



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD/TTY: call 711

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Regular Meeting

**Simpkins Family Swim Center  
Community Rooms**  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

**II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Any person may address the Commission during its Oral Communication period. Speakers must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, or the time limit established by the Chair, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. All Oral Communication must be directed to an item listed on today's Consent Agenda, Closed Session Agenda, yet to be heard on Regular Agenda, or a topic not on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission members will not take actions or respond immediately to any Oral communication presented regarding topics not on the agenda but may choose to follow up later, either individually, or on a subsequent Commission Agenda. Oral communications will normally be received by the Commission for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. If, at the end of this period, additional persons wish to address the Commission, the Oral Communication period may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve minutes from February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.....page 2-3
- b. Consider Reports:
  - i. Aquatics Section Report.....page 4
  - ii. Maintenance Section Report.....page 5-6
  - iii. Planning Section Report..... page 7-9
  - iv. Recreation Section Report.....page 10
  - v. Reservations Section Report.....page 11
  - vi. Volunteer Section Report..... page 12-18

**V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair for Parks & Recreation Commission 2024.

**VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. Mitigation Monitoring Report on Anna Jean Cummings – Mike Pruitt, Planner II.....page 19-34
- b. County Park Friends Youth Leaders Presentation on Climate Justice
- c. Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons and East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study
- d. Commissioner reports on Work Plan.....page 35-37

**IX. NEXT MEETING:** August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Location to be announced in public notice.

**X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD/TTY: call 711

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting  
Aptos Village Park Clubhouse, 100 Aptos Creek Rd., Aptos CA 95003

#### I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- a. **Present:** Katherine Lee (District 1), Tricia Wiltshire (District 2), Jeremy Sanford (District 3), Monica Martinez (District 5)
- b. **Absent:** Martha Victoria Vega (District 4)
- c. **Staff:** Jeff Gaffney, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha, Frankie Farr

#### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

#### III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Any person may address the Commission during its Oral Communication period. Speakers must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, or the time limit established by the Chair, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. All Oral Communication must be directed to an item listed on today's Consent Agenda, Closed Session Agenda, yet to be heard on Regular Agenda, or a topic not on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission members will not take actions or respond immediately to any Oral communication presented regarding topics not on the agenda but may choose to follow up later, either individually, or on a subsequent Commission Agenda. Oral communications will normally be received by the Commission for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. If, at the end of this period, additional persons wish to address the Commission, the Oral Communication period may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA **Motion to approve: Wiltshire, Second: Sanford | Ayes: Lee, Wiltshire, Sanford, Martinez**

- a. Approve minutes from December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.....page 2 – 3
- b. Consider Reports:
  - i. Aquatics Section Report.....page 4
  - ii. Maintenance Section Report.....page 5
  - iii. Planning Section Report..... page 6 – 7
  - iv. Recreation Section Report.....page 8 – 9
  - v. Reservations Section Report.....page 10
  - vi. Volunteer Section Report..... page 11 – 14

#### V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

**District 1:** Following the storms, some parks are doing better than others. Was able to talk to Jesse Williams, Parks Superintendent, that addressed some issues. Work in several parks within District 1 is going good and the parks are looking good and ready for spring.

**District 2:** District was quiet since the last meeting. Got a few calls about trees that had fallen, but they were not in her district.

**District 3:** Would like to address waste management on north coast beaches and improve restroom facilities (davenport landing).

**District 4:** Absent.

**District 5:** Felton Covered Bridge Pump Track MOU with Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship was approved by the Board of Supervisors. The project continues to have high engagement from constituents. Attended the County Park Friends Board retreat on behalf of the commission and was able to start the conversation with CPF on engaging the two bodies.

**VI. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

There was some storm damage at **Moran Lake County Park**. Luckily, no one was hurt, but some trees did damage properties during the windstorm. The **Live Oak Library Annex** is a year behind scheduled, but things are coming along. Once it is reopened, we will have access to community rooms once again. **Simpkins Swim Center** – have been some HVAC/boiler issues, both being addressed and replaced. **New Whiting Road Park** – survey for interim use being released soon, may provide an opportunity for PRC to help create a Master Plan. **Watsonville Vets Hall** – City of Watsonville and PV Health Trust for programming (returning post-COVID and storms). **AmeriCorp** – returning on Feb. 23. Mid to end March. A grand is opening being planned for **Willowbrook County Park**.

**VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS**

- a. None.

**VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. Update on 2024 Recreation Programs – Sarah Shea, Parks Superintendent  
As a Parks Superintendent, Sarah manages the recreation side of things or “wins” in the department. Parks has come out of Pandemic era full steam ahead to offer more recreation opportunities to individuals of all ages. Parks also added a recreation coordinator this past year to support the program expansion. Our recreation team has been hosting a variety of seasonal camps at different Parks locations. We are also partnering with PVUSD. Currently looking to add a specialty camp out of Pinto Lake. Instructors and contractors ready to use community rooms for more programming. Parks is sending staff to trainings for Fam Camps → take families out camping/work with State Parks. UC Master Gardeners moving into Pinto Lake and creating a demo garden.

**IX. NEXT MEETING:** Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Location to be announced in public notice.

**X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn: Sanford, Second: Lee | Ayes: Lee, Wiltshire, Sanford, Martinez



# County of Santa Cruz

---

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD/TTY: call 711

Date: April 23, 2024  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Sarah Shea, Parks Superintendent  
Subject: Aquatics Section Report

---

- Our Aquatics Supervisor remains on leave. However, the Aquatics Team is working hard to continue to provide the same level of services for the community, including the standard of remaining open seven days a week and offering swim lessons, hosting swim teams, adding adult fitness classes, water aerobics, and end of school year swim parties.
- The Swim Center Closed for three days in April to address maintenance needs including the following:
  - Replacement of the two Chlorine Tanks
  - Removal of old HVAC and installation of the new HVAC unit on the front locker rooms
  - The maintenance team took advantage of the closure to conduct ground maintenance, deep clean, and fix minor issues.
- Leading into this summer season we have trained 47 new Certified Lifeguards. We are excited to report that we have currently assessed and interviewed 30 lifeguard applicants ready and eager to join our staff team. This is the largest recruitment since 2019 and a testament to the Lifeguard Training Classes and hiring incentives, we were able to offer. We are still understaffed, especially in need of Head Lifeguards, but are excited to see the progress in recovery.
- We wrapped up our first season of Jr. Guard Clinics and hosted 147 individuals who increased their safety and swimming skills. Additionally, enrollment for summer pool guards opened on April 8<sup>th</sup> and were sold out in minutes (510 individuals).
- Summer Swim Lesson enrollment began on April 22, and we are pleased to report we have been able to double the number of lessons offered in the summer of 2023. Currently we have 250 individuals enrolled in group swim lessons for the month of June. These are in addition to the partnership “Learn to Swim” programs with Live Oak School District and County Park Friends.
- This spring we launched the online calendar and reservation feature for the covered picnic area at the pool.



# County of Santa Cruz

---

---

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD/TTY: call 711

Date: April 25, 2024  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Jesse Williams, Parks Superintendent  
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

---

### North County

- Quail Hollow Ranch
  - Removed invasive Cat Tail from the pond.
  - Reconstructed the concrete water runoff swale to efficiently guide water into the pond.
  - In preparation for a future programable space, the demolition stage of the home remodel project has begun.
- Anna Jean Cummings
  - Continued restoration of the decomposed granite walking path around the upper sports fields.
- Leo's Haven at Chanticleer County Park
  - Two new BBQs were installed in the shaded picnic area.
- Moran Lake County Park
  - Staff have assisted with the cleanup following the major wind event in February.

### Mid County

- Brommer Park
  - Maintenance cleared the perimeter and hillside of weeds.
- Simpkins Swim Center
  - During the week of 4/23 through 4/25, the chlorine storage tanks and rooftop AC unit were replaced.
- Maintenance staff are actively repairing and cleaning vandalized park restrooms.

### South County

- Pinto Lake
  - Cleaned and removed fallen trees.
  - In preparation for the Pinto Lake Golf tournament, staff mowed the fairways and spread 100 yards of wood chips.
  - With the assistance of volunteers, the pump track was renovated.
- Aldrige Lane and Hidden Beach County Park
  - Cleaned and removed fallen trees.
- Aptos Polo Grounds

- Volunteers helped renovate the pump track.
- Seascape Park
  - Repaired the sails.
- Whiting Road
  - AmeriCorps staff cleaned the park grounds and assisted with the installation of new boulders to mark the park entrance.



# County of Santa Cruz

---

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD/TTY: call 711

Date: April 24, 2024  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Park Planners - Rob Tidmore, Mariana Colibri-Urgo, and Mike Pruitt  
Subject: Planning Section Report

---

### **Coastal Rail Trail**

Segments 10 and 11: The Board of Supervisors certified the Final EIR at the March 26, 2024 Board Meeting and adopted CEQA Findings of Fact, a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Segments 10/11 project. However, they did not approve the project itself or the Baseline Agreement with Caltrans. At a special meeting on April 18, 2024, the RTC voted to affirm support for the Ultimate Trail Configuration and commit to fully fund the project with a mix of federal, state, and local funding. Staff will bring the project back to the Board on April 30, 2024, for project approval and approval of the Baseline Agreement. The project will likely require an extension request for the allocation of the Active Transportation Program grant funding for final design and right-of-way phases at the June 27, 2024 California Transportation Commission.

Ecology Action has begun to rollout the non-infrastructure programming portion of the project, coordinating with 10 area schools on bicycle and pedestrian education classes, and the creation of a community incentive program that will target low-income monolingual Spanish speaking residents of Live Oak, Pleasure Point, and Capitola. Classes at schools are expected to begin in Fall 2024, and the community incentive campaign is expected to begin this summer.

Segments 8 and 9: The Cooperative Agreement with the RTC and City of Santa Cruz was pulled from the March 26, 2024 Board of Supervisors agenda because the RTC and the City have been unable to agree to mutually agreeable indemnification language. Staff and legal counsel for the three agencies are continuing negotiations. A resolution is expected this summer, and staff is hoping to bring the Cooperative Agreement to the Board for approval in August 2024 along with acceptance of the City's Final EIR for the project.

### **Floral County Park Playground Renovation**

\$400,000 in project funds have been confirmed from a combination of County Park Friends fundraising and District 1 discretionary funding. The money will be used to install new playground equipment and new rubberized safety surfacing. Community input and outreach are finalized and preferred play structure elements were selected. Staff updated the final playground design with the play structure company and is working on a contract for its implementation. The project is expected to

be completed in Fall 2024.

### **Hidden Beach County Park**

County Parks selected a civil engineer consultant that is currently developing the plans for a permanent, prefabricated, ADA-compliant double-unit restroom. In addition to the restroom itself, the scope includes a building foundation and concrete paving, utility connections, landscaping, and associated irrigation surrounding the restroom. The civil engineer's scope includes analyzing and developing an accessible path of travel to the restroom. The project is expected to be completed in late Fall 2024.

### **Moran Lake County Park**

Staff are still working to finalize the design and permitting of the emergency rock revetment to prevent the failure of the pathway and East Cliff Drive from the recent storm damage and failed slopes. Work is expected to take place during the summer, prior to the onset of the next rainy season and large swells.

Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan: Staff are working with a consultant and the Coastal Conservancy to wrap up the current project. For information on the coastal resiliency grant, please see Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study project below.

Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan: The consultant has completed a public draft of the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan (HMP). Staff is currently reviewing the draft plan and expects to circulate it for public review and comment and schedule a public meeting this summer.

Procurement of a consultant for the Phase 2 restoration work noted in the previous report is contingent upon completion of recommendations in the Monarch HMP. Consultant procurement is expected to occur in Summer 2024.

### **North Coast Facilities and Management Plan**

The final North Coast Facilities Management Plan has been completed and distributed to the Working Group. The final Working Group meeting was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. In order to continue the important collaboration and partnerships that were initiated over the course of the project, the Working Group plans to continue to meet quarterly. The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for August 2024. The Plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance on April 30, 2024, and the RTC on May 2, 2024. Other agency members of the Working Group may also take the final plan to their governing body for acceptance.

### **Pace Property Connection Trails**

Project kick-off has begun with great interest from the community. Park staff are in the process of securing design and environmental consultants to assist with the project.

### **Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study project**

County Parks was recently awarded a \$650,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy to develop an initial planning-level feasibility study of nature-based adaptation strategies to sea level rise for East Cliff Drive at the three coastal lagoons (Schwan Lagoon, Corcoran Lagoon, and Moran Lagoon) in mid-Santa Cruz County. County Parks will partner with the Community Development and Infrastructure Department and California State Parks (Twin Lakes State Beach property owner) on this important effort. The goal of the project is to identify a preferred adaptation strategy for each location that prioritizes nature-based solutions, protection of coastal resources and ecosystems, maintenance of coastal access, and protection of infrastructure and property. Consultant procurement is expected to start this summer, and a full project schedule will be developed this fall.

### **South County Parkland Acquisition – Whiting Road**

Americorps have made significant progress on the site.

- Clean up in front of the fence on the property to make it more aesthetically pleasing.
- Clear around and inside the culvert so the integrity of the culvert can be examined, and so that the culvert can be seen more clearly, as well as improve its functionality.
- Work on the apple orchard to make it healthier. Clear around the trees and prune the trees. Master Gardeners will be helping guide the team with this project.
- Removed garbage and debris from the property.

County Parks Friends is supporting the planning team in administering the South County Park at Whiting Road Alternative Uses survey at various events and schools in South County.

### **Willowbrook County Park**

The Memorial Seating Area project has been completed. An unveiling was held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and had large community attendance. Members of the community are pleased with the excellent work performed by Tom Ralston Concrete.



# County of Santa Cruz

---

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD/TTY: call 711

Date: April 24, 2024  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Jaime Jimenez, Recreation Supervisor  
Subject: Recreation Section Report

---

### **Partnerships with Local Recreation Departments**

- The Parks Department is continuing in their partnership with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District to offer after-school programs at Mar Vista Elementary school and Rio Del Mar Elementary this summer through the Extended Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) for students at Rio Del Mar and Mar Vista Elementary Schools.

### **Recreation Programs & Contractual Agreements**

- Our active adult programs currently offer the following FREE recreational activities for community members:
  - Mall Walking
  - Stretching Class
  - Bridge Club
  - Tai Chi
- The recreation team continues seeking out potential contractual agreements with groups and individuals in the community to offer positive recreational programs in our county.
- We make strides in fostering human development opportunities and providing a safe place for the community to recreate.
- El Palomar Ballroom will continue to, through an extended agreement, offer the Big East Swing classes along with another Salsa Dance Class.
- The extended traveling trips partnership with Collate Tours took a few participants to Tropical Costa Rica. Costa Rica is one of four places in the world that boasts an ecosystem so unique that it produces a cloud forest.

### **Marketing Efforts**

- The Department marketing efforts this month consist of finishing up our bilingual (Spanish/English) Summer Activity Guide to inform the community of upcoming recreational opportunities, help navigate their interest in our reservations and registrations system, and opportunities on the Web.
- The Department has continued to create marketing flyers in both Spanish/English. As well as social media posts and updates.



# County of Santa Cruz

---

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD/TTY: call 711

Date: April 24, 2024  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Garrett Smart, Recreation Supervisor  
Subject: Reservations Section Report

---

### **Bookings**

Reservations in general have been steady and we are pleased to celebrate 32 wedding/private event reservations coming up in the months of June and July alone.

The Athletic Fields have experienced a few extra weeks of wet weather which has led to some rainout credits but almost all dates have been able to be rescheduled to keep the field users happy and our fields in good condition.

### **Staffing**

Our new Park Service Officers are thriving, and we have one more candidate we have moved forward with, and another interview scheduled.

### **Special Events**

We hosted an Earth Day Special Event at Pinto Lake County Park which included guided hikes and planting with the Master Gardeners.

Our preliminary discussions and work towards our annual Parks and Rex event have also begun and we are very excited to see another year of this event be successful. This will take place on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **Commemorative Program**

A new bench was placed into the ground at Scott Creek Beach by the North County Maintenance Team. This was a renewal memorial bench but included a second plaque for the family making it unique, in that there is an original, weathered plaque having been renewed and a brand-new bronze plaque to commemorate an additional family member. A few more plaques are in the works presently.



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD/TTY: call 711

Date: April 23, 2024  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator  
Subject: Volunteer Section Report

### Ben Lomond County Park

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Ben Lomond Alliance volunteers showed up in mass for their first organized volunteer day in the park. Over 35 volunteers helped to beautify the park! They power washed the restrooms, pruned bushes and trees, weeded, spread mulch, and cleaned up litter.



### East Cliff Drive County Parkway

On March 2, we had a very successful volunteer day and planted succulents in two of the planter areas along the Parkway. Volunteers from the Nature Lodge along with other community members all pitched in. Succulents were provided by the volunteers and neighbors!



## **Pleasure Point**

The Parks Department received a donation of time and resources from a volunteer to improve the landscaping in front of the restrooms at Pleasure Point. Kari Constantino Lockhead, a community member wanted to help beautify part of the East Cliff Drive County Parkway, so she reached out to the Parks Department about her idea. After discussions with Parks staff, and getting approval, a date was set to meet a Parks staff person and get the job done. Kari secured all the plants, material, and a landscaper and showed up at the point on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Kari, the landscaper and Parks staff worked together to remove the old landscaping material, prepare the soil, plant, and water the succulents; they then mulched the area. The restored landscaping looks amazing! Thank you, Kari, for volunteering your time and resources to help beautify our community.



We have two more East Cliff Drive County Parkway beautification days planned on SATURDAY, **MAY 25** and SATURDAY, **JULY 27** from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. You can email Volunteer Coordinator, Margaret Ingraham at [Margaret.ingraham@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:Margaret.ingraham@santacruzcountyca.gov) for more information.

## **Felton Discovery Park**

The Feb. 3 volunteer day brought out 9 volunteers to weed many of the planter areas and do some pruning. March 2<sup>nd</sup> volunteer day brought out 8 volunteers to weed and prune. The April 6<sup>th</sup> brought out 4 volunteers to weed!

Earth Stewards brought out 8 young adults to help with landscaping in the park in February, the group was in the park for 2 hours pruning back blackberry bushes.

## **Miller Property**

Our Miller property Trail Watch volunteers help to maintain the trails, pull invasive French Broom, and report issues. We just recently onboarded a new volunteer to join in the efforts.

## **Pinto Lake County Park**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> we had a successful volunteer day with 7 Highschool students and 1 other adult volunteer show up to paint the maintenance shed.



On April 6<sup>th</sup> the Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship held a volunteer day at the bike pump track and tuned up the whole pump track and applied 5 layers of glue. Thank you to the Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship.



At the April 13<sup>th</sup> volunteer day, we had only 3 volunteers show up, but they were able to get all the green trim painted on a picnic pavilion!

### **Quail Hollow Ranch County Park**

Students from the Highlands High School in Ben Lomond volunteer at the park once a month. The High School brings between 5-8 students, and they work on beautification projects around the park.

Volunteers at the park offered to take their volunteerism to a new level and learn all about the Sandhills Habitat so that they can lead the Forbidden Sandhills hikes we offer to the public. We are very grateful to Cathy Hoeft, Jennille Graham, Kathy Sparrow, James Mahn, Lee Summers, and Iszy Kent (Park Host at Pinto Lake County Park) for taking the time to participate in the educational sessions with the experts to learn about the unique habitat and then lead and co-lead all the hikes for the public! We have had resounding compliments and appreciation about the hikes.

Volunteer Jim Bahn volunteers in many capacities at the park, one of which is in Astronomy. Jim offered to bring his telescope to the park for the Solar Eclipse viewing. He had many adults and children show up to view the eclipse and many viewed it through an app he had on his phone that was connected to the telescope!

Volunteers open the Visitor Center on the following days and times:

- Tuesdays 11a – 2p
- Wednesdays 3:30p – 5:30p
- Thursdays 11a – 3p
- Fridays 1p – 4p
- Saturdays 10a – 12p
- Sundays 10a – 3p

The Trail Crew meets every Tuesday morning from 9a-12p and maintains the trails at Quail and so much more.

The Habitat Restoration volunteers have started back up at Quail pulling French Broom, they had 6 volunteers in January and 11 in February.

We have 4 Trail Watch volunteers at Quail who hike the trails, report issues, interact with park users and explain the rules when necessary.

### **Park Hosts**

**Isabel (Iszy) Kent**, one of our Park Hosts at Pinto Lake County Park is very knowledgeable about all the user groups at Pinto and knows many of the regulars by first name. Iszy helps to monitor parking on busy days at the park and educates park users about rules, the lake, the self-guided interpretive hike, the Master Gardeners programs, and Disc Golf course. Iszy assists daily in locking the gates at the end of the day. Iszy also helps to recruit volunteers and helps with all the volunteer days, and often will supervise a volunteer day by herself. Iszy also supports the Volunteer Program at other parks and has learned to lead the Interpretive Forbidden Sandhills Hikes at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park.

Our second Park Host at Pinto, **Elizabeth Dawson**, has started with us and here is a little about her and her picture:

*“I grew up in Oregon and after becoming an empty nester started working remotely in my Sprinter van during Covid, so I started to volunteer at parks in Oregon and California. My passion for landscaping and nature made volunteering for the Parks and Rec a win! My hobbies are anything on the water from fishing to Paddle Boarding. I work full time for a local company here in Watsonville and after living in Oregon, New York, Florida and Los Angeles, I know this area is where I want to plant my own personal roots.”*



Elizabeth is learning quickly about the park and getting familiar with all the user groups and community members who enjoy the park. One of Elizabeth's first tasks was to repair and beautify the vacant home at the front of the park, and she has made some quality improvements at already. Welcome Elizabeth!

Our Park Hosts at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, **Mel and Zach**, provide Trail Watch, help with maintenance, host the Visitor Center open on Thursdays, help with checking in participants for Interpretive Programs that are offered at the park, and ensure the gate is unlocked and locked daily.

## AmeriCorps Team



**AmeriCorps Team Gold 1, Ethan, Meaghan, Molly, Keathea, Eli, Jack, and Noah!**

The AmeriCorps Team Gold 1 was with us Feb. 25 – April 16<sup>th</sup>. They were housed at our historic house at Pinto Lake County Park. The Team was supervised by Isabel Kent, a Parks Service Officer and our Park Host at Pinto Lake County Park, and they accomplished some important projects during their time, which are listed below:

At the newly acquired **Whiting Property in Watsonville**, they cleared 300 pounds of debris and 8100 pounds of unwanted vegetation out of an 8-acre apple orchard exposing 78 apple trees! They then worked with members of Master Gardeners to learn how to prune the apple trees and pruned them all!



Also at the Whiting Property, they cleared both the inlet and outlet of a large drainage culvert in the park that was overgrown by Blackberry, Poison Oak, Oak trees, and weeds.

In addition to clearing debris and the drainage culvert, they worked with a partnering organization to do a habitat survey on the property. They worked on beautifying the entrance to the property, which required removing debris and unnecessary overgrown plants and weeds along the fence, and then worked with maintenance to spread mulch for a more welcoming look.

At **Quail Hollow Ranch County Park**, the Team cleared 910 pounds of invasive reeds and other brush from the pond to improve the health and water flow of the pond, they dug a 200-foot drainage trench, and 3 catchment basins, cleared 300 pounds of brush from a fallen tree in the apple orchard and chipped 0.2 miles of hiking trail. They also worked with maintenance staff to help demolish some interior walls of a small house on the property in preparation for some renovation work to be done later.



At **Pinto Lake County Park** in Watsonville, they worked on a variety of projects. Around the historic home they improved and beautified the landscaping, removed 170 pounds of weeds, spread 250 pounds of wood chips, replaced 10 feet of railing, weather proofed and painted the water tower, and power washed, repaired and painted the picnic area adjacent to the home.



In other areas within the park, they re-painted 300 feet of the red curb, repaired parts of two of the picnic pavilions by removing 70 pounds of rotten wood, then replaced it with new wood and gave it a fresh coat of paint.



The team also worked with Master Gardeners to transfer native plants from another location to the park, and then replanted them.

AmeriCorps Teams are required to participate in individual service-learning opportunities during their time in different communities and this year the team volunteered with Shared Adventures, the Homeless Garden Project, Animal Services, and the SLV Habitat Restoration Program.

The Teams we receive are always welcomed and supported by other organizations and individuals within the community. This year, the Friends of Quail Hollow non-profit provided lunch for the team and gave them tickets to enjoy the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the Master Gardeners provided lunch as well. Professionals within the community volunteered their time to provide educational presentations for the team. Thank you to Jackie McCloud, from the City of Watsonville, Aniko Milan, former Parks Ranger and Friends of County Parks staff, and Linda Skeff from the SLV Restoration Program for volunteering your time and enriching the Teams experience here in Santa Cruz County!



Lastly, we treated the Team to a beach bonfire, complete with hot dogs and s'mores as a thank you farewell send off.

# HIGHWAY 1 AUXILIARY LANES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT RIPARIAN MITIGATION

**Anna Jean Cummings Park  
County of Santa Cruz**

**YEAR 1 MONITORING REPORT**

CDFW SAA 1600-2020-0241-R3



December 15, 2023

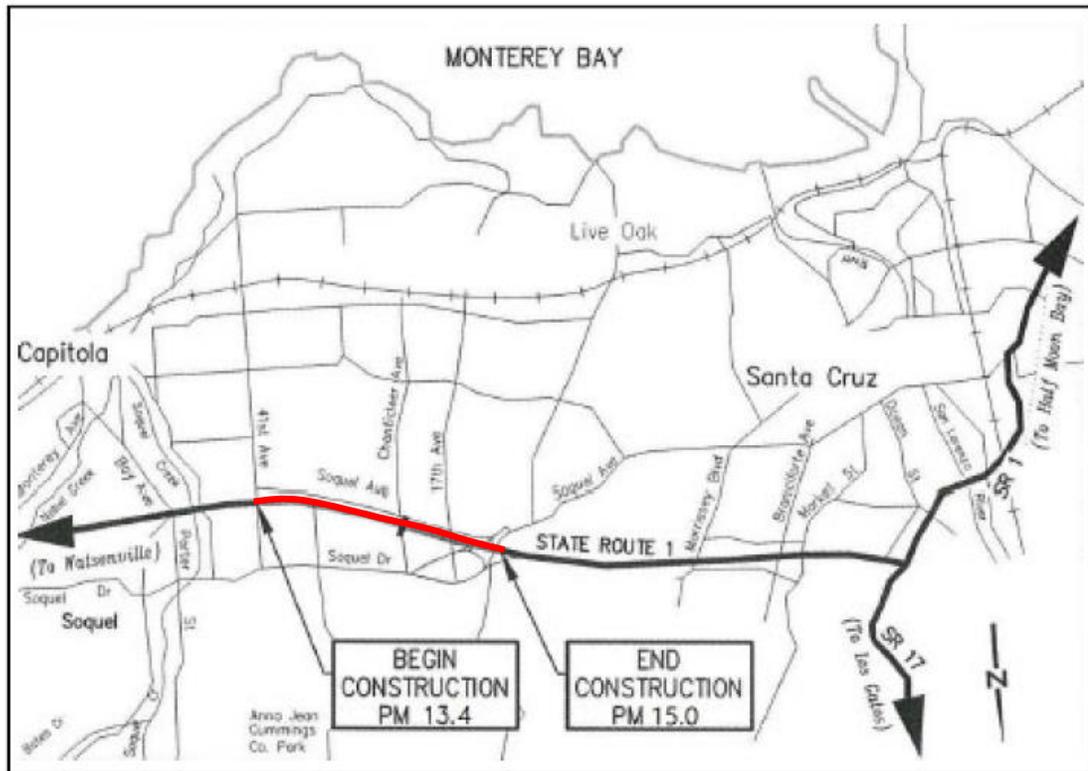
Prepared By  
Biotic Resources Group  
Attn: Kathleen Lyons, Plant Ecologist

for

Mike Pruitt  
Santa Cruz County Parks Department

## INTRODUCTION AND BASIS FOR MITIGATION

The Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes Improvement Project is located from the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue Interchange to the Soquel Drive Interchange, a distance of approximately 1.4 miles, in Santa Cruz County. The Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) in cooperation with Santa Cruz County and Caltrans District 5 is implementing this project. The major elements of improvements are freeway widening, retaining walls, drainage features to accommodate the auxiliary lands, bus shoulder elements, and a bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing at Chanticleer Avenue. Referred by CalTrans as the Tier II project, the Tier II project limits are shown in Figure 1.



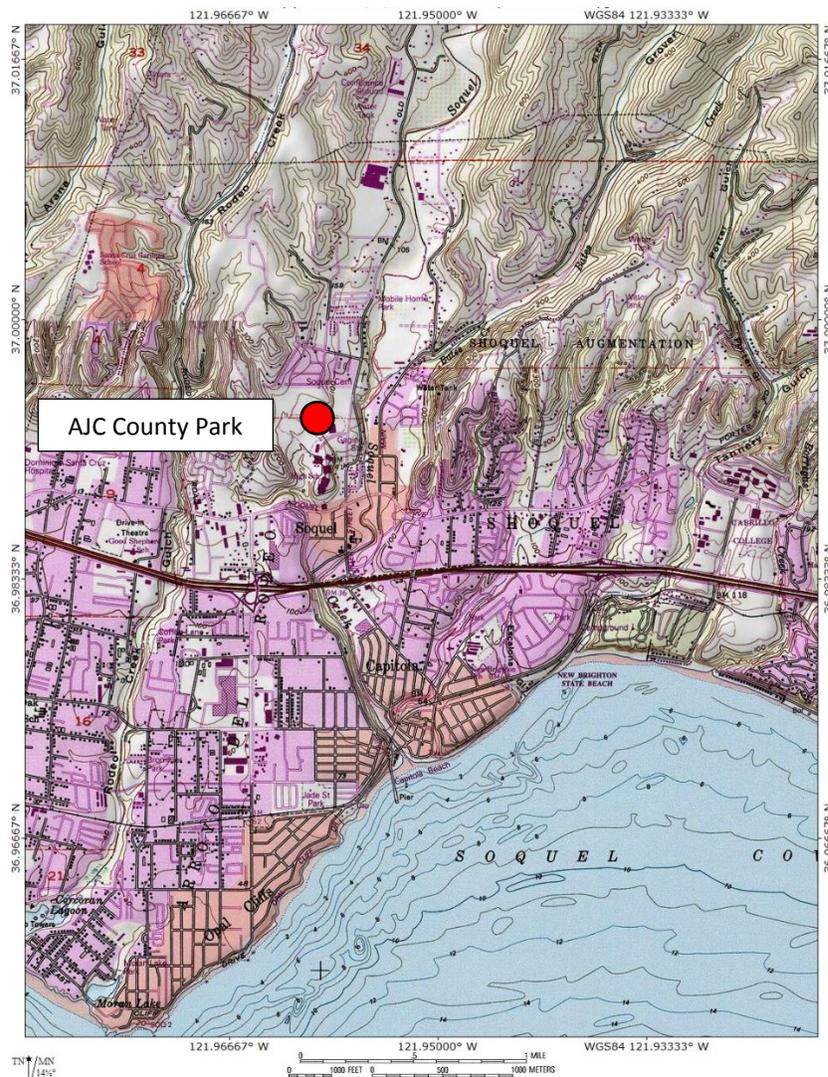
**Figure 1. Location of Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes Improvement Project (41<sup>st</sup> Avenue Interchange to the Soquel Drive Interchange) (Tier II Project)**

### Riparian Mitigation

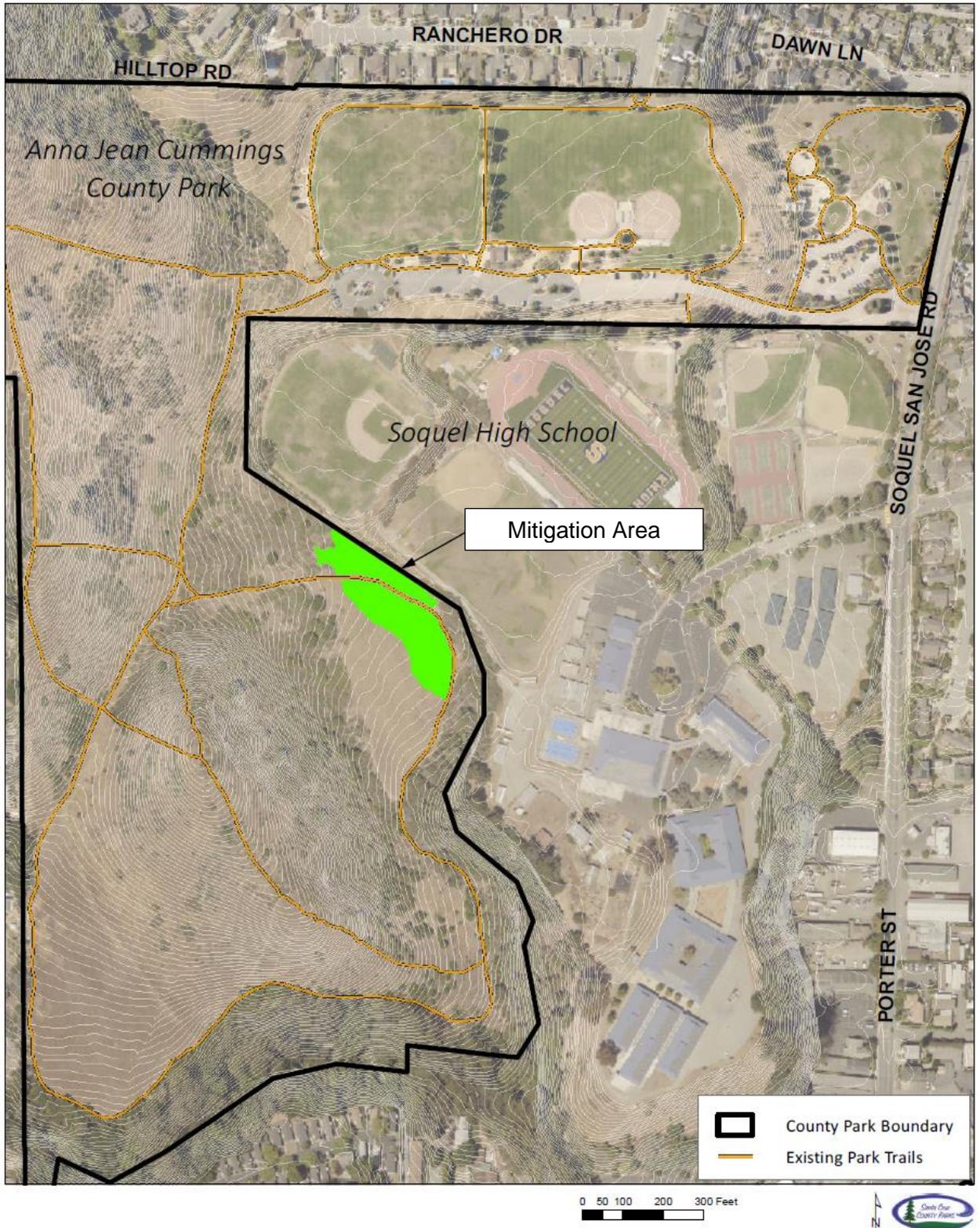
The project environmental document identified impacts to 0.13 acre of riparian woodland at Rodeo Creek Gulch and a non-jurisdictional ditch adjacent to the Soquel Drive-In. Within the CDFW-jurisdictional area 42 trees were removed. As compensation for these impacts, tree replacement was required. A Riparian Mitigation Monitoring, Maintenance and Reporting Plan (Plan) was prepared (March 17, 2021). The Plan specified 0.79 acre of riparian establishment, with 168 tree replacements. As on-site mitigation was not available, the RTC elected to mitigate the riparian impacts through off-site riparian revegetation. RTC in cooperation with Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Department (Parks) identified an area of 0.79 acre within Anna Jean

Cummings (AJC) County Park. This action meets CDFW Condition 3.b of CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement 1600-2020-0241-R3. The location of AJC County Park is presented in Figure 2. Figure 3 shows the location of the mitigation area within AJC County Park.

As per the environmental report measures, quarterly reports and annual monitoring reports and a final completion report will be submitted to the RTC for their submittal to Caltrans, CDFW, and others, as necessary. The annual monitoring report submitted at Year 5 shall serve as a final completion report if the mitigation is successful. If mitigation is not successful, RTC will be responsible for developing an adaptive management strategy for approval by Caltrans and the affected regulatory agencies (i.e., CDFW). The approved adaptive management strategy shall be implemented and additional annual monitoring reports shall be submitted as specified in the approved adaptive management strategy.



**Figure 2. Location of AJC County Park on USGS Topographic Map (Soquel)**



**Figure 3. Location of Riparian Mitigation Area at AJC County Park**

## RIPARIAN MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS

### Project Goals

The project has the following goals:

1. Establish native riparian woodland vegetation on the slopes adjacent to the creek, encompassing the required acreage for project compensation (0.79 acre). Provide the following riparian functions: cover and forage for native wildlife and native riparian woodland plant diversity.
2. Install native riparian vegetation that can persist in winter-wet and summer-dry site conditions. Provide supplemental irrigation in Years 1-3, or longer if there is an unseasonable drought or other unforeseen circumstance that requires a longer irrigation period.
3. Utilize plant propagules collected from the greater Soquel Creek watershed and/or Santa Cruz County in the revegetation efforts. Obtain plants from native plant nurseries that employ Best Management Practices (BMP's) that control or eliminate the diseases caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, as outlined by the California Oak Mortality Task Force.
4. Maintain a minimum of 75% survival of required trees in Years 1-5. Install replacement plants as needed to meet yearly tree survival rates. If substantial replanting is necessary, the maintenance and monitoring period may need to be extended so that each plant is maintained and monitored for 5 years.
5. Control cover of target invasive weeds (e.g., English ivy, poison hemlock, thistles, and others) to less than 5% by the end of Year 5.
6. Maintain and monitor the site annually for 5 years. Submit annual reports to RTC, with RTC to submit reports to CalTrans, CDFW, and others as appropriate by December 31 of each monitoring year.

### Planting Zones

The revegetation area has two planting zones: willow zone and riparian tree zone. The willow planting zone, encompassing approximately 4,000 square feet, is located near the ephemeral creek. The riparian tree zone is located outward of the creek and its existing riparian woodland. This zone encompasses approximately 45,000 square feet. The location of the planting zones is shown in Figure 4.

### Planting List

The Plan identifies installation of dormant pole cuttings (willow) and container stock plants. As per requirements, a minimum of 168 trees are required to be installed; however, the Plan identifies an initial planting of 185 trees (increase of 10%), to ensure the Year 1 plant survival rate is achieved. The plan also includes installation of thickets of understory shrubs to increase habitat diversity.

Table 1 lists the plant species required for installation. All container stock trees are to have below-ground gopher baskets and above-ground foliage protectors (to reduce deer browse damage). Each container stock plant is to have a mulched planting basin. Willows will not

have below or above-ground cages. The conceptual layout of the revegetation area is presented in Figure 4.

**Table 1. Plant Species Required**

Common Name and Botanical Name		% Composition	On-Center Spacing (feet)	Quantity to be Installed	Propagule Size
<b>Willow Planting Zone</b>					
Willow	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i> <i>Salix laevigata</i>	100%	10'	20	Dormant Pole Cutting
Subtotal				<b>20</b>	
<b>Riparian Tree Zone</b>					
<b>Trees</b>					
Coast Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	93%	16'	153	1 gallon
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	3.5%	16'	6	1 gallon
California Buckeye	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	3.5%	16'	6	1 gallon
<b>TOTAL TREES</b>				<b>165</b>	
<b>Shrub Thickets (6 thickets of 6 plants each)</b>					
California Rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>	33%	3'	12	1 gallon
Coffee Berry	<i>Frangula californica</i>	33%	3'	12	1 gallon
Flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	33%	3'	12	1 gallon
<b>TOTAL SHRUBS</b>				<b>36</b>	

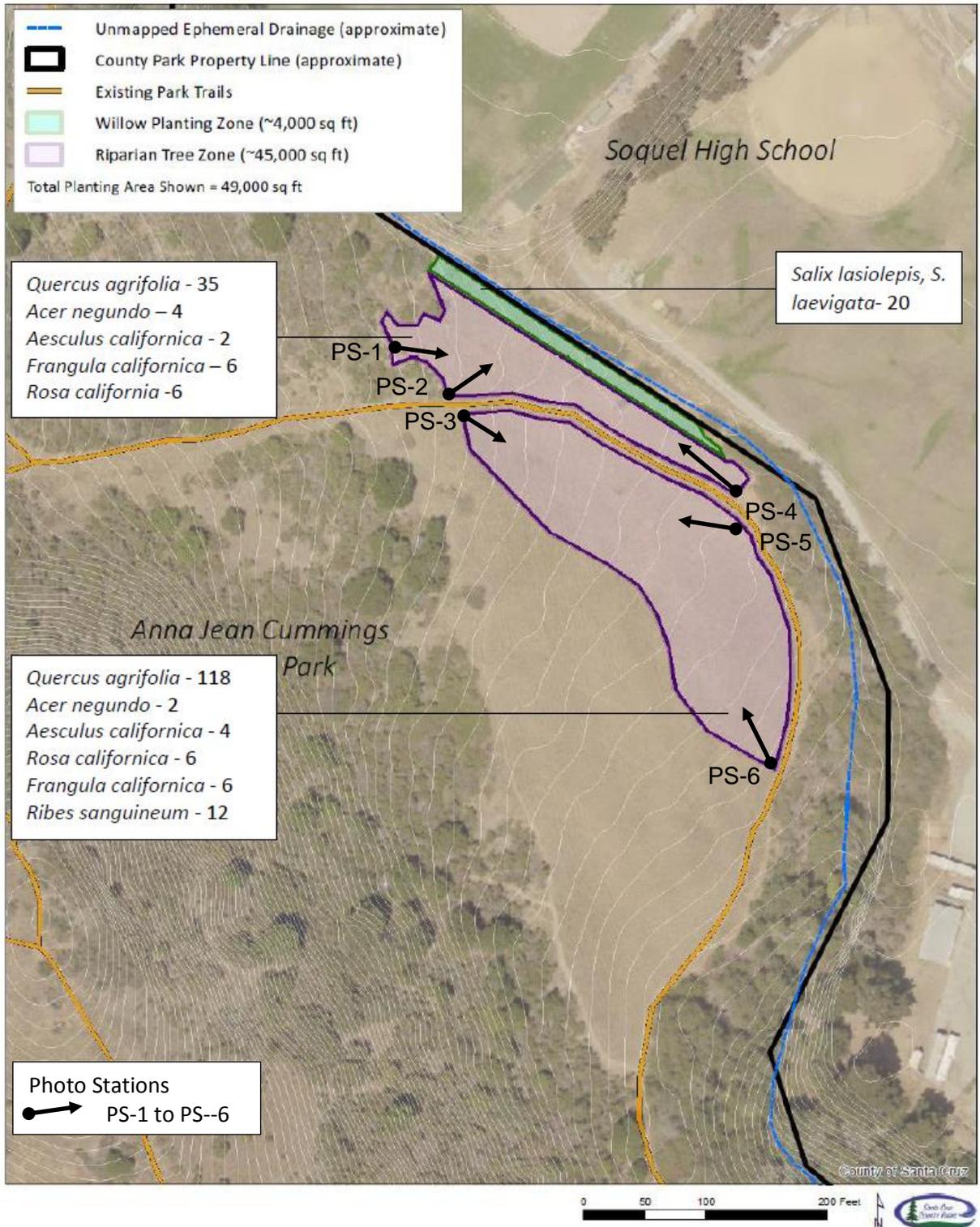


Figure 4. Layout of Required Riparian Mitigation Plantings at AJC County Park

## Plant Installation and Initiation of Site Maintenance

The riparian plantings were installed in winter 2022/23. Maintenance of the restoration area began concurrent with plant installation and continues to date.

### YEAR 1 CONDITION

The Biotic Resources Group monitored the revegetation area in 2023. The site was visually inspected immediately prior to plant installation on January 8, 2023 and then after approximately one year of growth, on December 14, 2023. The plantings were monitored for plant survival and plant growth (e.g., plant height, health and vigor) was recorded. The monitoring evaluated whether any remedial actions are needed, such as replanting. The plant replacement evaluation assumed replacement plantings would be required if plant survival dropped below the Year 1 performance standards (i.e., 75%). The monitoring evaluated site maintenance and included photographing the development of the revegetation plantings, including photos from six photo points and spot photographs.

#### Year 1 Plant Survival

Each installed tree and shrub were assessed for plant survival, health, and vigor. The survivorship of plantings was determined by field counts of all plants within the restoration area(s). The survival rate for each species was documented and compared to performance standards. The plant survival data was used to determine if the project is meeting the required survival rates and to determine if remedial planting is required. Health and vigor of each container stock plantings were recorded using the rating scale in Table 2.

**Table 2. Health and Vigor Rating Scale**

Code	Rating	Health Characteristics	Vigor Characteristics
4	Excellent	75-100% healthy foliage	Vigorous new growth observed throughout plant
3	Good	50-74% healthy foliage	Vigorous new growth observed only at terminal bud
2	Fair	25-49% healthy foliage	No new growth evident
1	Poor	0-24% healthy foliage	Stem dieback observed

The December monitoring found all species had 100% survival. This survival status reflects plant replacements implemented by the project landscape contractor in June, July and October 2023 wherein nine oaks, five currants, one box elder and one buckeye were replaced. Most plants had excellent health and vigor; a few willows had deer browse damage and one box elder had tip die-back. The results of the plant survival, health, and height monitoring are presented in Table 3.

#### Year 1 Plant Height

In December 2023, the tallest trees were willow and box elder (4 feet and 3 feet, respectively). The shrubs averaged 2.0 feet.

All container stock plants were installed as per the planting detail and included below ground and aboveground browse protection. The dormant pole cuttings in the willow planting zone have no browse protection. All plants are serviced by a drip irrigation system.

**Table 3. Year 1 (2023) Data for Plants Installed**

Common Name	Quantity Required	Quantity Alive (12/23)	Percent Survival	Average Health/Vigor	Average Height (feet)
Willow	20	22	100%	3.5	5
Coast live oak	153	158	100%	4	2.5
Box Elder	6	6	100%	4	3.5
California buckeye	6	6	100%	4	2
California rose	12	12	100%	4	2.5
Coffee berry	12	12	100%	4	1.75
Flowering currant	12	12	100%	4	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>100%</b>		

**Photo-documentation of Year 1 Condition**

Photo-stations were established in the project area to document the Year 1 condition. Spot photos were also taken in 2023, showing plant growth by species. The location of the photo stations is shown on Figure 4.



**Figure 5. Photo Station 1, View southeasterly through northern planting area**



**Figure 6. Photo Station 2, View northeasterly through northern planting area**



**Figure 7. Photo Station 3, View southeasterly through southern planting area**



**Figure 8. Photo Station 4, View northerly through southern planting area**



**Figure 9. Photo Station 5, View northwesterly through southern planting area**



**Figure 10. Photo Station 6, View northerly through southern planting area**



**Figure 11. Typical condition of coast live oak planting**



**Figure 12. Typical condition of box elder planting**



**Figure 13. Typical condition of willow planting**



**Figure 14. Typical condition of California rose planting**



**Figure 15. Typical condition of coffee berry planting**

## **MAINTENANCE**

The goal for the mitigation is to establish riparian woodland within AJC County Park that will provide suitable and sustainable habitat for wildlife that will require limited maintenance in the long term. During the establishment period (Years 1-5) maintenance efforts will consist primarily of invasive plant/weed removal, site upkeep and operation of a temporary irrigation system. Some plant replacement will also be done, as necessary. Plant replacement may be required at any time if plants are subject to vandalism or injury from park users or other events. When plants are well established, maintenance efforts will consist of weed control and continued removal/control of invasive, non-native plant species. After Year 5, maintenance will likely be reduced to the periodic control/removal of invasive non-native plants.

### **Maintenance Actions**

County Parks is responsible for the following tasks during the 5-year establishment period:

1. Conduct quarterly inspections of the mitigation area to document and implement maintenance needs.
2. Provide temporary irrigation for all plantings in Year 1-3. Provide supplemental irrigation to each planting May through October, or at other times if an unseasonable drought occurs during Years 1-3. Provide supplemental irrigation beyond Year 3 if plants become drought-stressed and plant survival is compromised.
3. In Years 1-3, remove weeds from the container stock planting basins at a minimum of once month March to October. In Years 1-3, replenish organic mulch within each planting basin to retain 3-inch cover.
4. In Years 1-5, weed-whip herbaceous growth between container stock plantings twice a year (spring and summer).
5. In Years 1-5, remove/control invasive, non-native plant species (as identified by Cal-IPC) that may establish within the revegetation area, including poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), and any others detected during monitoring. Hand removal shall be utilized to remove and control the occurrence of these species. Individuals of invasive plant species shall be removed, with all plants bagged and removed from the site.
6. If determined necessary, install and maintain temporary perimeter fencing around the mitigation area(s) to identify and protect the mitigation areas during the 5-year establishment period.

**Perimeter Fencing.** A temporary post and wire fence were installed around the mitigation areas. The fence delineates the extent of the mitigation area and provides protection to the plantings from park users. Signs were installed on the fence informing park users on the purpose of the mitigation and project status.

**Weed Control and Mulching within Watering Basins.** The watering basins around each container stock planting were periodically weeded to remove unwanted plants. The basins were routinely inspected and all weeds removed. Organic mulch is in each basin to suppress weeds and to retain soil moisture.

**Irrigation System Installation, Inspection and Maintenance.** The plantings are irrigated by an above-ground drip system. The irrigation connects to a water source near the AJC County Park parking lot and a line runs approximately 1,800 feet southward to the mitigation area. Above-ground lateral lines and drip emitters service each plant.

**Plant Replacement/Replanting.** Plant replacements were implemented by the project landscape contractor in June, July and October 2023 wherein nine oaks, five currants, one box elder and one buckeye were replaced.

## **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

The County is responsible for 75% survival of the tree and shrub plantings in Year 1, as well as site maintenance to ensure that project performance standards are met. Table 5 lists the performance standards for the project.

### **Monitoring Goals**

Goals have been identified for the mitigation site:

- 1) Establish native riparian woodland vegetation in areas adjacent to the ephemeral creek, including a minimum of 153 coast live oak trees.
- 2) Provide the following riparian functions: cover and forage for native wildlife and native riparian woodland plant diversity.
- 3) Maintain 75% survival of installed trees in Years 1-5. Install replacement plants if needed to meet yearly survival rates. If substantial replanting is necessary, RTC may be responsible for an extended maintenance and monitoring period through an amendment to its contract with the County or other means so that each tree is maintained and monitored for 5 years. Shrub plantings are not subject to plant survival monitoring.
- 4) Control cover of target invasive weeds (e.g., thistles, French broom, and others) to less than 5% by the end of Year 5.
- 5) Maintain and monitor the site annually for 5 years. Submit annual reports to CalTrans, RTC and CDFW by December 31 of each monitoring year.

The project has met the Year 1 performance criteria, all species exceed 75% plant survival. Site maintenance in 2023 was focused on weed control, plant maintenance, and removal/control of invasive, non-native plant species. The County's landscape contractor maintained irrigation lines and plant protections cages, and controlled weeds and invasive, non-native plant species. No invasive plant species were observed on site in December 2023.

### **Success Criteria**

The success criteria for the compensatory mitigation are outlined in Table 4. When these criteria are fulfilled, the compensatory mitigation will be determined to be progressing toward the habitat type and values that constitute the long-term goals of this project. The final success criteria will be monitored for compliance at the end of the 5-year monitoring period. Final success criteria will be documented by monitoring by a qualified botanist, ecologist or revegetation specialist.

As depicted on Table 4, container stock plant survival for trees (per species), plant health/vigor plant, and cover by invasive, non-native plant species will be monitored. The shrubs do not have a plant survival requirement. The County will implement remedial measures if these standards are not achieved in any of the monitoring years. Examples of remedial actions include re-planting failed plants, plant species substitutions, increasing weeding sessions, and/or modifying the irrigation system. The final success criteria shall evaluate plants that have been growing for a minimum of two calendar years after irrigation was terminated.

**Table 4. Performance Standards for Years 1-4 and Final Success Criteria for Year 5**

	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
Plant Survival (%), all Trees	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
Invasive Plant Species Plant Cover (%)	<25%	<25%	<25%	<15%	<5%
<b>Plant Survival by Tree Species</b>					
Coast Live Oak	115	115	115	115	115
Willow	15	15	15	15	15
Box Elder	5	5	5	5	5
California Buckeye	5	5	5	5	5
<b>Total Trees</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>

**Reporting**

An annual monitoring report with 1) required monitoring data, 2) a discussion of restoration success criteria, 3) a discussion of any impacts to vegetation that were not described in the EIR or permit conditions, and 4) recommendations, if applicable, will be provided to the RTC by the end of each calendar year in which monitoring occurs. The final monitoring report will provide documentation sufficient to confirm restoration success criteria have been met.

The Year 2 (2024) Monitoring Report should be prepared and submitted to the RTC at the end of the monitoring year (December 31, 2024).

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN 2024/25**

#	Stated Goal	Members Involved	Timeline	Fiscal Impact *	Projected Outcomes
<b>COMMUNITY OUTREACH</b>					
1	Attend County sponsored events, serving as County ambassadors by welcoming, meeting and greeting the public, and serving in a volunteer capacity conducting various event duties as needed.	All	April 2024 – March 2025	No Impact	<p>Commissioners engage and interact with citizens while remaining aware of current trends in the public use of parks, beaches, trails, recreation programming, and special events.</p> <p>Create outreach to the public, educating them on what the Parks &amp; Recreation Commission does, how to engage with the Commission and local government, programs the County offers, and spaces &amp; places to recreate.</p> <p>Each Commissioner participates in a minimum 2 events.</p> <p><u>Update:</u> *To be completed by staff based on Commissioners reporting at scheduled meetings</p>
2	Connect with local City and County Commissions to better understand collaboration opportunities.	Victoria Vega, Wiltshire	April 2024 – March 2025	No Impact	<p>Attend meetings of area commissions, create connection with members.</p> <p>Better understand efforts of area commissions generating ideas for future Santa Cruz County Parks &amp; Recreation goals and determining opportunities for collaboration where synergy exists.</p> <p><u>Update:</u> *To be completed by staff based on Commissioners reporting at scheduled meetings</p>
3	Identify and schedule guest speakers for all Parks & Recreation Commission meetings.	Martinez	April 2024 – March 2025	No impact	<p>Commissioners gain awareness and understanding of topics relevant to goals outlined in this Commission Work Plan and other topics of interest.</p> <p><u>Update:</u></p>

\*Funds utilized for nominal Work Plan expenses are included within the Parks and Recreation Department operational budget.

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN 2024/25**

					*To be completed by staff based on Commissioners reporting at scheduled meetings
GREAT FACILITIES					
4	Research community needs related to facility use, development, and programming.	Lee, Sanford	April 2024 – March 2025	No Impact	<p>Generate a better understanding of community interests and needs related to facilities and programming. Identify related core and stretch objectives.</p> <p>Provide findings to Parks &amp; Recreation department for consideration and planning.</p> <p><u>Update:</u> *To be completed by staff based on Commissioners reporting at scheduled meetings</p>
EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP					
5	Examine climate resiliency efforts and advise Park & Recreation department of best practices.	Lee, Martinez	April 2024 – March 2025	No impact	<p>Gain awareness and understanding of topics relevant to climate resiliency through research and connection with local organizations.</p> <p>Identify gaps in climate resiliency efforts/education and advise Parks &amp; Recreation department of best practices.</p> <p><u>Update:</u> *To be completed by staff based on Commissioners reporting at scheduled meetings</p>
6	Identify best practices for sustainability and advise Park & Recreation department of findings.	Lee, Sanford	April 2024 – March 2025	No impact	<p>Commissioners examine current sustainability efforts within the County and explore additional best practices in all areas of sustainability.</p> <p>Areas of exploration could include, but are not limited to those outlined in the Strategic Plan 5-year Update such as balancing recreation and conservation, restoration or enhancement, water conservation, nature programming, interpretive signage, community partnerships, etc.</p>

\*Funds utilized for nominal Work Plan expenses are included within the Parks and Recreation Department operational budget.

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN 2024/25**

					Provide recommendations on best practices, potential partnerships, and community outreach opportunities to Parks & Recreation department.  <i>Update:</i> *To be completed by staff based on Commissioners reporting at scheduled meetings
<b>SPECIAL PROJECT(S)</b>					
7	Explore Best Practices for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) related to Parks & Recreation	Victoria Vega, Sanford	April 2024 – March 2025	No impact	Explore DEI best practices and make recommendations for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in all areas of parks & recreation including, but not limited to, those outlined in the Strategic Plan 5-year Update such as signage, health and well-being, park accessibility, recreation programming, and collaboration with non-profit groups.  <i>Update:</i> *To be completed by staff based on Commissioners reporting at scheduled meetings
<b>ADVISE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS– NOTE:</b>					
	2024/25 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan Outcomes to be submitted in the Biennial Report	Chair	On or before January 31, 2025		<b>Board of Supervisors is advised of past year work plan outcomes in Biennial Report.</b>
	2025/26 Parks and Recreation Commission Proposed Work Plan/Goals to be submitted in the Biennial Report	Chair	On or before January 31, 2025		<b>Board of Supervisors reviews proposed work plan goals and intended outcomes in Biennial Report.</b>

\*Funds utilized for nominal Work Plan expenses are included within the Parks and Recreation Department operational budget.