adding intrusive structural elements into important views or vistas.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 10.3*

Integrate positive aesthetic features into the design of new park facilities and in appropriate renovation and maintenance programs. Integrate built facilities into the park's natural setting through the use of appropriate siting techniques and building form, scale, materials, and colors. Preserve and showcase scenic views, use native (or replicated) building materials, use muted colors that reflect the natural surroundings, and take advantage of (or screen) ephemeral conditions (weather, wind, sunlight, etc.), as appropriate.

#### *MANAGE Guideline 10.4*

Minimize visibility of new structures or other facilities to travelers on SR 1, a State Scenic Highway. Use distance, buffering with existing topography and vegetation, planted vegetation screening, low-profile design, appropriate colors that blend with surroundings, and natural appearing non-reflective materials as strategies to protect scenic highway views.

*MANAGE Guideline 10.5*

Design signs and interpretive displays to appear consistent with the surrounding natural environment, using low-profile design and natural-appearing materials that are consistent in color and texture to the natural environment.

*MANAGE Guideline 10.6*

Where appropriate, visually screen parking lots, roads, operations facilities, and storage areas from primary public use areas. Use native vegetation, rocks, elevation change, berms, and other methods that either use or mimic natural elements to minimize negative visual impacts from these facilities.

*MANAGE Guideline 10.7*

Limit artificial lighting to avoid brightening the dark night sky. Restrict night lighting to ground-level illumination at developed areas of the park (e.g. buildings and parking lots). Install lighting fixtures that focus the light downward and protect against upward glare. Light levels should be as low as possible, consistent with public safety standards. Limit artificial light to minimize brightening the dark night sky.

*MANAGE Guideline 10.8*

Minimize vehicle and equipment noise in heavily-used areas to maintain naturally quiet conditions to the extent feasible, through screening, separation of use areas, and other appropriate techniques. Locate park administrative and maintenance functions away from public areas, if feasible, and minimize construction and maintenance noise.

*MANAGE Guideline 10.9*

Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, and other stakeholders to preserve, protect, and enhance positive aesthetic features and viewsheds. Consider the *Carmel Area Land Use Plan/Local Coastal Program* and other applicable standards for scenic resources.

## 4.3.2 Visitor Experience, Use, and Opportunities

With the immense, international popularity of the Reserve, strong local and regional visitation to the coastal area and beaches, and the sensitive resources in all units, provision of high quality visitor experiences requires a balance between providing visitor opportunities and carefully managing visitor use.

## Recreation and Visitor Experience

These parks provide an array of high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities. The variety allows for management approaches that seek to appropriately distribute visitor use to enhance visitor experiences and protect resources.

### VISIT Goal 1

Develop recreation access and recreation opportunities that distribute visitor use to avoid or minimize significant damage to sensitive resources.

#### *VISIT Guideline 1.1*

In collaboration with regional partners and stakeholders, provide information to encourage visitation to nearby state parks, regional parks and open space, and National Forest land. Methods to encourage this cross-connection include providing information describing regional resources, such as location maps with park and open space access and trail connection information, and working with partners to provide regional mass transit opportunities.

#### *VISIT Guideline 1.2*

Evaluate new technologies and recreational activities and incorporate those that would cost-effectively enhance visitor experiences and benefit recreation facilities, resources, information, and programs, such as increasing the use of the Internet and mobile applications for public outreach and visitor experience, including providing wireless Internet access in the parks.

#### *VISIT Guideline 1.3*

Maintain trail connections and access to regional trail systems while minimizing plant and wildlife habitat fragmentation and avoiding damage to cultural resources.

#### *VISIT Guideline 1.4*

Manage visitor use in sensitive areas where resources are being negatively impacted by overuse. Limit public access to sensitive areas and provide access to less sensitive locations with outdoor recreation opportunities.

#### *VISIT Guideline 1.5*

Evaluate new recreational opportunities, trends, and activities that would bring diverse and underrepresented populations to the parks without impacting positive user experiences or degrading resources.

*VISIT Guideline 1.6*

Continue to support and expand successful programming in the parks, including youth activities, special events, and volunteer recruitment.

### 4.3.3 Circulation, Parking, and Access

Personal vehicles are currently the primary transportation mode for access to the parks. Visitor traffic contributes to congestion along SR 1 and other connecting roads. Many personal vehicles park on the highway shoulder within the right-of-way of SR 1 to access the Reserve and parts of the coastal area. A primary theme of the parkwide Circulation, Parking, and Access goals and guidelines is to develop facilities and alternative transportation systems within the parks and provide access to the parks, in partnership with state, regional, and local transportation agencies, to implement management actions that offer multimodal transportation options, thereby reducing GHG emissions and enhancing public safety.

#### Reservation System

Unrestricted walk-in access is problematic, especially within the Reserve and the coastal areas, which contain fragile natural and cultural resources. Implementing an innovative reservation system is the primary management tool that will define appropriate levels of visitation, control peak-season overuse, and improve visitor experience, park operations, safety, and accessibility, while protecting natural and cultural resources from overuse.

#### ACCESS Goal 1

Evaluate, design, and implement a day use reservation system to serve as the primary mechanism to manage visitor access, peak visitation, and overall levels of all visitor use.

*ACCESS Guideline 1.1*

Evaluate how to effectively implement a reservation system to apply to day use, with first priority for implementation for the Reserve. Consider various reservation options for walk-in visitors, visitors using alternative modes of transportation such as a local or regional shuttle system, and those arriving by vehicle.



Parking along SR 1 within the highway right-of-way

*ACCESS Guideline 1.2*

Coordinate physical infrastructure requirements and property boundary controls with efforts needed to implement the visitor entry management and fee system (see ACCESS Guideline 2.3).

*ACCESS Guideline 1.3*

Develop digital/internet applications that will lead to management efficiencies and overall ease of use for visitors. Consider the infrastructure needed to collect and track reservations.

*ACCESS Guideline 1.4*

Evaluate the need to implement a day use reservation system in other areas of the parks where visitor overuse is resulting in natural and/or cultural resource degradation.

*ACCESS Guideline 1.5*

Conduct public education regarding the need for a reservation system as an overall visitor management approach.

*ACCESS Guideline 1.6*

Consult with managers of other state and national parks using reservation systems to gain information and to further understand implementation opportunities and constraints.

## Visitor Entry Management and Fee System

To adequately manage vehicle and walk-in arrivals, visitor entry features, fee requirements, and associated boundary controls should be modernized, upgraded, and coordinated with the implementation of a reservation system.

### ACCESS Goal 2

In coordination with a day use reservation system, evaluate, design, and implement a park entry fee system to manage visitor access and overall levels of all visitor use.

*ACCESS Guideline 2.1*

Evaluate options for a visitor entry fee system and determine the most effective approach. Implement the fee system in coordination with development and implementation of a reservation system and other access and parking actions.

*ACCESS Guideline 2.2*

Evaluate the need to implement an entry fee system in other areas of the parks, as needed.

*ACCESS Guideline 2.3*

Develop physical improvements, digital/internet applications, and management systems needed to implement a visitor entry fee system. These may include changes in visitor vehicle and walk-in entrance features, property boundary access controls, digital mobile phone applications for fee payment, parking fee collections equipment, and other entry fee collection infrastructure and computer systems.

*ACCESS Guideline 2.4*

Educate the public on the need for an entry fee system for visitors and how to use the new system prior to its launch. Options include posting to the CSP website, social media, local media outlets, and CSP-sponsored workshops or public information events at local or individually sponsored events.

## Vehicular Access and Parking

Visitor access management is intended to reduce reliance on personal autos for arrival to the parks and manage total visitor vehicle trips, so they do not substantially increase because of General Plan implementation. This will be accomplished through a coordinated set of actions that offer multimodal access choices and redistribution of parking, in coordination with the previously described visitor reservation system.

### ACCESS Goal 3

Implement multimodal transportation, vehicular access, and parking enhancements, in conjunction with visitor capacity management, to better manage the location and distribution of visitor use to improve visitor experience, park operations, safety, accessibility, and resource protection. Multimodal transportation access to CASP units will be expanded during periods of heavy visitation to help alleviate traffic congestion along SR 1.

*ACCESS Guideline 3.1*

Prepare a Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan to identify specific transportation improvements that would support long-term sustainability for a coordinated transit, shuttle, or other alternative public conveyance system to park areas, reduce visitor reliance on personal vehicles, and facilitate removal of parking from overused areas to help redistribute visitor use.

*ACCESS Guideline 3.2*

Prioritize planned transportation improvements, so that the greatest mobility needs are addressed first, as funding is secured to improve accessibility, safety, and resource protection.

*ACCESS Guideline 3.3*

Coordinate with local and regional partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Caltrans, and California Coastal Commission, regarding decisions on potential traffic, transit, and circulation approaches to provide park access. This includes coordinating on transit features of the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan and participating in planning traffic circulation, intersection, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements serving or affecting the parks; pedestrian and bicycle trails connecting the parks to the surrounding communities; and safe SR 1 pedestrian crossings.

*ACCESS Guideline 3.4*

When parking is removed from an area causing resource impacts, provide transportation enhancements that offer sustainable visitor accessibility opportunities and better distribute visitor use, with options that may include relocated parking, internal transit or park shuttle service, and/or alternative conveyance means.

*ACCESS Guideline 3.5*

Coordinate the provision of alternative parking locations or conveyance means with the timing of parking removal or other relevant access-related actions.

*ACCESS Guideline 3.6*

Accompany changes in parking and alternative conveyance with visitor information about transportation options.

### ACCESS Goal 4

Plan and implement access and parking improvements within the parks recognizing the existing on-highway parking within the right-of-way of SR 1.

#### *ACCESS Guideline 4.1*

Transportation improvements needed for highway access into the parks from SR 1 will take into account existing on-highway parking for pertinent design issues, such as intersection sight distance, signage, and turning lanes, if needed.

#### *ACCESS Guideline 4.2*

Actions regarding parking facilities within the parks will be determined based on park needs and will be independent of decisions by other agencies related to SR 1 on-highway parking.

#### *ACCESS Guideline 4.3*

If Monterey County and/or Caltrans propose actions to prohibit SR 1 on-highway parking near the parks, review the proposals for the potential to affect intersection access and walk-in visitor management and provide input to those agencies.

## Trails

These park units offer an array of trail opportunities that provide access to dramatic scenery, interesting resources, and places for nature appreciation and solitude. The region-wide system of trails through public lands will benefit from improved connections within the parks. The sustainability of the alignments and design of authorized trails will guide trail management.

### ACCESS Goal 5

Design and implement strategic and sustainable trail improvements and linkages, including trail restoration and re-routing trails through less sensitive habitats, as appropriate, coordinating with other open space and park entities.

#### *ACCESS Guideline 5.1*

Prepare a Road and Trail Management Plan, in coordination with local and regional parks and open space partners, that evaluates the park's entire trail system, trail use and user conflicts, and guides the placement and use of future trails. Coordinate with MPRPD, BSLT, and other organizations and agencies regarding trail connections and



Trails at the Reserve's Allan Memorial Grove

permitted uses. The plan will recognize future opportunities for regional trail connections, opportunities to connect trails with adjacent zones, and will provide opportunities for public and stakeholder input.

*ACCESS Guideline 5.2*

Provide amenities along trails, such as interpretive information, seating, and viewpoints, as appropriate.

*ACCESS Guideline 5.3*

Enhance, maintain, and provide ADA accessible trails where appropriate to allow visitors to view plants, wildlife, landscapes, scenic vistas, and historic features of the area.

*ACCESS Guideline 5.4*

Identify locations where decommissioning and restoration of unauthorized trails are needed, including but not limited to, the North Shore Trail in the Reserve and non-designated trails in the coastal areas, to decrease erosion, soil compaction, and degradation of cultural and natural resources and wildlife habitats. Prioritize actions to address first the most degraded and sensitive resource locations.

*ACCESS Guideline 5.5*

Identify areas where trail delineation needs improvement, and educate visitors to stay on designated trails to prevent damage to habitat, reduce erosion, and prevent vegetation and soil loss.

*ACCESS Guideline 5.6*

Conduct erosion assessments of roads and trails and implement adaptive management strategies to minimize erosion. Document sedimentation conveyance pathways to the ASBS and implement sediment and erosion control BMP measures to reduce sediment delivery and erosion.

*ACCESS Guideline 5.7*

Locate trails to minimize placing people in proximity to private property. Provide signs clarifying public property boundaries and provide trail users with information regarding park rules, wayfinding, and regulations to minimize public/private use conflicts and trespassing.

*ACCESS Guideline 5.8*

Maintain trails to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive plants. Brushing/trimming of trailside vegetation will be designed and timed to enhance native vegetation.

## 4.3.4 Operations and Maintenance

The administration and operation of the parks includes visitor services, public safety, facility maintenance, utilities and infrastructure maintenance, and visitor interaction as performed by maintenance staff, rangers, resource specialists, interpreters, and other administrative personnel. Volunteers, participating partner groups, and concessionaires also play an important role in park operations by providing additional services. Goals and guidelines in this section outline strategies to maintain, upgrade, and develop operations in the parks.

### Utilities and Infrastructure

Sustainable and efficient resource use and adequate utilities and infrastructure are critical to effective management of the parks. Important utility constraints are respected, including water supply and wastewater treatment and disposal capacity.

#### MAINTAIN Goal 1

Repair, upgrade, and develop adequate infrastructure for efficient use of energy, water, and other resources.

##### *MAINTAIN Guideline 1.1*

Upgrade utilities and infrastructure that are critical for park use, management, and needed to support planned operations.

##### *MAINTAIN Guideline 1.2*

Minimize water demand and wastewater generation in the planning and design of visitor facilities.

### Facilities

Park facilities are important elements of the CASP infrastructure; they allow for efficient park management, sustainable operations, and quality visitor services.

#### MAINTAIN Goal 2

Develop or adaptively use existing facilities that will improve park operations.

##### *MAINTAIN Guideline 2.1*

Locate operational facilities in proximity to existing operational facilities where they promote efficient and effective park operations, consistent with resource protection priorities.



Maintenance equipment at Rat Hill

*MAINTAIN Guideline 2.2*

Consider adaptive reuse of historic structures, such as the Gatehouse, Hudson House, or historic ranch and farm structures. All actions affecting the resources will be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to retain the historic integrity of the structures. Prepare a Facility Use Plan to determine specific uses of existing or repurposed historic structures.

*MAINTAIN Guideline 2.3*

Identify alternative staff housing facilities or off-park housing strategies, to expand the availability of local staff housing and to allow reuse of some existing staff residences for other operational and visitor-serving purposes, such as visitor information and orientation. Prepare a Facility Use Plan to determine specific uses or reuses of existing staff residences.

*MAINTAIN Guideline 2.4*

Provide some staff housing in existing structures for security and surveillance of parklands.

MAINTAIN Goal 3

Develop and maintain environmentally compatible and logistically convenient facilities to meet visitor, staff, and park management needs and to support efficient operations.

*MAINTAIN Guideline 3.1*

Initiate site-specific project planning to determine the specific size and locations for parking and staging areas, interpretive facilities, and other facilities to inform management decisions.

*MAINTAIN Guideline 3.2*

New facility development will consider the site selection criteria in Table 4-1 to determine site suitability. Potential environmental effects will be minimized or avoided.

*MAINTAIN Guideline 3.3*

When planning new facility development or property acquisitions, consider the needs for public safety personnel, equipment, and communication systems.

Table 4 I Site Selection Criteria

Facility or Improvement	Siting Criteria
Trails and Coastal Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Site without sensitive and special status natural resources and sensitive cultural resources or where negative effects can be avoided or mitigated</li> <li>■ Connection to roadway and parking areas</li> <li>■ Connection to regional trail network</li> <li>■ Avoid areas demonstrated to be prone to landsliding and falling rocks</li> <li>■ Adequate buffer distance from marine mammals and from marine bird nesting</li> </ul>
Scenic Viewpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ View of prominent, notable, or characteristic park feature</li> <li>■ Opportunity for park interpretation</li> <li>■ Avoid areas demonstrated to be prone to landsliding and falling rocks</li> </ul>
Parking Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Site without sensitive and special status natural resources and sensitive cultural resources or where effects can be avoided or mitigated</li> <li>■ Avoid areas demonstrated to be prone to geologic hazards, such as landsliding and falling rocks</li> <li>■ Close to recreational resources or trails</li> <li>■ Easy and safe access to major access road</li> </ul>
Day Use Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Site without sensitive and special status natural resources and sensitive cultural resources or where effects can be avoided or mitigated</li> <li>■ Availability of utilities (e.g., water, sewer, electricity), if needed</li> <li>■ Connection to roadway or trails</li> <li>■ Avoid areas demonstrated to be prone to landsliding and falling rocks</li> </ul>
Operational Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Site without sensitive and special status natural resources and sensitive cultural resources or where significant adverse effects can be avoided or minimized</li> <li>■ Availability of utilities (e.g., water, sewer, electricity) or ability to obtain services without undue cost and environmental issues</li> <li>■ Connection to roadway</li> <li>■ Central/convenient location within units and District</li> <li>■ Average slope of less than 10 percent</li> <li>■ Avoid the 100-year floodplain</li> <li>■ Without visual obstruction of scenic resources as viewed from roadways, trails, and scenic viewpoints</li> <li>■ Avoid areas demonstrated to be prone to landsliding and falling rocks</li> </ul>

## Public Safety

Public safety is a top priority in the CASP units. Facility design and visitor management strategies must address known and potential safety needs, including traffic and pedestrian safety, trails in steep slope and cliff areas, wave-exposed beaches, responding to criminal activity, and other emergency response situations.

### MAINTAIN Goal 4

Maintain visitor safety and effectively communicate safety risks to improve public awareness.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 4.1*

Identify and implement enhanced visitor safety communication methods, including use of social media, signage, public information, and site-specific solutions to reduce risks. If needed, implement area or facility closures when safety risks are unacceptable.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 4.2*

Review and update emergency response plans and provide for appropriate training and equipment for personnel in all aspects of public safety, law enforcement, education, and resource management and protection.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 4.3*

Identify ways to promote visitor safety for water dependent recreational activities through programs and signage.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 4.4*

Coordinate with other public entities in response to structural and public safety emergencies, training and utilizing the expertise of all personnel.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 4.5*

Evaluate signage informing visitors of known hazards and install or improve signage where appropriate and necessary.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 4.6*

Provide adequate staffing for public safety and emergency incident response to reports of cliff fall, scuba diving and other aquatic emergencies, land-based medical emergencies, and violations of laws and regulations.

*MAINTAIN Guideline 4.7*

Ensure that emergency response vehicles and/or personnel can access necessary park locations where visitors can be reached or hazard risks are present, such as cliffs or steep slopes, remote trails, and wave-exposed beaches.

## Wildfire Prevention and Suppression

Recent fires in the nearby forest and coastal scrub landscapes demonstrate the wildfire risks in the central coast region. As a regional issue, protection from wildfires warrants a partnership approach.

MAINTAIN Goal 6

Protect human life, property, and sensitive natural and cultural resources within the parks through the prevention and suppression of destructive wildland fires.

*MAINTAIN Guideline 6.1*

Coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service, and the county fire departments to prepare and update Wildfire Management Plans for these parks addressing all aspects of wildfire planning.

*MAINTAIN Guideline 6.2*

Incorporate findings of ongoing fire management research in park maintenance and operations. This may include the use of new tools, concepts, or methods.

*MAINTAIN Guideline 6.3*

Regularly update fuel management plans and collaborate with CAL FIRE to determine effective fuel reduction methods, avoiding and protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources (including historic buildings).

*MAINTAIN Guideline 6.4*

Reduce fuel and conduct forest thinning measures, as appropriate and where it is beneficial to or does not negatively affect natural or cultural resource values, to prevent the rapid spread of wildland fires.

*MAINTAIN Guideline 6.5*

Prohibit the use of park lands for the purposes of providing new private road access, including fire roads.

## Sustainability

California state policy includes several features requiring sustainability in the use and conservation of resources and in control of pollutant emissions, including GHGs. CSP is committed to sustainable operations in its parks.

### MAINTAIN Goal 7

Integrate and employ sustainability principles and practices in all aspects of park facilities, programs, and operations.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 7.1*

Consult sustainability standards, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), for ways to reduce energy use and maximize the use of energy-efficient products and materials. These standards have been developed to promote environmentally healthy design, construction, and maintenance practices.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2*

Use low- or zero-emission vehicles for park operations and maintenance, and a shuttle system to contribute to state goals for reduction of air pollutant emissions. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping GHG emissions, and promote energy efficiency.

## Concessions and Special Events

Concessions provide valued services to visitors and special events have long been a part of the public use of the parks. They both play important roles in visitor experiences and operations of the CASP units.

### MAINTAIN Goal 8

Allow for appropriate concessions to enhance visitor experiences, consistent with resource protection priorities.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 8.1*

Provide visitor services and products that enhance recreational and/or educational experiences at the park, consistent with the PRC, CSP policies, the park's purpose and classification, and General Plan guidelines. Examples of concession opportunities could include parking, shuttles, and guided tours.

### MAINTAIN Goal 9

Allow special events that offer high quality visitor services and experiences, while protecting the park's natural, cultural, recreation, and aesthetic resources.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 9.1*

Only permit special events that do not result in damage to physical, natural, cultural, and scenic resources by defining allowed locations, activities, event sizes, and other management conditions to protect resources. Enforce fines for rule violation and resource degradation.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 9.2*

Educate permit applicants about proper stewardship of park resources and visitor rules, fines, and restrictions pertinent to their events.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 9.3*

Monitor special events for resource damage. If resource damage occurs, evaluate the circumstances and implement adaptive changes to the type, number, size, visitor rules, and/or location of special events.

## Park Operations and Support

Well-managed and efficient park operations depend on appropriate staffing levels, adequate funding sources, and support from volunteers and local partners. Staffing, funding, and support will continue to be important for the parks to be able to provide visitor safety and enjoyment, protect resource values, and overall maintenance of the units. On-site staff are needed to enhance resource management, protect sensitive resources, manage operations of the units, create safe environments, respond to emergency incidents, expand educational and interpretive programs, and keep facilities clean and well maintained. CSP has a long history of partnering with volunteers and local organizations. The following goals and guidelines build on these relationships and seek to identify new opportunities for collaboration and ways to optimize park funding.



Docents provide information and resources to visitors at the Reserve

MAINTAIN Goal 10 outlines the importance of providing adequate staffing levels for public safety.



Volunteers pulling invasive weeds at the Reserve

### MAINTAIN Goal 10

Provide the proper staffing balance for park management, operations, maintenance, resource preservation, visitor safety, and visitor serving programs.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 10.1*

Continue to work with PLF, BSLT, other non-governmental partners, and volunteers on the training, operation, and programming of park events, resource stewardship, interpretation, and programs consistent with the General Plan.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 10.2*

Continue to support partnerships and work closely with local partners and volunteers to improve visitor services; maintain and/or upgrade, as necessary, existing interpretive facilities; monitor visitor use; identify, develop and implement resource protection and restoration projects; perform maintenance activities; and implement educational and interpretation programs consistent with the General Plan.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 10.3*

Provide increased levels of service to include the addition of two park rangers, up to four seasonal park aids, and one permanent full-time maintenance worker when the new park areas are open to the public.

### MAINTAIN Goal 11

Continue to improve park operation and management opportunities.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 11.1*

Leverage available funding sources to finance improvements and improve operations through park partnerships, concessions, state and federal grants, and other financing mechanisms.

#### *MAINTAIN Guideline 11.2*

Define and implement new opportunities and updated fee schedules for visitation, concessions, and special events.

## 4.3.5 Coordinated Planning and Partnerships

Government agencies and non-governmental organizations that own and manage park and open space land in the Monterey/Big Sur region have well-established, ongoing working relationships to coordinate management of these lands. Goals and guidelines promote the important role of partnerships with these and other agencies and organizations.

### Regional Planning

#### PLAN Goal 1

Improve connectivity with other public open spaces and support interagency partnerships to provide an interconnected regional system of parks and greenways and enhance public safety.

##### *PLAN Guideline 1.1*

Coordinate natural, cultural, and aesthetic resource management, interpretation, operations, staff housing, emergency services, and facility development programs with other regional parks to promote healthy ecosystems, protected cultural and aesthetic resources, and operational efficiencies.

##### *PLAN Guideline 1.2*

Work closely with partners such as Monterey County, Caltrans, PLF, and BSLT on the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement (FREE)/SR 1 causeway project and coordinate access with the MPRPD for trail connections to Palo Corona Regional Park.

##### *PLAN Guideline 1.3*

Continue to work in partnership with MPRPD, BSLT, PLF, and other appropriate organizations and agencies on regional planning projects to help integrate park management and operations and to enhance public recreation, outdoor education, and stewardship opportunities in the region.

##### *PLAN Guideline 1.4*

Coordinate and collaborate with universities, colleges, and other research organizations on natural, cultural, and scientific resource studies to increase the knowledge of resources in the parks and region, to inform park managers, and to establish research opportunities.

*PLAN Guideline 1.5*

Coordinate and establish mutual support arrangements or agreements with state, county, city, and local organizations to provide effective and efficient public safety programs in the parks, and to maintain emergency evacuation routes to allow safe and immediate exit from areas where people visit, work, or reside.

PLAN Goal 2

Coordinate and work closely with Caltrans, California Coastal Commission, Monterey County transportation agencies, MPRPD, and elected representatives to develop safe parking alternatives and a regional multimodal transportation system.

*PLAN Guideline 2.1*

Evaluate a range of regional alternative parking opportunities and shuttle system routes. Assess opportunities, constraints, and feasibility on a region-wide basis with all interested agencies, organizations, and other partners.

## 4.3.6 Interpretation and Education

Interpretation in a State Park or State Natural Reserve differs from formal instruction in a school classroom. The goal of interpretation is to help visitors find their own personal meanings in the resources and to inspire feelings of stewardship, rather than to teach visitors facts about the resources. Opportunities exist to increase the effectiveness, accessibility, and efficiency of interpretation.

Interpretation can make a visitor's experience more enjoyable, while enhancing his or her understanding and appreciation of the park's resources. Interpretation promotes recreational enjoyment, visitor safety, cultural and natural resource appreciation, and understanding of management and maintenance practices. It can also educate visitors about how to help preserve the resources they came to enjoy and how to reduce their impacts on the park's resources, giving visitors a take-home message on the importance of resource conservation in their daily lives.

While interpretation frequently leads to learning experiences, school groups visiting the parks typically need focused educational programming that aligns with their scholastic curriculum and meets specific learning objectives. CSP plays a leadership role in providing education programs for California's grade K-12 school groups. The parks hold the potential to offer a variety of curriculum-based education programs for local school groups, especially in partnership.



Whalers Cove

## Park Interpretive Significance

A park's interpretive significance comprises special resources and stories represented at the park that have been identified as important topics for park interpretation. The parks preserve and provide interpretive access to a treasure of varied natural and cultural resources that represent one of the most stunning and inspirational landscapes in the State Park System. The parks include Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, which is often described as the crown jewel of the State Park System, and Ishxenta State Park with its diverse landscape and resources.

The primary interpretive themes need to be coordinated between the two park units. The themes involve the interface of the marine and coastal ecosystems; fragility of many sensitive resources; and important periods of Native American presence, historic agriculture uses, and marine fishing and whaling activities. These elements of interpretive significance guide planning for the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of natural and cultural resources.

### Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

The Reserve has a rich history of protection and conservation. In April of 1960, the State Lands Commission deeded to the State Park System 750 sub-tidal acres at Point Lobos, creating the nation's first Marine Protected Area (MPA). It was a prime example of kelp-dominated underwater marine habitat in California. Today, several marine protected areas surrounding the Reserve are: Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), Point Lobos State Marine Reserve (SMR), Carmel Bay SMCA, and Carmel Pinnacles SMR. Marine Protected Areas are marine or estuarine waters set aside primarily to protect or conserve marine life and its associated habitat. In addition, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary protects the surrounding open waters and is an educational complement to interpretation by CSP.

Important natural resources for interpretation at the Reserve include marine mammals, such as sea lions, seals, and sea otters at the Reserve and whales in Carmel Bay during their migrations. The Monterey cypress-covered headlands are significant. Kelp and other marine vegetation are also important. The geology of the Carmelo Formation is so rare that geologists from all parts of the world come to study these deposits.



Source: ©2012 Charles M. Bancroft  
Otters in kelp at the Reserve

The cultural stories of the area are also compelling. The lands within the Reserve have a rich and diverse human history dating back more than 2,000 years. The Rumsen used the area for fishing, sea mammal and sea bird hunting, and shellfish gathering. The stories of the Portuguese whalers, the Chinese fishing village, Japanese abalone harvesters, and the quarry are also of prime interest.

### Carmel River State Beach

At the Carmel River State Beach, the lagoon, the Carmel River, and the associated wetlands are important for anadromous fish and the California red-legged frog. They are protected within the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve. This area is the second-richest coastal lagoon/riparian/wetland habitat for migratory songbirds in California, making the area renowned for birding. The sandy beaches, rocky bluffs, and adjacent uplands, including strand, coastal bluff, and coastal scrub communities, are important habitat. The Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve sub-unit is a protected area.

### Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property

The Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property contains the Gowen cypress pygmy forest and areas of the rare maritime chaparral plant community. Importantly, these public lands provide mountain lion habitat. The Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property also contains significant archaeological resources, including village sites, and an early twentieth century complex of ranch buildings. The San Jose Creek buildings and landscape reflect the unique history and people of the area from Swiss dairymen, farmers, and a horse camp established by a female national polo player.

### Ishxenta State Park – Hatton Canyon Property

The Ishxenta State Park – Hatton Canyon story is an important modern example of differing viewpoints on the need for a highway bypass. The bypass proposed in Hatton Canyon was not built, and the lands became property of CSP.

The vegetation communities within Hatton Canyon include Monterey pine forest, coastal scrub, riparian forest, grassland, and wetlands. It is also an important wildlife corridor. Lower Hatton Canyon is used as a community gathering space and for special events, such as the Big Sur International Marathon.

## Park Interpretive Mission and Vision

### Interpretive Mission

The interpretive mission is to tell the story of the natural qualities of this dramatic marine and coastal setting and the people who lived and worked on the land and ocean. Interpretive programs help visitors learn more about, appreciate, and become inspired by the importance of protecting fragile marine, aquatic, and terrestrial resources and how traditional practices and later historic uses shaped this coastal landscape.

The park interpretive mission defines what is interpreted at the parks, why it is being interpreted, and for whom.

### Interpretive Vision

Interpretation will prompt visitors to connect their emotions, intellect, spirit, and physical presence with the qualities of the natural and cultural resources of this special coastal landscape and waterscape. Managed visitation, guided personal interactions, modern media, and inspirational messages allow visitors to establish a connection that elevates their sense of the value of this special place, influences their interaction with the sensitive resources, and promotes a continued sense of stewardship of these parks.

The interpretive vision is a short statement that conveys the ideal outcome of the park's interpretation in the future.

## Themes

An interpretive theme is a succinct, central message about a topic of interest that a communicator wants to get across to an audience. Interpretation uses themes to connect visitors to the significant recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the park in personally meaningful ways. The unifying theme identifies the overall focus of the park's interpretive development and relates to the park's resources, the park's mission, and visitor interest. Primary themes speak to the most significant park resources. Secondary themes also relate to significant resources; however, secondary themes do not relate to the overall unifying and primary themes.

Interpretive themes connect visitors to the significant recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the parks in personally meaningful ways.

## Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

### Unifying Theme

*The oasis of biological diversity in the Reserve has provided livelihood, inspiration, and spiritual renewal to people throughout time.*

### Primary Theme

#### Land and Water Intersection Theme

*The Reserve has been called the "greatest meeting of land and water in the world" (originally noted by Francis McComas). The effects of the sea on the geological formation, on the climate, and on the biota of the Reserve are significant.*

This theme interprets the Point Lobos landscape, created by the interaction of the land and the ocean. The landscape is a mixture of landforms, such as rock outcrops, gently sloping hills, and sandy beaches. Waves and weather influenced the landforms along the coast and eroded and deposited sand and gravel. Terraces and beaches formed as sea levels changed. The geologic processes have provided a foundation of landforms and landscapes that support the diversity of flora and fauna at the Reserve.

### Human History Theme

*The Reserve has a rich and diverse human history dating back more than 2,000 years.*

This theme covers the human history of the lands in the Reserve, including the Rumsen and Esselen, the Chinese fishermen, the New England stonemasons, the Azorean/Portuguese shore whalers, and the Japanese abalone collectors.

### Nature as Inspiration Theme

*The natural beauty of the Reserve has inspired naturalists, artists, authors, photographers, and others for many years, sparking early conservation efforts that led to establishment of the park and to the ongoing model of partnership that continues to care for the natural and cultural resources.*

This theme interprets the story of the Save-the-Redwoods League's lobby in the late 1920s for the area to be set aside as a park. Point Lobos became a prime example of the need for a State Park System and was identified in the Olmsted Survey, funded by a bond act in 1928. Point Lobos itself was purchased in 1933. Since that time, the landscape has continued to inspire naturalists who enjoy the Reserve; artists who paint the landscape and wildlife; authors who write poetry; and photographers who take inspiring photos of the landscapes, plants, and animals.

### Conservation and Protection Theme

*Many of the resources at the Reserve are fragile and can easily be damaged or destroyed. Conserving this area for future generations to enjoy is a high priority.*

This theme interprets the susceptibility of marine ecosystems to human impacts both through direct use, and through lifestyle, and how visitors can minimize negative impacts while recreating in this area, and how they can make lifestyle changes that support protection of aquatic ecosystems. Examples include avoiding the use of certain fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals if those pollutants are likely to contaminate local aquatic ecosystems, and avoiding the use of plastic bags, which cause injury to turtles that



Visitors wildlife-watching and appreciating nature at the Reserve

ingest them, because of their jellyfish-like appearance in the water. In this theme, emphasis is also placed in all interpretive media on the need for park visitors to help protect the Reserve through behaviors such as staying on trails, not collecting plants, animals, or rocks, and diving safely and responsibly.

## Secondary Themes

### Marine Mammal Diversity Theme

*Marine mammals, such as sea lions, seals, and sea otters, are abundant at the Reserve, and whales can be seen during their migrations.*

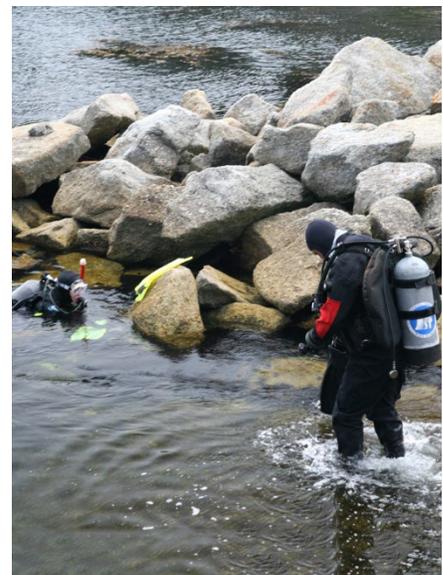
The Reserve has an amazing diversity of marine mammals. A favorite of park visitors is the southern sea otter, which can be found floating in the seaweed. They are a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, and there are about 2,700 otters in this area. The other abundant mammals are sea lions and harbor seals. The California sea lion is the noisy animal seen on the rocks offshore from Sea Lion Point. The name “Point Lobos,” in fact, refers to sea lions. The earlier Spanish name was “Punta de los Lobos Marinos” which is translated to “Point of the Sea Wolves.” Harbor seals are much smaller than sea lions, and they reside at Point Lobos year-round. Their pups are born on the shoreline rocks and beaches in April and May.

Gray whales can be seen between December and May, and the best places to see them are from Sea Lion Point and the headlands on the Cypress Grove Trail. The whales migrate between their northern summer feeding grounds in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas and the warm lagoons of western Baja, California.

### Marine Ecosystems Theme

*Scuba divers discover the unique marine world on their trips beneath the sea, and visitors can observe the tidepools and intertidal zones along the shore at low tides throughout the year.*

This theme covers what lives under the water. The Reserve has one of the richest, most biologically diverse, important and valuable aquatic reserves in the United States and perhaps the world. Divers will first swim through the red and brown seaweed, home to a great diversity of life. Red coralline seaweeds provide a home for smaller animals. Other organisms divers can view include yellow feather-duster worms, anemones, bat stars, lingcod, cabezon, and rockfish, with the latter three found around the coves.



Divers at Whalers Cove

### Geology Theme

*The geology of Point Lobos is unique and appealing. The younger Carmelo Formation is rare and geologists from all parts of the world come to study these deposits.*

The theme covers the two contrasting rock types found in the Reserve, the Carmelo Formation and the Santa Lucia granite. The granite can be found on the north shore and Hidden Beach. The Carmelo Formation is located at Sea Lion Point, the south shore, and Whalers and Moss coves.

### Influence of Humans and Nature Theme

*The landscape (flora and fauna) has changed over time due to natural and human causes, resulting in plant succession.*

In this theme, the Monterey cypress is the most unique, and the Monterey area (in the Reserve and at Cypress Point in Pebble Beach) is the only location where this tree grows naturally. The exceedingly limited area of its natural home may have been caused by changes in climatic conditions. CSP staff are working with university interns to look at changes to flora and fauna caused by park visitors and natural causes.

### Park Beginnings Theme

*In April of 1960, the State Lands Commission deeded to the State Park System 750 sub-tidal acres at Point Lobos, creating the nation's first Marine Protected Area. Additional Marine Protected Areas have been set aside to protect or conserve marine life and associated habitat.*

In this theme, it is explained that the reason for creating this marine reserve was the dwindling of the rich intertidal animals and seaweed in the ocean and the tidepools. Scuba divers were spearing fish and collecting abalone, and park visitors were collecting sea stars and other animals in the tidepools. Park managers realized that they needed to protect the intertidal and sub-tidal lands and subsequently helped to create the underwater reserve.

### Community Stewardship Theme

*The Reserve is a model of stewardship through community involvement.*

This theme discusses the continuing support of park docents and other park partners. The park docents support the Reserve by donating thousands of hours leading public and school walks; staffing the Information Station, the mobile interpretive van, the Whalers Cabin Museum, and at special events; and providing other interpretive activities. PLF, the State Parks Cooperating Association for Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, supports the docent program and funds interpretive projects. A new partnership is the Lobos-Corona Parklands Project, which supports collaborative projects.



Inside the Whalers Cabin Museum

## Carmel River State Beach

### Unifying Theme

*Quality of life for all who have lived and continue to live in this area depends heavily on the natural resources, including the flora and fauna, beach, ocean, wetland, and aesthetic qualities.*

### Primary Theme

#### Wetland Protection Theme

*Due to past human activities that have damaged or eliminated more than half of the wetlands in the United States, it is important to protect and restore the remaining wetlands.*

In this theme, the focus is on protecting wetlands and in particular, our local wetlands. The lagoon is a focal point to interpret the value of wetlands in general for supporting wildlife, improving water quality, and mitigating floods, as well as the negative effects from eliminating or polluting a high percentage of wetlands in California and the rest of the United States. The ways people can help protect wetlands through lifestyle changes in terms of landscaping and use of chemicals, donating time and/or money to restoration projects, and otherwise supporting wetland maintenance and restoration projects can be identified.

#### Agricultural History Theme

*Agriculture, particularly dairying and artichoke farming, was significant in the economic development of the Carmel area, but has nearly disappeared from this part of the county.*

In this theme, this important story will be told through a variety of methods. The historic barns and other buildings at the Odello Farm complex are a reminder of this past agriculture use.

#### Rumsen and Esselen and Carmel River Theme

*The Carmel River has been and continues to be important to the Rumsen and Esselen people, and their stories reflect this relationship.*

In this theme, the Rumsen and Esselen descendants will have the opportunity to tell their important story in their voice.



Carmel River lagoon



Carmel River lagoon marsh

## Secondary Themes

### Special Status Species Habitat Theme

*A wide variety of fish and wildlife depend on the Carmel River lagoon and associated wetland habitat for survival.*

In this theme, interpretation will explain how the Carmel River, lagoon, and marsh provide important habitat for south-central California coast steelhead and several other special status species. The California red-legged frog, which is federally listed as threatened, lives in the Carmel River lagoon. Also found in the lagoon is a federal and California Species of Special Concern, the western pond turtle.

### Fish Migration Theme

*For anadromous fish, the Carmel River estuary is a critical link between the Carmel River system and the ocean.*

The south-central California coast steelhead travel through the Carmel River during their seasonal migrations and use the lagoon for juvenile rearing in the summer and fall. The south-central California coast steelhead is federally listed as endangered.

### Human-Floodplain Interaction Theme

*Past practices that allowed development on a flood plain have resulted in the need for continued resource manipulation, recognizing and highlighting habitat restoration projects that reduce flood risks.*

In this theme, topics consist of the impacts of homes built on an active flood plain and the impacts of how the river is managed when flooding is imminent.

## Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property

### Unifying Theme

*The buildings and the landscape reflect the people who lived in the area.*

### Primary Theme

#### Native American Ways of Living Theme

*The presence and abundance of key resources allowed the Rumsen and Esselen cultures to thrive for centuries, and dictated the lifestyle of the people who lived here.*

### Allan Family Influence Theme

*Alexander MacMillan (A.M.) Allan was a renaissance man who was an engineer, businessman, dairy farmer, and conservationist and his family helped him in all of these areas.*

In this theme, A.M. Allan and the ranching history of the area are interpreted within the continuum of human use of the area and the impact of that use on native flora and fauna. The role that women played in the Carmel area will be another important subject. Eunice Allan Riley, A.M. Allan's daughter, played an important role in the dairy. Satie, Allan's wife, was influential in developing his conservation ethic.

### San Jose Creek History Theme

*The San Jose Creek buildings and landscape reflect the unique history of the area from Swiss dairymen, farmers, a family-run flower bulb farm, and a horse camp established by a female national polo player.*

In this theme, the story is told of the historic ranch complex, which consists of a portion of a dairy originally developed by A.M. Allan at the turn of the century. It contains most of the domestic and functional buildings associated with the dairy, including houses and barns. It also contains several of the main pastures used for the dairy cows, as well as roads, fences, and small-scale features.

The Silvears operated a flower and bulb farm on the property. Following their departure, a horse camp was established in the mid-1960s by Sue Sally Hale, who was an exceptional national polo player.

### Habitat and Protected Species Theme

*This land was set aside to preserve mountain lion habitat and to provide wildlife corridors.*

This theme addresses that the area is habitat to federally listed species: the south-central California coast steelhead trout and California red-legged frog, which live in the creek, and the Smith's blue butterfly which live in the canyon. The land also provides wildlife corridors for mountain lions and other animals. The connection between mountain lions and habitat, the impact of human development on wildlife habitat, and the resulting impact on mountain lion populations and behavior will be interpreted.

The federally listed Gowen cypress is also found here. This theme will interpret why native Gowen cypress, Monterey pine, and maritime chaparral plant communities are important, how they are being managed, the potential consequences of global climate



Historic coast road in Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property

change on these communities, and how visitors can help protect such communities.

### Secondary Themes

#### Coast Road Theme

*The intersection of the coast road and the road to Point Lobos within the A.M. Allan Ranch was the hub of the community of Carmelo and the industry that took place at Point Lobos during the latter half of the 19th century.*

This theme expands on the interpretation of the primary theme and includes the importance of the road to the A.M. Allan Ranch and Point Lobos in the early years.

#### Coastal Creek Theme

*Small coastal streams are vitally important to the environment and the economy.*

Using San Jose Creek as an example, this theme interprets the contribution of small coastal streams to populations of environmentally and economically important fisheries, the connection between healthy riparian areas and healthy fish habitat, the impact of human activities on riparian areas and fish populations, and the importance of restoring and protecting that riparian habitat. This will be combined with information on how people can minimize the impact on riparian areas and water courses through using sustainable landscaping and eliminating use of some fertilizers and other chemicals.

### Ishxenta State Park - Hatton Canyon Property

#### Unifying Theme

*The Hatton Canyon story emphasizes how a community came together to protect the natural resources of this area in protest of a proposed highway bypass.*

#### Primary Theme

##### Land Use History Theme

*The property has a unique history and is also an important wildlife corridor.*

This theme will tell the stories about the controversy about developing a highway bypass of SR 1 through Hatton Canyon. Explanation will include how this area is now used. The importance of the upper canyon as a wildlife corridor will be discussed.



Multi-purpose trail at Hatton Canyon

## Secondary Themes

### Jose Bernabe Theme

*The cabin site of Native American Jose Bernabe (El Sordo) is located within the boundaries of Hatton Canyon.*

This theme will tell the story of Jose Bernabe, a Salinan whose mother was from Mission San Antonio. He lived for many years in Hatton Canyon, and was part of a larger community of former Mission Indians who continued to practice aspects of their traditional culture.

## Interpretive Periods

Interpretive periods define what spans of history will be covered by cultural history interpretation. A primary interpretive period focuses interpretation on the time period of greatest significance in the park's cultural history. The significance is determined by important events associated with the park site, or by notable existing historic or prehistoric resources at the site. Choosing the primary and secondary interpretive periods also involves considering what stories are best told in a particular park, the distinctiveness of the resources, the amount of information available to draw upon, and the physical evidence available for visitors to relate to. A secondary interpretive period designates a time period that is worthy of interpretation but that should receive less emphasis than the primary period. Except for major natural phenomena such as earthquakes or fires, interpretive periods generally are established only for cultural resource interpretation.

Interpretive periods define what spans of history will be covered. Primary interpretive periods focus interpretation on the time period of greatest significance in the park's cultural history. Secondary interpretive periods designate time periods that are worthy of interpretation, but should receive less emphasis.

## Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

### Primary Interpretive Period

Resource Extraction Economy Period: (mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century)

This period includes a time where fishing, rock quarrying, whaling, and abalone fishing were developed. Led by Quock Fook Loy, the Chinese arrived at Point Lobos in the early 1850s. They established the first known Chinese village in California and operated the Carmel Fishing Company. In 1854, New England stonemasons Abner Basset and Joseph Emery established the Carmelo Granite Quarry on the west side of Whalers Cove. In the early 1860s, Azorean/Portuguese whalers practiced shore whaling in the cove. In 1898, A.M. Allan entered into a business partnership with Gennosuke Kodani, a Japanese marine biologist. They established and operated an abalone fishery and opened a cannery in 1902.

### Secondary Interpretive Period

Conservation Era: (early twentieth century through present)

This includes the efforts of the Save-the-Redwoods League lobbying to establish the area as a park in the late 1920s to the current conservation efforts. As a result of these efforts, legislation was passed for funding a state park survey by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Point Lobos was one of the prime locations identified by the Olmsted Survey that would become a State Park.

### Carmel River State Beach

#### Primary Interpretive Period

Prehistory through Spanish Exploration and Mission Period (pre-seventeenth to late-eighteenth century)

Native Americans have lived in the Point Lobos area for thousands of years with the Rumsen being the most recent group of indigenous people. The main village site was mapped along the Carmel River several miles from the coast line.

The Rumsen were the first Native American people in this area to be seen and documented by the Spanish explorers. In 1602, Spanish explorer Sebastian Viscaïno landed at nearby Carmel Bay and his party explored Point Lobos. In 1769, the first overland party led by Don Gaspar de Portola arrived in the area, and it is speculated that they camped very near the Reserve. Two years later, Father Junipero Serra established Mission San Carlos de Borromeo de Carmelo located near the mouth of Rio Carmelo. During the Spanish era, the Rumsen and other native people's lives changed substantially with the building of Mission San Carlos Borromeo.

#### Secondary Interpretive Period

Early American Settlement and Ranching (mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century)

The coastal area contains the Odello Farm complex, which was in use from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century and consists of four historic architectural resources. There is the historic Odello residence (a one-story wood frame building), creamery/cookhouse, barn, and blacksmith shed. The Odellos farmed artichokes in this area.

## Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property

### Primary Interpretive Period

Rumsen Habitation (prehistory to first contact at the turn of the seventeenth century)

There is a large well developed archaeological site that is possibly the location of a portion of the Rumsen Ohlone village of Ishxenta. It comprises three distinct shell mounds, now known as the Hudson Mounds, and the adjacent San Jose Creek floodplain, previously also known as the Polo Field.

### Secondary Interpretive Period:

Dairying and Ranch Development (late nineteenth century to mid-twentieth century)

Dairying includes the important role the Portuguese settlers played in the development of this industry in the region. Later, ranch development by A.M. Allan and his family and his eventual role in preserving the land were important to the area.

## Ishxenta State Park – Hatton Canyon Property

### Primary Interpretive Period

The Flow of History (Post-Mission Period to present)

The property has a unique history from native people who continued living in the area after missions were established, the controversy over building a highway bypass through the canyon, and its use as an urban open space.

## Interpretive Collections

### Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

The Whalers Cabin Museum and Whaling Station Museum collection includes artifacts from groups representative of the human history of the area. The collection consists of fewer than 100 catalogued CSP museum objects and approximately 206 loaned objects. These museums will continue to be useful for interpretation of the Resource Extraction Economy Period and will speak to the primary theme of the Reserve's rich and diverse human history.

### Carmel River State Beach

A collection from the Carmel River State Beach consists of a variety of items from testing and evaluation of a coastal shell midden site and is curated at the CSP Monterey District office.



Whalebone art inside the Whalers Cabin Museum

Resources from this collection may be used for interpretation of themes related to Native American culture, consistent with interpretive goals and guidelines.

### Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property

The Point Lobos Ranch Property lacks interpretive collections at this time.

### Ishxenta State Park - Hatton Canyon Property

Hatton Canyon lacks interpretive collections at this time.

## Interpretive Goals and Guidelines

The interpretive goals and guidelines give broad guidance on how the park interpretation will attain the park interpretation vision. The interpretation goals and guidelines aim to facilitate activities that help to address the interpretation issues and constraints. A key goal is for interpretation resources and programs to serve multiple purposes – they should not only inform and inspire but can also help CSP manage the harmful effects of excessive visitation and deliver messages about visitor safety in the parks. Implementation of interpretation goals and guidelines would also result in preparation of an Interpretation Master Plan for the parks through a collaborative process and would require consideration of interpretive efforts on adjacent lands through working with other land management agencies and PLF. Goals and guidelines will continue to foster educational programs at the parks for school-aged children and will also bring focus to mindful and respectful interpretation of Native American culture.

Interpretive resources and programs should not only inform and inspire park visitors, they can also deliver messages about safety in the parks and help CSP manage harmful effects of visitation.

### INTERPRET Goal 1

Create an integrated Interpretation Master Plan to guide interpretation program development.

#### *INTERPRET Guideline 1.1*

Analyze existing conditions and examine opportunities and constraints for expanding interpretation and meeting visitor needs. Determine future planning activities, including preparation of an Interpretation Action Plan and Interpretive Services Plans.

#### *INTERPRET Guideline 1.2*

Define how to integrate existing interpretation planning efforts for the Reserve into the Interpretation Master Plan to be prepared to include the New State Park.

*INTERPRET Guideline 1.3*

Involve the public in creation of the Interpretation Master Plan. Methods for involving the community can include workshops, visitor surveys, comment books, and public meetings. Consider input on type, location, and content of interpretation.

*INTERPRET Guideline 1.4*

Collaborate with local Native American tribes during development of the Interpretation Master Plan. Consistent with the Department's guidance, consult with Native American tribes about interpretation of their heritage. Other topics of consultation should include sacred sites, traditional cultural properties, cultural traditions, and management of areas, locations, and items associated with the tribe's heritage.

*INTERPRET Guideline 1.5*

Provide accessible interpretive resources. Consult with the District Accessibility Resource Group and members of the disabled community to ensure accessible interpretive opportunities.

INTERPRET Goal 2

Interpretation will emphasize exemplary features of parkland and will contribute to the visitor's understanding of the regional context.

*INTERPRET Guideline 2.1*

Collaborate with the land-owning agencies of the Lobos-Corona Parklands Project (MPRPD and BSLT) to ensure interpretive programs on public lands between Big Sur and Carmel tell a cohesive regional story of cultural and natural resources. Collaborate on interpretive programs that specifically invite the visitor to visit multiple public lands as part of the interpretation process.

*INTERPRET Guideline 2.2*

Coordinate interpretation with goals and guidelines presented in MPRPD's Palo Corona Regional Park General Development Plan.

*INTERPRET Guideline 2.3*

Continue working closely with PLF to maintain and/or upgrade interpretive opportunities, as necessary, such as the exhibits at the Whalers Cabin Museum and Whaling



View to Palo Corona Regional Park

Station Museum, and personal interpretive services and programs provided by docents.

### INTERPRET Goal 3

New interpretive resources and programs will serve additional purposes beyond interpretation.

#### *INTERPRET Guideline 3.1*

Explore and develop interpretive opportunities that are also designed to alleviate adverse impacts from concentrated crowds. Encourage engagement in appropriate stewardship behaviors. Potential methods are placing fixed structures (e.g., visitor facilities) away from sensitive resources and including information about ways visitors can reduce impacts to sensitive resources during their visit, such as staying on trails, not collecting plants and animals, and adhering to park regulations regarding closures and limited access to areas with sensitive cultural and natural resources.



Monastery Beach

#### *INTERPRET Guideline 3.2*

Explore and develop interpretive opportunities that reduce visual intrusion in visually sensitive areas. For example, new interpretation could focus on non-fixed interpretive resources, such as guided tours and informational brochures, instead of placement of new interpretive panels. In most instances, the location of new fixed resources should be in areas that are less visually sensitive, such as trailheads or staging areas.

#### *INTERPRET Guideline 3.3*

Use interpretation to deliver public safety messages. For example, a brochure for a walking tour along the coastline could include a message about undercurrents and water safety. Signage could include information about the presence of mountain lions and what to do if one is encountered.

#### *INTERPRET Guideline 3.4*

Use interpretation methods that will assist with visitor management. Consider use of remote interpretation techniques, such as websites, to reach more people. The use of guided pre-reserved tours allow for visitation management in terms of number of people and time of visit. Identify elements that provide visitor orientation and wayfinding information while encouraging visitors to visit areas of the park that are not as heavily used.

*INTERPRET Guideline 3.5*

Use interpretation methods to aid in visitor understanding of park management activities related to access and restoration. Interpret the need to restrict access and activities in specific sensitive habitat areas as a means to protect sensitive flora and/or fauna. Interpret management efforts to restore/maintain a diverse coastal habitat mosaic as a means of maintaining the flora and fauna that live in those habitats. Describe how visitors can become involved in such efforts.

*INTERPRET Guideline 3.6*

Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting the diversity of native wildlife and inspire wildlife stewardship.

*INTERPRET Guideline 3.7*

Use interpretive techniques to motivate people to identify and modify specific aspects of their lifestyle that will help protect natural resources. Examples include reducing their carbon footprint, recycling, and using native species when landscaping.

*INTERPRET Guideline 3.8*

Provide mobile interpretive strategies that could be used during special events and group gatherings, such as weddings and school field trips.

*INTERPRET Guideline 3.9*

Expand multi-lingual communication strategies to improve visitor outreach locally, regionally, and internationally.

INTERPRET Goal 4

Provide respectful interpretation of Rumsen and Esselen culture associated with the parks, and ensure interpretation is mindful of the cultural preserves.

*INTERPRET Guideline 4.1*

Engage Rumsen and Esselen descendants in planning interpretation involving their cultures. Use a cultural specialist to facilitate open communication with Rumsen and Esselen descendants. Solicit and consider input on the location and content of interpretation.

*INTERPRET Guideline 4.2*

Consider current Native American use of traditional lands so that interpretation does not interfere with current Native American uses. Consult descendants on ways to ensure that current practices can be continued without risking the feeling that aspects of Native American culture are being put “on display” or ended at contact.

*INTERPRET Guideline 4.3*

Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting Native American resources and increasing understanding of the role of original inhabitants in the region.

*INTERPRET Guideline 4.4*

For interpretation of non-cultural resources, ensure the interpretation does not result in adverse impacts to the cultural preserves and other tribal cultural resources.

INTERPRET Goal 5

Offer interpretive programs appropriate for school-aged children in coordination with local school districts.

*INTERPRET Guideline 5.1*

Continue offering a suite of educational programs for school children of all levels. Examples include the Junior Ranger Program, natural history field trips, and Litter-Getter Programs. Coordinate with local school districts to share the interpretive content and available programs.

*INTERPRET Guideline 5.2*

Develop interpretation for elementary school children that is tied to current educational standards, especially for science and history/social studies.

*INTERPRET Guideline 5.3*

Expand the Parks On-line Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) and add new innovative technology education programs like Skype in the Classroom.

*INTERPRET Guideline 5.4*

Provide remote learning opportunities, such as curriculum that can be brought to the classroom.



## 4.4 Management Zones and Management Intent

Management zones spatially define the management concept for each CASP unit. They describe the management goals and intent of an area and show the relationships between distinct areas in terms of land use and management strategies. A total of 16 management zones have been identified and established based on the distinct features, resources, interpretive characteristics, or desired visitor experiences and uses for each particular area. The management zones are as follows:

### **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve**

- Marine Zone
- Coastal Bluff Zone
- Upland Reserve Zone

### **Carmel River State Beach**

- Coastal Margin Zone
- Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone

- Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone
- Lagoon/Wetland Zone
- Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone
- Odello Farm Zone

#### **Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property**

- A.M. Allan Ranch Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone
- Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone
- San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone

#### **Ishxenta State Park – Hatton Canyon Property**

- Upper Hatton Canyon Zone
- Lower Hatton Canyon Zone

The management intent or vision for each management zone is described below, along with summaries of characteristics, cultural and natural resource values, desired visitor experiences, proposed facilities and intensity of uses, and public access opportunities. Approximate size, location, and extent are also provided. This section provides the foundation for the management zone goals and guidelines outlined in Section 4.5.

### 4.4.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

The Reserve, with its incredible natural, scenic, and cultural resources, cannot sustain current levels of visitation without experiencing resource damage.



Heavy trail use at the Reserve

The Reserve contains a unique combination of natural habitats, multiple protected species, striking marine and coastal scenery, and invaluable cultural resources. The high quality of visitor experiences is internationally recognized. However, the incredible natural, scenic, and cultural resources in the Reserve cannot sustain current levels of visitation without experiencing resource damage. If preventative actions are not taken, visitation levels would continue to increase with normal population growth and the growing popularity of this unit.

To implement the purposes identified in the PRC for a State Natural Reserve classification and to protect and preserve the Reserve’s unique ecological, scenic, and cultural resource values, the Park Plan seeks to manage visitor use levels and resource impacts by implementing a variety of management strategies. A reservation system will be designed and implemented as an important tool for visitor capacity management and resource protection. By providing multimodal means of access to the Reserve from a transportation center, planned to be in the Lower

Hatton Canyon area of Ishxenta State Park, the emphasis on personal auto access will be diminished. Reduction of general visitor parking spaces is planned in the Reserve for purposes of resource protection. By implementing a reservation system and reducing vehicle parking within the Reserve, sustainable visitation levels can be achieved. This will protect valuable resources from further damage and enhance the quality of visitor experiences. Strategies to accomplish this include applying a reservation system to day use visitation to address both peak-demand days and total annual visitation levels, removing vehicle parking from unpaved areas along coastal bluffs, supporting the efforts of local partners to eliminate or reduce on-highway parking along SR 1 near the Reserve, and working with local and regional partners to develop a multimodal transportation center to serve the Reserve (and all CASP units) by making land in Lower Hatton Canyon available as a potential site.

Under this General Plan, the Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property, across SR 1 from the Reserve, will be opened to the public and coordinated public access and parking strategies will be implemented between the Reserve and Point Lobos Ranch Property. Public access features will include an upgraded intersection that provides access to both the Reserve and the Point Lobos Ranch Property, a protected pedestrian crossing of SR 1 between the Reserve and Point Lobos Ranch Property, and transit/shuttle drop-off/pick-up locations. A number of new visitor parking spaces will be added as needed in stages within the Point Lobos Ranch Property to serve public access to the Reserve, coordinated with the removal of Reserve visitor parking. The Point Lobos Ranch Property will function in tandem with the Reserve to help distribute visitors to park areas with recreation options, contributing to visitor management and reducing resource degradation from excessive visitation within the Reserve.

Reducing excessive visitor use is the most important strategy for protecting the Reserve’s valuable resources. With achievement of a sustainable level of visitation, a variety of new ecological restoration and natural and cultural resource protection efforts will be implemented. Section 4.3 includes goals and guidelines that describe these strategies.

Figure 4-2 shows the Preferred Alternative for the Reserve, which outlines management zones, park facilities, and uses. The Reserve is divided into three management zones: the Marine Zone, Coastal Bluff Zone, and Upland Reserve Zone. A brief description of each zone is provided below followed by an explanation of management intent.

Section 4.3 Carmel Area State Parks Goals and Guidelines describes how CASP will achieve sustainable levels of visitation and how a variety of natural and cultural resources will be restored, preserved, and protected.



View of Whalers Cove visitor parking



Coastal bluff restoration

## Marine Zone

The Marine Zone contains approximately 770 acres of tidal and subtidal marine and benthic habitat, including off-shore sea mount rocks, surrounding Point Lobos. The tidal and subtidal part of the existing boat launch/diver access ramp in Whalers Cove is the only constructed facility located within this zone with the remainder of the boat launch/diver access ramp in the Coastal Bluff Zone.

### Management Intent

The Marine Zone will be managed to preserve and protect marine resources and water quality and provide controlled, sustainable visitor access and water-dependent recreation and scientific study. This mostly underwater zone meets the coastline forming its edge with the Coastal Bluff Zone (described below). Divers accessing the Marine Zone enter through the Coastal Bluff Zone at the access ramp at Whalers Cove. Visitors can explore the marine resources through various forms of water-dependent recreation and interpretation. Specific recreation uses in the Marine Zone include scuba diving, non-motorized and motorized boating, snorkeling, and stand-up paddle boarding. Limited scientific research is also allowed by permit in this zone. Marine-related recreation and research activities will be monitored and assessed annually, and access to specific areas may be limited or prohibited during breeding seasons for marine mammals and marine birds. Visitors will experience minimal social contact in this zone because the number of users in the zone at one time is restricted by permits for diving or the requirement to make a reservation for a limited number of boat launches available per day.

## Coastal Bluff Zone

The Coastal Bluff Zone is approximately 245 acres and includes the bluff edge and adjacent land starting at the northern border adjacent to Monastery Beach and running south along the coastline to the Reserve's southern border at Gibson Creek. Rocky headlands and bluffs, coves, pocket beaches, a broad sandy beach, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub characterize this zone. This zone contains one of the two native Monterey cypress populations remaining in the world. Visitor parking, an information station, and hiking trails are located in this zone. Structures include the historic Whalers Cabin Museum, Whaling Station Museum, and Hudson House historic compound.

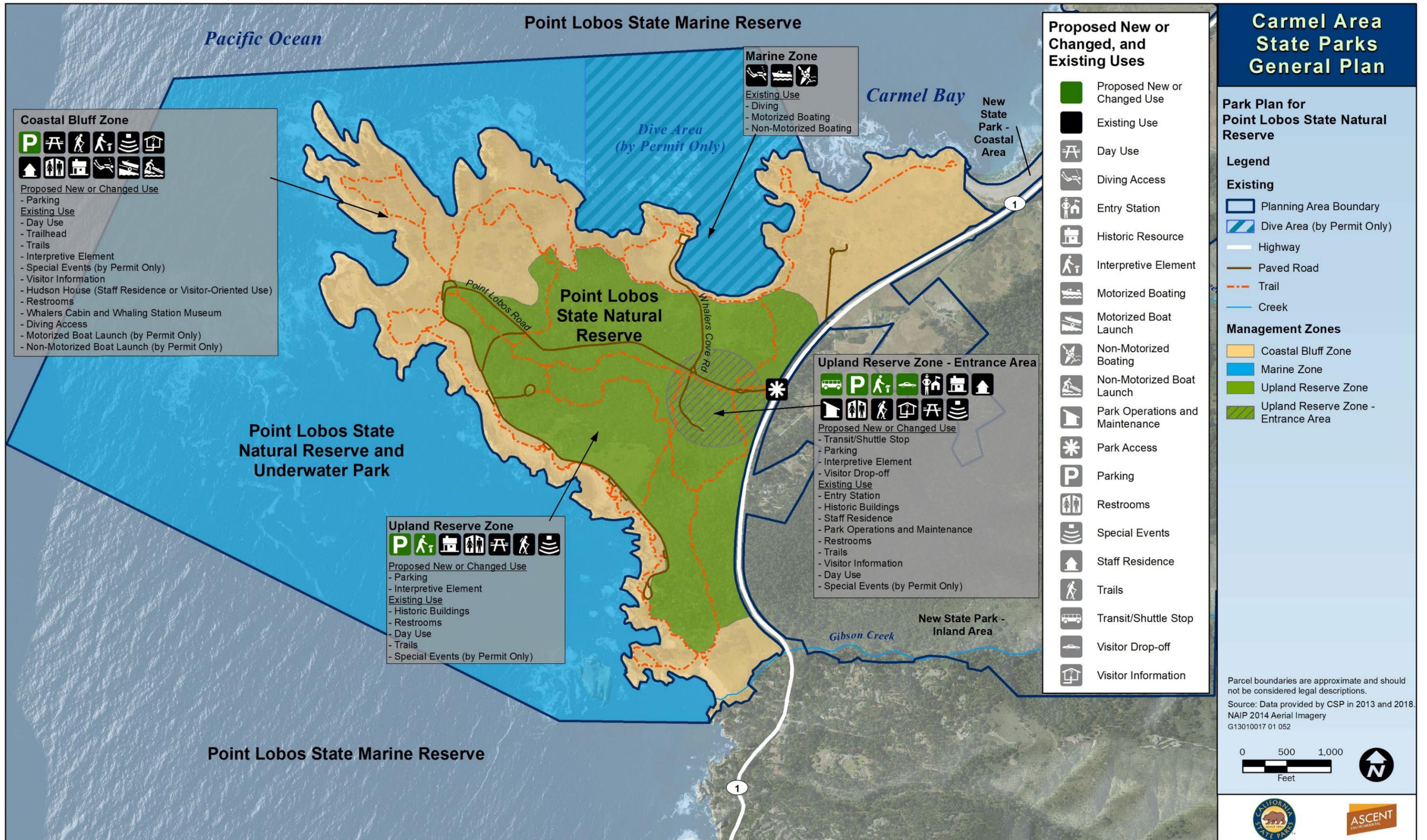


Figure 4-2 Park Plan for Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

## Management Intent

This zone will be managed with an emphasis on the protection of sensitive bluff resources, prevention of soil erosion and compaction, and restoration of native habitat and vegetation. Specific recreational uses within this zone include hiking/walking, guided tours, picnicking, wildlife viewing, nature appreciation, photography, painting, diving access, non-motorized boat launch, motorized boat launch (by permit), tidepooling, and interpretation.

Minimal facilities will be provided with the intent to guide visitor use to designated areas and authorized trails and to provide high quality visitor enjoyment while preserving the resources. Unpaved parking areas will be improved in this zone, where natural and/or cultural resource damage has occurred or may potentially occur. This will reduce erosion, improve nearshore marine water quality, restore coastal prairie habitat, and support alleviation of resource degradation from excessive visitor use. Removal of parking spaces in this zone will be coordinated as needed with development of parking in the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone of Lshxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property. Diver access parking at Whalers Cove, accessible parking, and staff parking will be retained on paved lots. Monitoring and adaptive management strategies will help conserve and protect natural resources. Sensitive areas may be limited or closed to visitor access based on resource protection requirements.

Within this zone, visitors will experience dramatic scenic views of the coastal landscapes, ocean vistas, and close-by marine life using an interconnected trail network and viewing stations along the coastal cliffs. Coastal natural and cultural resources provide opportunities for scientific discovery and educational opportunities. Limited sandy beach access and tidepools provide shoreline recreation and interpretive opportunities. Visitors will typically experience a moderate to high level of social contact in this zone because of the Reserve’s local, national, and international popularity and the ease of access provided to striking scenic beauty. This zone is connected via roads and trails to the Upland Reserve Zone and interfaces with the Marine Zone at the shoreline edge.

## Upland Reserve Zone

Located between SR 1 and the Coastal Bluff Zone, the Upland Reserve Zone constitutes approximately 185 acres of the Reserve. It is characterized by flat and rolling terrain dominated by Monterey pine forest—part of the Monterey Peninsula’s core native population—with limited coastal prairie included within the western edges of the zone. Located within this zone will be the visitor entrance area, transit and/or shuttle stop, trails and



Sea star in a tidepool at the Reserve



Entrance kiosk at the Reserve

roads, staff housing, operations and maintenance facilities, and limited parking.

## Management Intent

This zone will be managed for natural resource protection and ecological restoration, visitor orientation, passive outdoor recreation (such as walking and nature appreciation), and interpretation. It will also serve as the primary arrival location for visitors to the Reserve.

The Upland Reserve Zone offers visitors a forested setting punctuated by views of the Pacific Ocean. Visitors will experience natural and cultural resources through nature hikes and guided tours within the zone and to the adjacent Coastal Bluff Zone. Trails will allow visitors to view plants, wildlife, landscapes, and historic features of the area. Visitors are likely to experience a high level of social contact in this zone because it will be a focal point of arrival and will have high activity levels.

To address natural and cultural resource degradation from visitor use, visitor parking is minimized and visitor management and alternative transportation strategies will be implemented. Visitor parking may be reduced and accessible parking and staff parking will be retained. Visitor management and public access features will include a reservation system and a shuttle/transit stop connected to a multimodal transportation center planned to be located in Lower Hatton Canyon to reduce reliance on personal autos and keep visitation at sustainable levels that help protect the Reserve's resources. Adaptive management strategies will help conserve and protect natural and cultural resources in response to ongoing monitoring.



Visitor Information Station at Sea Lion Point

This zone will serve as the public entrance to the Reserve with visitor orientation, wayfinding, education, and interpretation elements. The zone's entrance area will be the public access hub. Some historic structures may be adaptively re-used for visitor serving purposes. A transit/shuttle stop for visitor drop-off/pick-up will be located in the entrance area, which will also be available for use with an alternate internal conveyance system (such as a tram or internal shuttle) to transport visitors throughout the Reserve and potentially to the Point Lobos Ranch Property parking facilities. If the demand for parking to serve the Reserve needs, over time, to be relocated to the Point Lobos Ranch Property, visitor parking spaces may be removed from the Reserve in stages (up to 150 spaces from the Upland Reserve and Coastal Bluff zones). If needed, visitor parking will be provided in stages in the Ishxenta State Park - Point Lobos Ranch Property, A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone. By diminishing the emphasis on personal

autos to access the Reserve through use of alternative modes, management actions will help reduce traffic by diverting auto trips to transit and/or shuttles.

In cooperation with Caltrans, the public entrance and intersection with SR 1 will be improved. Innovative contemporary intersection design will be considered, potentially including a roundabout and/or a pedestrian underpass.

## 4.4.2 Carmel River State Beach

The Carmel River State Beach and the New State Park have distinct geology, topography, land cover, and habitat types and offer varied recreation opportunities and experiences. For this reason, the Plan addresses these areas with distinct goals and guidelines.

The Carmel River State Beach will continue its classification as a State Beach. The Carmel River State Beach, west of SR 1, includes beaches and shoreline with lagoon, wetland, coastal bluff edge, and upland habitat. The Carmel River State Beach will provide a variety of high-quality visitor experiences, including beach-related recreation, hiking/walking, photography, and bird watching. The Carmel River State Beach includes the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone, with a management focus on protecting significant resource values, including the wetland and lagoon and the associated special status species. The Carmel River State Beach also includes the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone with a management focus on protecting significant resource values related to archaeological deposits. Within the Odello Farm Zone, historic buildings may be adaptively re-used for visitor-serving facilities or staff residences. A native plant propagation shadehouse and native plant greenhouse facility located in this zone can augment habitat restoration efforts at the Reserve and other state parks in the area. A small parking and day use area will function as a trailhead for limited trails that are located and designed in an environmentally sensitive manner to provide access to the surrounding wetland, riverine, and lagoon habitat.

Figure 4-3 shows the Park Plan for the Carmel River State Beach, which outlines management zones, park facilities, and activities. The Carmel River State Beach is divided into six management zones: the Coastal Margin Zone, the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone, the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone, the Lagoon/Wetland Zone, the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone, and the Odello Farm Zone. A brief physical description of each zone is provided below followed by an explanation of the management intent.

## Coastal Margin Zone

This zone is approximately 70 acres and includes lands immediately bordering the ocean, at Monastery Beach east of the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve and north to Stewart's Cove. Open sandy beaches, coastal prairies, bluffs, coastal scrub, and riparian areas characterize this zone. Recreation facilities are limited to low-intensity, day use facilities and include one service road/trail providing beach access, other trails, parking areas, restrooms at Carmel River Beach and Monastery Beach, and interpretive displays.

### Management Intent

This zone will be managed to protect and preserve terrestrial and marine wildlife and natural and cultural resources, while providing visitor access, with a particular focus on safety on beaches and near bluff edges, and coastal-oriented recreation and interpretation. Within this management zone, visitors will use an interconnected trail network to experience scenic views of the ocean and marine life and to access adjacent cultural and natural preserves, including the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone and the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone (described below). Coastal geophysical, natural, and cultural resources provide for scientific discovery and educational opportunities.

Carmel River Beach, Middle Beach, and Monastery Beach provide coastal recreation. Recreation and day use facilities include trailheads and trails, scenic viewpoints, interpretive elements, vehicular parking, restrooms, information station, picnic areas, and special event areas.

An access road to a parking area of up to 40 vehicles would be provided in the undeveloped area next to SR 1 near Bay School. This parking area would connect to existing trails leading to the coastal bluff, Middle Beach, and Wedding Rock. Visitor parking is also provided at Monastery Beach and Carmel River Beach.

Visitor uses will include wildlife tours, wildlife viewing, hiking, scientific research, beach/coastal-oriented activities, special events, contact with park staff and volunteers, photography, and painting. Visitors will likely experience a moderate level of social contact in this zone.



Beachgoer at Monastery Beach

# Carmel Area State Parks General Plan

## Park Plan for Carmel River State Beach

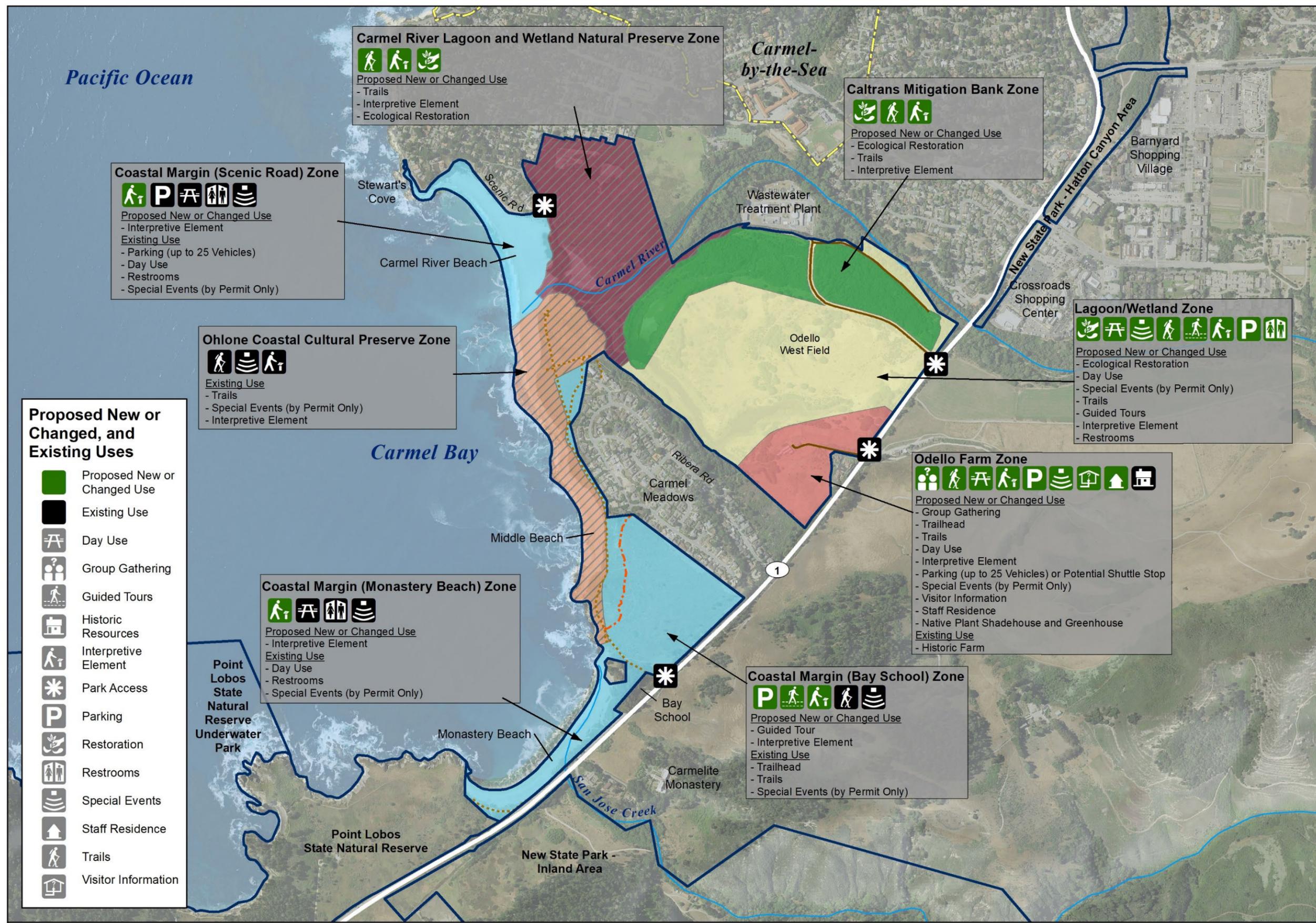
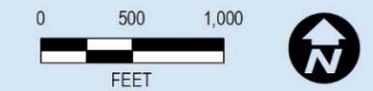
### Legend

- Existing**
- Planning Area Boundary
  - Highway
  - Paved Road
  - Service Road/Unpaved Trail
  - Trail
  - Creek/River
  - City Limits

### Management Zones

- Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone
- Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone
- Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone
- Coastal Margin Zone
- Lagoon/Wetland Zone
- Odello Farm Zone

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions.  
 Source: Data provided by CSP in 2013 and 2018, NAIP 2014 Aerial Imagery G13010017 01 089



**Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone**

**Proposed New or Changed Use**

- Trails
- Interpretive Element
- Ecological Restoration

**Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone**

**Proposed New or Changed Use**

- Ecological Restoration
- Trails
- Interpretive Element

**Coastal Margin (Scenic Road) Zone**

**Proposed New or Changed Use**

- Interpretive Element

**Existing Use**

- Parking (up to 25 Vehicles)
- Day Use
- Restrooms
- Special Events (by Permit Only)

**Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone**

**Existing Use**

- Trails
- Special Events (by Permit Only)
- Interpretive Element

**Lagoon/Wetland Zone**

**Proposed New or Changed Use**

- Ecological Restoration
- Day Use
- Special Events (by Permit Only)
- Trails
- Guided Tours
- Interpretive Element
- Restrooms

**Odello Farm Zone**

**Proposed New or Changed Use**

- Group Gathering
- Trailhead
- Trails
- Day Use
- Interpretive Element
- Parking (up to 25 Vehicles) or Potential Shuttle Stop
- Special Events (by Permit Only)
- Visitor Information
- Staff Residence
- Native Plant Shadehouse and Greenhouse

**Existing Use**

- Historic Farm

**Coastal Margin (Monastery Beach) Zone**

**Proposed New or Changed Use**

- Interpretive Element

**Existing Use**

- Day Use
- Restrooms
- Special Events (by Permit Only)

**Coastal Margin (Bay School) Zone**

**Proposed New or Changed Use**

- Guided Tour
- Interpretive Element

**Existing Use**

- Trailhead
- Trails
- Special Events (by Permit Only)

### Proposed New or Changed, and Existing Uses

- Proposed New or Changed Use
- Existing Use
- Day Use
- Group Gathering
- Guided Tours
- Historic Resources
- Interpretive Element
- Park Access
- Parking
- Restoration
- Restrooms
- Special Events
- Staff Residence
- Trails
- Visitor Information

Figure 4-3 Park Plan for Carmel River State Beach

## Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone

This zone is approximately 30 acres and is an existing cultural preserve. This linear preserve follows the shoreline north of Monastery Beach, adjacent to the Carmel Meadows residential development, to Carmel River Beach. This is a significant prehistoric Native American location of the Ohlone people, who are the indigenous people of the central California coast. As described in the *Management Plan for the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve in Carmel River State Beach*, the intent of the cultural preserve is to provide additional protection for the archaeological sites within the preserve.

### Management Intent

This zone is a cultural preserve and will be managed to protect existing subsurface archaeological resources and to provide appropriate interpretive opportunities. The Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve connects via trails to existing residential development and to the surrounding Coastal Margin Zone. Visitors experience cultural and natural resources through walks and guided tours; interpretive features connect visitors with the prehistoric use of the area and the land/water interface; and trails allow visitors to view the cultural features and coastal plants and wildlife. Specific visitor uses will include hiking (including guided tours), birding, wildlife viewing, interpretation, scientific research, photography, painting, and limited special events appropriate to a cultural preserve by permit only. Visitor facilities will be limited to trailheads, trails, and interpretive elements. Visitors will typically experience a moderate level of social contact in this zone, and uses are limited to day use only.

## Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone

This zone is approximately 50 acres and is an existing natural preserve. It consists of the Carmel River corridor and lagoon, with estuarine/wetland/riparian habitats to the north and south of the river that exhibit high ecological values. The lagoon serves as essential habitat for multiple threatened and protected species, including a distinct population segment of south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog. It is also the second most significant coastal lagoon and wetland supporting over 300 species of migratory songbirds.

All or most of the Lagoon/Wetland Zone may be included in the adjacent Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone when the SR 1/causeway and other infrastructure projects are completed.

## Management Intent

This zone is a natural preserve and will be managed to protect and enhance ecological conditions along the Carmel River and within the Carmel River lagoon, including habitat for threatened and protected species. Migratory songbird habitat will be managed to protect critical nesting and breeding habitat. Should visitor use negatively impact nesting migratory songbird habitat adaptive management measures will be implemented to reduce or eliminate these impacts.

The zone is also managed to provide natural flood protection with consideration for sea level rise. This preserve will be expanded after the Carmel River FREE project and other CAWD infrastructure projects are complete. Visitors will experience scenic views of the wetlands and the lagoon area. Visitor uses are limited to day use and will include birding, wildlife viewing, hiking, scientific research, and photography. Visitors will learn about the important natural resources, ecosystems, and wildlife in the lagoon and wetland. Visitor facilities will be limited to trailheads, trails, viewing points with benches, and interpretive elements. Visitors will likely experience a low level of social contact in this zone.

## Lagoon/Wetland Zone



Migratory bird diversity in the Lagoon/Wetland Zone is among the highest in California.

This zone is approximately 85 acres and includes the Carmel River lagoon and wetland complex and restored riparian and wetland area. The lagoon and wetland plant communities in this zone are an important refuge to migratory birds and are a critical overwintering site. With over 300 species recorded within this area, migratory bird diversity is among the highest in California (Bachman, pers. comm. 2016). This zone is dominated by coastal scrub habitat with a large area of wetlands in the west and south portions of the zone. Several wetland types are located within this zone, including riverine, estuarine and marine wetlands, freshwater emergent wetlands, and freshwater forested/shrub wetlands.

## Management Intent

This zone will be managed to preserve its natural and scenic resources and ecosystem functions, allow a buffer for floodwaters, and provide an active wildlife corridor connection from the adjacent upland open space areas. The Lagoon/Wetland Zone is also managed for special status species protection. The Lagoon/Wetland Zone provides an important transition from the visitor use and historic buildings at the Odello Farm Zone and the sensitive habitats and restricted uses within the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone and the Natural Preserve Zone. Migratory songbird habitat will be managed to protect important nesting and

breeding habitat, as in the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone.

Visitors will experience expansive scenic views of the coast and riparian areas, and as the riparian trees mature, views may become more focused on the foreground riparian landscape. Visitors have opportunities to hike and learn about the important natural resources, ecosystems, and wildlife in the lagoon and wetland. Specific visitor uses will be non-intrusive day use activities, such as birding, walking/hiking (including guided walks), interpretation, scientific research, wildlife viewing, photography, and painting. Visitor facilities will include trailheads and trails, restrooms, bird watching, scenic viewpoints, and interpretive elements. Visitors will likely experience a low level of social contact. Design and location of facilities will minimize the potential for damage from flooding, because the zone is entirely in a flood hazard area. This zone will become part of the existing Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve in the future, after highway improvements and other planned infrastructure projects are completed.



Views of the Lagoon/Wetland Zone

## Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone

This zone is approximately 40 acres in size and is an arc-shaped area north of the Lagoon/Wetland Zone. Directly south of the Carmel River, this is restored riparian and wetland habitat and is used by Caltrans as mitigation credits for transportation project-related impacts in the region.

### Management Intent

This zone will be managed for habitat and wetland protection and restoration. There is minimal development (i.e., limited trails and interpretive information) because of its role as a habitat mitigation area. This zone assists with buffering floodwaters during extreme storm events and serves as a wildlife corridor connecting upland areas east of SR 1 and the coastline. Visitors will experience scenic views of the wetlands and the lagoon area and will have opportunities for walking/hiking, bird watching, and learning about the important natural resources, ecosystems, and wildlife in the lagoon and wetland areas. Visitor uses include birding, hiking, interpretation, scientific research, wildlife viewing, photography, and painting. Visitor facilities will include trailheads and trails, bird watching and scenic viewpoints, and interpretive elements. Visitors will likely experience a low level of social contact in this zone.

## Odello Farm Zone

This zone is approximately 20 acres and is adjacent to SR 1. Its primary feature is the former Odello Farm complex with historic farm structures including a former residence, creamery/cookhouse, three-gabled barn, and blacksmith shed. It is characterized by non-native annual grasslands on flat terrain and riparian scrub adjacent to the Carmel River lagoon and wetlands. The zone is just outside the 100-year floodplain of the Carmel River.

### Management Intent

The Odello Farm Zone will be managed primarily for trail access, low-intensity visitor orientation and recreation, and natural and cultural resource protection. With direct vehicle access from SR 1, the Odello Farm Zone would provide a small visitor parking area for using trails connected to this and other zones of the Coastal Area. An access road intersecting SR 1 will lead to a visitor parking area of up to 25 spaces that will be set back, away from adjacent residences, and appropriately screened with native vegetation. If a shuttle system is implemented, the 25 spaces would be eliminated and replaced with a shuttle stop and ADA parking only. A trailhead will provide trail connections with the adjacent Lagoon/Wetland Zone, Palo Corona Regional Park, and the River Trail.

Within the Odello Farm Zone, visitors will experience a historic farm complex amidst the restored wetlands and lagoon with opportunities for information/interpretation, hiking, and birding. Visitor uses will include interpretation (including interpretive programs), small group gathering (focusing on coastal wetlands and the historic farm), trailhead staging, hiking, wildlife viewing, photography, and painting. The historic farm will include adaptive reuse of existing buildings for visitor-serving facilities and a staff residence, vehicular parking, restrooms, native plant shadehouse and greenhouse, orientation, interpretive elements, trailheads, and trails. Northern portions of this zone outside of the protection of an earthen dike may be subject to flooding from the Carmel River during major storm events; therefore, management of the flood hazard portion will consider the flood risk by avoiding placement of permanent structures in the flood hazard part of the zone. Visitors will typically experience a low to moderate level of social contact in this zone.

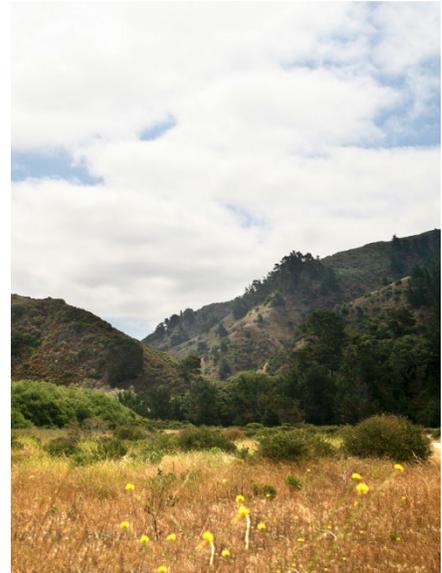
### 4.4.3 Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property

The New State Park combines the Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon into one State Park unit. These areas have distinct geology, topography, land cover, and habitat types and offer varied recreation opportunities and experiences. For this reason, the Plan addresses the two areas of this new State Park with distinct goals and guidelines.

The Point Lobos Ranch Property, east of SR 1, includes primarily upland and forested hillsides, as well as the stream and riparian area associated with San Jose Creek. The Point Lobos Ranch Property includes a cultural preserve and two natural preserves. The cultural preserve’s management focus is on the preservation and interpretation of archaeological and culturally significant resources. Two natural preserves cover a majority of the Point Lobos Ranch Property and focus on protecting the natural resource values of San Jose Creek and the associated riparian area and the expansive forested hillsides and ridgeline that include California red-legged frog, south-central California coast steelhead, Smith’s blue butterfly, old growth Monterey pine forest, important mountain lion habitat and rare stands of Gowen cypress and maritime chaparral.

Visitor parking will be provided along San Jose Creek Canyon Road and within the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) complex area to serve trailheads and interpretive features. Trails will connect to regional trails and adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park. Monitoring and evaluation of the reservation system’s influence on parking demand, the phased removal of Reserve parking for resource protection purposes, the need for parking to support visitors to the Reserve, and the efficiency of multimodal transportation will guide parking improvements in this zone. The parking areas will be carefully located and designed to avoid adverse effects on historic structures and cultural resources associated with the former ranch complex.

Figure 4-4 shows the Park Plan for the Point Lobos Ranch Property, which outlines management zones, park facilities, and uses. The Point Lobos Ranch Property is divided into the following management zones: the A.M. Allan Ranch Zone (north and south portions), the Backcountry Zone, the Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone, the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone, and the San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone. A brief description of each zone is provided below followed by an explanation of the management intent for each zone.



View of San Jose Creek Canyon

## A.M. Allan Ranch Zone

This zone contains approximately 80 acres, with the south portion consisting of approximately 50 acres and the north portion consisting of approximately 30 acres. The south portion includes the historic ranch complex, which contains the former Point Lobos Ranch and Dairy structures and associated pasture lands. This lower elevation area is relatively flat to sloping with scattered vegetation, cultural resource sites, and historic ranch structures, including houses (currently used for staff residences), barns, and outbuildings used for park operations and maintenance facilities. The zone also contains the road corridors encompassing Red Wolf Drive in the south portion and San Jose Creek Canyon Road in the north portion. The zone road corridors include the road surface and 20 feet from the road edge.

Decisions on the intersection and the pedestrian crossing of SR 1 will be coordinated to serve the needs of both the Reserve and Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property.

### Management Intent

The A.M. Allan Ranch Zone will be managed to protect and interpret its historic value and provide visitor access and orientation, trails, and compatible transportation/parking elements. Adaptive use of historic structures will provide for visitor orientation and park maintenance/operation support functions, including staff housing. Visitors can learn about the historic ranch and Native American heritage during special events, interpretive programs, and tours of historic structures and natural areas. Trails will extend into the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve and Backcountry zones, ultimately connecting to Palo Corona Regional Park. In coordination with CAL FIRE, protection from wildfires will be a priority. Visitor uses will include visitor orientation/information, picnicking, hiking, and interpretive programs and special events relating to the historic ranch and Native American heritage. Visitors will likely experience a moderate-to-high level of social contact in this zone.

The south portion of this zone will provide multimodal access for transit or shuttle stops, vehicle pick-up/drop-off facilities, and vehicle parking for visitors to this area. As the need for visitor parking for the Reserve is determined, limited additional parking will be provided in this zone. Visitor access to the south portion of the zone will be via a new visitor entrance and intersection improvements in proximity to the Reserve visitor entrance. Intersection improvements will provide safe access to this zone and to the Reserve in a configuration that also facilitates the flow of through traffic on SR 1 and creates a protected pedestrian crossing of the highway. Potential intersection concepts to be considered include a roundabout to maintain traffic flow and a pedestrian underpass to access the Reserve.

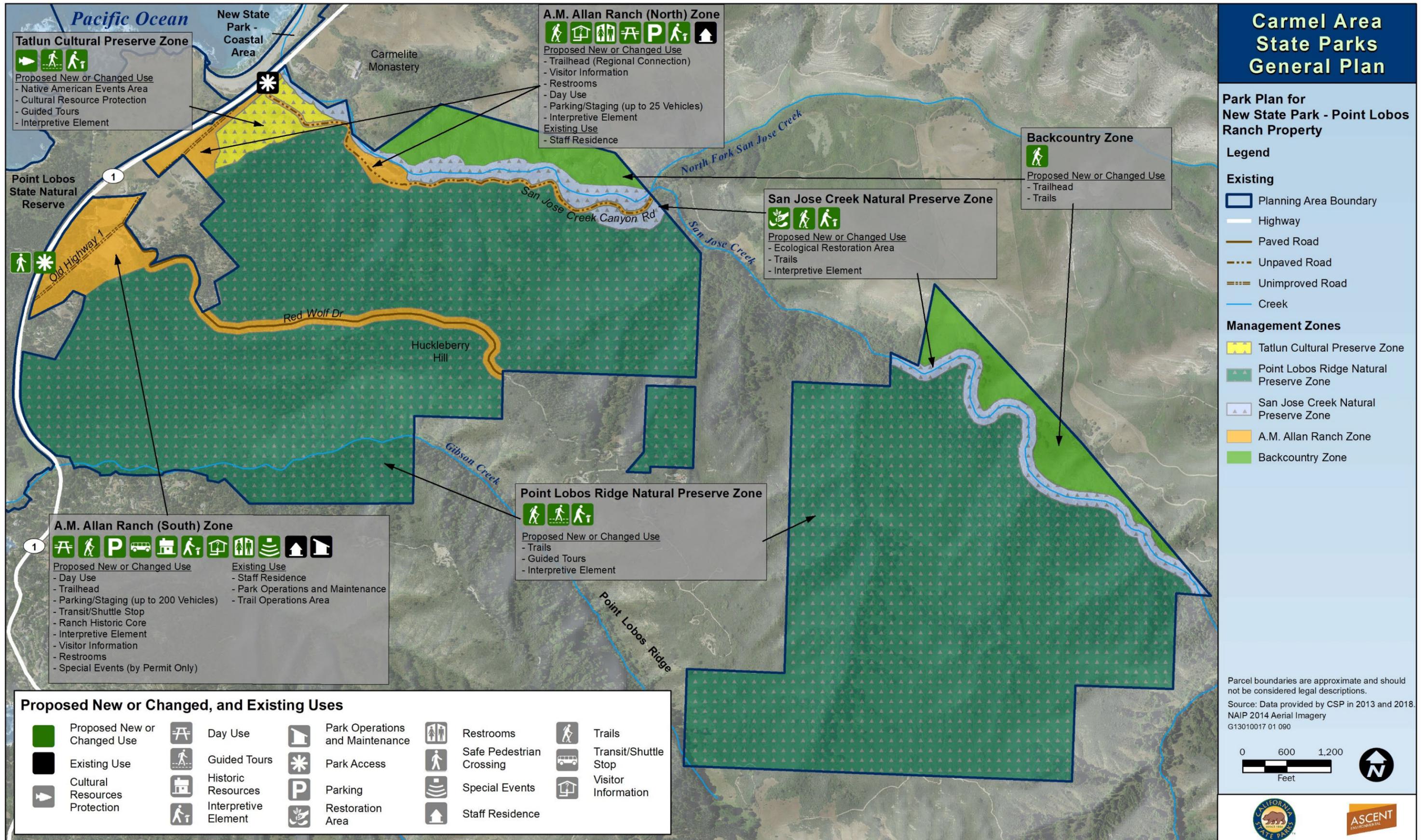


Figure 4-4 Park Plan for New State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property

In the north portion of the zone, parking will provide access to the trails in the Backcountry and San Jose Creek Natural Preserve zones, and connecting trails to Palo Corona Regional Park. Staff housing will be retained. New facilities in the north portion of the zone will be limited, including a small parking area, trailhead, trails, restrooms, visitor information, and interpretive elements.

## Backcountry Zone

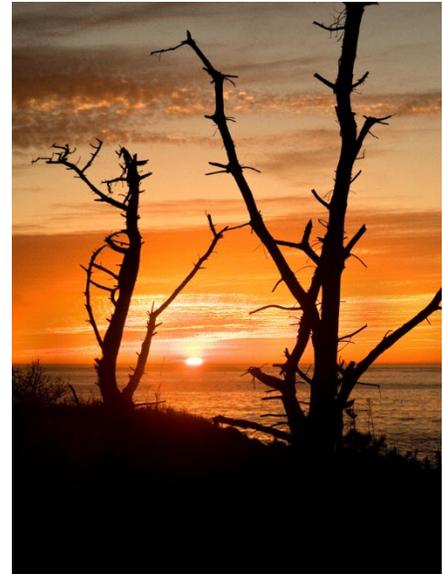
The Backcountry Zone is approximately 80 acres and is between the San Jose Creek Natural Preserve and Palo Corona Regional Park. It is characterized by remote upland forests, maritime chaparral, steep topography, and riparian canyons.

### Management Intent

The zone is managed primarily to preserve natural, cultural, and scenic resources; maintain a sense of solitude; and provide access, resource connectivity, and management consistency with the adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park. Visitors can explore the zone on trails and venture into the surrounding regional park to connect with the region's network of trails. Visitors can learn about the special/unique native vegetation, wildlife habitats and cultural heritage through interpretive programs, including guided hikes. Specific visitor uses include low-impact uses of local and regional trails, such as hiking, wildlife/scenic viewing, and photography. Visitor facilities include scenic viewpoints, trailheads, and trails. Visitors will likely experience a moderate level of social contact in this zone.

## Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone

The preserve area is approximately 20 acres in size. It consists of three mound-like landforms (known as the Hudson Mound) varying up to approximately 100-feet above sea level and open grassland/shrub habitat in the San Jose Creek floodplain, part of which is known by some as the Polo Field. The land encompassed by this cultural preserve is considered sacred by the local Rumsen and Esselen people, and archaeologists consider it to be one of the most important sites in the county, dating back more than 2,000 years. This preserve is significant in its relationship to San Jose Creek and as the site of an important Native American village, the village of Ishxenta. The name Tatlun was chosen in consultation with Rumsen representatives. According to mission records, Tatlun, who was baptized in 1775, was chief of the Rumsen people and lived in the village of Ishxenta. The name honors an historical figure with a direct connection to the land – a man who was well respected by his own people and Spanish alike.



Source: ©2012 Charles M. Bancroft

Sunset and silhouette

The Backcountry Zone will provide access and resource connectivity to the adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park. It will allow for management consistency between both parks, with an emphasis on low-impact trail uses.

## Management Intent

This zone is managed to preserve and protect a sacred place with a diversity of prehistoric deposits and Native American cultural values in this multi-site complex and to provide limited interpretive opportunities. Visitors to the cultural preserve can view interpretive displays to learn about the importance of this preserve. Specific visitor uses in the cultural preserve include interpretive programs focused on Native American history, as well as potential opportunities for Native American ceremonial uses and associated special events. Visitor facilities include interpretive elements, limited trail/access points and potential Native American ceremonial facilities, as appropriate. Visitors will likely experience a low to moderate level of social contact in this zone.

## Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone

The Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone will protect special status species, including Gowen cypress and large contiguous areas of natural habitat.

This natural preserve is approximately 1,200 acres and encompasses the majority of the Point Lobos Ranch Property, including a large expanse of rare Monterey pine forest and mountain lion habitat. One of only two remaining native populations of Gowen cypress in the world occur in this zone. Other special status species/habitats include maritime chaparral, one of the two southernmost native populations of rare native rhododendron, sandmat and Hooker's manzanita, Smith's blue butterfly, Yadon's rein orchid, south-central California coast steelhead, and California red-legged frog. This preserve contains the lower reaches of Gibson Creek, which follows part of the park's southern boundary. The more remote, inland portion of the preserve is located adjacent to Palo Corona Regional Park and would serve as part of a larger assemblage to protect mountain lion and other wildlife habitat and corridors. Steep slot canyons in the San Jose Creek drainage contain stands of coast redwood that are supported by fresh water springs. Gibson Creek also supports coast redwoods and large sword ferns. Both watersheds are relatively untouched by development. The inland forest stands include an abundance of mugworts, fungi, and lichen, which are of great interest to the scientific research community.

## Management Intent

The preserve will be managed to maintain and protect a large expanse of unfragmented Monterey pine and Gowen cypress forests, chaparral, and mountain lion habitat and important regional wildlife corridors. Visitors will access the zone via trails from the A.M. Allan Ranch Zone, San Jose Creek Natural Preserve, or Palo Corona Regional Park. Visitors to Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve can explore the forest using a trail system, which would connect to the regional trail network through Palo

Corona Regional Park. Visitors can learn about the unique native vegetation and wildlife habitats through interpretive programs, including guided hikes. Specific visitor uses include hiking (guided and self-guided), birding, wildlife viewing, interpretation of rare maritime chaparral, Monterey pine, Gowen cypress, and mountain lion habitat, and scientific research. Visitor day use facilities would be limited to trails, scenic viewpoints, and minor interpretive elements. Visitors will likely experience a low level of social contact in this zone.

## San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone

This preserve is approximately 60 acres and includes San Jose Creek and its associated riparian habitat from SR 1 east to the park boundary. The preserve encompasses San Jose Creek, which is dominated by riparian species including black cottonwood, white alder, and red willow. The riparian habitat supports a significant diversity of plant and wildlife species. South-central California coast steelhead has been observed in the creek, and San Jose Creek is designated as critical habitat for this special status species. The riverine and riparian habitats at San Jose Creek provide critical habitat for California red-legged frogs, which are found in this area. The area also has the second southernmost native population of native rhododendron.

### Management Intent

This zone is managed to protect water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, and sensitive species of San Jose Creek, including south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog. Protection and ecological restoration of San Jose Creek, its associated watershed, and riparian forest are priorities for the management of this preserve. Walking access to the preserve will be via San Jose Creek Canyon Road. Visitors will learn about the importance of the preserve for native south-central California coast steelhead and the preserve's importance in the local and regional watershed through interpretive information for self-guided hikers. Interpretive signage will allow visitors to experience the native vegetation and wildlife habitats. Trails will connect to higher elevations and to adjacent open space, including the surrounding Palo Corona Regional Park. Visitors will likely experience a moderate level of social contact in this zone.



View to Palo Corona Regional Park

The San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone is important habitat for several special status species, including south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog.

## 4.4.4 Ishxenta State Park – Hatton Canyon Property

The Ishxenta State Park – Hatton Canyon Property is an approximately 130-acre urban open space. It includes a narrow strip of land with a utility service road/unpaved trail and multi-purpose trail. Hatton Canyon Property is divided into two areas: Lower Hatton Canyon and Upper Hatton Canyon. Lower Hatton Canyon includes Marathon Flats, named for the annual international marathon event staging area located here. It is adjacent to the Crossroads and Barnyard shopping centers and is used to host special events. Marathon Flats is connected to the unpaved service road/trail in Upper Hatton Canyon by a short segment of paved multi-purpose trail. The Ishxenta State Park – Hatton Canyon Property will be managed to focus on trail and special event use. Future use of Lower Hatton Canyon for a regional transportation center linking local and regional parks, including shuttle or bus services to other CASP units, is also supported in coordination with other partner transportation agencies.

Figure 4-5 shows the Park Plan for the Hatton Canyon Property, which outlines management zones, park facilities, and uses. A brief physical description of each zone is provided below followed by an explanation of the management intent for each zone.

### Upper Hatton Canyon Zone

This zone is an approximately 108-acre linear corridor east of SR 1 and north of Carmel Valley Road. It is a vegetated canyon surrounded by residences and characterized by Monterey pine, coast live oak, and coastal scrub above the canyon floor, with some riparian vegetation associated with the intermittent creek through the canyon. An unpaved utility access/service road, which is also used for walking, traverses most of the upper canyon.

#### Management Intent

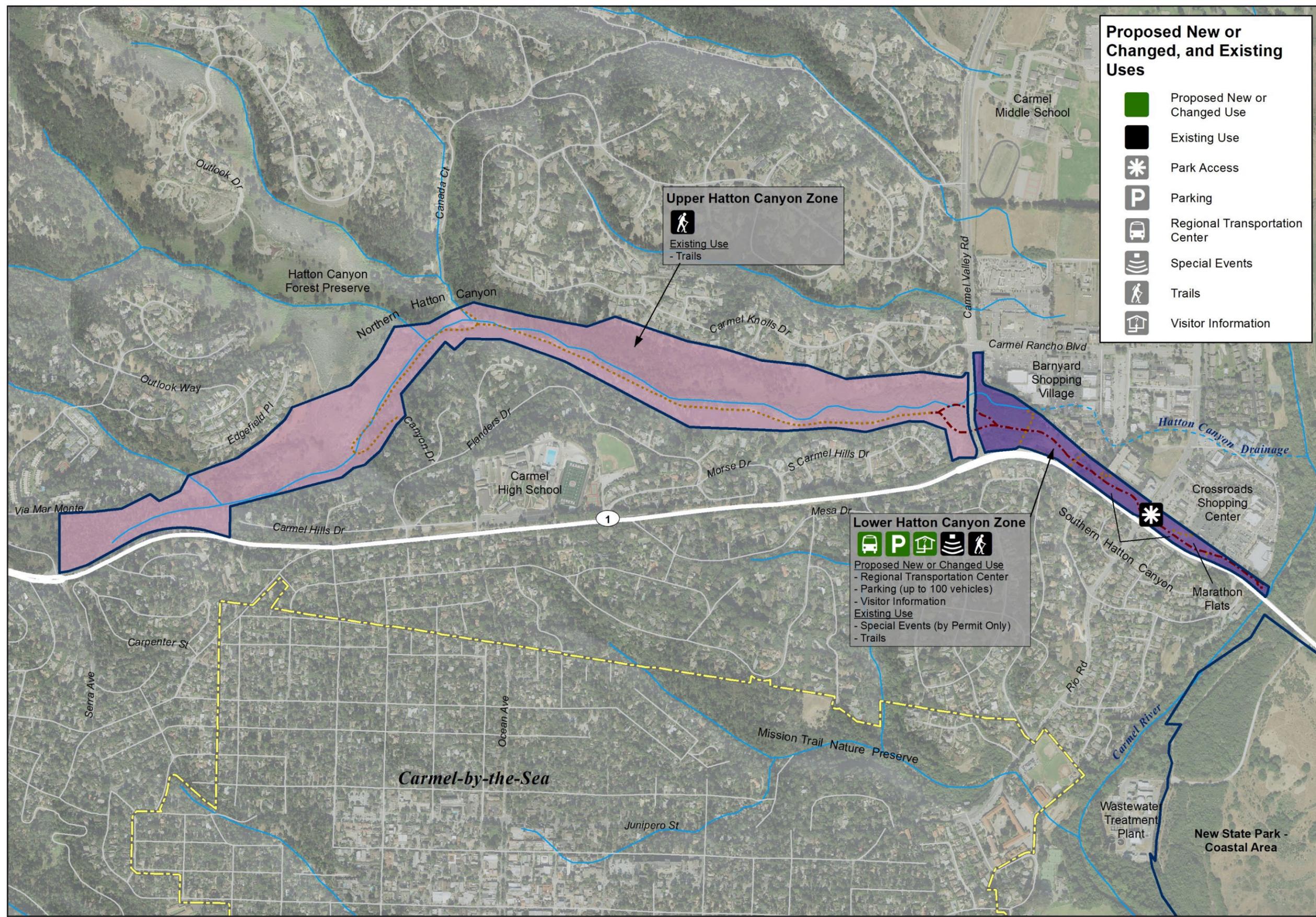
This zone will be managed for open space, trail use, and utility access purposes. Visitors can experience the natural habitats and wildlife while walking or jogging on the service road/trail. Visitor facilities are limited to the trail. Visitors will likely experience a low-to-moderate level of social contact in this zone.

# Carmel Area State Parks General Plan

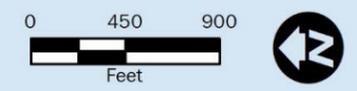
## Park Plan for New State Park - Hatton Canyon Area

- Legend**
- Existing**
- Planning Area Boundary
  - Highway
  - Service Road/Unpaved Trail
  - Multi-Purpose Trail
  - Creek/River
  - Creek (underground)
  - City Limits
- Management Zones**
- Lower Hatton Canyon Zone
  - Upper Hatton Canyon Zone

- Proposed New or Changed, and Existing Uses**
- Proposed New or Changed Use
  - Existing Use
  - Park Access
  - Parking
  - Regional Transportation Center
  - Special Events
  - Trails
  - Visitor Information



Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions.  
 Source: Data provided by CSP in 2013 and 2018.  
 NAIP 2014 Aerial Imagery  
 G13010017 01 053



**Figure 4-5 Park Plan for New State Park - Hatton Canyon Property**

## Lower Hatton Canyon Zone

This zone is an approximately 22-acre flat linear corridor east of SR 1, south of Carmel Valley Road, and adjacent to commercial development. This zone is characterized primarily by non-native annual grassland with some riparian vegetation near Carmel Valley Road and the Carmel River. This zone includes a paved, multi-purpose trail and an area used for special events.

### Management Intent

This zone will be managed for multi-purpose trail use, local and regional special events, and as a regional multimodal transportation center with potential for partnership opportunities with local transportation partner agencies (e.g., Monterey-Salinas Transit). Visitors can experience connector trails from urban areas to the north and south. The multimodal transportation center will provide visitors with alternative transportation modes, such as a shuttle system, to the Reserve and Lshxenta State Park. As a transportation hub for other park units, comprehensive visitor information will be available addressing state, county, and local public parks and open spaces in the Monterey and Big Sur region. Specific visitor uses include hiking, running, bicycling, event staging, and a transportation center. Specific visitor facilities include a multi-purpose trail and event staging areas. Visitors will likely experience a moderate level of social contact in this zone, and a high level during special events.



Special events site in Lower Hatton Canyon



## 4.5 Management Zone Goals and Guidelines

The management zone goals and guidelines have been developed to guide the uses and achieve the management intent for each zone. Goals provide the overall purpose and the guidelines describe how the management intent and goals will be implemented. The management zones are as follows:

### **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve**

- Marine Zone
- Coastal Bluff Zone
- Upland Reserve Zone

### **Carmel River State Beach**

- Coastal Margin Zone
- Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone
- Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone
- Lagoon/Wetland Zone

- Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone
- Odello Farm Zone

### **Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property**

- A.M. Allan Ranch Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone
- Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone
- San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone

### **Ishxenta State Park - Hatton Canyon Property**

- Upper Hatton Canyon Zone
- Lower Hatton Canyon Zone

## 4.5.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

The following Goals and Guidelines provide additional, more specific, direction to help achieve the purpose of the State Natural Reserve, which prioritizes the preservation of the unique ecology and natural qualities of Point Lobos.

### Marine Zone

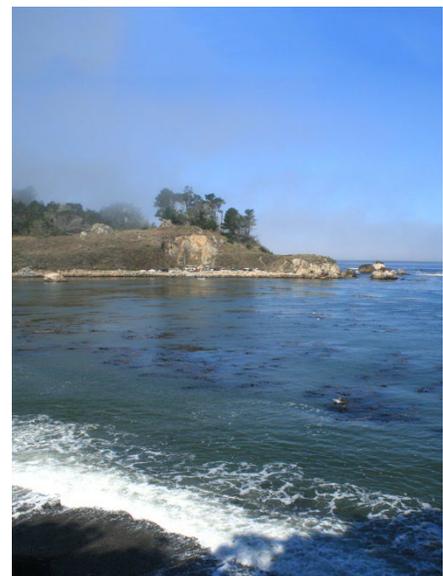
The focus in the Marine Zone is on preserving and protecting marine resources, natural processes, and ecosystems, while also providing scientific research opportunities, water-dependent recreation, and interpretation and education.

#### MARINE ZONE Goal 1

Protect and conserve the biodiversity, water quality, and habitat functions of the marine mammal, seabird, benthic, and open water habitats. Allow for limited, low-impact, water-dependent visitor access and scientific research.

#### *MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Monitor visitor access to shoreline, beach, and tidepool areas and limit or prohibit access to locations where visitors can disturb marine mammal haul-out, seabird/shorebird nesting, and sensitive intertidal habitat areas. Limit or restrict access in areas experiencing natural and cultural resource degradation. In areas where access is prohibited, provide clear and appropriate interpretive signage explaining to the public the need and the beneficial outcome of access restrictions, and interpret the goals of habitat restoration and what the public can do to help assist in this effort by staying on designated trail systems.



Marine Zone



Looking outward towards Big Dome from along the North Shore Trail

*MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Continue promoting research projects that study marine resources and threats. Increase effective communication with universities and research organizations to ensure researchers understand and implement best practices so that research activities do not adversely affect the marine and benthic environments.

*MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.3*

Identify coastal trails and beaches that may be access-restricted, identify sustainable alternative trail alignments where necessary, and identify specific trail alignments where management actions are needed to protect sensitive marine resources. Repair, close, or relocate trails that deliver sediment to Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).

*MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.4*

Facilitate inter-agency coordination and collaborate with partner agencies responsible for protecting marine species and conducting scientific research to develop strategies for visitor access and management based on changing habitat requirements, including, but not limited to, marine mammal and seabird nesting and breeding seasons.

*MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.5*

Collaborate with the Bureau of Land Management to develop a joint strategy for the conservation of offshore rock areas to protect marine mammals and nesting seabirds from human disturbance.

*MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.6*

Allow controlled access for divers and boaters. Use an adaptive management approach to manage use and avoid disturbance to wildlife and marine resources, implementing appropriate adaptive management strategies, if needed.

*MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.7*

Promote marine mammal protection, consistent with the MMPA and NOAA's guidelines for responsible wildlife viewing, using visitor education and interpretation. Enforce regulations to keep visitors at a sufficient distance to not add stress to or alter the behavior of marine mammals or birds.

*MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.8*

Collaborate with universities, agencies, and non-profit organizations to allow and support scientific research regarding climate change effects to the marine zone, such as changing ocean temperature and acidity, and inform adaptive management of the zone with the research results.

*MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.9*

Enhance opportunities for visitor interpretation and education by bringing the underwater environment to visitors and the public on land through technology and other creative means.

## Coastal Bluff Zone

Day use activities include hiking/walking, guided tours, picnicking, wildlife viewing, tidepooling, and non-motorized and motorized boat launch (by permit only). The zone will be managed with an emphasis on protection of scenic qualities, sensitive bluff resources, paleontological resources, and restoration of native habitat. Minimal facilities will also provide visitor enjoyment and interpretation.

COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 1

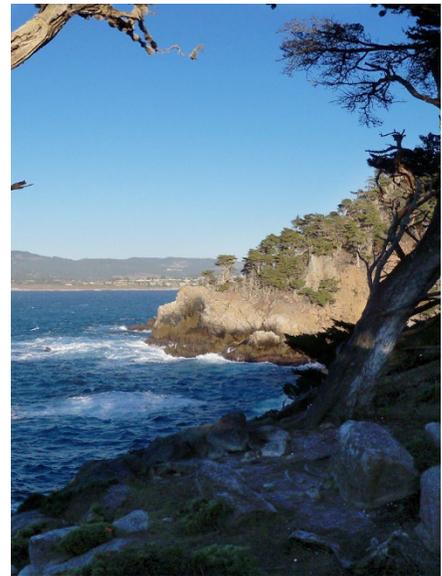
Preserve and protect the natural processes, ecosystem functions, and scenic qualities of the coastal bluff, cypress groves, and coastal prairie meadow habitats.

*COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing a guided-tour visitor access system to manage visitor use and minimize resource degradation of coastal bluff and coastal prairie habitats.

*COASTAL BLUFF Zone Guideline 1.2*

Monitor coastal bluff and coastal prairie habitats to identify degradation, including vegetation and soil loss, inform adaptive habitat management, and determine needs for temporary or permanent visitor access restrictions to conserve resources and restore degraded areas, such as the Sea Lion Point Trail and the south shore bluffs. Through monitoring, recommend areas in need of trail upgrades to reduce resource impacts, e.g. boardwalk systems at Weston Beach, or trail re-alignments, where erosion is a problem. Identify areas in need of habitat restoration.



Views from the shoreline of the Reserve

*COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 1.3*

Prepare a forest management plan for the Allan Memorial Cypress Grove to monitor and evaluate forest health and tree mortality. Identify cypress revegetation needs with periodic forest assessments or as drought conditions warrant. Implement revegetation efforts as needed.

COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 2

Protect paleontological sites in the Carmelo Formation (Paleocene age), Chamisal Formation (Miocene age), and Santa Margarita Formation (white sandstone).

*COASTAL BLUFF Zone Guideline 2.1*

Continue to implement best practices to protect, preserve, and interpret paleontological resources in the Carmelo, Chamisal, and Santa Margarita formations. This includes inventorying, mapping, and monitoring resources, coordinating with qualified paleontologists on specific actions for protection and preservation, and developing interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting paleontological resources.

COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 3

Protect and enhance the exceptional scenic quality of the coast.



Scenic views of the Reserve

*COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.1*

Improve the coastal viewshed by removing and restoring to native habitat unpaved parking areas that deliver sediment to the ASBS and have degraded coastal bluff habitat and scenic quality (as specified in ACCESS Goal 3).

*COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.2*

Locate and design interpretive signs and displays to minimize or avoid obstructing scenic views. Avoid locating signs/displays in areas that diminish expansive ocean views, especially from designated scenic viewpoints or vistas.

*COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.3*

Review any future improvement plans to Hudson House to ensure that structural repairs/improvements or new accessory facilities do not substantially affect views from SR 1 or impair the historic integrity of the structure. Any structural repairs or new accessory facilities must not substantially increase the current height or mass of the existing structure and must use non-reflective materials and colors that blend with the surrounding natural setting.

### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 4

Protect, restore, and minimize degradation of environmentally sensitive resources to improve habitat, scenic value, and water quality.

#### *COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 4.1*

Monitor visitor access to the tidepools at Weston Beach and implement adaptive management strategies to protect species diversity and abundance and prevent habitat damage. Adaptive management strategies may include limiting access to areas that experience excessive visitor use and trampling and providing guided tours to minimize impacts. Consider setting daily sustainable use numbers at tidepool areas and scientifically monitor the Weston Beach tidepools long-term to document changes in species abundance and diversity over time.

#### *COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 4.2*

Prepare a habitat restoration plan for Lower Sea Lion Point to revegetate coastal bluff areas and cultural sites damaged by human-caused disturbance, protect steep bluffs from slope failure by restoring local hydrology, and to protect marine mammals that have re-occupied the site.

#### *COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 4.3*

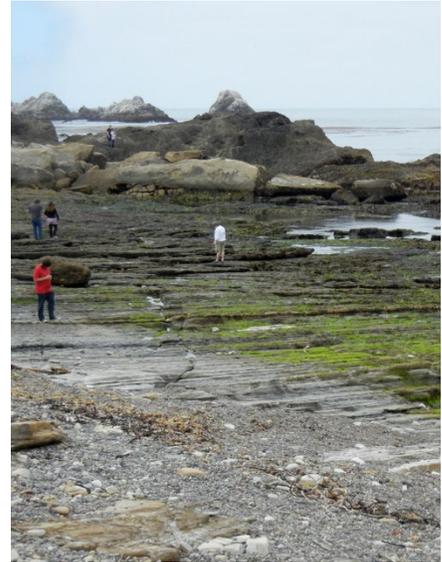
Revegetate unstable slopes adjacent to China Cove Beach. Protect underlying cultural features by revegetating the China Cove bluffs using native plants. Install a permanent and aesthetically pleasing barrier preventing visitors from walking down the natural bluff to China Cove Beach. Prevent visitors from accessing China Cove Beach to protect harbor seals and their pups during birthing and rearing season.

### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 5

To retain important near-shore parking for divers and achieve water quality objectives, modify the drainage infrastructure of the parking area at Whalers Cove to include improved drainage controls.

#### *COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 5.1*

Improve the parking lot and boat launch ramp at Whalers Cove. Retain diver-support parking and implement design changes for drainage infrastructure that will improve water quality, prevent adverse water quality effects from storm water runoff discharge, and protect the ASBS. In coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, evaluate and develop parking lot design



Tidepools at the Reserve



Visitor parking lot and picnic area at Whalers Cove

modifications and implement them as a high-priority marine water quality protection action. Improvements will be consistent with the State Water Quality Control Board mandate to eliminate adverse water quality effects of storm water runoff entering the ocean and ASBS.

### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 6

Remove unpaved parking where existing natural habitat and/or cultural resource damage has occurred, and where risk of future resource damage is substantial, beginning with the most severely damaged natural habitats or cultural resources.



Restored habitat on coastal bluffs

#### *COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 6.1*

Remove visitor parking from unpaved areas on the coastal bluff. Restore these areas with local collected native vegetation to stabilize soils and reestablish coastal bluff habitat, improve water quality, and protect the ASBS. See ACCESS Goal 3 and associated guidelines for a detailed discussion of parking removal and phasing.

#### *COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 6.2*

Allow accessible parking, staff parking, and special use parking on paved lots outside ecologically sensitive areas and at strategic locations, including Whalers Cove (for diver access), Sea Lion Point, Bird Island, and at other areas deemed necessary for accessibility and service needs.

### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 7

Re-evaluate the historic significance of Hudson House.

#### *COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 7.1*

Prepare a historic structure report (HSR) for the Hudson House. The HSR should be prepared by an interdisciplinary team that should include a historian or architectural historian, historical architect, and may also require a structural engineer. The HSR will provide the baseline for the rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization or reconstruction of this building should it be determined significant.

## Upland Reserve Zone

The Upland Reserve Zone contains important natural resources and also serves as the main point of visitor entry and orientation into the Reserve. Intended to serve as the primary arrival location for visitors, goals and guidelines address a spectrum of access and parking, visitor management, natural and cultural resources protection, and operational issues.

### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 1

Redesign vehicular access and parking facilities to complement and support other travel modes, such as transit, shuttle, and/or internal shuttle, as defined by the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan. Facility changes will include removal of general visitor parking spaces if deemed necessary because of resource degradation from overuse; development of an improved entrance/intersection with SR 1; development of a safe SR 1 pedestrian crossing, if needed; and multimodal facilities, such as facilities to support transit, shuttle, and/or internal shuttle.

#### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1*

If general visitor parking is removed from this zone, coordinate the removal with the development of visitor parking in the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone east of SR 1 from the Reserve. Maintain visitor access using other travel modes that facilitate resource protection, as defined by the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan (See ACCESS Guideline 3.4).

#### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Reconfigure the entrance area to allow for improved multimodal transport drop-off/pick-up operations, traffic and pedestrian safety, integrated entrance intersection with the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone, and fee collection. Improve walk-in entry management and access control, along with enhanced non-motor vehicle circulation (e.g., multi-purpose trails, internal shuttle), to improve the visitor experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and mobility-limited users. Design the main entrance to create opportunities for safe and convenient drop-off/pick-up facilities, walk-in visitors, bike-in visitors, and a transit/shuttle stop, while also providing convenient vehicle accommodations (e.g., accessible parking at trailhead locations, shuttle for mobility-restricted visitors).

#### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3*

If visitor parking is developed in the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone that generates walk-in visitors to the Reserve, design the entrance area to safely accommodate pedestrians moving across SR 1 into and out of the Reserve. Conduct a feasibility and design study of SR 1 crossing concepts for pedestrians from the Point Lobos Ranch Property, if Reserve-serving parking is developed.



Entrance kiosk at the Reserve

## UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 2

Evaluate, design, and implement the infrastructure components of a visitor reservation system and fee collection system necessary at the entrance area, which is the portion of the zone surrounding the main visitor entrance to the Reserve. These would include physical improvements for effectively managing visitor arrival and collection of entrance fees.

ACCESS Goals 1 and 2, and their associated guidelines, focus on evaluating, designing, and implementing a coordinated day use reservation system and park entry fee system.

### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1*

Evaluate and design infrastructure components needed for a visitor reservation system that is coordinated with the statewide CSP reservation system and consistent with parkwide goals (ACCESS Goals 1 and 2). Determine the needed facilities for the entrance area. Evaluate how visitor arrival management for a reservation system would influence the design of visitor parking facilities, transit or shuttle arrivals, alternate conveyance systems, and the main entrance. When a reservation system is approved, prioritize the funding of infrastructure improvements needed for its implementation. Implement the infrastructure elements of the reservation system in coordination with improvements needed for a walk-in fee collection system.

### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2*

Prepare a feasibility assessment and design study of the infrastructure elements of a walk-in entry fee system in the entrance area, consistent with ACCESS Goal 2 to determine what system would be feasible and effective to manage walk-in access. Evaluate how a walk-in entry system and its physical improvements would integrate with main entrance design and operation. When a walk-in entry fee system is approved, prioritize the funding of infrastructure improvements for implementation.

These may include electronic approaches, such as kiosks that print wearable badges (stickers) and wristbands or mobile phone applications. The number, type, and placement of these fee collection facilities will depend on the type of fee collection system implemented, the specific location/layout and use of transit or drop-off area, and staffing for monitoring and enforcement.

*UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3*

Design the entrance area to include features to separate, to the extent feasible, park operations structures and facilities (including staff housing) from visitor-serving facilities. Design features may include, but should not be limited to, specific siting of pedestrian facilities to provide a physical buffer between operations facilities, native tree and other planting to screen operations facilities, orientation of operations buildings and accessory structures to minimize interaction between operations activities and visitors.

*UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.4*

Consider adaptive reuse of the Gatehouse at the entrance as a visitor-serving facility for orientation, information, reservations, and fee collection, consistent with MAINTAIN Guideline 2.2.

*UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.5*

Promote visitor orientation at the entrance area that includes information and explanation of the Reserve's unique and sensitive resources and the special regulations and visitor use restrictions of a Reserve classification.

*UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.6*

Conduct public education and engagement regarding the need for a reservation system and fee collection for visitors prior to implementing new infrastructure and systems.

UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 3

Conserve the coastal forest and prairie habitats, including restoration of damaged areas.

*UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.1*

Manage forest succession for the restoration, protection, and conservation of coastal prairie/grasslands, Monterey pine forest, and transitional habitats to maintain a diverse range of native coastal plant community types and enhance a more diverse wildlife habitat mosaic. Management actions should include, but should not be limited to, invasive plant removal and control, monitoring the spread of diseases like pitch canker in the Monterey pine forest, protection from visitor intrusion into sensitive areas, and habitat restoration including native plant revegetation.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 4

Evaluate the significance and prioritize the preservation of historic structures, historic landscapes, prehistoric sites, and paleontological resources.

See MANAGE Goal 9 for additional strategies and procedures to identify, protect, maintain, and preserve significant historic resources.

##### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 4.1*

Evaluate and record Residences 4, 5, their associated garages, Rat Hill Residence, and the Shed in an intensive-level survey, consistent with the Office of Historic Preservation's March 1995 Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, and conducted by a historian or architectural historian who meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for those respective disciplines. The evaluations should identify the character-defining features of the buildings. Submit the evaluations to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for concurrence and inclusion on the Master List of State Owned Properties.

##### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 4.2*

Prepare Historic Structure Reports (HSR) for the Whalers Cabin, Shop Building, and Custodian's Lodge. The HSRs should be prepared by an interdisciplinary team that should include a historian or architectural historian, historical architect, and may also require a structural engineer. Should Residences 4, 5, their associated garages, the Rat Hill Residence and the Shed be determined eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR through intensive-level survey and evaluation, HSRs should be prepared for those buildings as well. The HSR will provide the baseline for the rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization or reconstruction of these buildings should they be determined significant.

##### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 4.3*

Prepare a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) to inventory cultural landscapes within the Reserve and to identify the character-defining features that convey the significance of the landscape. The CLR should be prepared by a team that includes a qualified historic landscape architect, a historian, or architectural historian. The CLR will evaluate cultural landscapes consistent with the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (part of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties).

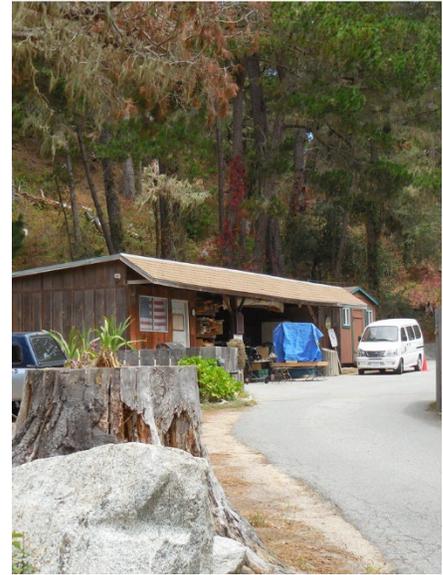
### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 5

Repair, upgrade, and install infrastructure where it is failing or new infrastructure is needed to support planned operations.

#### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 5.1*

Identify and prioritize specific utility and infrastructure improvements. Consider:

- Restroom and utility infrastructure;
- New restroom at the entrance station;
- Electricity to group gathering and other applicable areas in the Reserve (such as Piney Woods);
- Phone lines where hard-wire phone service is needed;
- Additional storage for rescue equipment and boats; and
- New Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) sewer pumping stations.



Rat Hill operations and maintenance area

### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 6

Make necessary improvements and repairs to existing facilities to improve visitor use and operations.

#### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 6.1*

Redesign the existing Information Station to provide shelter for visitors and staff during inclement weather and to create a facility with increased storage capacity. The design should blend with the surrounding natural environment, consistent with Aesthetic Resources goals and guidelines (see MANAGE 10.2 and 10.3).

#### *UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 6.2*

Reconfigure the Piney Woods picnic area for more efficient visitor use and vehicle parking. Restore areas to native habitat as appropriate.

## 4.5.2 Carmel River State Beach

This area is distinct with its beaches and shoreline, lagoon, wetland, coastal bluff edge, and upland habitat. Goals and guidelines for the management zones provide direction to continue to provide high-quality visitor experiences, while also focusing on protecting significant coastal resource values in environmentally sensitive lagoon and wetland areas. Specific management focus is also provided to protect significant resource values related to archaeological resources and historic buildings.

## Coastal Margin Zone

The focus is to protect and preserve terrestrial and marine habitats, while also providing safe visitor access for low-intensity recreation.

### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Goal 1

Protect the marine and terrestrial habitats including open sandy beaches and shorelines while allowing coastal-oriented recreation.



Broad beach in the coastal area

#### *COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Provide opportunities for wildlife viewing, self-guided trails, and guided wildlife tours.

#### *COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Provide a restroom, interpretive elements, and up to 40 parking spaces at the property near Bay School. Treat storm water runoff on site to prevent runoff from being concentrated and conveyed to the sensitive coastal bluff area.

#### *COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.3*

Design ingress/egress of public access and internal circulation to provide safe visitor access. Provide visual screening using existing topography and existing or new vegetation to screen views of the parking area near Bay School from the surrounding neighborhood and SR 1.

#### *COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.4*

Improve fencing and signage prohibiting access to the Reserve from Monastery Beach to prevent resource damage from unsanctioned use of the area.

#### *COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.5*

Maintain existing facilities at the Carmel River Beach access area near Scenic Road until the facilities are considered unusable by park staff due to shifting sands, flooding, or sea level rise. Remove facilities once they are determined to be unusable.

#### *COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.6*

Replace the propane generator at Monastery Beach with an electric connection to reduce maintenance issues with the sewage pumping system. Work with CAWD on a solution to the pumping station needs.

## COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Goal 2

Promote visitor awareness and understanding of the drowning hazard at Monastery Beach to reduce drowning accidents.

### *COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.1*

Provide more visible warning signage with clear messaging at the beach.

### *COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.2*

Provide public information online and in park interpretive displays to increase public awareness of the hazardous surf conditions at the beach.

### *COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.3*

Improve lifeguard staffing levels to provide adequate coverage.

## Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone

Home to significant archaeological and tribal cultural resources, the focus in the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone is to protect these resources and allow visitors to experience cultural and natural resources through trails and guided tours. Interpretation in this zone is important and will connect visitors with the prehistoric use of the area.

### OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 1

Protect archaeological resources, prevent erosion, and allow interpretation and visitor access.

#### *OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Monitor important cultural features and, as needed, restrict visitor access to prevent resource degradation.

#### *OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Identify resource damage and implement strategies to prevent continuing damage, such as restricted access, repair, and restoration.



Waves and steep-sloped beach at Monastery Beach

*OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE*

*Guideline 1.3*

Update the existing Cultural Preserve Management Plan to provide the policies, definitions, processes, and procedures used to guide management. Identify and evaluate all cultural resources within the preserve. Implement procedures to minimize damage to cultural resources.

OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 2

Recognizing the special cultural importance of the preserve, help visitors understand the Ohlone lifestyle and integral connection to the resources of the area, as well as the importance of this area from an archaeological perspective.

*OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE*

*Guideline 2.1*

Work with appropriate tribal representatives to develop culturally respectful interpretation with educational and interpretive elements in the vicinity of the preserve.

## Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone

The Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone will focus on protecting and enhancing ecological conditions along the Carmel River and within the Carmel River lagoon. Goals and guidelines seek to protect threatened and endangered species in the zone and also provide limited day use activities.

CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 1

Maintain and protect the riverine and tidal wetland system for natural flood protection and important native species habitat, including south-central California coast steelhead, red-legged frog, western pond turtle, over 300 species of birds, Smith's blue butterfly, and other special status plant and wildlife species.

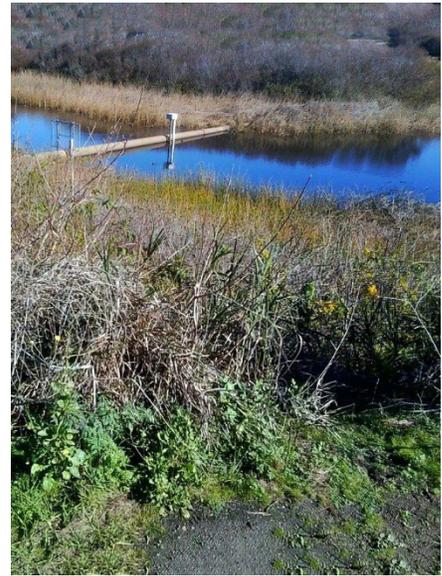
*CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Consider expanding the natural preserve to include the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone and Lagoon/Wetland Zone when partner agency adjacent construction and Caltrans mitigation projects and mitigation credits associated with the mitigation bank are completed. See CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 2.1.

MANAGE Goal 4, and its associated guidelines, describe additional ways to protect, restore, and preserve wetland and natural hydrologic processes and functions in the parks.

*CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Continue to collaborate with local regional water quality agencies and nonprofit partners to monitor river and lagoon water quality through ongoing research and documentation. Implement appropriate adaptive management strategies when monitoring results show water quality degradation. Consider the effects of barrier beach berm height management on the freshwater lagoon and exposure to salt water from natural winter flows or manual breaching. Implement adaptive management strategies that retain fresh water in the lagoon during critical seasonal timeframes, including severe to moderate drought conditions. Implement lagoon protection measures, such as posting informational signs and other public outreach, to help prevent unauthorized manual breaching of the Carmel River lagoon.



Water quality monitoring station at Carmel River lagoon

*CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3*

Restrict development of any features that could substantially impede or redirect floodwater flow.

*CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.4*

Preserve sensitive wetland habitat. Avoid excessive ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion leading to the filling of wetlands. If wetland habitat degradation occurs, implement adaptive management strategies, such as habitat restoration with locally native plant species, and temporary reduction of public access to wetland restoration areas. Monitor south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle populations in coordination with large-scale monitoring efforts throughout the range of these species.



View of Carmel River lagoon looking east to Palo Corona Regional Park

*CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.5*

Prohibit watercraft use to protect sensitive species and habitat. Provide public information about resource sensitivities at visitor access points around the lagoon.

*CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.6*

Prohibit development of flood control structures within the public land of the natural preserve that cause significant adverse environmental effects and are designed to benefit private parties.



Carmel River State Beach and Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve

CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 2

Provide trails for birding and wildlife viewing and allow limited visitor access.

*CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1*

Provide a loop trail with overlooks, birding stations, and interpretive elements. Monitor use and implement adaptive management strategies to reduce and/or eliminate any negative impacts to resources.

*CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2*

Design and locate trails to allow observation of bird habitat while minimizing adverse effects to sensitive habitat and species, such as migratory songbird nesting/breeding habitat and Monterey dusky-footed woodrat habitat.

CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 3

Help visitors understand the importance and functional role of estuaries and wetlands to native flora and fauna, and the importance of this local wetland.

*CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.1.*

Interpret the importance of this type of habitat to special status species of flora and fauna supported by the riverine and associated tidal wetland ecosystems, such as the California red-legged frog, juvenile south-central California coast steelhead, western pond turtle, and Smith's blue butterfly. If birding stations are placed in this area, provide identification tools for commonly seen species with supporting information on how these species use this type of ecosystem.

*CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.2.*

Provide interpretive facilities, such as overlooks and interpretive panels, along the margin of the lagoon and wetland to minimize trail development within the most ecologically sensitive areas. Locate facilities in the least sensitive areas.

## Lagoon/Wetland Zone

The Lagoon/Wetland Zone provides an important transition from the Carmel River and Wetland Natural Preserve to the Odello Farm Zone. The focus in this zone is to preserve the natural and scenic resources of the area and to provide buffer areas for floodwaters and wildlife habitat. Coordination with partner agencies on neighboring restoration projects is crucial to maintaining the natural features of this zone.

### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Goal 1

Protect wetland habitat and buffer areas, including critical bird nesting and foraging habitat that constitutes one of the State's richest migratory songbird habitat areas.

*LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Coordinate with partner agencies on the Carmel River restoration projects occurring on adjacent lands (Carmel River FREE project) to ensure consideration of all ecological, hydrological, and visitor use-related interests and to provide CSP input into the restoration planning process (as specified in PLAN Guideline 1.2).

PLAN Guidelines 1.2 and 1.3 describe how CSP will work in partnerships with other agencies and organizations to coordinate projects and planning efforts.

*LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Recognize the natural flood protection benefits of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of any features that would substantially impede, bisect, truncate, or redirect floodwater flow and identify strategies that respond to the potential for increased flooding frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change

*LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.3*

Consider adding the land within this zone to the existing Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve, after partner-agency construction projects are complete, to provide a contiguous wetland-based natural preserve for the Carmel River and adjacent habitat.

### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Goal 2

Provide non-intrusive day use activities, and limited staging/parking that preserve the riparian landscape, wildlife, and are compatible with environmental conditions.

#### *LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 2.1*

Provide small-scale day use, special event staging, trails, and interpretive facilities that are designed to be consistent with the natural setting and habitat for special status species, and sized appropriately to encourage low level visitor use.

### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Goal 3

Collaborate with CAWD on partner-agency construction projects to coordinate planning processes, protect natural and cultural resources, and minimize impacts to visitors.

#### *LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 3.1*

Coordinate with CAWD to establish a plan for maintaining maintenance access and utilities easements and to minimize resource impacts.

#### *LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 3.2*

Work with CAWD to prepare a maintenance and access plan to clearly identify and/or to consolidate CAWD utilities easements and to establish protocol for accessing and maintaining their facilities in and across CSP property.

#### *LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 3.3*

Coordinate with CAWD early in the planning process for proposed improvements to or expansion of CAWD facilities to identify any issues related to visitors or natural resources. Continue to collaborate regarding solutions.

#### *LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 3.4*

Coordinate with CAWD on potential land exchange opportunities to expand the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve in exchange for existing CAWD sewer line easement lands.

## Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone

Because this zone provides wildlife habitat and natural flood protection, management of the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone focuses on coordinating with Caltrans to protect and restore the area. Minimal facilities, such as a hiking trail, will allow visitors to experience scenic views of the wetlands and lagoon area.

### CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Goal 1

Collaborate with Caltrans in the near term to protect wetland and riparian habitat associated with the Carmel River and allow interpretation and limited visitor access.

#### *CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Recognize the natural flood protection function of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of features that would substantially impede or redirect floodwater flow. Identify strategies that accommodate the potential for increased flood frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change.

#### *CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Coordinate with Caltrans to identify appropriate locations for and design of visitor access, trailheads, and trail connections that would not diminish the flood flow function of the zone.

#### *CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 1.3*

Identify and monitor areas that have been disturbed and are experiencing impaired hydrologic/ecologic function. Coordinate with Caltrans to plan and implement appropriate restoration.

### CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Goal 2

Provide minimal day use facilities that are compatible with a habitat restoration area and that will preserve and protect wetlands.

#### *CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 2.1*

Provide limited trails and interpretive facilities that are designed to offer visitors opportunities to appreciate the natural setting and protect the area's natural functions, habitat values, and role as a mitigation bank.

### CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Goal 3

Consider future inclusion to the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve.

#### *CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 3.1*

Evaluate and consider adding this land to the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve after Caltrans construction projects and mitigation credits are complete, to provide a contiguous wetland-based natural preserve for the Carmel River and adjacent habitat. See also LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.3.

## Odello Farm Zone

The Odello Farm Zone will focus on protecting natural and cultural resources while also providing low-intensity visitor orientation and recreation. Limited visitor parking will lead to trail access to the adjacent Lagoon/Wetland Zone, and potentially to trail connections to Palo Corona Regional Park and the Carmel River Trail.

### ODELLO FARM ZONE Goal 1

Stabilize, maintain, and protect the existing historic farm structures and provide interpretive elements.

#### *ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Develop a preservation plan to protect the historic buildings and landscapes of the Odello Farm complex. The plan should focus on stabilizing existing structures and protecting and preserving the historic character of the Odello Farm.

#### *ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Conduct research necessary to prepare a historic context focusing on farming and ranching activities and architecture.

#### *ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.3*

Record the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed in accordance with the Office of Historic Preservation's March 1995 Instructions for Recording Historical Resources. Submit evaluations to the SHPO for concurrence and inclusion on the Master List of State Owned Properties.

#### *ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.4*

Evaluate the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed for inclusion in the National and California historic registers. Prepare HSRs for the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed if determined eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR to provide the baseline for the rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization or reconstruction of historic buildings and structures.

#### *ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.5*

Update condition assessments for the Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed. The condition assessments should provide information to help determine protection measures for rehabilitation, restoration, or preservation.

See MANAGE Goal 9 for additional strategies and procedures to identify, protect, maintain, and preserve significant historic resources.

*ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.6*

Stabilize the Barn and treat for weathering, water infiltration, and pest infestation. Reconstruct the Barn's north bay and south elevation in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

*ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.7*

Stabilize the Blacksmith Shed to prevent it from collapsing further and treat the structure for the extensive weathering, dry rot and pest infestation in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

*ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.8*

Conduct engineering evaluations to determine the risk of flood damage to historic structures and implement feasible measures identified to reduce risk of flood damage.

ODELLO FARM ZONE Goal 2

Provide small-scale visitor information and orientation facilities, visitor and group day use facilities, and limited staging/parking that preserve and protect the historic ranch setting and that are compatible with environmental conditions and nearby residential uses.

*ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 2.1*

Provide small-scale day use, group gathering, restroom, parking (up to 25 vehicles), and interpretive facilities that are designed to be consistent with the natural and historic setting and sized appropriately to accommodate visitor use. If a shuttle system is implemented, the 25 spaces would be eliminated and replaced with a shuttle stop and ADA parking only.

*ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 2.2*

Evaluate options, develop plans, and prioritize implementation of adaptive reuse of the historic farm for visitor-serving facilities, park programs, and operations.

*ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 2.3*

Work with Carmel River FREE (Caltrans, Monterey County, MPRPD, BSLT) to explore opportunities to realign the entrance road to the Odello Farm complex.

### ODELLO FARM ZONE Goal 3

Help visitors experience the riverine and tidal wetland ecosystems using all of their senses, while promoting understanding of the critical connection between wildlife species and their habitats, as well as the need to protect, restore, and manage habitat in order to protect wildlife.

CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 3, and its associated guidelines, focus on helping visitors understand, through interpretation, the importance of estuaries and wetlands.

#### *ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 3.1*

Use the Odello Farm Zone as an interpretive gateway to the adjacent wetlands and lagoon. See CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.1.

#### *ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 3.2*

Develop a self-guided or guided multi-sensory interpretive loop trail. Design the trail and use materials to minimize negative impacts to wetlands, wildlife habitat, and native vegetation and to promote the feeling of immersion in this unique environment.

## 4.5.3 Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property

The Point Lobos Ranch Property of Ishxenta State Park provides a new area of publicly accessible land. Visitor facilities will be provided to offer high-quality visitor experiences and to preserve sensitive natural resources and important cultural resources. New trails will be developed to provide access to interpret and appreciate natural areas and historic resources.

### A.M. Allan Ranch Zone

The A.M. Allan Ranch Zone includes an historic ranch complex, roads, visitor access and orientation facilities, staff housing, park trail program operational headquarters, maintenance and operations facilities. The north portion of the zone is adjacent to the San Jose Creek and riparian corridor, San Jose Creek Canyon Road access, staff residences, a trailhead, and trails connecting to the backcountry and adjacent public open space. The south portion of the zone contains several historic buildings associated with the area’s ranching and dairy heritage. Adaptive reuse of some of these buildings will serve as visitor orientation, staff residence, and park maintenance and operations facilities. The area will also provide visitor parking and access to trails leading to the ridges of the Santa Lucia Range.

### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Goal 1

Identify, preserve, reuse, and maintain the historic buildings and landscapes.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Continue to provide staff housing and allow adaptive use for park operations, visitor facilities, and interpretation.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Determine the primary contributing structures, features, and cultural landscape and pursue historic district nominations for areas that are potentially eligible for the state or national registers.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.3*

Conduct research necessary to prepare a historic context focusing on farming, ranching, and architecture. Use the historic context in the evaluation of a historic district nomination for the north and south areas.

See MANAGE Goal 9 for additional strategies and procedures to identify, protect, maintain, and preserve significant historic resources.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.4*

Prepare HSRs for those eligible properties that contribute to the potential historic districts. The HSRs should be prepared by an interdisciplinary team and will provide the baseline for the rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization or reconstruction of these buildings should they be determined significant. The HSRs will follow the format prescribed by the Office of Historic Preservation.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.5*

Repair and maintain buildings identified as historical resources according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.6*

Protect the historic viewshed. Locate parking areas and other facilities to minimize adverse effects to significant historic structures and contributing features of the cultural landscape.

### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Goal 2

Provide low-intensity staging areas, small-scale visitor information facilities, orientation, and wayfinding. Develop trail access and connections to adjacent regional parklands.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 2.1*

Create primary visitor entry, day use parking, and visitor orientation facilities in locations that do not adversely affect natural and cultural resources.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 2.2*

Provide new interpretive elements, day use/special event areas, restrooms, and visitor information as part of the visitor entry and arrival sequence.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 2.3*

In the A.M. Allan Ranch (North) Zone, develop a trailhead and staging area to provide visitor access to the San Jose Creek Trail, in cooperation with MPRPD and BSLT, consistent with the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 2.4*

Provide information on where visitors can go within the parks to learn more about different eras of human history and the important regional natural resources. Consider a self-guided interpretive trail of the ranch and implement the use of volunteers.

### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Goal 4

Provide multimodal access for transit or shuttle stops, vehicle pick-up/drop-off facilities, and vehicle parking to serve new day use and trail access.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 4.1*

Develop a limited amount of parking (up to 50 parking spaces) in the south portion of this zone for visitor day use and trail access to the inland area.

#### *A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 4.2*

If visitor parking is removed from the Reserve and additional Reserve visitor parking is needed, develop up to 150 parking spaces in stages in the south portion to serve visitors to the Reserve. Locate the parking areas to avoid damage to natural and cultural resources and develop facilities using low-impact design with drainage best management practices and minimum landscape disturbance.

*A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 4.3*

Establish vehicle access at a new SR 1 intersection located in proximity to the Reserve entrance. Design and implement the intersection in coordination with Caltrans. Consider innovative, contemporary intersection design, potentially including a roundabout and/or a pedestrian underpass. (see ACCESS Goal 3 and UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 1).

*A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 4.4*

Develop a limited amount of parking in the north portion of this zone for day use and trail access to the San Jose Creek Trail (up to 25 parking spaces). Develop the parking facilities using low-impact design with drainage best management practices and minimum feasible area of landscape disturbance.

Access and parking in this zone supports ACCESS Goal 3, which seeks to reduce reliance on personal auto use for park arrival and provide multimodal options. Coordination with the Reserve's UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 1 is also important, which outlines how vehicular access and parking facilities will complement and support other travel modes.

## Backcountry Zone

The Backcountry Zone will focus on providing limited visitor access and maintaining the area's sense of remoteness and solitude. Limited backcountry trails will connect to the region's network of trails and provide continuity with Palo Corona Regional Park.

### BACKCOUNTRY ZONE Goal 1

Provide limited visitor access to remote areas of the park to promote a sense of solitude.

*BACKCOUNTRY ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Limit the number and location of backcountry trails to protect the natural environment and promote the remote character and sense of solitude in the backcountry.

*BACKCOUNTRY ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Provide information about the natural and cultural history of the area at trailheads and include interpretive features in trail guides.

### BACKCOUNTRY ZONE Goal 2

Provide management continuity with Palo Corona Regional Park.

*BACKCOUNTRY ZONE Guideline 2.1*

Collaborate with MPRPD, BSLT, and other park partners to coordinate access, trail connections, and visitor use in backcountry areas and adjacent regional parks and open space lands.

## Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone

The Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone focuses on preserving and protecting an area that is considered sacred by the local Rumsen and Esselen people, and is one of the most important archaeological sites in the region. Interpretation will provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the importance of the preserve. Native American visitors will experience the preserve for ceremonial and special events.



Source: ©2002-2018 Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman, California Coastal Records Project

Tatlun Cultural Preserve

### TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 1

Establish a cultural preserve of approximately 20 acres to preserve and protect an area of cultural and archaeological significance.

#### *TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1*

In collaboration with the Rumsen and other tribal representatives, develop a comprehensive inventory of cultural resources. Record, describe, and map existing cultural resources. Inventory and evaluate cultural resources for inclusion on the National and California registers.

#### *TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2*

In collaboration with the Rumsen and other tribal representatives, prepare a Cultural Preserve Management Plan to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide cultural resource management. This includes a plan for identification and evaluation of all cultural resources within the area and procedures to minimize damage to cultural resources through a review process and the application of standards.

### TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 2

Protect the important site of the local Rumsen and Esselen people and promote use of the preserve for traditional Native American activities. Provide respectful interpretive elements and limit visitor access.

#### *TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1*

In collaboration with appropriate local tribal representatives, develop a joint-use agreement to facilitate Native American traditional use, ceremonies, special events, and interpretive program activities that are consistent with the intent and purpose of the cultural preserve classification. Allow guided visitor access when the area is not being used for traditional purposes.

See MANAGE Goal 8 for additional strategies and procedures to protect, document, and interpret significant prehistoric archaeological and cultural resources.

*TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2*

In collaboration with local tribal representatives, design and develop interpretive features that educate the public regarding local tribal lifeways.

*TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3*

Monitor and document important cultural features and, if necessary, limit or discontinue non-tribal visitor access to prevent resource degradation.

## Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone

The focus in the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone is to protect and preserve the area's expanse of rare Monterey pine and Gowen cypress forests, maritime chaparral, and mountain lion habitat. Visitors will access the zone through a sensitively designed trail system that will connect to the regional trail network through Palo Corona Regional Park. Interpretive programs and guided hikes will allow visitors to learn about the unique native vegetation and wildlife habitats.

### POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 1

Establish a natural preserve of approximately 1,200 acres to preserve and protect an area of outstanding natural significance.

*POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan for the new natural preserve to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide natural resource management. The plan should include habitat protection and active forest management strategies to protect and preserve rare plant communities including maritime chaparral, Monterey pine, and Gowen cypress groves.

### POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 2

Protect the globally rare native Monterey pine and Gowen cypress forests, as well as central maritime chaparral and other rare and special status plant communities. Protect wildlife habitat and maintain regional wildlife corridor connectivity.



Point Lobos Ridge maritime chaparral

See MANAGE Goals 1 and 2 for additional strategies and procedures to protect, maintain, and restore special status plants and wildlife, respectively.

*POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE  
Guideline 2.1*

Provide self-guided and volunteer-guided nature hikes and interpretive elements to educate visitors about the unique resources in the preserve and the importance of conservation.

*POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE  
Guideline 2.2*

Develop strategies to address mushroom poaching and protect the fungal biodiversity. Promote research to identify and evaluate species of fungi, liverworts, lichens and mosses in the preserve.

*POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE  
Guideline 2.3*

Study mountain lion movement and identify approximate home range within the preserve. Locate trails away from primary movement corridors, to the extent feasible, to minimize potential conflicts between mountain lion and park visitors for public safety and to reduce wildlife disturbance. Conduct periodic monitoring to estimate mountain lion population size and health within the preserve.

*POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE  
Guideline 2.4*

Allow minimum-necessary day use visitor facilities, including trails and interpretive elements, and limited public access and activities appropriate to maintain the natural setting and to protect the existing habitat.

*POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE  
Guideline 2.5*

Assess and restore unsustainable road/trail alignments that result in soil loss and erosion. Locate trails on sustainable routes that do not impact sensitive species such as Gowen cypress or maritime chaparral.

## San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone

MANAGE Guideline 4.3 describes how measures and adaptive management strategies will be implemented to preserve sensitive riparian habitat, which will benefit water quality, shaded aquatic resources, and important wildlife habitat.

Creation of the San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone will provide increased management to protect water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, and sensitive species of San Jose Creek, including south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog. Goals and guidelines in this zone focus on protection and ecological restoration of San Jose Creek, its associated watershed, and riparian forests.

### SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 1

Establish a natural preserve of approximately 60 acres adjacent to and including San Jose Creek to preserve and protect an area of outstanding riparian and aquatic habitat quality and importance.

#### *SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan to provide the definitions, processes, conservation measures, and procedures that will be used to guide natural resource management. Include habitat restoration, prioritize areas to be restored, identify specific (quantitative, if feasible) water quality, habitat, and species conservation objectives, and develop location-specific implementation measures.

### SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 2

Protect San Jose Creek, south-central California coast steelhead, and California red-legged frog habitat, the associated riparian corridor, and watershed.

#### *SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1*

Monitor water quality through ongoing research and documentation, and identify adaptive management strategies to implement when monitoring results show poor water quality. Implement measures and adaptive management strategies to observe sensitive riparian habitat, identify human-caused impacts to riparian and instream habitat, and develop conservation measures that benefit water quality and critical habitat for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead.

#### *SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2*

Continue monitoring efforts to document population size and health for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead, and coordinate with other monitoring efforts throughout the species' ranges. Establish research partnership opportunities for ecological and habitat monitoring with local universities and research institutions to inform park managers.

#### *SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3*

Study and preserve the native rhododendron population to ensure its protection and avoid human-induced impacts to this second most southern population in California.

*SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE*

*Guideline 2.4*

Establish an appropriate buffer area of approximately 100 feet between the natural preserve and zone boundary, roads, and any existing development to protect the existing riparian habitat.

SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 3

Include visitor-serving uses that are appropriate to a preserve.

*SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE*

*Guideline 3.1*

Allow, where appropriate, visitor facilities, including trails and interpretive elements, and day use activities appropriate to maintain the natural setting and to protect the existing habitat.

## 4.5.4 Ishxenta State Park - Hatton Canyon Property

The upper and lower zones of the Hatton Canyon Property will contain a multi-purpose trail, unpaved trail/sewer utility access, and use for special events. In addition, the lower zone can be made available for a multimodal transportation center that would improve access to the state and regional parks.

### Upper Hatton Canyon Zone

In Upper Hatton Canyon, the focus is on maintaining wildlife habitat, public access, and utility access and facilities.

UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Goal 1

Maintain the natural habitats and existing facilities.

*UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Continue to maintain the natural conditions of the urban open space by landscape maintenance that supports native vegetation and controls invasive vegetation.

*UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.2*

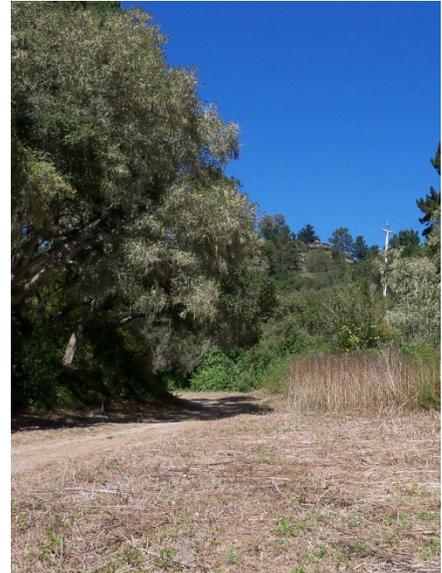
Maintain the existing trail and service road in good condition suitable for both recreational use and utility access.

*UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.3*

Pursue and execute lease agreement(s) with a local or regional agency(ies) to maintain the upper canyon for public access, utility access, and natural landscape management, while fee title is retained by CSP.

*UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.4*

Coordinate with CAWD early in the planning process to identify any potential park visitor or natural resources issues related to the CAWD sewer line maintenance, proposed upgrade, or replacement. Continue to collaborate regarding solutions. Locate the gravity force main sewer line in the least sensitive areas and assure construction does not lead to slope instability or erosion.



Vegetation in the Hatton Canyon area

## Lower Hatton Canyon Zone

Lower Hatton Canyon is strategically located near the interface between the urban community and other CASP units. It can continue to serve as a community gathering space and special event area, as well as support an important multimodal transportation center that would help alleviate park access and congestion issues.

LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Goal 1

Make land in the zone available for a multimodal transportation center, in partnership with other local/regional transportation agencies and organizations, which would offer a variety of travel modes to visitors of CASP units and regional destinations.

*LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.1*

Partner with local transportation agencies, including Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel, Transportation Agency of Monterey County, Caltrans, and MPRPD to develop and operate a regional multimodal transportation center.

*LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.2*

Provide visitors with multimodal alternatives for access to the Reserve and New State Park in a manner that reduces reliance on personal autos and avoids additional contributions to local traffic congestion.

*LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.3*

Coordinate with MPRPD to evaluate shared visitor parking opportunities related to the regional multimodal transportation center to serve park visitors.



Paved multi-purpose trail at Hatton Canyon

*LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.4*

Consider options to collaborate with nearby property owners (e.g., The Crossroads and Barnyard shopping centers) to assess if sharing parking spaces for vehicles belonging to transit or shuttle riders is feasible.

LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Goal 2

Maintain facilities for recreation use and special events.

*LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 2.1*

Continue to operate and maintain the existing paved multi-purpose trail. Continue to allow local and regional special events.

LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Goal 3

Provide visitor facilities and information about regional park and open space opportunities, including the CASP units, at the regional transportation center.

*LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 3.1*

Provide comprehensive visitor information on regional state parks, public parks, and open space, including transit routes, schedules, park operational hours, park rules and regulations, and park contact phone numbers.

*LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 3.2*

Provide up to 100 parking spaces for visitors using multimodal park access.

## 4.6 Visitor Capacity Management

### 4.6.1 Visitor Management Methods

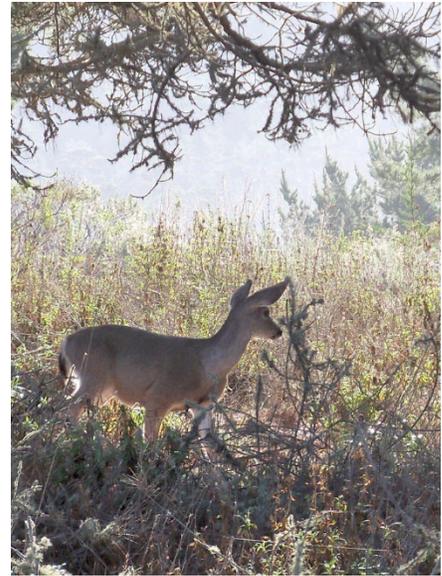
Visitor capacity management is a methodology used to determine and maintain desired resource and social conditions that fulfill the purpose and mission of a park.

CSP defines visitor capacity management as, “a methodology used to determine and maintain the desired resource and social conditions that fulfill the purpose and mission of a park. It includes establishing initial visitor capacities, then monitoring key indicators to identify appropriate management actions in response to unacceptable conditions” (CSP 2010). This approach to visitor capacity management is based on adaptive management, which defines key desired resource conditions and describes management strategies for monitoring those conditions and modifying actions in response to changes.

Adaptive management is a strategic approach to achieving sustainable use of park resources and protection of a high-quality visitor experience. A common early definition of sustainability is from the U.N. World Commission on Environment and Development's 1987 report, "Our Common Future": "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In the context of visitor use of ecologically or culturally sensitive public park settings, such as CASP, sustainable use can be viewed as visitation that is managed to achieve high-quality visitor experiences in harmony with the processes, sensitivities, and qualities of the natural world, protecting them from damage or destruction. The visitor management approach described here uses CSP's methods for determining desired outcomes for visitor experience and resource conservation, developing measurable or observable indicators to evaluate their condition, monitoring of conditions, and adaptively adjusting management in response to changing resource conditions and visitor experiences. This method complies with PRC Section 5019.5 by identifying the approach CSP will use to survey, evaluate, and manage visitor capacity to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions and visitor experiences (i.e., social conditions).

This General Plan identifies sensitive natural and cultural resources, outdoor recreation opportunities and physical constraints, and it includes guidelines for managing resources and desired visitor experiences. Using the adaptive management process described in this section, park managers can monitor visitor use and take the appropriate actions to reduce or limit negative impacts. Sensitive natural resources have been subjected to high volumes of visitors for many years, resulting in degraded conditions for habitat quality, native plants, and native wildlife in both terrestrial and marine settings. Damage to important cultural resources has also occurred from unrestricted access to areas resulting in erosion. Desired conditions include the sustainability, conservation and enhancement of natural resources, which allows for resource protection and restoration as well as enjoyment by visitors, and avoidance of further loss or damage to important cultural resources.

The type, quality, and character of visitors' outdoor recreation experiences are influenced by visitor origin, demographics, diversity, and statewide or nationwide recreation trends. These dynamic influences contribute to defining the nature of desirable park experiences and conditions. For instance, as a place where a dramatic rocky coastline and marine water and life connect, desired visitor experience includes the opportunity to see, hear, smell, and feel the coastal/marine dynamics that are new or rarely



Upland wildlife habitat of the Reserve



Parking on unpaved coastal bluffs at the Reserve

perceived by long-distance visitors and revered by regular, local and regional visitors. Degradation of visitor experience can occur due to the increased total visitor use currently experienced by the Reserve and Carmel River State Beach (e.g., overcrowding). In the Reserve, because of its national and international reputation, social factors include its recognition as an interstate and international tourism destination. These population trends and social factors have an influence on park management and can be viewed as opportunities for cultural awareness and exchange.

CSP’s method focuses on desired resource and social conditions. Subsequent surveys, analysis, and monitoring programs are necessary to make final determinations and adjustments in visitor capacity through future adaptive management actions. The methods used in this process are described below.

## 4.6.2 Monitoring of Desired Outcomes and Adaptive Management Process

Adaptive management allows CSP to monitor outcomes and, if needed, adjust management and research decisions to better achieve management objectives in the future.

CSP uses an adaptive management methodology that involves research, planning, monitoring, and management actions to achieve sustainable resources and visitor experience (i.e., social conditions). This method was initiated during this general planning effort with assessments of existing conditions and applied with the level of detail commensurate with the conceptual nature of this plan. This includes the identification of existing opportunities and constraints and the description of desired resources and visitor experience.

An adaptive management process recognizes that CSP management actions have intended outcomes and it is important to monitor and adjust management and research decisions as appropriate to achieve management objectives. The steps that typically make up an adaptive management process for CSP are presented below. These steps are presented here for an understanding of the iterative process that is considered from the programmatic planning stages of the General Plan through the project implementation and monitoring phases.

- I. Identify Existing Opportunities and Constraints: Through ongoing research, surveys, and site investigations CSP is able to document existing resources and social conditions. This data helps identify opportunities and constraints, and establishes the baseline condition for natural, cultural, and recreational resource condition. In the CASP units, research and site investigations will document and



Vegetation on coastal bluffs at the Reserve

prioritize the most fragile and/or sensitive natural and cultural resources, such as vegetation loss, coastal bluff erosion, locations with special status plants, and damaged Native American middens.

2. **Determine Vision and Desired Conditions:** The analysis of current uses and condition assessments begin to shape the types of activities and experiences that are desired. This increases CSP's ability to determine the resource conditions that are desired and the protective measures, including thresholds (standards) of acceptable resource conditions that are necessary to maintain those resource conditions. Desired conditions in the CASP units includes: avoiding degradation to marine, aquatic, and terrestrial habitats; avoiding damage to cultural resources; minimizing the establishment or expansion of invasive species; and implementing measures to eradicate invasive species. Desired conditions also address preserving high quality visitor experiences by protecting scenic vistas, preserving natural or cultural features important for user appreciation, and providing safe, reliable, and efficient transportation access to the parks.
3. **Identify Issues and Evaluate Alternatives:** The analysis of resource and social impacts related to current use helps identify the issues, problems, and thresholds that shape the vision or desired conditions of the parks. Additional surveys, studies, or site analysis may be necessary to understand the full effects of existing uses, potential alternatives, or feasibility of desired improvements. It is at this stage that the objectives of visitor use and capacity for specific units are determined, which may include quantitative limits on certain park uses. For instance, the reservation system will be used to manage peak-period and total visitation for purposes of resource protection and quality visitor experiences. Distribution of visitor parking will help reduce crowding and overuse of resources at specific locations.
4. **Develop Measurable Indicators and Thresholds:** Key indicators are identified that can diagnose whether the desired conditions for a park are being met. These indicators must be measurable and have a direct relationship to at least one desired condition (e.g., the number of exposed tree roots per mile of trail). Thresholds that reflect desired conditions are then identified for each indicator. Through research and monitoring processes, CSP management is alerted when conditions exceed a

determined threshold or deviate outside the acceptable range. A sample of conditions and representative key indicators is presented in Table 4-2 below.

5. **Establish Initial Visitor Capacities:** Initial visitor capacities are formulated based on the analysis of existing conditions, alternative considerations, desired future conditions, and prescribed goals and objectives. Implementation occurs when sufficient knowledge is gained and plans are finalized. As environmental impact assessments and monitoring programs are initiated, plans are implemented and new patterns of use are generated. The visitor capacities will be used as input to decisions about the number of reservations to make available in a particular season or peak-demand period.
6. **Monitor Use and Identify Changing Conditions:** Through monitoring and further study CSP can assess the degree of impact or changing conditions that occur over a specified period of time. Thresholds and indicators are used in the monitoring process to determine when an unacceptable condition exists. Unacceptable conditions trigger management action(s) appropriate to correct the unacceptable condition. District staff will be trained to include monitoring of visitor use and environmental conditions during the course of their routine patrols or maintenance and operational activities.
7. **Adjust Environmental Conditions or Visitor Experience (Social Conditions):** As monitoring efforts reveal that conditions may be approaching or exceeding thresholds, management must consider alternatives and take appropriate action. The analysis of impacts and their causes should direct management toward actions that adjust resource/experience conditions to a desired state. For instance, with the planned reservation system, analysis will help refine the number and timing of reservation visits allowed. This may include further studies, new project design, and stronger enforcement of rules and regulations, which may also require adjustments to the initial visitor capacities.

Data from research, management/staff observations, pre-project site investigations, visitor impact assessments, post-project evaluations, and baseline resource monitoring can be captured and used to attain and maintain the desired condition of the park. A program of continued research, staff monitoring, and site investigations provides information and documents updated data

on resource conditions and new problems as they may occur. Periodic surveys provide a measure of visitor satisfaction and identify recreation trends and public opinions on the types of activities and experiences people are seeking. These ongoing efforts build the unit data file for subsequent planning and analysis, and monitoring programs ensure that development actions achieve the desired outcomes.

Table 4-2 contains examples of indicators that could be developed based on the management goals and guidelines in the General Plan. These indicators may be regularly modified based on site-specific knowledge, ongoing field observations, and updates in scientific understanding to achieve the desired outcome.

**Table 4 2 Sample of Potential Desired Conditions and Indicators**

Topic	Guideline	Management Zone	Desired Condition	Indicators of Not Achieving Desired Condition	Potential Monitoring and Management Actions
Native Vegetation	COASTAL BLUFF Zone Guideline 1.2 - Monitor coastal bluff and coastal prairie habitats to identify degradation, including vegetation and soil loss, inform adaptive habitat management, and determine needs for temporary or permanent visitor access restrictions to conserve resources and restore degraded areas, such as Sea Lion Point Trail and the south shore. Through monitoring, recommend areas in need of trail upgrades to reduce resource impacts, e.g., boardwalk systems at Weston Beach, or trail re-alignments, where erosion is a problem. Identify areas in need of habitat restoration.	Coastal Bluff Zone	Healthy populations of native coastal bluff plant communities as part of restoration, coastal bluff stabilization and decrease in sediment reaching the ASBS	Decrease in extent of native plant coverage with an increase in extent of denuded soils leading to bluff loss and sediment continuing to impact the adjacent ASBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ GPS definition of native plant community coverage of target plants and habitat</li> <li>■ Research to define plant restoration methods</li> <li>■ Limit public access</li> <li>■ Restore habitat/stabilize soils</li> </ul>
Cultural Resources	OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2 – Identify resource damage and implement strategies to prevent continuing damage, such as restricted access, repair, and restoration.	Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve	Preservation of midden strata with prevention of additional damage	Increased area of midden damage from non-natural processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ GPS definition of damaged edge of strata</li> <li>■ Restrict public access, if necessary, to avoid further damage</li> </ul>
Trail Condition	POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.4 – Allow minimum-necessary day use visitor facilities, including trails and interpretive elements, and limited public access and activities appropriate to maintain the natural setting and to protect the existing habitat.	Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve	Sustainably designed and constructed hillside trails that maintain slope stability without erosion	Evidence of erosion on trails, e.g., turbid runoff, gullies, or exposed roots, altered hydrology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Regular condition surveys of hillside trails by staff</li> <li>■ Repair of observed eroded slopes and erosion gullies</li> </ul>
Visitor Experience	VISIT Guideline 1.2 - Evaluate new technologies and recreational activities and incorporate those that would cost-effectively enhance visitor experiences and benefit recreation facilities, resources, information, and programs, such as increasing the use of the Internet and mobile applications for public outreach and visitor experience, including providing wireless Internet access in the parks.	All Zones	Satisfaction with the enjoyment of the visit, natural and cultural resources appreciation, and park access and facilities	Complaints about the visiting experience, resource condition, or adequacy of facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Regular visitor satisfaction surveys</li> <li>■ Improved public information, resource condition, or facilities in response to complaints</li> </ul>
Utility Systems	MAINTAIN Guideline 1.1 – Upgrade utilities and infrastructure that are critical for park use, management, and needed to support planned operations.	All Zones	Fully functioning water, power, and sanitary systems sufficient capacity to meet visitor demand	Inadequacy of utilities capacity or maintenance that hinders visitor satisfaction, causes environmental degradation, or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Monitor visitor use and condition of utilities</li> <li>■ Repair utilities, where needed</li> </ul>

**Table 4 2 Sample of Potential Desired Conditions and Indicators**

Topic	Guideline	Management Zone	Desired Condition	Indicators of Not Achieving Desired Condition	Potential Monitoring and Management Actions
				interferes with park management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider utility expansion as a park facility project, if needed</li> </ul>
Visitor Access	ACCESS Guideline 1.1 - Evaluate how to most effectively implement a reservation system to apply to day use first in the Reserve. Consider various reservation options for walk-ins, visitors using alternative modes of transportation, and those arriving by vehicle.	All Zones	Management of visitor numbers within limits established for the reservation system	District staff identify visitors that did not use authorized entrances or otherwise do not have evidence of possessing a reservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and resolve unauthorized access locations</li> <li>Modify reservation system to make easier the ability to monitor whether visitors have a reservation</li> <li>Establish and enforce a citation for visiting without a reservation</li> </ul>
Circulation/ Parking	ACCESS Guideline 3.1 - Prepare a Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan to identify specific transportation improvements that would support long-term sustainability for a coordinated transit, shuttle, or other alternative public conveyance system to park areas, reduce visitor reliance on personal vehicles, and facilitate removal of parking from overused areas to help redistribute visitor use.	All Zones	<p>Established percentage goals for visitors using non-personal auto travel modes to arrive at the parks</p> <p>Established incentives for using shuttles, such as partnering with local commercial operators</p>	A substantial number of personal autos need to be turned away at the park entrance. Transit shuttle ridership is below target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review website and public outreach that informs visitors about travel options and restrictions</li> <li>Consult with transit agency partners about actions to improve shuttle ridership</li> </ul>
Climate Change – Sea Level Rise	MANAGE Guideline 7.1 - Follow recommendations for climate adaptation actions in relevant CSP guidance documents, prepared specifically for climate risk adaptation, with an emphasis on risks caused by sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire.	Coastal Bluff and Coastal Margin Zones	Visitor facilities are not located where vulnerable to damage from storm wave run-up, based on projected sea level over the next decade	<p>Storm wave damage affects unexpected facilities</p> <p>State supported sea level rise predictions are revised upward to encompass more areas of the zone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate and install storm wave run-up protection, if feasible, or plan for relocation or abandonment of the facilities, as soon as feasible</li> </ul>

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