



Fact Sheet

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Need:

Cross-country runners countywide are at risk of literally having nowhere to run due to the high cost or closure of venues for meets.

Solution:

A best-in-class, sanctioned cross-country course so that all Monterey County and visiting schools have a challenging, safe, beautiful and affordable place to run cross-country meets

Vision:

The Palo Corona Cross-country Trail is a partnership between the non-profit Big Sur Marathon Foundation, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, and local scholastic athletic programs to establish, build, maintain, and operate a cross-country running venue capable of hosting meets of all sizes, up to and including national championship-level events. When not in use, this venue will serve as a groomed and measured fitness trail for the community at Palo Corona Regional Park.

Location:

At Palo Corona Regional Park, on the site of the former Rancho Canada Golf Club, off Carmel Valley Road 1 mile east of Highway 1

Cost:

\$350,000 construction costs, \$60,000 a year maintenance and operations

Funding:

100% funded through charitable contributions to the Big Sur Marathon Foundation Palo Corona Cross-country Trail Fund. While the course is part of the larger Palo Corona Regional Park, MPRPD is not funding or fundraising for the project. The non-profit Big Sur Marathon Foundation is the sole funder of construction costs, thanks to the support and generosity of this project's financial donors.

Completion:

August 2022

Description:

Two overlapping loops (1 km and 2 km) that can host races at a variety of distances on a continuous 13-foot wide decomposed-granite trail certified for competition by the Pacific Coast Athletic League.

Features:

Scenic, winding course with five substantial hills for a total elevation gain of 311 feet; runs among and around trees through a portion of Palo Corona Regional Park's grasslands north of the Carmel River.

Cross-country Season:

August 1-November 15. Trail open year-round to the public.

League:







Local teams race in the Pacific Coast Athletic League, which is in the Central Coast Section (CCS), one of 10 sections in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). The CCS extends from San Francisco to King City, serving 152 schools including 158,202 students.



By The Numbers

- **\$350,000** Cost of construction
- **\$60,000** Annual cost of course maintenance and operations
- **10,100** Lineal feet of running path
- **131,300** Square feet of new trail made of 4"-deep decomposed granite
- **311** Vertical feet of elevation and 5 significant hills
- **1,316** 2022 Big Sur Marathon event participants who donated to support the Palo Corona Trail and BSMF's youth fitness program in addition to paying registration fees
- **435,000** Monterey County residents with free, year-round access to use the fitness trail
- **32** Local high school cross-country programs
- **152** Schools in Central Coast Section of California Interscholastic Federation (San Francisco to King City, CA)
- **10+** Middle school cross-country programs in Monterey County
- **3** Local collegiate cross-country programs
- **34.4** Average number of runners per program
- **2,000** Local cross-country athletes at risk of having nowhere to run without this project.
- **160+** Cross-country programs in Monterey County
- **979** Finishers at the 2018 Pacific Coast Athletic League Cross-country Championships
- **96%** Coaches surveyed say will participate in an event here
- **2.5** Average number of times per season coaches would race at Palo Corona
- **4,500** Number of acres in Palo Corona Regional Park
- **0** Public dollars spent to build; 100% funded by charitable donations to the non-profit Big Sur Marathon Foundation

Cross Country Running Course at Palo Corona Regional Park

- Start Area 
- Finish Area 
- Public Trails 
- 2K Loop 
- 1K Loop 
- 5K Course: 
2 Orange Loops + 1 Yellow Loop

Course Configurations

- 2K: Orange Loop
- 3K: Orange + Yellow Loop
- 4K: 2x Orange Loop
- 5K: 2 Orange + 1 Yellow
- 6K: Orange, Yellow, Orange, Yellow
- 8K: 2x Orange, Yellow, Orange, Yellow

