

FACT SHEET

Mt Madonna County Park (II)

August 14 – 16, 2026

The Project

We return to working closely with the county's amazing trail crew at beautiful Mt. Madonna County Park in Watsonville. We'll be rerouting approximately 500 feet of the Redwood Trail, another section prone to erosion, and decommissioning the old trail. We'll use grip hoists to move cut trees out of the new trail alignment.

We'll also fine-tune the work we completed on the Meadow Trail where needed, along with general maintenance on the Bayview Trail, including brushing vegetation, widening the trail in places, and, hopefully, rebuilding a rock crossing.

Volunteers

Volunteers working on the trail will be divided into crews, each led by a certified crew leader who will provide training on tool use and safety and supervise the work throughout the day. V-O-Cal provides all necessary tools. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own work gloves, though gloves are available if needed. Please wear comfortable work clothing and sturdy, closed-toe shoes or boots.

Parking

We'll have parking available in the group campground for overnight campers. Please park only in the designated areas to maximize the number of cars we can accommodate.

Once the campground parking is full, we'll have a designated area for dropping off camping gear, with overflow parking available at the Inspiration Point picnic area, which you'll pass through on the way to the road leading to Arrowhead Group Camp. ***Trailer parking will also be available at the Inspiration Point parking area.***

If you're coming just for the day, there should be signs directing you to the Inspiration Point picnic area if parking at the group campground is full.

Center Camp

We'll be staying at the Arrowhead Group Camp, within easy walking distance of the work area. Please note that smoking is prohibited throughout the park.



Weather

Please come prepared for a variety of weather conditions (layers are your friend!). Unless a serious storm is predicted, we will work drizzle or shine.

Dog Policy

Dogs are welcome in camp and on some trails, but not in the work areas. Per park policy, all dogs must be kept on a leash of six feet or less during the day and confined overnight. Please only bring your dog if it is well-behaved, no aggressive behavior toward people or other dogs, and no excessive barking. We also ask that dog owners camp in the designated area.

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 – Head back 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 am – 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

Mt. Madonna County Park
37.00268 N, -121.709352 W

7850 Pole Line Road, Watsonville, CA 95076

<https://parks.santaclaracounty.gov/locations/mt-madonna-county-park>



From the East (North of Gilroy)

- From US-101, take the Tennant Ave exit (exit 365)
- Turn right on Tennant Ave
- Turn left on Butterfield Blvd and continue onto Watsonville Road
- Turn right on CA-152 (Hecker Pass Hwy)
- Turn right on Pole Line Road

From the West

- From CA-1, take the exit for CA-152 East
- Turn left on Pole Line Road

Once in the park

- Remain on Pole Line Road (no need to stop at the entrance kiosk) & look for signs pointing you to the Arrowhead Group Camp.

The Arrowhead Group Camp is about two miles past the entrance kiosk on the left. You'll pass through the gate and head to Arrowhead Group camp site. Look for signs.

There is limited cell phone reception in the park. If you need to contact V-O-Cal staff, please do so before Friday, August 14.

Most people signed V-O-Cal's liability waiver when they registered. It will also be available at registration for anyone who was signed up by another person or who did not pre-register.

All participants must also complete and sign a separate Santa Clara County Parks Waiver and Release form. Copies of these forms are available on the SignUpGenius page where you registered for the project. Please print the appropriate form and bring a completed, signed copy with you to the event. Copies will also be available at registration on the project weekend.

PLEASE DETACH AND DISPLAY ON DASH



Volunteer Parking Pass

Mt Madonna County Park

August 14, 2026

August 15, 2026

August 16, 2026

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.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4FA4A823AAFC1-64915306-mtmadonna#/>

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	Duane Sheets
Project Team Lead	Duane Sheets
Technical Lead	Rudi Boekamp
Kitchen Lead Chef	Xavier Andrade
Camp Manager	Pete Duringer
Crew Leader Manager	Tomomi Yuasa
Tool Manager Town Mayor	Seth Little
Food Shopping	Duane Sheets Tomomi Yuasas
Warehouse Load Truck Driver	Curt Hutchings
Registration Lead	Augusta Murphy
Sat Sun Stretch Lead	Lauren Blanchard
Dog Sitter	TBD as needed
Web Site	Lisa Freeman Geoff Clarke
Outreach	Duane Sheets Lily Brady Melinda Green
Photography	Anka Karewicz
Flyer Fact Sheet	Lily Brady

Agency Partner

Santa Clara County Parks

Project Sponsor

Special thanks to Bay Area Barns and Trails (BABT) for their generous grants supporting V-O-Cal these past few years. 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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