

MONTEREY AUDUBON SOCIETY

A chapter of the National Audubon Society; Celebrating, Exploring, Conserving & Restoring the Birds & Ecology of the Greater Monterey Bay Region Since 1943



montereyaudubon.org

Press Release

The following information has been approved for release to all media networks and affected parties. Wide distribution is encouraged.

LAGUNA GRANDE PARK REHABILITATION

Monterey Audubon Society (MAS) is launching a campaign to raise \$15,000 to rehabilitate Laguna Grande Park to improve the habitat's health and increase public enjoyment. **MAS will be matching donations from the community until the goal of \$15,000 is reached by February 1, 2015.** MAS is also asking for donations in the form of materials and labor as outlined below. All donations towards this campaign are tax-deductible.

PARK HISTORY:

The park was specifically engineered to have riparian habitat and waterways for the purposes of being a public recreational park. Limited access public trails run through certain parts, but as many as 10 acres of the 11 acre land is inaccessible, unmonitored, and unmanaged. Along with the natural impacts of invasive species, the park has had extensive illegal camping that has resulted in substantial environmental damage, garbage, pollutants into waterways, growing crime, and the result is a park with questionable safety and limited recreational use. Two human bodies have been found in the last few months and there have been multiple fires that have threatened the park and surrounding houses. There is no doubt the time has come for Laguna Grande to be rehabilitated and any delay does nothing but increase dangers to the public.

PARK REHABILITATION:

MAS has reached out to Monterey and Seaside Cities and provided suggestions for how to rehabilitate the park in a way that will retain prime habitat while solving current problems. Suggestions were modeled after success in other similar parks with past similar problems by simply increasing public access. This is easily done by turning the existing illegal trails into true public access trails, providing welcoming sitting and picnic areas, and educational signage. The effort needed to bring Laguna Grande to a prime recreational location is not extensive and does not require further engineering. The recommendations do not involve extensive planning or complicated approvals by other agencies. The end result would be a healthy park with increased public enjoyment, safer to users and those living nearby, while also increasing nearby property values and tourist appeal to the cities.

REHABILITATION NEEDS:

- Trail cleanup.
- Creek crossings/bridges (2 or 3 small bridges built).
- Sitting benches (4) and picnic bench (1).
- Educational signage.
- Possible boardwalk in some areas.

FUNDRAISING EXPENDITURES:

- Money raised would go specifically towards purchasing of crossings, benches, signage, and boardwalk.
- Donations of needed construction materials are being asked for crossings and boardwalk.
- Donations of assembly labor are being asked for crossings, signage, and boardwalk.

It would be expected that to receive the benefits of this campaign, responsible jurisdictional agencies would:

- Provide the trail cleanup.
- Provide engineering for crossings.
- Provide installation as needed for benches, signage, and boardwalk.
- Provide ongoing regular enforcement.

DONATIONS:

Monetary donations can be made to:

Monterey Audubon Society
ATTN: Laguna Grande Park Rehabilitation
PO Box 5656 Carmel, CA 93921

Please be sure to include contact information (name, address, phone) and if a tax-deductible receipt is needed.
Contact information will not be used except to provide a receipt or refund of surplus funds.

For material and labor donations, please contact us.

CONTACT:

To find out more about this campaign, contact the coordinator:

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