



MDIA E-Newsletter • September 2026

Construction Bids Opened!



Say Goodbye to Our Old Trailer

***Hint For Mobile Users:
Turn your phone sideways for a better view!***

Take a good look at the current Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center because it will be gone soon! On September 22, the Department of Parks and Recreation opened nine construction bids for the new Education Center. Remarkably, the low bid was within \$20,000 of the projected estimate, and the four lowest bids were within \$140,000 of one another. This indicates close agreement of the construction costs among several different contractors.

California public contract code requires verification of the bid documents submitted by the low bidder, and the winning contractor cannot be identified to the public at this time. In the event the low bidder is disqualified there are several other close bids—we now have a good idea of the cost to build the Education Center. You can see the bidders [here](#), click on View Event Package then click on Abstract of Bids at the bottom of the next page.

We would not have been able to get this far without you, our local donors. While we were successful in obtaining major funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board and the State Budget Allocation, it is our local efforts that will allow us to proceed with construction.

Work at the site by the selected contractor may not start for a couple of months, but prior to that you will see changes in Mitchell Canyon. As we prepare the site to hand over to the construction team, both volunteers and park staff will be busy. The existing metal building (the old snack shack) needs to be emptied of its contents before park staff can demolish and recycle the debris. The current Visitor Center also needs to be emptied of its contents before it is moved off-site and the wooden deck demolished. A temporary visitor structure will be purchased and placed near the trailhead and out of the way of construction activities. Planning for all these tasks is currently underway. Once we have our contractor under contract, we can also begin construction site planning including parking concerns, restroom facilities, access to drinking water, etc.

We could not be more excited that the project is proceeding as planned and within budget. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has participated in this project and have helped inch us closer to our goal of providing a world-class facility for decades to come.

You will hear more from us soon about the exhibit planning and our year-end campaign, until then...celebrate a job well-done!

It's Tarantula Season!

Our ever popular tarantula hikes continued this month. Here visitors view a tarantula near a burrow.



Jen Kellar explains the origins of the tarantula and the centuries-old tarantella dance.



We're on [Facebook](#)! Come like and follow us on our brand new Facebook page. You can see several posts every week, cool photos, interesting creatures, event updates, great articles and much more. [Come give us a like!](#)

Upcoming Events



Astronomy: [CubeSats](#)
October 10, 6-9pm
Lower Summit Parking Lot
Learn about the history, current use, and future of small satellites



Walk: [Wonder Hike](#)
October 14,
8:30am -12:30pm
Mitchell Canyon
Discover the flora and fauna of Mitchell Canyon



Webinar: [Wildlife Photography](#)
October 21
7 - 8pm
Meet Vishal Subramanyan, amazing young nature photographer

Click [here](#) for a listing of more upcoming events!



We're on [Instagram](#)! Come like and follow us on our brand new Instagram page. You can see several posts every week, cool photos, interesting creatures, event updates, great articles and much more.

BECOME A MEMBER



Thank you for your support of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association and I will see you on the mountain!

Steve

DONATE

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