

Carmel River Heritage



1846 Isabel Meadows was born of Indian and European parents on the day the American flag was raised over Monterey. She was the last speaker of the Ohlone-Rumsen language. She spent the last years of her life at the Smithsonian Institution recording the language and stunning stories of Spanish Mission life in the Valley. Image credit: Smithsonian Institution.



1879 Robert Louis Stevenson, as a sickly, young, aspiring author came to experience Carmel Valley's climate and rugged rancho lifestyle. During a hike he fell ill when the weather suddenly changed. Two English settlers found him nearly dead and nursed him for weeks at their ranch, where he wrote stories for their children. Image credit: California Views.



1945 John Steinbeck wrote about the Carmel River in Cannery Row, in which Mack and the boys caught frogs in a nearby pool to sell, and then use the proceeds to throw a party for their friend Doc Ricketts. Steinbeck and his wife Carol planned to build a home on the river near here. Image credit: California Views.



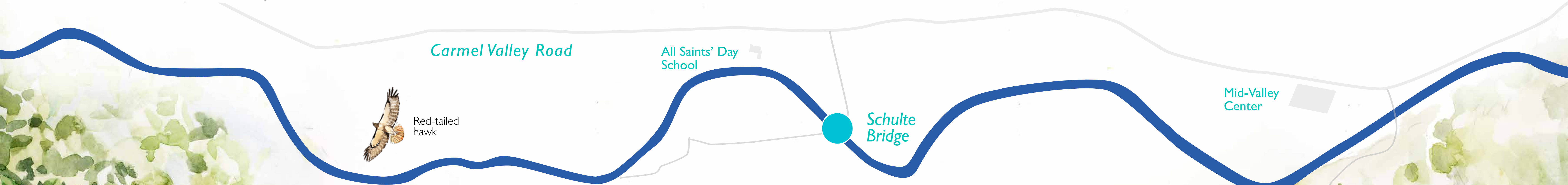
1982 The Schulte Bridge area (River Mile 6.7 to 7.5) experienced significant erosion from flows between 1978 and 1983. About 30 acres of the post-1911 flood terrace eroded, dumping approximately 500,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel into the channel. Image credit: MPWMD.



1982 Property owners struggled to prevent erosion by placing old car tires and concrete rubble to try and protect their land from high winter flows. In 1986, MPWMD began work on the Schulte Restoration Project by rebuilding eroded banks near the Schulte Road Bridge. The primary objective of the design was to restore riparian habitat and stabilize the river channel. Image credit: MPWMD.



2010 Today one sees a mature restoration project looking upstream and downstream of Schulte Road Bridge. The riparian plantings of willows and cottonwoods have stabilized the channel and improved the habitat for wildlife such as steelhead, California red-legged frog, and song birds. Image credit: MPWMD.



Restoring Our River

The Carmel River and surrounding peaks have always inspired artists and scientists. Its degradation in the 1970s and 80s because of water extraction and loss of streamside vegetation inspired an entire community to rally to its rescue. Rate payers within the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District funded the Schulte Restoration Project where over 6,000 native riparian trees were planted on a designed floodplain to help stabilize this reach of the river.

