PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 12, 2026, 2:30-4:30pm

AGENDA

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-No POSC meeting in December.

-January POSC meeting will be a combined meeting on Monday, 1/25/2027, 1-3pm, with the Bay and Coastal Habitat Committee. Marilyn Latta, State Coastal Conservancy Project Manager, will present on the Regionally Advancing Living Shorelines (RALS) Project.

-Next MMWD quarterly Watershed Committee Meeting on Thursday, December 17 at 9:30am.

-MCL Holiday Party on December 2, look for details soon.

OVERVIEW:

1. (2:40) **Valuing Natural Capital: Understanding the Economic Benefits of Ecosystem Services**

Jon Hecht, Principal Economist at Stantec, will present on natural capital and how evaluating and quantifying natural capital can help preserve ecosystems and achieve both environmental and economic objectives. Natural capital refers to natural assets and ecosystems that generate benefits for people, like clean air and water, food, flood protection, and climate regulation.

The presentation will:

- Introduce natural capital, ecosystem stocks and flows, and the valuation of ecosystem services
- Describe methods and approaches for estimating these values
- Explain how different types of organizations can benefit from valuing natural capital and the ecosystem services that flow from it, including public trust agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector organizations
- Present project examples in California and the western US

To learn more: United Nations Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services FAQ

ADJOURN

Next Meeting: January 25, 2027

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Parks & Open Space Committee Meeting Notes
October 8, 2026

The meeting, held by Zoom and in person, was called to order at approximately 2:30 PM by Director Caroline Christman, Chair. Director Christman welcomed attendees and introduced the presentation on post-fire monitoring and invasive species management at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Director Christman announced a Muir Woods site visit and insider update scheduled for Thursday, November 5, organized with Carolyn Shoulders and Mia Monroe. The event will cover recent and planned projects, including management considerations involving salmon habitat, redwood forest, and visitor use.

Miriam Golding announced that Point Reyes National Seashore Association had posted two job openings related to its conservation grazing work.

Presenters:

Lorraine Parsons, former Vegetation and Wetland Ecologist, Point Reyes National Seashore
Miriam Golding, Biological Science Technician with Point Reyes National Seashore Association

MONITORING AND INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AFTER THE WOODWARD FIRE AT POINT REYES

Lorraine Parsons and Miriam Golding

Parsons provided historical context on fire at Point Reyes, including the role of natural and Indigenous-set fires, changes in fire frequency following colonization and fire suppression, and the relationship between fire and local vegetation communities. She compared the 1995 Vision Fire, which burned approximately 12,354 acres, with the August 2020 Woodward Fire, which burned approximately 5,000 acres. The Woodward Fire was a mixed-severity fire, with most of the burned area experiencing low to moderate severity and a smaller portion experiencing high severity.

Parsons reviewed results from vegetation recovery monitoring initiated in 2021. The plot-based monitoring examined vegetation communities and regeneration following the Woodward Fire, including native and non-native plant cover and species richness. Results showed substantial native vegetation response in many areas. Recovery varied by vegetation community and location, and the monitoring plots did not capture all areas of post-fire change, including the expansion of Bishop pine into some areas.

Golding discussed post-fire rehabilitation and invasive plant management. Initial response work included fire suppression repair and urgent recovery projects, followed by longer-term Burned Area Rehabilitation work. Invasive species monitoring focused on areas disturbed by dozer and hand lines, fire crew staging areas, and other locations where invasive plants could have been introduced or could take advantage of post-fire disturbance.

The presenters described prioritizing invasive species for treatment based on their level of concern and the need for early detection and rapid response. Species discussed included jubata grass and Maltese star-thistle, among others. The work was complicated by limited pre-fire baseline data, difficult terrain, dense poison oak, changing vegetation, and the challenge of reaching interior areas before regrowth

restricted access. The presenters emphasized the importance of collecting baseline data, acting quickly after fires, and continuing monitoring and treatment over multiple years.

Some areas showed strong native regrowth, while selected disturbed sites remained priorities for additional restoration. The presenters described plans to obtain native seed over the next several years and potentially reseed high-priority portions of dozer lines where non-native grasses remain established.

Questions and Discussion

Committee members and attendees asked about invasive species priorities, including gorse; how coastal fog and local conditions may affect fire intensity and post-fire regeneration; the implications of fire near private property; and whether water quality and fire-retardant effects were monitored. Discussion also covered mountain beaver activity and habitat after the fire, cultural-resource protection, the limited number and accessibility of vegetation monitoring plots, and the observed regeneration and spread of Bishop pine.

Attendees discussed the importance of learning from prior fires, the effectiveness of invasive-species prevention measures during fire response, and the need to understand how vegetation management and fuel-reduction treatments may affect understory plants. Parsons and Golding noted limits to the available data and identified areas where further monitoring or research may help answer outstanding questions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Following the presentation and discussion, Director Christman thanked the presenters and attendees. The public portion of the meeting concluded, and members of the Parks and Open Space Planning Subcommittee remained for a separate working session to discuss committee goals, objectives, future meetings, and events. Attendees were encouraged to participate in the committee's upcoming activities, including the November meeting featuring a presentation by John Hecht on ecosystem services and valuing natural capital.

ADJOURNMENT

The presentation and public discussion concluded at approximately 3:55 PM. The Planning Subcommittee then transitioned to its separate working session.