



Carmel Area Bridge To Everywhere Project



Rough Draft for Discussion with Partners

April 2023



“There is a strong connection between walking and well-being—a connection so strong that city-planners use walking and biking as one of the most important design parameters when upgrading cities for better living, home values, and stronger support for local neighborhoods and businesses.”



Giving people more places to take walks and ride bikes is one of the easiest and best-documented health and well-being enhancements available to communities.



There’s an opportunity to expand access and give new life to several public spaces in Carmel and connect some of our most magnificent natural beauty assets for more people to enjoy.

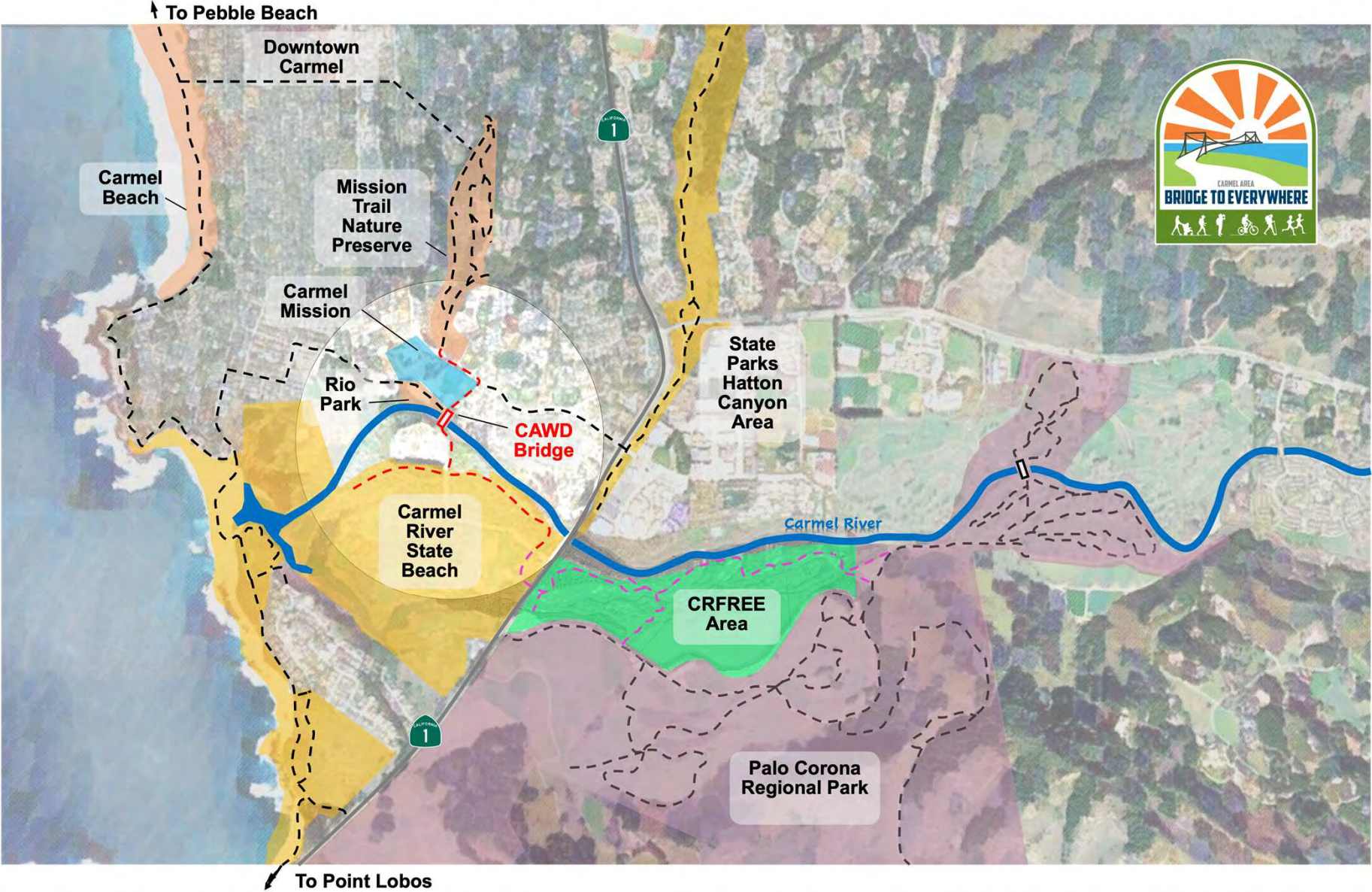


We can elevate our community's quality of life by connecting trails from Carmel-By-The-Sea to the State Park and Regional Park lands south of the Carmel River. A new community walking trail and pedestrian bridge across the Carmel River would connect several networks of currently disconnected trails and parks. This project requires NO land purchase; all the points of connectivity are in public ownership. And, each of these dispersed geographic connection points have existing parking, allowing users to select their choice of access into the new trail system.

This new trail will significantly enhance walkability and access to the tremendous natural beauty the Carmel Area has to offer. Each 'connection' along this new trail is unique and compelling. That's why we call it the 'Bridge to Everywhere'.



CARMEL AREA
BRIDGE TO EVERYWHERE

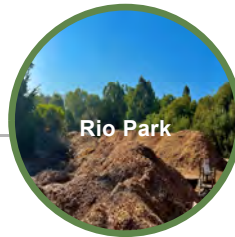




Mission Trail



Larson Field &
Access Way



Rio Park



CAWD Bridge



Old CAWD
Access Road



Scenic Rd,
Carmel River
Lagoon &
Beaches



Hatton Canyon



Palo Corona
Regional Park



CRFREE



Monastery Beach
To Point Lobos

More Connections. More Joy.



Carmel's Mission Trail

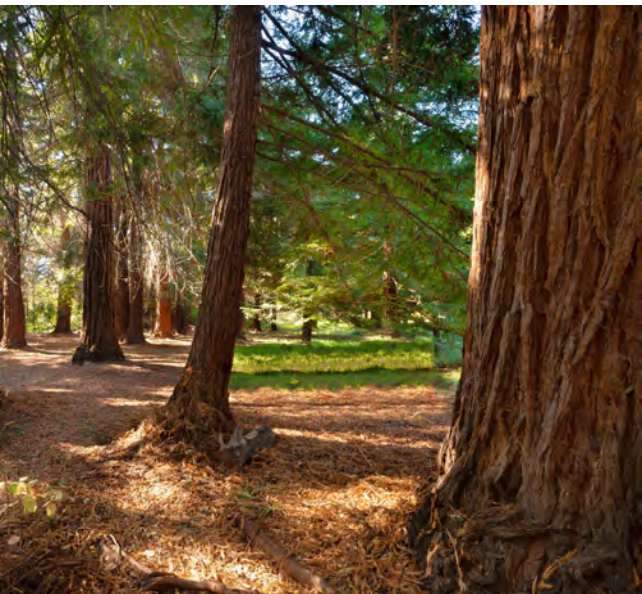
CONNECTION #1

The new Trail would continue from Mission Trail which is a strikingly beautiful nature preserve in the heart of Carmel-by-the-Sea with peaceful, secluded walking trails inside a 34-acre woodland landscape.

Mission trail is a treasured place for local residents and visitors to experience walking trails within the city limits. Mission Trail is a 1.5-mile-long loop that ends at Rio Rd across from the Carmel Mission.



Carmel's Mission Trail





Larson Field & Access Way

CONNECTION #2

Larson Field is adjacent to the Carmel Mission and owned by the Mission Diocese of Monterey. It's a recreational park used for Carmel Youth Baseball. The new trail, when developed, would include enhancements and renovations to the existing Rio Road crosswalk, entry to the baseball field, and the Access Way leading directly to Rio Park, which runs along the eastern edge of the baseball field and adjacent to the Mission Fields homes is a CAWD easement.

These improvements will measurably improve the safety of the crosswalk and provide safer access overall for children around the Mission.

Larson Field & Access Way

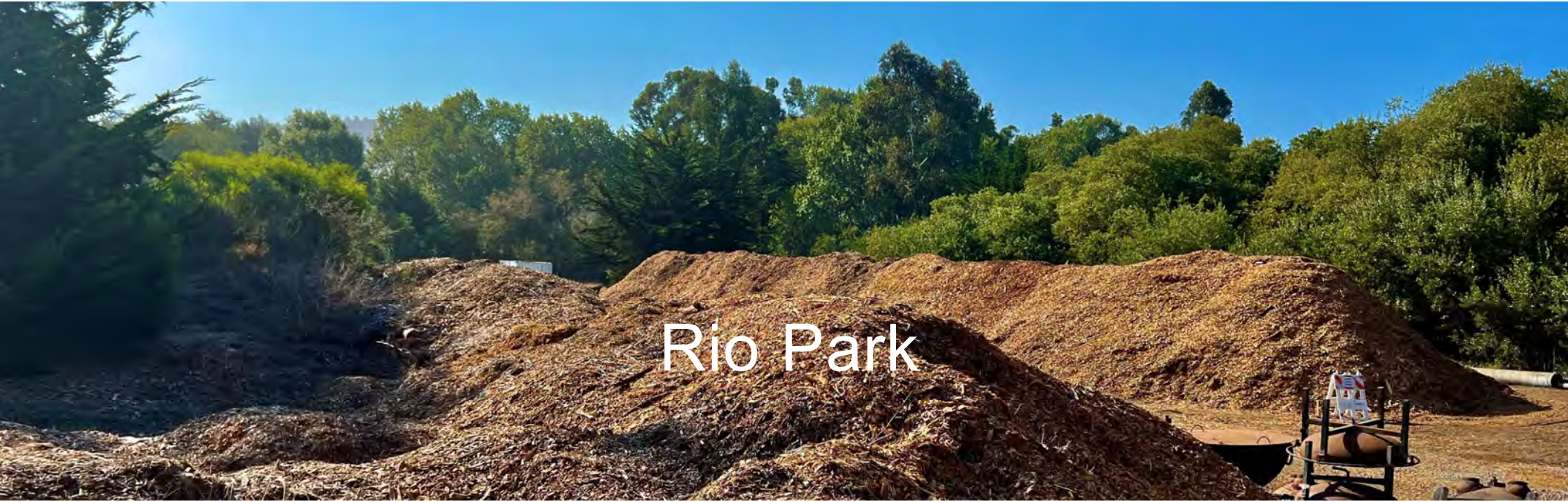


© Doug Davenport

CONNECTION #3

Rio Park is a 6.24-acre undeveloped park that is adjacent to the CAWD footbridge area. It is owned by the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea and is currently used as a temporary corporation yard for wood chips, large tree stumps, and the storage of beach fire pits.

The original design vision was for this to be a passive park in a sunken-bowl shape with no permanent structures (other than removable playground equipment) that could act as an important flood control if needed. This open space will provide ample walking and biking terrain.







Aerial drone footage from Mission Trail to Larson Field & Access Way to Rio Park





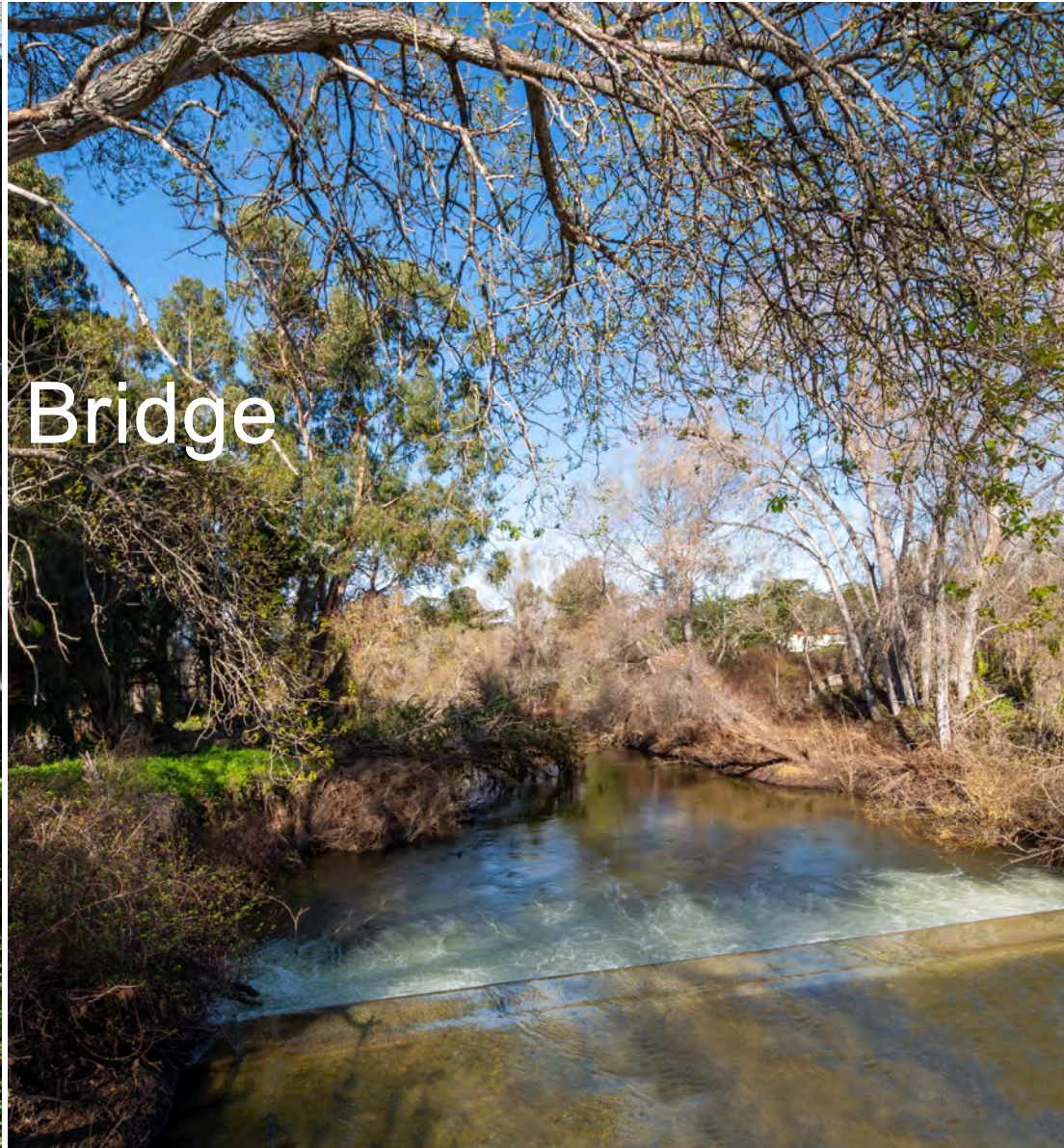
CONNECTION #4

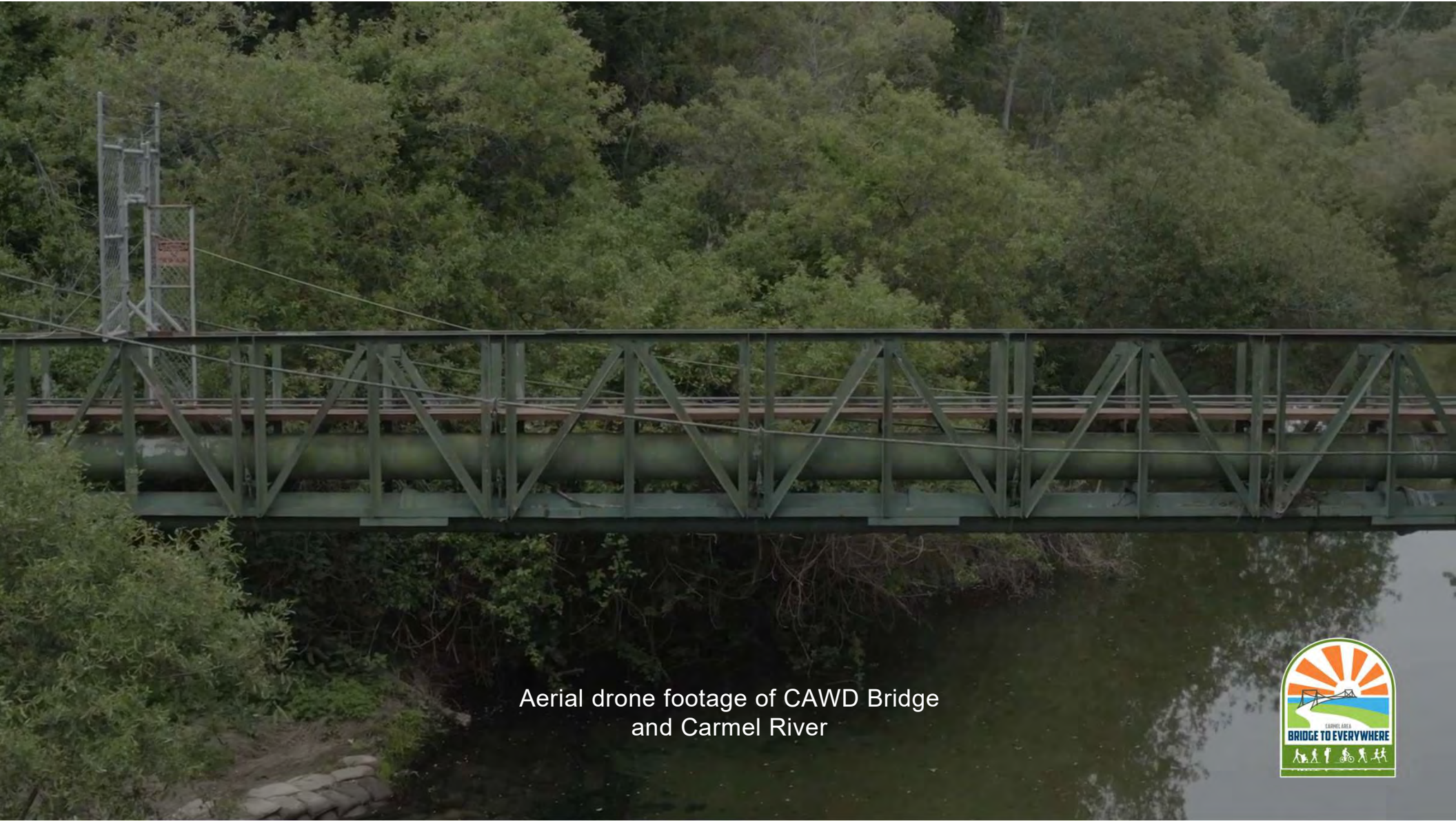
The CAWD bridge is a central connection hub for the proposed new trail project. It was originally built in 1938, five years after the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and it shares a similar suspension bridge design. Standing on the bridge looking down at the water provides a uniquely beautiful vantage point to observe the vital aquatic habitat for juvenile steelhead in the river. And in the canopy above the water is a flourishing covey of migratory birds.

The CAWD Bridge is the *only* river crossing West of Hwy 1, but it is currently unusable and would need to be upgraded or replaced for general public access.



CAWD Bridge





Aerial drone footage of CAWD Bridge
and Carmel River





Old CAWD Access Road

CONNECTION #5

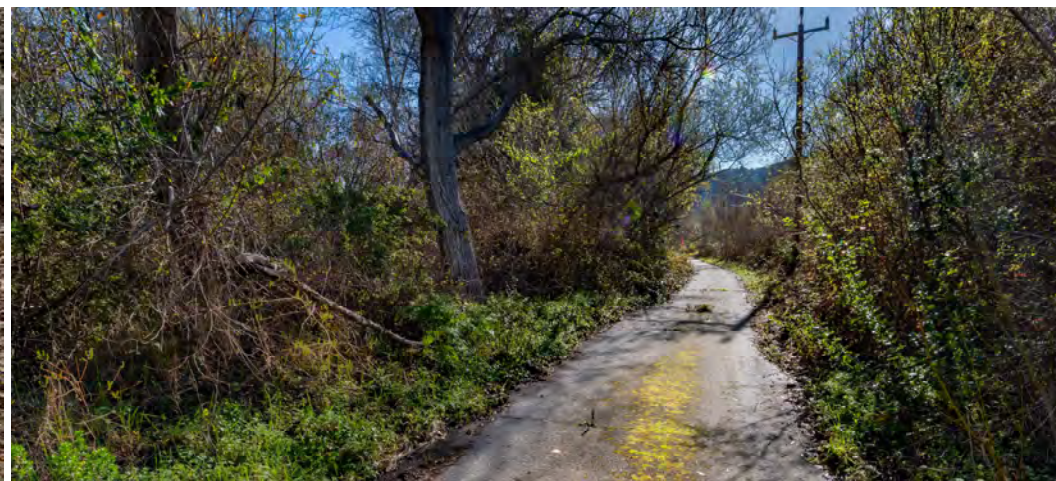
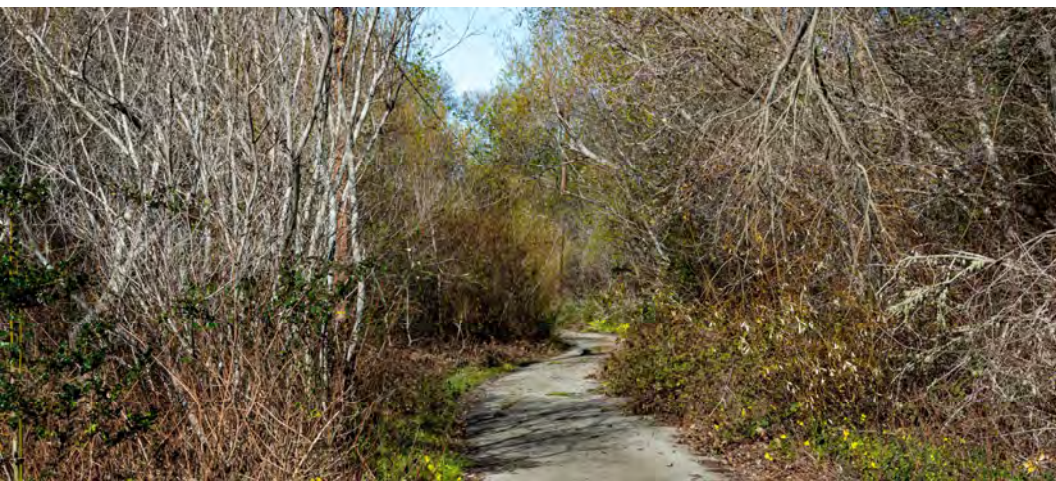
Once you cross to the South side of the Carmel River, you reach mostly undeveloped land except for the CAWD wastewater treatment plant, which has been in operation for more than a century. This plant serves as critical infrastructure for the Carmel Area and also an essential water resource providing all treated water necessary to irrigate the world-renowned golf courses to the north in Pebble Beach.

This area is a hotspot for bird watchers looking to spot a rare species. It is also home to an abundance of other wildlife including bobcats, coyote, deer, wild boar, and the occasional mountain lion. The Old Access road was abandoned in the 90's, but is still intact and could be easily converted into a walking and biking trail.

The road extends all the way to Hwy 1. Most of this old road is now on State Parks property and it's connected to the larger property owned by the State Parks that connects to the Carmel Lagoon and Carmel River Beach. The vast majority of this 155-acre park is currently unavailable for public use.

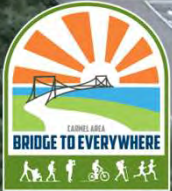


Old CAWD Access Road





Aerial drone footage of Old CAWD
Access Road





Carmel Scenic Pathway, Carmel Point, River Lagoon, and Adjacent Beaches

CONNECTION #6

The stunning Scenic Road Pathway stretches from Pebble Beach on the northern end and winds its way through Carmel-by-the-Sea, around Carmel Point and south connecting Carmel River State Beach, Carmel Meadows Beach, Monastery Beach, and continuing on to Point Lobos.

Tucked in from the Carmel River State beach is a large area of wetlands and the Carmel River Lagoon—the area just before the Carmel River empties into the sea—which hosts a thriving bird sanctuary featuring a wide variety of ducks, geese, songbirds, and shorebirds. It offers walkers, birdwatchers, and hikers some extraordinary panoramic views.



Carmel Scenic Pathway, Carmel Point, River Lagoon, and Adjacent Beaches





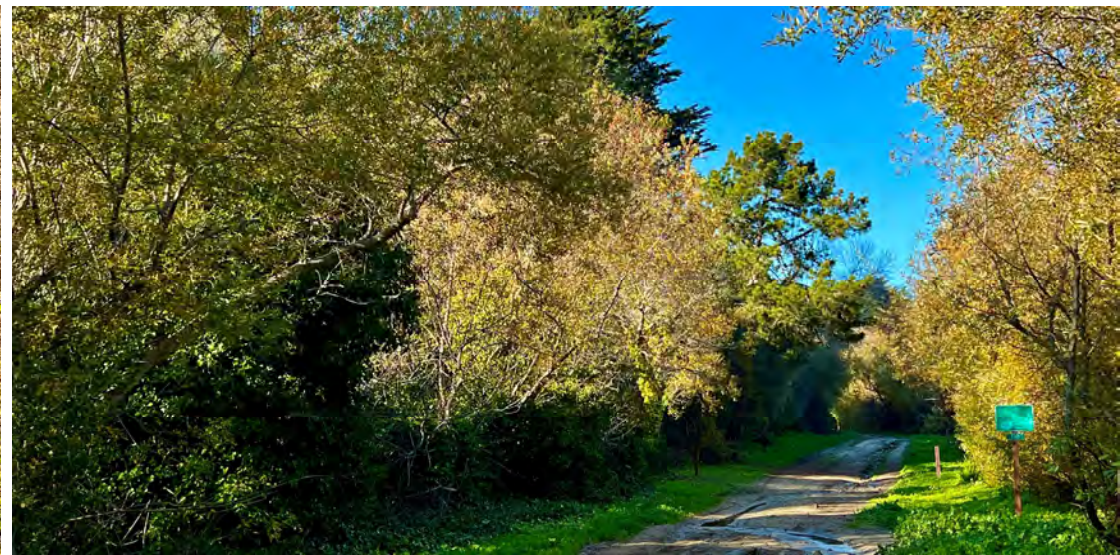
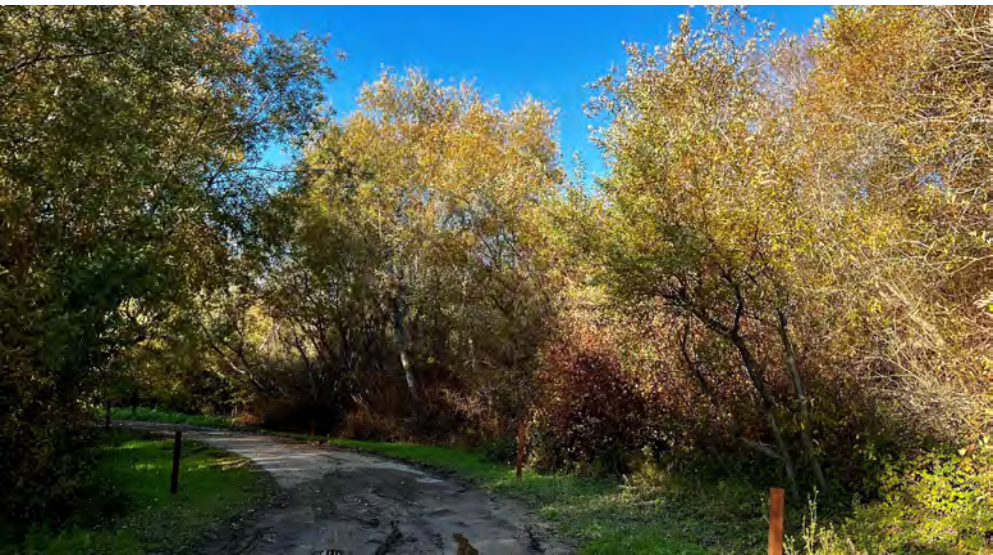
Hatton Canyon

CONNECTION #7

Hatton Canyon is a unique, urban open space that is a state park property. The canyon is home to Monterey Pines and 10 acres of wetlands. Community homeowners and environmental advocates fought for decades to prevent this area from becoming a freeway. It is currently accessible to the public at Carmel Valley Road via a partially paved and dirt trail at the mouth of Carmel Valley.



Hatton Canyon





Palo Corona Regional Park

CONNECTION #8

Palo Corona Regional Park is one of Central Coast California's most significant undeveloped open spaces. The Park stretches nearly 10 miles in length, across more than 4,500 sprawling acres of rugged, spectacular land that boasts an extraordinary mix of ecosystems, wildlife species, and hiking trails. The park protects significant habitat areas, wildlife corridors, wildlife, and endangered species. The new trail could connect Palo Corona via a causeway underneath Hwy 1.



Palo Corona Regional Park





CRFREE Trails

CONNECTION #9

Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project, known as CRFREE will restore habitat and help significantly reduce flood risks for homes and businesses in the lower Carmel River watershed. They plan to use a nature-based green infrastructure solution, to reclaim the southern floodplain and direct water away from developed areas north of the river. Big Sur Land Trust is the largest landowner of the Carmel River FREE site, though portions of the project are also located on Palo Corona Regional Park and Carmel River State Beach.





Monastery Beach to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

CONNECTION #10

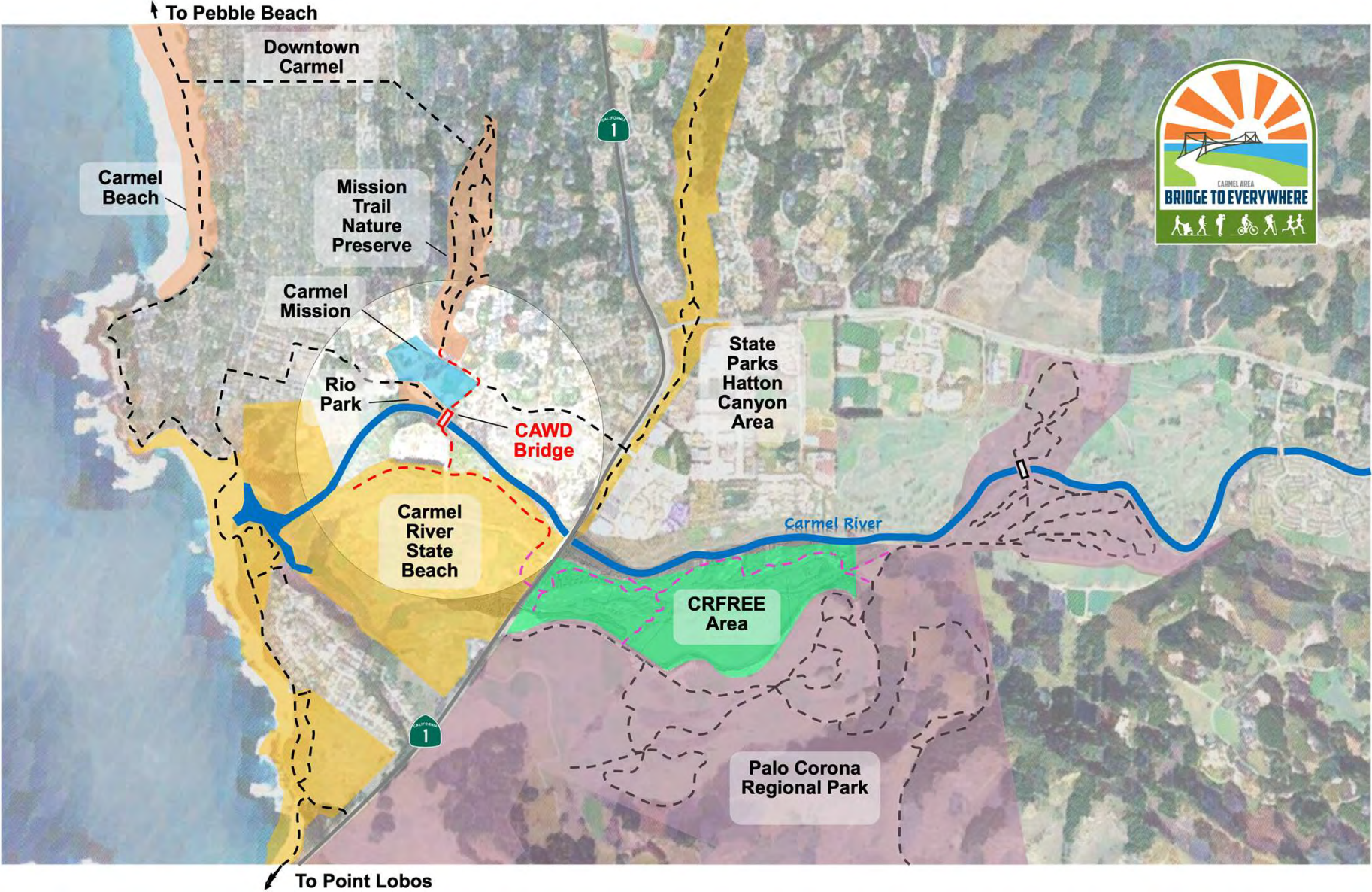
Monastery Beach, named for the Carmelite Monastery, is part of Carmel River State Beach. The one-third-mile-long stretch of sand is very popular with divers and locals who love to walk.

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve has often been called “The crown jewel of the California State Park System.” People travel from all over the world to be inspired by this stunning, unique place.



Monastery Beach to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve





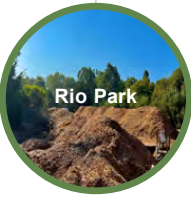


We have an extraordinary opportunity to link these ten beautiful connections—without needing to purchase new land *or* create new parking areas.

LINKING THESE BEAUTIFUL CONNECTIONS

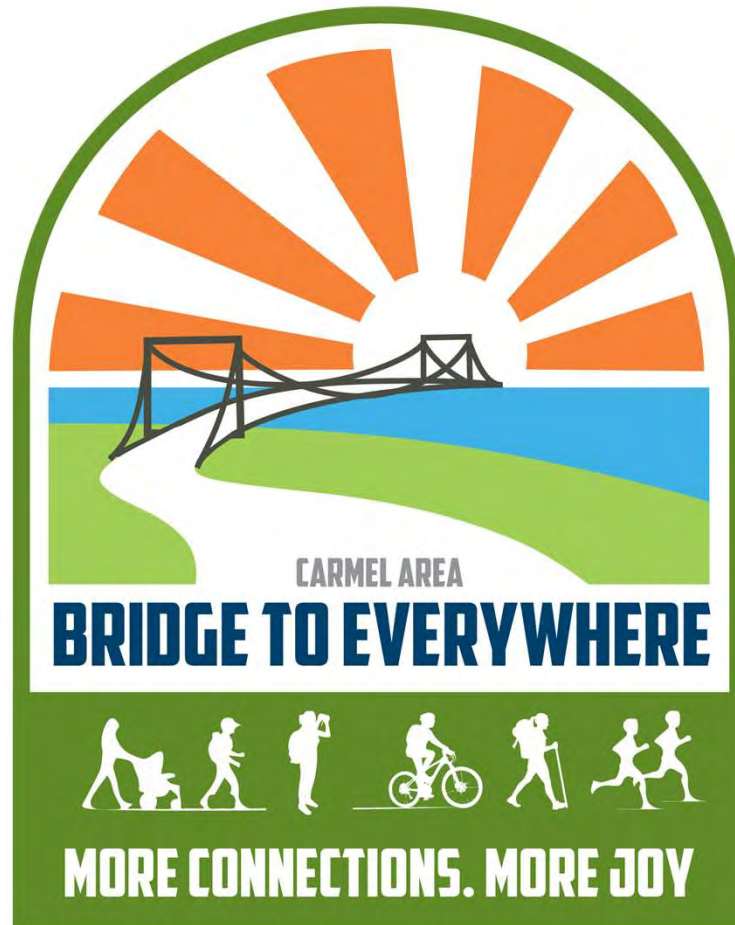
Before the arrival of the missionaries and the Spanish, our Native American ancestors lived along the Carmel coastline. Now, a thousand years later, we can walk in their ancient footprints—from San Juan Creek to Carmel Point—and connect the disparate lands in public ownership.

All these properties—Mission Trail Nature Preserve, Rio Park, CAWD lands, Palo Corona, and more—belong to us, the public. And, *all* these properties should have pedestrian connectivity. All of this—is within our grasp.



Discussion About Key Next Steps

- Recommend removal of the industrial detritus from the Rio Park site so conversion to a public amenity can occur
- Encourage official resolutions of support from public agencies and partners
- Consider grant funding and donations from both public and private partnerships: Cities, County, other Boards of directors, State Senators and Legislators, groups like CRA, Carmel Rotary, private sector companies like the Pebble Beach Corporation and influential individuals
- Confer on securing potential State and Federal grants
- Talk through partner responsibility agreements/MOUs
- Brainstorm other ideas and opportunities



Thank You.