



## Mendocino Coast Recreation & Park District

213 East Laurel Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

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## Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District

The Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District (MCRPD) is a Special District that serves 30,000 residents between Rockport and Gualala, and an area of 1000 square miles along the Mendocino coast. MCRPD provides quality recreational opportunities to residents and coast visitors including swimming, martial arts and fitness classes, sports camps and leagues for youth and adults, facilities for community and private events, and after-school enrichment and study labs for children in the Fort Bragg and Mendocino school districts.

The District is supported by property taxes, program fees, and contributions. Every effort is made to keep fees affordable, and supplemental funding is provided through grants and partner agencies to assure that everyone has access to facilities and programs.

### **The MCRPD Board of Directors**

The Board is composed of 5 elected or appointed members. Meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month. The meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes are posted at the District office in Fort Bragg and on the website.

- David Yeomans, Chairman: [mcrpdboard@mcn.org](mailto:mcrpdboard@mcn.org)
- Bob Krebs, Vice Chairman
- Cesar Yanez, Secretary
- Harold Sipila
- Jon McColley

### **MCRPD Staff**

- Bruce Irwin, District Administrator: [admin@mendocoastrec.org](mailto:admin@mendocoastrec.org)
- Michelle Gordon, Business Manager [mcrpdbooks@mcn.org](mailto:mcrpdbooks@mcn.org)
- Greg Fallon, Recreation Center Supervisor: [starr@mendocoastrec.org](mailto:starr@mendocoastrec.org)
- Tesse Branscomb, Aquatics Director: c/o [office@mendocoastrec.org](mailto:office@mendocoastrec.org)
- Cindi Whitlock, Office Manager: [office@mendocoastrec.org](mailto:office@mendocoastrec.org)
- Jill Dunsing, Sports Coordinator: [Sports@mendocoastrec.org](mailto:Sports@mendocoastrec.org)
- Peg Brown-Levy, Mendocino After-school and Rec Center Director [mendo@mendocoastrec.org](mailto:mendo@mendocoastrec.org)
- Becca Rodseth, Fort Bragg After-school Coordinator (Kudos & Assets): [kudos@mendocoastrec.org](mailto:kudos@mendocoastrec.org)



# The C.V. Starr Community Center

**Location:** 300 South Lincoln Street, Fort Bragg (Corner of Maple and Lincoln Streets)

**Public Transportation:** MTA and Senior Center Shuttle

**Contact:** Greg Fallon, Recreation Center Supervisor [starr@mendocoastrec.org](mailto:starr@mendocoastrec.org)

**Hours of Operation:** Open 7 days/week, hours TBA

## Facility Features:

- Houses the Spath Aquatic Facility, a 21,372 sq. ft. natatorium with 2 indoor pools
- Fitness equipment room with Nautilus Nitro Plus exercise equipment, treadmills, step climber, elliptical machines and exercise bikes
- Conference/presentation room (1810 sq. ft) with chairs and movable table seating, WiFi, digital projector and screen, and optional serving kitchen
- Multi-use room (733 sq. ft.) available for classes, events, and private parties
- Aerobics/dance/exercise studio (1355 sq. ft.) with a hardwood floor
- Changing rooms, showers and lockers

## Programs

- Martial Arts, aerobics, yoga, dance, and other fitness classes and activities
- Available for birthday parties and other private events
- Physical therapy and personal training
- Facility rentals for conferences, classes, and presentations
- Home of 'Just for Kids' summer and school vacation programs

## Additional Site Features

- A dog park, built and managed by the Mendocino Coast Dog Owners Group, MCDOG
- Picnic tables
- Ample off-street parking

## Future Developments

- An additional wing to the Community Center that will include a gymnasium, commercial kitchen, and more classrooms and rental facilities
- A skateboard plaza in the NE corner of the site. The plaza will be constructed and managed in collaboration with the City of Fort Bragg

## Construction Information

- Phase 1 start date: August 2005
- Phase 2 start date: May 2008
- Designed by: Glass Architects of Santa Rosa
- Constructed by: BRCO Constructors, Inc.
- Pictures updated weekly at [www.mendocoastrec.org](http://www.mendocoastrec.org)



# The Sigrid and Harry Spath Aquatic Facility

## Competition Pool

- 25-yard, USA-Swimming Certified Competition Pool
- 12' depth suitable for diving
- 8 lanes
- Temperature of 78-79 degrees
- 1 meter springboard diving platform

## Leisure/Therapy Pool

- With 0-Depth beach entry, for easy access to exercise and water therapy programs
- "Lazy river" with adjustable current
- 145' water slide and other play features
- Temperature of 84-85 degrees

## Aquatic Programs

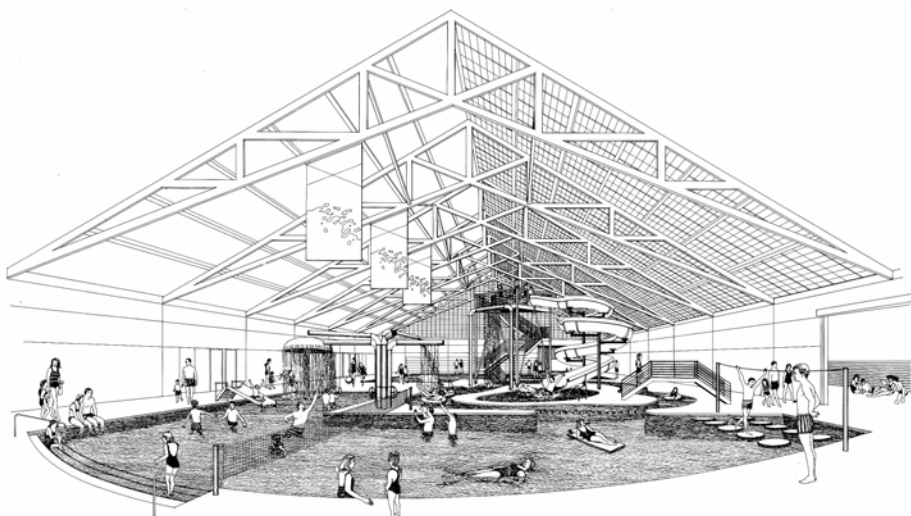
- American Red Cross "Learn to Swim" classes for all ages (infant-adult)
- Lifeguard and water safety instruction
- Sea Lions - USA Swimming Team for youth ages 7-17
- Masters swimming program
- Girls and boys water polo
- Springboard diving lessons
- Physical therapy
- Arthritis water exercise
- Water aerobics classes
- Scuba diving and snorkeling lessons
- Special events/birthday parties

## Aquatic Facility Staff

Tessie Branscomb

Aquatics Director

c/o [office@mendococoastrec.org](mailto:office@mendococoastrec.org)





## Our Supporters

### Project Funding

- \$11 million from community fundraising
- \$16.5 million from the C.V. Starr Foundation
- Nearly \$1 million from the City of Fort Bragg
- \$1 million from Mendocino County
- \$1.3 million from California State Parks and Recreation
- \$250,000 raised by the Annual MCRPD Aquathon

### C.V. Starr

Cornelius Vander Starr was born in Fort Bragg in 1892 and graduated from Fort Bragg High in 1909. He began his foray into the business world by opening an ice cream shop near the corner of Laurel and Franklin Streets in Fort Bragg. He went on to earn a law degree and founded a group of insurance companies which became known as the American International Group, one of the largest casualty underwriters in the world. C. V. Starr was a man of impressive vision, intelligence and accomplishment, who invested in the communities in which he resided. He created the Starr Foundation and endowed it with his considerable assets in order to further the positive influence he had on the world. Despite his world-wide travels and achievements, Fort Bragg and its residents occupied a special place in his heart. The C.V. Starr Foundation also grants scholarships to local high school graduates.

### Harry Spath

Harry Spath came to the area as a young man. He married Sigrid and together they owned and operated a steam laundry in downtown Fort Bragg. Harry was involved in many volunteer organizations, serving as a volunteer fireman, on the City Council, and as a member of the Masons and Oddfellows. In his later years he contributed to a number of local charities, topping it off with a \$1.2 million donation to the community campaign for a new aquatic center.

### Friends of MCRPD

The Friends of MCRPD was founded in 1989 to encourage appreciation and support of public recreation facilities within the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District, and to give assistance and support to recreational, horticultural and cultural leisure-time programs and activities of educational character. Friends of MCRPD is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Contact: Melissa Ivankay, President, 707-961-0697, [info@friendsofmendocoastrec.org](mailto:info@friendsofmendocoastrec.org)

Mailing Address: 312 E Laurel St Fort Bragg CA 95437

Website: [www.friendsofmendocoastrec.org](http://www.friendsofmendocoastrec.org)



## Aquatic Facility Timeline

- 1922 Original pool built by the Fort Bragg Community Club and filled with sea water
- 1973 Mendocino Coast Recreation & Park District formed (4/73)
- 1974 MCRPD purchases Green Memorial field with the intention of building a new pool
- 1977 MCRPD develops first set of preliminary plans for a new aquatic center at Green Memorial Field
- 1987 MCRPD holds first Annual Aquathon to raise funds designated for the new pool
- 1997 Harry Spath donates \$1 million to the campaign for a new pool
- 1998 MCRPD hires Architect Paul Douglas to create preliminary designs for the Aquatic Facility (3/26/98). Douglas later became a partner with Glass Architects of Santa Rosa, the firm that completed the project.
- 2001 Phase 1 Aquatic Facility plans receive use permit from City Planning Commission (10/16/01)
- Groundbreaking ceremony held at Green Memorial Field. Harry Spath turns over the first shovelful of dirt with a golden shovel (7/01)
- Harry Spath passes at 98 years of age (12/6/2002)
- 2002 Starr Foundation awards \$3 Million to complete Phase 1 of the Aquatic Facility
- California Dept. of Parks and Recreation awards \$500,000 Prop 12 grant for the Aquatic Facility (6/3/2002)
- 2005 Site preparation begins at Green Memorial field (8/05)
- 2006 MCRPD accepts bid from BRCO construction for Phase 1 of the Aquatic Facility (3/5/06)
- 2008 MCRPD awarded an additional \$13.5 Million by the C.V. Starr Foundation to complete Phase 1/natatorium, and Phase 2/support structure - offices, classrooms, and dressing rooms 5/08)
- 2009 Grand opening of the C.V. Starr Community Center and Sigrid & Harry Spath Aquatic Facility (6/09)



# History of the Recreation District

The Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District (MCRPD) was formed in 1973 with the original boundaries encompassing 20 square miles around Fort Bragg. In 1982 the District annexed the area served by the Mendocino Unified School District (MUSD). MCRPD leases the Fort Bragg Recreation Center from the City of Fort Bragg and the historic schoolhouse in Mendocino from MUSD. Both are used for after-school programs and other community functions.

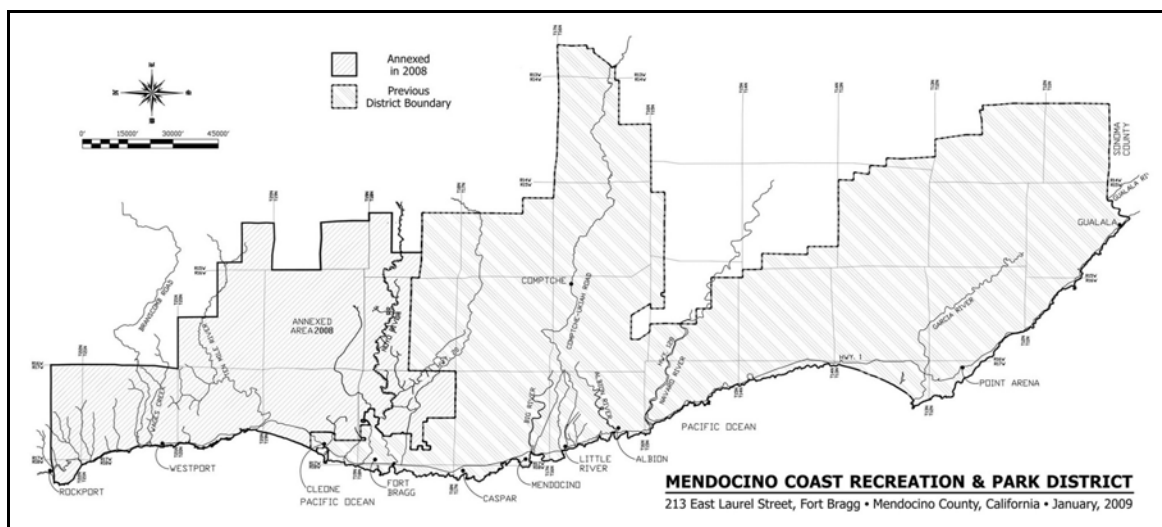
In 1978, using Park Bond Act monies, MCRPD obtained a five acre parcel known as Green Memorial Field in central Fort Bragg, and in 2006, began construction of its new facility at this location. The C.V. Starr Community Center and Spath Aquatic Facility will house the pools and District offices. Future projects at the site include a new gym, and a skate plaza which will be constructed and managed by the City of Fort Bragg.

The District also holds title to property on Hwy 20 and has developed plans for a 600 acre regional park and 18-hole championship golf course at this location. The regional park will include a family picnic area, 5-miles of integrated hiking and biking trails, a sports complex, and 176 acres of Conservation Easements to protect Mendocino Pygmy Cypress and mixed conifer forest in this area.

MCRPD is also the title owner of the 47 acre Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, obtained for public ownership through the California Coastal Conservancy. MCRPD leases the facility to the non-profit Botanical Gardens Corporation, which is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the facility.

In 1989, residents of Point Arena requested that MCRPD incorporate the Point Arena School District into MCRPD. Though MCRPD does not own or operate any facilities in the Point Arena area, it has supported and sponsored many after school activities, and is involved in the development of a Recreation Center adjacent to Bower Park east of Gualala.

The map below shows a large portion of the Fort Bragg School District, the Noyo River to Rockport, which was annexed to the district in 2008.



## Recreation District Awarded 13 Million from the C.V. Starr Foundation

David Yeomans, Chairperson of the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District, today announced that the Starr Foundation has agreed to fund MCRPD's proposal for construction completion of the C.V. Starr Community Center and Spath Aquatic Facility for approximately 13 million dollars. This is in addition to their earlier gifts. In 2001-2004, the Starr Foundation along with relatives and associates of C.V. Starr donated gifts totaling \$4,000,000 . . . . .

Starr Foundation representatives have worked closely with the District for the past year. Their onsite observation of the ongoing construction of the building that will house the pools along with their critical fiscal evaluation formed the basis for their decision to help complete this project. The Starr Foundation wants to see this long-awaited project completed so that MCRPD can continue to provide and expand its valuable services to local residents, especially the children and families of our community.

Aquatics Director Tessie Branscomb, and a prime mover of the new pool for over forty years, is thrilled that the dream is finally a reality! "The new pools will provide for expanded swim programs and everyone in our community will have the opportunity to learn to swim, take part in water therapy and exercise programs, or just have fun in the water."

The Friends of MCRPD has spearheaded the fund-raising drive. A generous gift of \$1,000,000 from long-time resident Harry Spath ignited the current drive. Friends of MCRPD treasurer Wendy Boise commented: "Our community has been working on the concept of a new facility for many years, through difficult changes in our economic base. That it is finally becoming a reality is a huge part of our future potential. Considering the strides the Hospital District is making in the local health care system and improvements being made to our local schools' infrastructure, it speaks volumes about this community's dedication to promoting economic stability and the well being of future generations. That sort of dedication to community was at the heart of many of Neil Starr's decisions and, I believe, is why the Starr Foundation saw this project as one worthy of their support."

According to a recent independent evaluation of the District: "MCRPD's leadership has taken a long-term strategic view of the role of the District in helping to build the future economic and social health of the community. The Starr/Spath Center is part of that vision. Hundreds of people came together in the early 20th century to build a wonderful recreation center. It has served the community for 5 generations. North Coast residents are once again working together in the spirit of a century ago to build a new Center that will serve for another century. And it is fitting that the new Center's main financial "angel" is a foundation formed by CV Starr. Starr grew up in Fort Bragg when the vision of the first Recreation Center was created. Without a doubt [the new CV Starr/Spath Aquatic Center] will be the finest aquatic facility on the North Coast. It will be where the next generations learn how to swim."

Beth Pine, Mendocino Coast Recreation & Park District Administrator *[now Administrative Assistant]* applauds the community and current and former staff and Board for the tireless and ever faithful effort to keep alive the dream of a new community center for so many years. "Once the Center is completed and being enjoyed by our residents and visitors, we will continue in the tradition of Starr's vision and fiscal responsibility and we will provide superb programs and services to the folks of all ages. Our community has been given an incredible gift- a center that goes far beyond our earliest dreams. Much of the support we received to build this new treasure came because of the tremendous support and level of generosity of local donors and volunteers. Now we will have to continue to work together to preserve our community center and also to insure that we are able to serve everyone, regardless of their ability to pay." . . . . .

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Cornelius Vander Starr graduated from Fort Bragg High School in 1909; he went on to build what's become a worldwide insurance network

## Starr Foundation awards \$3 million for aquatic center

The Starr Foundation of New York, N.Y., has made a grant of \$3 million to the Friends of the Mendocino Coast Recreation & Park District toward the construction of a new recreation and aquatic center in Fort Bragg. The grant is made in honor of Cornelius Vander Starr (1892-1968), the founder of the American International family of insurance and financial services companies, who was born in Fort Bragg.

This gift will make it possible to complete the first phase of the Community Center, the Sigrid and Harry Spath Aquatic Center, and aspects of the second phase. The final 60,000-square-foot community and recreation facility will be named the C.V. Starr Community Center. Groundbreaking for the first phase is planned for late 2002 and an official opening to the public is projected for summer 2004.

"It is particularly significant that the legacy of C.V. Starr, a Fort Bragg native, should be instrumental in making the new community center a reality," said Development Director Lin Barrett. "Neil Starr was a man of tremendous vision, who understood the importance of supporting community life and providing individuals with opportunities."

"We are delighted to be a part of this project in Mr. Starr's home town," said Florence Davis, president of the Starr Foundation. "The Foundation has funded projects in other places where Mr. Starr lived, from Brewster, N.Y., to Bermuda, to Shanghai, but this is our first project in Fort Bragg."

The \$3 million grant will be paid over three years and brings committed funds to \$6.5 million of the approximately \$7.8 million needed to complete the current phase of the project.

The late Harry Spath, a Fort Bragg resident who died in December 2001, at age 98, donated more than \$1 million to the aquatic center, which will be named the Sigrid and Harry Spath Aquatic Center. It will include a competition pool, a running river, a water slide, a spa and locker rooms.

When the second phase of the building is completed, the C.V. Starr Community Center will also include a gymnasium, fitness room, locker rooms, childcare facilities, kitchen, and space for classes and other activities. The Mendocino Health Care District, both local school districts and the College of the Redwoods have developed plans with the Recreation and Park District to optimize the use of the center.

In addition, the Starr Foundation announced that it has approved a grant of \$150,000 over three years to provide scholarships to graduating seniors going on to higher education from the Fort Bragg and Mendocino school districts. "Education has always been our largest area of giving," said Gladys Thomas, vice president of the Starr Foundation, who visited Fort Bragg in October 2001. "Mr. Starr used to pay scholarships out of his own pocket to permit students to pursue educational goals they might not otherwise have been able to afford." A committee will be formed to award and administer the scholarships.

Cornelius Vander Starr graduated from Fort Bragg High School in 1909 and opened Starr's Ice Cream Parlor shortly afterward, in the building still standing at the southwest corner of Franklin and Laurel streets. His later travels took him to the Far East, where he set up his first insurance venture in Shanghai in 1919, building it into a worldwide insurance network that became American International Group, Inc. AIG today is a global organization that includes insurance, financial services, retirement savings and asset management.

C.V. Starr died in 1968, leaving the bulk of his estate to the Starr Foundation, which he had established in 1955. The Foundation currently has assets of approximately \$4.5 billion, making it one of the largest private foundations in the United States. It makes grants in education, medicine and healthcare, human needs, public policy, culture and the environment.

The Mendocino Coast Recreation & Park District was formed in 1973 to develop a new recreation and aquatic facility for Fort Bragg residents. Over time it has expanded and now provides recreation facilities and activities for residents of the Mendocino Coast.