



Trail Center News

Volunteers Since
1983
June/July 2015

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Big Strides Made on Portola Redwoods State Park Trail



Twenty-five energetic Trail Center volunteers widened, leveled and brushed one mile of trail in Portola Redwoods State Park on June 27th, the first of three workdays planned in that park.

Four crews led by Lisa Jewett, Dave Taylor, Judd Volino and Bill Farrell under the supervision of Trail Boss, Dave Croker, performed the work. A highlight was the clearing out an area near a memorial bench surrounded by a ring of redwood trees. The work was well timed as a group of six

Next Event



Saturday August 22
Portola Redwoods State
Park

[Volunteer Now](#)
[Project Details](#)

This is Day 2 of the project. We will continue to brush, clear, and widen the trail. Drainage and tread will be repaired.

In addition, we will have the materials to build a retaining wall!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Already a Volunteer?
Become a
Trail Center Member!!!

The Trail Center is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, founded in 1983 and the volunteers who come out every month to build, re-route and maintain trails are the Trail Center's most valuable asset.

However, tools and work gloves and post-build snacks need to be purchased and other

hikers stopped there to relax later in the day.

The shade in the redwoods provided nice temperatures for working on this hot humid day and the group lingered for an extra-long tailgate party after its efforts, with refreshing beverages and delicious snacks provided by Lisa and Lianna.

The Trail Center will return to Portola Redwoods State Park on August 22nd when retaining walls will be built and more trail improvements will be made. The final work day of the year in the park will be October 10th.

The [project](#) will continue on Saturday, August 22.
To participate, email volunteer@trailcenter.org.

Skyline Trail Gets Spruced Up on National Trails Day



The weather was just about perfect for trail work on June 6th when 33 Trail Center volunteers gathered to do a massive clean-up and selected widening of the Skyline Trail segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail between Wunderlich Park and Huddart Park to celebrate National Trails Day. In addition to working on long stretches of this trail where the tread was very narrow or was encroaching on the outside edge and needed to be re-centered, the volunteers corrected drainage problems. The Skyline Blvd. entrance to the Huddart Park section of the trail was also improved. Hank Magnuski

was the Trail Boss for the day, coordinating with both San Mateo County Parks and the Mid-Peninsula Open Space Preserve (which provided parking, Thank You!).

Volunteers were treated to a traditional Trail Center tailgate party when the work was completed, and many walked away with National Trail Day themed prizes. The Trail Center purchased the prizes and Trail Center Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Diamond ran the raffle. Swag included T-shirts, first-aid kits, and hats. Almost everyone won, and, with incentives provided for new volunteer Trail Center members, several new folks signed up!

Trail Center Triumphs Over Toppled Tree at Pescadero Creek

occasional expenses, such as trailer repair, need to be financed.

The Trail Center relies solely on membership fees and donations to meet these expenses.

If you have been volunteering with us for awhile, please consider taking the next step and becoming a member -- for the modest fee of \$35 per year -- or making a donation.

Donate



Quick Links





The Trail Center took on a large project on the edge of Pescadero Creek and Sam McDonald County Parks in April and May. We were asked to help reroute the Brooks Trail around a very large Douglas Fir root mass that was created when the tree fell over during the December storms. The new trail route was designed by park ranger Mark Schneider and Trail Center member Tom Morse and ended up being approximately 300 ft long. What made this reroute difficult was the fact that the root ball had left an enormous gash in the side of a hillside that was already very steep and loose. That required construction of a retaining wall nearly 80 ft long and up to 6 ft high. Even with a large volunteer turn out both days, completion was only possible with the extra-ordinary efforts of Mark, Tom, Trail Center members Jerel Crawford, Dave Croker and Judd Volino, and a few others from the Pescadero stewards. With two days of great turn outs, the Trail Center managed to not only nearly finish the retaining wall, but also complete 220 feet of new trail. In addition Trail Center Volunteers performed maintenance on another 400 feet of the severely overgrown Brooks Trail located nearby.

Because the work area was almost 2.5 miles from the trailhead, the Trail Center put together a car shuttle for volunteers both days to help save both time and energy--energy that could be better spent performing trail work. On Earth Day in April, the sun was out and created relatively warm temperatures for the coastal hills. On the plus side, the lunch spot was a very nice shaded area with views to the ocean often not available due to fog. Supervisor Dave Croker surprised the volunteers by bringing frozen fruit pops for lunch. In spite of considerable poison oak challenges, Trail Center made a good start to the path and the retaining wall structure. May brought fog all day, which made work in the open far more comfortable even if it was less scenic. The pleasant working conditions enabled the volunteers to complete the entire reroute. Only a little touch up was left for the weekday crews to finish up.

The park staff was very appreciative and bent over backwards to make sure the effort went smoothly (including allowing the TC to park its tool trailer at the work site between the two work days). The park even contributed a ranger and a couple park aides to assist during the work days.

This is yet another example of where the Trail Center's contributions shine. The trail in its former condition would have had to remain closed for years due to the lack of park staffing. However, the Brooks Trail is now reopened to hikers thanks to the efforts of hard working Trail Center volunteers. The park expects the trail to remain closed to equestrians until the fall; the retaining wall must settle in before it can take the weight of a horse.

News from Around Parks and Preserves

Native Plants For Sale at Coastside Land Trust

Locally raised drought-tolerant native plants are for sale - \$5 at the office - 788 Main Street, Half Moon Bay. Species include yarrow, lizard tail, purple aster, bee plant, strawberry, hummingbird sage, and gowen cypress trees. Come during gallery hours (Thursday and Friday 11am-2pm or by appointment).

788 Main Street, Half Moon Bay. Call 650-726-5056 to make an appointment.

Other Upcoming Projects

- July 23 - Sierra Buttes - The Pacific Crest Trail - FULL
- [August 22](#) - Portola Redwoods State Park
- September 12 - Location TBD (Likely Portola Redwoods)
- October 10 - Portola Redwoods State Park
- [November 7](#) - Bay Area Ridge Trail - San Mateo County - with REI

Consult TrailCenter.org for the most current information.

Email Volunteer@trailcenter.org to sign up for a particular project.