

Fact Sheet

Sam McDonald Park

September 19 - 21, 2025

The Project

We'll spend the days rehabilitating the Big Tree Trail and constructing a brand-new staircase. After the work is done, you can kick back and enjoy everything the area has to offer – relax by the creek, wander among centuries-old redwoods, take a short 30-minute drive to the beach, or explore the Pescadero Marsh, home to migrating birds and a stunningly diverse ecosystem.

Center Camp

Camping will be at Jack Brook Horse Camp, which is reached by a one-way dirt road. The road is timed: inbound traffic at the top of the hour (until :20) and outbound traffic at the bottom of the hour (from :30 to :50). The road can be a little dusty, but you don't need special ground clearance – any vehicle except very low riders should be fine. We'll have people stationed at both ends of the road to help ensure safety.

Volunteers

Trail volunteers will be divided into crews, each led by a certified crew leader. Crew leaders will provide tool training, ensure safety, and supervise the day's work. All necessary tools will be provided by V-O-Cal.

Weather

Please be prepared for a range of weather conditions – layered clothing is best. Unless severe storms are forecasted, we will work rain or shine, including in light drizzle.



Event Schedule

Friday

- 5:00 pm – Registration and camping open.
DINNER IS NOT PROVIDED.

Saturday

- 7:30 am – Registration, light breakfast, and lunch packing.
- 8:30 am – Morning greeting, announcements, stretching and safety talk.
- 9:00 am – Project begins.
- 12:30 pm – Break for lunch on trail.
- 3:30 pm – Stop work and return to camp. Clean and store tools.
- 4:00 pm – Drinks, appetizers and socializing.
Sun showers available.
- 6:00 pm – Dinner.

Sunday

- 7:30 am – Registration and lunch packing begin. Hot breakfast is served.
- 8:30 am – Morning greeting, announcements, stretching and safety talk.
- 9:00 am – Project begins.
- 11:30 pm – Break for lunch on trail.
- 1:30 pm – Head back to camp, clean tools, pack gear and truck.

Meals

V-O-Cal provides all meals for volunteers from breakfast Saturday through lunch Sunday. Vegetarian options are available for all meals.

- To minimize waste we ask that you bring your own reusable plates, coffee mug, cups and utensils. Hot water and soap are provided.
- A continental breakfast is served Saturday morning.
- Please arrive at camp by 7:45 am at the latest to check in, eat breakfast and prepare your lunch. We provide lunch and lunch bags.



- Appetizers and beverages will be available at 4:00 pm after the work day on Saturday. Dinner will follow at 6:00 pm.
- Hot breakfast is served Sunday morning.

Hazards

POISON OAK

There is a risk of exposure to poison oak at the work site. If you're unfamiliar with it, ask your crew leader to point some out. After the work day, use Tecnu (provided by V-O-Cal) to clean exposed skin, and handle your dirty clothes with care.

MOSQUITOES & TICKS

Mosquitoes may be active this time of year. Bug spray and long-sleeved, lightweight shirts are recommended.

Ticks are always a potential hazard. Wearing light-colored clothing can make them easier to spot. Be sure to check yourself during and after the project.

SNAKES

Snakes may be present on the property. Use caution, especially when picking up items from the ground or moving rocks.

SHARP TOOLS

Please pay attention during your crew leader's tool safety talk, and follow proper tool-handling procedures throughout the day.

HYDRATION | SUN EXPOSURE | HYPOTHERMIA

While most work areas are shaded, please be prepared for changing conditions. Bring sun protection such as a sun hat, sunscreen, and lightweight long-sleeve shirts.

Carry enough water – at least 2 liters in bottles or a hydration bladder – and drink regularly throughout the day. If you feel tired, overheated, cold, or weak, notify your crew leader and take a break.

What To Bring

- ☐ Sturdy shoes or boots with good tread. Ankle support is important on much of the trail. Sandals and open-toed shoes will not be permitted.
- ☐ Water bottles or a water bladder that can hold at least 2 liters of water. (You will not be allowed on the trail without water.)
- ☐ Work gloves. (If you don't have your own gloves, V-O-Cal will provide them. Please return them at the end of the project.)
- ☐ Day pack to carry your water and lunch.
- ☐ Sunglasses, hat, and sunscreen.
- ☐ Insect repellent and allergy medicine (if you normally need these things when working outdoors).
- ☐ Reusable plate/bowl, eating utensils, and mug/cup.
- ☐ A change of clothes for each work day, especially if you are sensitive to poison oak.
- ☐ Layers of clothing for a range of temperatures.
- ☐ If you will be camping . . .
 - A tent (**if you have the option to bring a smaller tent, please do!**)
 - A sleeping bag and pillow
 - A flashlight or headlamp
 - A camp chair (if you don't want to sit on the ground)
 - Other camping gear that makes you comfortable

Driving Directions

Camping will be at Jack Brook Horse Camp, which is accessed by a one-way dirt road. The road is timed for safety:

Inbound traffic runs from the top of the hour until :20

Outbound traffic runs from :30 to :50

While the road can be a bit dusty, it doesn't require special ground clearance, We'll have people stationed at both ends of the road to help direct traffic.

For driving, use this Google Maps link or Directions below:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/N73muj6DxLY4mJst6>

For biking, enter the following addresses in your GPS:

Sam McDonald County Park:

13435 Pescadero Creek Road, Loma Mar, CA 94021

Jack Brook Horse Camp:

12430 Pescadero Road, Loma Mar, CA 94021

From East Bay

- Take Highway 92 West across the San Mateo Bridge.
- Turn left (south) onto Skyline Blvd (CA-35).
- Turn left onto La Honda Road (CA-84).
- After about ½ mile, turn left onto Pescadero Creek Road.
- Drive about ¾ mile past the Sam McDonald Park signs.
- Enter the Jack Brook Horse Camp access road (one-way timing applies).

From South Bay (San Jose area)

- Take I-280 North.
- Exit at Woodside Road (CA-84 West) and drive through Woodside toward La Honda.
- Stay on CA-84 until you reach La Honda.
- Turn left on Pescadero Creek Road.
- Drive about ¾ mile past the Sam McDonald Park signs.
- Enter the Jack Brook Horse Camp access road.

From North Bay (Marin | San Francisco)

- Cross the Golden Gate Bridge and take US-101 South.
- Merge onto I-280 South.
- Exit at CA-92 West toward Half Moon Bay.
- Turn left (south) on Skyline Blvd (CA-35).
- Turn left on La Honda Road (CA-84).
- After ½ mile, turn left on Pescadero Creek Road.
- Drive about ¾ mile past the Sam McDonald Park signs.
- Enter the Jack Brook Horse Camp access road.

PLEASE PRINT AND DISPLAY ON DASH



Volunteer Parking Pass

Sam McDonald Park

September 19, 2025

September 20, 2025

September 21, 2025

Children 14 and over are welcome on V-O-Cal projects. Volunteers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

To register, visit our website at www.v-o-cal.org or <https://www.v-o-cal.org/project/sam-mcdonald-park>

For photos of our recent projects, please visit



<https://www.facebook.com/volunteersforoutdoorcalifornia>



<https://instagram.com/volunteersforoutdoorcalifornia>



Volunteer Project Team

V-O-Cal Executive Director Cathy Moyer

Project Team Leads Kayla Marie | Duane Sheets

Technical Lead Lauren Blanchard, mentored by
Joe Cavaness

Crew Leader Managers Cavine Johnson, mentored by
Tomomi Yuasa

Kitchen Lead Clara Chan

Camp Manager Pete Duringer

Tool Manager Jared Rodgers | Anka Karewicz

Shopping Kayla Marie | Duane Sheets

Truck | Warehouse Load Lead Duane Sheets

Registration Augusta Murphy

Flyer | Factsheet Lily Brady

Website Lisa Freeman | Geoff Clarke

Outreach Kayla Marie | Lily Brady |
Melinda Green

Saturday Stretch Leads Darren Heiber

Sunday Stretch Leads Duane Sheets

Artist in Residence Taylor Seamount

Agency Partner

San Mateo County Parks

Project Sponsor

Special thanks to Bay Area Barns and Trails (BABT) for their generous grant supporting the 2025 V-O-Cal Project Season. BABT assists landowners and land managers with preservation and maintenance of publicly accessible Bay Area barns, stables, pastures, staging areas, horse camps, and trails.

In-Kind Project Sponsors

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