



Portola and Castle Rock Foundation

Inspiring the Protection of Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks Through Quality Educational Experiences and Infrastructure Improvements

Portola and Castle Rock Foundation is excited to invite you to our annual Donor, Member and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and Guided Hike on September 8th. Updates about the Portola Redwoods Visitor Center are included below as well as information about another important park project. Please join us at Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks to enjoy the outdoors and our State Parks.

Donor, Member and Volunteer Appreciation Event Castle Rock State Park, Kirkwood entrance Sunday, September 8th at 11:30am

Please make plans to join us at Castle Rock State Park on Sunday September 8th at 11:30am.

Stop by to meet Portola and Castle Rock Foundation Board members as well as some of the State Parks personnel who help make Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods the gems we love to visit and support. Frontera Grill Taco truck will be providing lunch to our donors, members and volunteers. We'll have a display with merchandise for sale. Pick up your lunch tickets from a PCRFB board member.



The State Parks Interpretation Team will lead a guided hike starting at 12:30pm.



Please register on Eventbrite to indicate the number of guests for lunch and whether you'll be joining the guided hike. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/portola-castle-rock-foundation-2024-appreciation-event-free-taco-lunch-tickets-987579074597>

Visitor Center Update, Portola Redwoods State Park

By Andrew Shimizu, Historian II, California State Parks, Santa Cruz District

Following the successful completion of the reroofing project, the historic Portola Redwoods Visitor Center has been undergoing continuous maintenance efforts to improve the energy efficiency and fire resiliency of the building, all while following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Working within these guidelines ensures the historic integrity of the resource is maintained, while still being able to make the necessary improvements to preserve the structure.



One of the major concerns identified by both Parks staff and collaborating partners was the inoperability of the original double-hung wood windows, not allowing for proper airflow and ventilation, and the disadvantages of single pane glass regarding fire resilience. While funds were generously supplied for modern replacements, simply swapping out the original windows with modern drop-in windows would have constituted a significant adverse impact to the resource. The 96"x36" original wood windows serve as important character defining features of the building; prominent architectural components of the historic resource that contributes significantly to its physical character. Removal would greatly impact the Visitor Center's integrity of original design, diminishing its ability to convey its sense of place that is embodied in maintaining continuity with the building's original character.

Using the windows as a learning opportunity, Santa Cruz State Park's restoration staff led a historic window restoration training for district staff. The staff attending the class learned the nuances of maintaining 100 year old windows, and learned how to investigate and solve problems such as broken sash cords, freeing painted shut window sash, how to replace broken glass, and general maintenance that ensures the longevity of historic windows. The training was successful in not only teaching how to maintain historic wood windows, but also resulted in the rehabilitation of the Visitor Center windows, leaving them all operable and in solid working condition.

Portola and Castle Rock Foundation was able to secure a generous grant from South Skyline Association to further aid in its funding to fabricate custom storm sash for the Visitor Center windows, thereby increasing the fire resiliency of the window openings . These storm windows will fit into the existing window openings and will provide another layer of insulation and glass barrier, equaling the efficiency of double-paned glass in terms of fire resilience and insulation.



Storm windows are an accepted practice under the Secretary of the Interior’s guidelines for updating historic windows. Not only are these additions period correct in look and feel, but they also place an emphasis on maintaining the original historic wood windows instead of purchasing new ones. This practice of maintaining historic fabric is advantageous for reasons beyond the historic preservation element; maintaining existing historic windows is both more economically and environmentally sustainable. Maintaining 100-year-old resources, even while upgrading them with exterior storm sash, creates less waste and carbon emissions than would be needed to fabricate new vinyl windows. These new windows will only have a lifespan of fifteen to twenty years at which point they will need to be replaced again. New

windows are constructed in a manner that does not allow for piecemeal maintenance over time, their planned obsolescence intends that these one-time units be replaced when their useful life is up. Whatever the difference in heating and cooling efficiency between the historic windows and new replacements, investing in new replacement windows from an economic standpoint will never be an investment that materializes. Spending tens of thousands of dollars every fifteen to twenty years will always be more than the time and money to maintain the existing windows.

Additional work on the Visitor Center that has been carried out by Parks staff this summer to fire harden the structure includes nearby hazard tree removal, and the restoration of the rotted exterior windowsill caused from the failing roof. Patching and painting the rotted window sill will add another layer of fire resiliency in the event of ember cast being thrown on to the building.

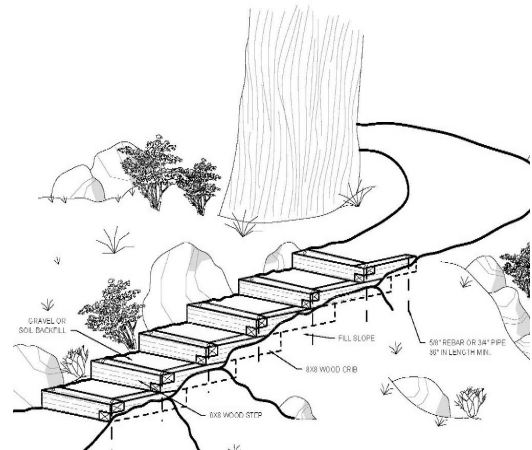
Tip Toe Falls Project, Portola Redwoods State Park



We are getting ready for the Tip Toe Falls project which will replace the wooden stairs that form the path to Tip Toe Falls. This project will replace 43 rotting wood steps leading down to the Pescadero Creek crossing. The steps are estimated to be 35+ years old. Additional steps are needed to correct irregular stride pattern and reduce step height, making the path more accessible and safer.

The 65 new steps will be notched with single-sided retainer to keep soil from eroding out as shown in the artist's example. DPR staff, CCC, and Portola Volunteer Trail Crew will implement the project later this year.

Big Creek Lumber has agreed to donate lumber to Portola and Castle Rock Foundation for this project.



Perseids Stargazing event

With very short notice, we regretfully had to cancel the Perseids Stargazing event on August 10th. We apologize to all of the PCRf supporters that had their plans changed so suddenly. We will try again in 2025 to have this special once a year stargazing

Coyote Ridge Trail Pedestrian Bridge Celebration Portola Redwoods State Park Saturday, July 27th



Thank you to everyone who joined our celebration last month. We had a great turn out! So great in fact, that our plans to have the ribbon cutting mid span had to be changed when we realized that we had more visitors than the bridge could hold at one time!

In addition to PCRFB guests, Park visitors and employees, we were also joined by District Superintendent, Chris Spohrer and Road and Trail Manager, Chris Pereira. Two of the workers on this project, Matt Weil and Eamon Reynolds were given the honor of cutting the ribbon. Planning for this project began in 2015, with the original bridge closed to visitors for the past 7 years. This bridge is part of an accessibility project that, in the future, will provide more handicap access to visitors at Portola Redwoods.



Our amazing State Parks Interpreters led us on a guided hike between the Visitor Center and the bridge. Refreshments were enjoyed on the Visitor Center front porch.

This long-awaited bridge over Peters Creek near the entrance to the Park is available for visitors to hike a loop from the Escape Roads in the campground across the bridge, returning through the forest via the Coyote Ridge Trail.



Portola and Castle Rock Foundation is Recruiting New Board Members and Volunteers

Thinking about joining a nonprofit Board where you can make a contribution of time and skill? PCRF is looking for you. We will be holding a Board meeting at the Park prior to our annual appreciation event, 10am on September 8th at Castle Rock State Park. Come by and listen in, everyone is welcome. We're interested in all skills and welcome everyone's help.

Thinking about volunteering? PCRF is actively looking for volunteers to help us operate the gift shop within Portola Redwoods Visitor Center. A few hours a week would help us generate store sales which we then use to fund Park projects.

To learn more about becoming a board member or volunteering send an email to info@portolaandcastlerockfound.org or talk to a PCRF board member on Sunday, September 8th at Castle Rock State Park.

Donations Welcome

Help us do more - donate to Portola and Castle Rock Foundation

Send us a check 59 Washington St #107, Santa Clara, CA 95050

Visit our website PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org

Donate via the PayPal Giving Fund paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/110027

Click on our donate button on Facebook.

With support from all of our donors we can achieve our 2024 goals. Please donate today!

Our Mission

Inspire Protection of Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks through Quality Educational Experiences and Infrastructure Improvements