



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH 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, November 18th, 2024
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Regular Meeting

**Simpkins Family Swim Center
Community Rooms**
979 17th 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 August 12th, 2024..... page 2-3
- b. Consider Reports:
 - i. Aquatics Section Report..... page 4-5
 - ii. Maintenance Section Report..... page 6
 - iii. Planning Section Report..... page 7-12
 - iv. Recreation Section Report..... page 13-14
 - v. Reservations Section Report..... page 15-6
 - vi. Volunteer Section Report..... page 17-25

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS

- a. Determine Commission Meeting Dates for 2025

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Freedom Lake
- b. Floral County Park
- c. Natural Resource Management at Anna Jean Cummings

IX. NEXT MEETING: TBD, at Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms.

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING

XI. ADJOURNMENT



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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of August 12th, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms, 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL Meeting called to order by Chair Martinez at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Alexis Konevich (District 1), Tricia Wiltshire (District 2), Jeremy Sanford (District 3), Monica Martinez (District 5)

Vacant: (District 4)

Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Juan Perez Alvarez, Annalise Rodriguez, Frankie Farr

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS No modifications.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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Aptos Resident: Notified commission about the dedication on September 28th at Aptos Village Park with the Aptos Lions Club. Voiced concerns about the Bert Scott Estate and trailers.

Four members of the Community spoke about Rugby. Would like to see what Parks can do to make fields more playable for Rugby as well as soccer.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA Motion to approve: Sanford/2nd: Wiltshire/All in favor.

- a. Approve minutes from May 13th, 2024.....page 2-3
- b. Consider Reports:
 - i. Aquatics Section Report.....page 4-5
 - ii. Maintenance Section Report.....page 6
 - iii. Planning Section Report..... page 7-12
 - iv. Recreation Section Report.....page 13-14
 - v. Reservations Section Report.....page 15-16
 - vi. Volunteer Section Report..... page 17-25

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

District 1: Introduced herself, gave a brief about her onboarding and various meetings with County Parks staff. She also spoke about some meetings with stakeholders and constituents. Alexis then went on discuss her relationship and discussions with former commissioner Lee and her desire to include more pollinator gardens at various County Parks. She also mentioned her work with community members for Felt Street Park improvements. Finally, she discussed the Monarch butterfly town hall as well as the groundbreaking at Floral.

District 2: Thanked the Lions Club for all the work they have done at Polo and Aptos Village Park. Tricia told an amazing story about her child being able to participate in a camp, and how they offered 1 to 1 ratio of aids to kids which allowed physically disabled kids to participate in camp. She spoke about ways we might be able to eliminate access barriers and shared examples of Steve Miller from Shared Adventures and all the great things they are doing.

District 3: Voiced concerns with North Coast beach access and parking. Specifically with the possibilities for accidents on Highway 1. Additionally, Jeremy spoke about the ability to play rugby and other sports on the fields during the winter.

District 4: Vacant

District 5: Acknowledged the several volunteer projects happening County wide and thanked the volunteers and Parks staff for their efforts to beautify the Parks across the County. Especially at Quail Hollow, three full days at AJC and continued beautification at Ben Lomond Park.

VI. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS

District 1 Commissioner Alexis Konevich introduced the “All Kids Play Scholarships”. Asked Commissioners to share and support initiative by sharing information with their community and District Supervisors. All Commissioners were in favor.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS

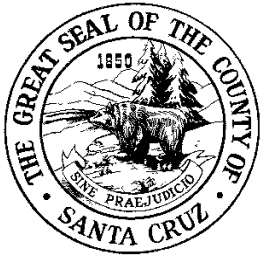
- a. Presentation by Lisa and Angie of Resource Conservation District on Natural resource management. They presented some of the rapid assessment work they are doing as well as a general overview of what RCD does and can do.
- b. South County Park update by Deputy Director Rebecca Hurley. Approaching one year anniversary of Park purchase/acquisition. Presented plan of possible uses based on community survey such as, walking paths, and possible athletic fields.
- c. Commissioner reports on Work Plan.....page 26-27

See attached work plan document.

IX. NEXT MEETING: November 18th, 2024. Meeting will be held at Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms.

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING No written correspondence.

XI. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:30 p.m.: Sanford/2nd: Wiltshire/All in favor.



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Date: November 5, 2024
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Anissa Childers, Aquatic Supervisor
Subject: Aquatics Section Report

Successful Fall Season:

- We have had a successful fall season, and now entering our Winter months. This nice weather has continued to keep the pool extremely busy, with full classes, busy lap swim, and full programming.

Staffing Success:

- Simpkins has had the most successful year of hiring since COVID. Summer months brought in the on the highest number of staff in years. We have continued with hiring and as of July hired 5 new Lifeguards and 4 new Head Lifeguards

Lifeguarding and CPR Training:

- Over the past three months, 7 lifeguarding, CPR, and Title 22 courses were held with a total of 80 participants. Offering these classes year-round has been vital for staff recruitment and retention.

New Noodle Ball Program:

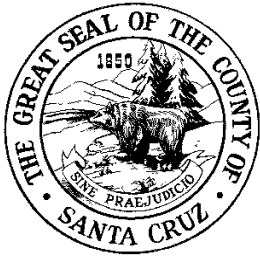
- We started a new program this fall called Noodle Ball. This program is designed to teach kids the fundamentals of water polo with the help of pool noodle. The first session was a huge success with 15 enrolled participants with 6 on a waitlist. For the second session we added an instructor, so we were able to add 8 more participants to the program. Positive feedback has led to plans for the program to continue in the spring, potentially growing into a water polo scrimmage team.

Swim Lessons:

- Year-round swim lessons continue to thrive, with 251 participants since August. We are so happy to continue these lessons throughout the Fall and Winter months.

Private Swim Lesson Contractor:

- A new private swim lesson contractor was brought on in October, with availability through December 21st. The contractor is currently 77% booked, with only 23 open spots remaining. The other two long-time contractors are fully booked, and 98 families have secured ongoing lessons. While our other two



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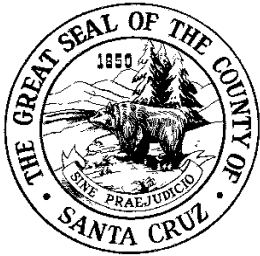
long-time contractors are fully booked. A total of 98 families have been able to book on-going lessons with our 3 contractors.

Adult Programming:

- All of our programming that we offer to adults such as Adult Fitness, Water Aerobics, and Water Polo have had very high attendance.

Operational Schedule:

- The pool remains open seven days a week with extended hours: Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 7:30 pm, and weekends from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, ensuring accessibility for all community members.



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Date: 11/6/24
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jesse Williams, Park Superintendent
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

South County Maintenance

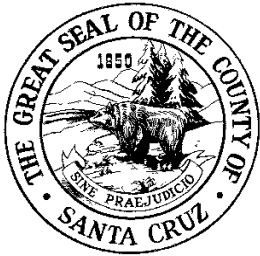
- Regrade and seed Baseball field A at Polo Grounds.
- Remove 80 yards of sediment from Sediment Basin at Pinto Lake.
- Install new spinner at Seascape.
- Replenish fiber at Scott Park and Pinto Lake.

Mid County Maintenance

- Field Renovation will be starting at Brommer
- Drainage for field at Brommer
- Painted parking lot and curbs at Simpkins

North County Maintenance

- Mid-season sports field renovations at AJ
- Moran tree removal and grading for improved drainage
- On going Quail pond restoration efforts to remove cat tails
- Complete parking lot and curb striping at Covered Bridge and Highlands park
- Native bunch grass habitat restoration at Felton Discovery park



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Date: November 18, 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 project was awarded an allocation of grant funding for final design and right-of-way phases at the October California Transportation Commission meeting. Staff from the County, RTC, and City of Santa Cruz are working together to seek additional grant funding and find ways to reduce project costs. Staff are also coordinating with the RTC's Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail (ZEPRT) project to reduce conflicts between the trail and passenger rail requirements. Staff are working to define a scope of work for final design and to begin negotiation of a contract amendment with the consultant team for final design.

Ecology Action is continuing to lead 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. Additional pedestrian and bicycle classes at area schools are scheduled for Fall 2024.

Segments 8 and 9: Staff are still working on finalizing the Cooperative Agreement with the RTC and City of Santa Cruz. Final design for this project will begin in Fall 2024.

Floral County Park Playground Renovation

Site work and drainage modifications have been completed, play structure and PIP have been installed. County Parks has completed an informal bidding process and selected a contractor for the landscape work which is expected to begin in November. The project is expected to be completed in Winter 2024.



Freedom Lake Restoration Plan

Freedom Lake, a cherished natural resource for both wildlife and the community, has faced challenges from invasive species that disrupt native habitats and diminish water quality. In a series of upcoming workday events, dedicated teams from Watsonville Wetlands Watch and the California Conservation Corps will work side by side to remove invasive trees and plants that are impairing native habitat and obstructing the open viewing and access routes of park users. Consistent with best practices for riparian habitat and vegetation management, willow trees will be pruned and limbed up to reduce hazards for park users and enhance lines of site and the feeling of openness to enhance park user safety. Following winter rains approximately 100 native understory plants and shrubs will be planted within the Acacia removal areas to increase diversity of native plants growing on site and improve the park user experience. A phase 2 for this project is expected to commence and be completed in late Spring 2025.



Greyhound Rock

The Board of Supervisors approved an MOU between the Parks Department and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to outline the steps necessary for transfer of the property from CDFW to County Parks. In addition, County Parks was awarded a \$865,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy in September. The grant will fund the planning, environmental review, and preliminary design of an environmental education center and low-cost overnight accommodation project that has long been envisioned for the site. Consultant procurement is scheduled to begin in late 2024, with selection in early 2025.

Hidden Beach County Park

The civil engineer developed the site work (building foundation and concrete paving, utility connections, landscaping, and associated irrigation surrounding the restroom) plans and specs. The project was informally bid in October and three bids were received. The low bidder asked to be relieved of their bid due to a calculation error, and the remaining bids exceeded the engineer's estimate and the amount that could be awarded via informal bidding per the Public Contract Code. As a result, County Parks is in the process of re-bidding the project via the formal bidding process. The project will be advertised on November 20th after approval by the Board. Construction of the project will be delayed by several months and is expected to start in January 20th, 2025. The permanent, prefabricated, ADA-compliant double-unit restroom has been designed and built and is now scheduled to be delivered on-site on February 26th, 2025. The project is expected to be completed in late Spring 2025.

Moran Lake County Park

Staff are still working to finalize permitting of the emergency rock revetment to prevent the failure of the pathway and East Cliff Drive from the 2023-2024 storms. A contract has been negotiated with Graniterock, but FEMA has not yet issued a Notice of Obligation for the funding. Should advance funding of the project be approved by County leadership, work to complete permitting will begin later this month. After permits are secured, repair work will occur while the lagoon is in a breach state and water levels are below the elevation of the work area.

Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan: Parks collected comments on the draft habitat management plan via email and from a public meeting in July. Comments centered on concern over the safety of the eucalyptus and requests for Parks to do more to mitigate risks of tree failure, as well as concerns over how tree removals or reductions would negatively impact monarch habitat. In response to these comments, and to help determine how tree height relates to wind break efficacy, a specialized wind study was added to the scope of the habitat management plan. Results of the wind study are expected in early 2025 and will provide data to help guide management of the existing trees in a manner that protects butterfly habitat while ensuring public safety.

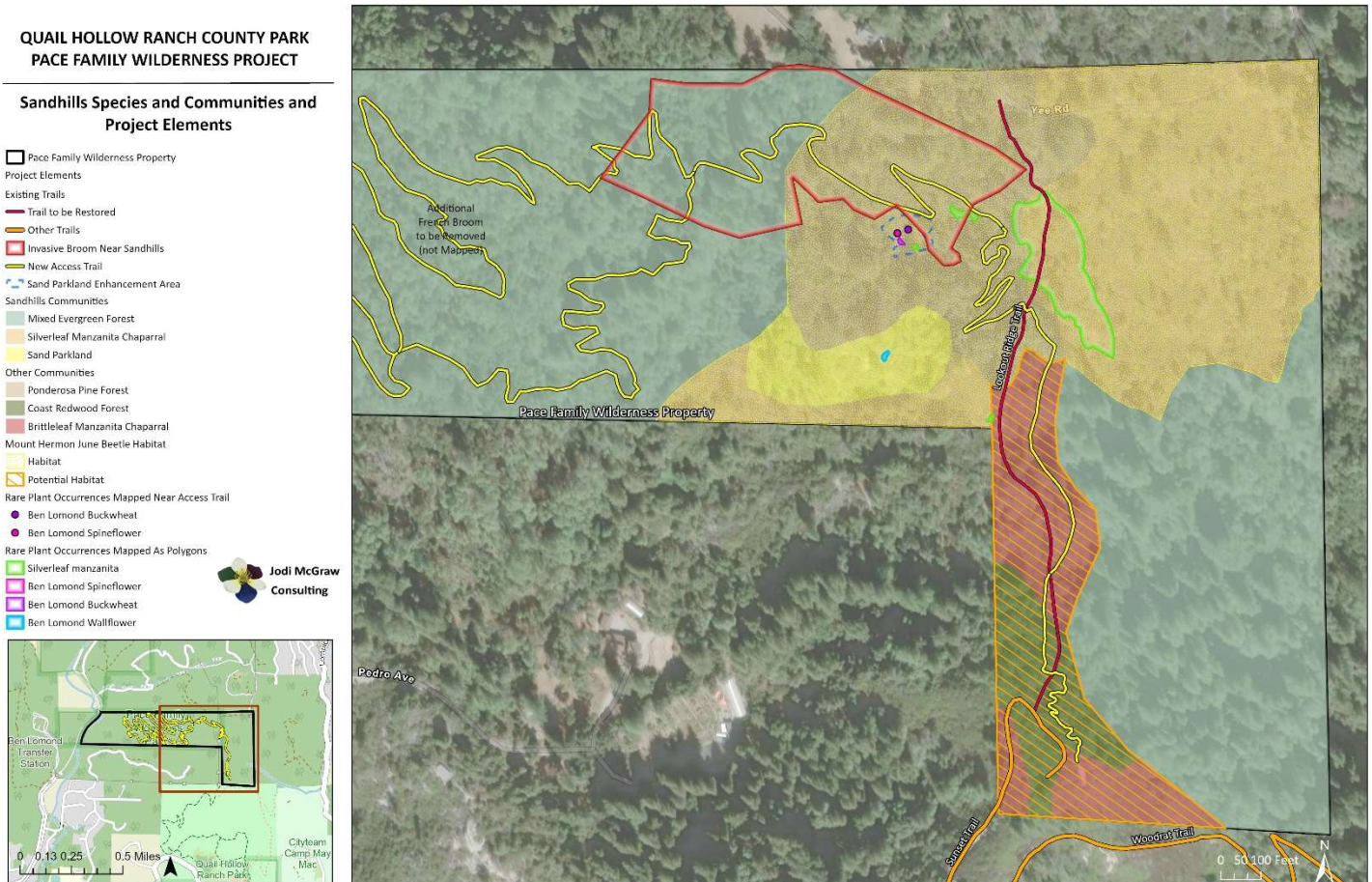
Parks will be leading a community tree planting event of native White Alder and Monterey Cypress trees at Moran Lake on December 7th from 9am-12pm. The tree plantings are required mitigations for past removals or tree failures and will help enhance the existing windbreak and improve the riparian habitat of the lagoon eco Volunteers are welcome and encouraged.

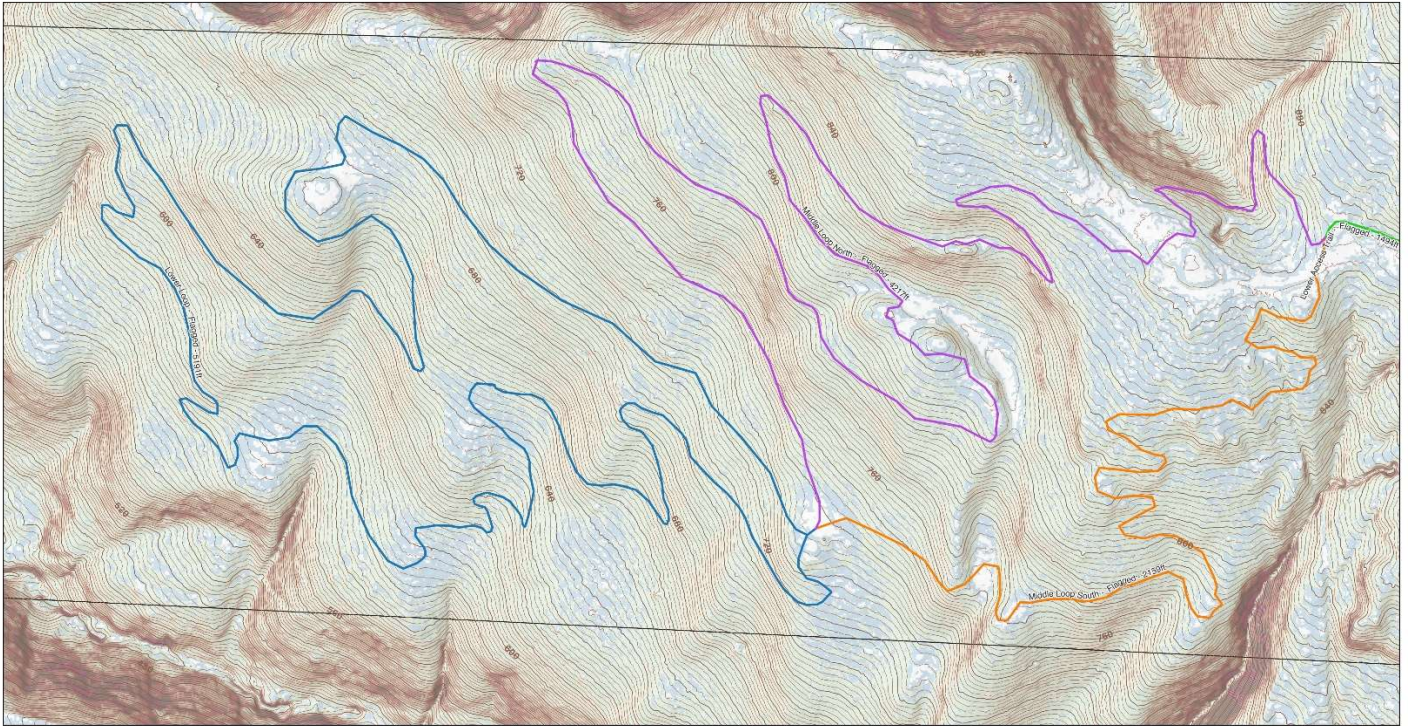
North Coast Facilities and Management Plan

The first quarterly meeting of the Working Group was held on October 11th. The meeting was well attended by agency representatives. Agencies shared updates on projects included in the Plan, as well as highlighted several new projects which were not included in the Plan but are important for interagency coordination and collaboration. The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in January. Discussion topics will include the creation of a public-facing North Coast website, and the County hosting a GIS Webmap that will serve as a repository for North Coast projects and public facilities. A current version of the GIS Webmap created by County GIS staff can be found here: [North Coast Facilities Management Plan](#)

Pace Property Connection Trails

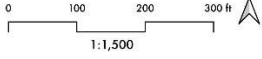
Project trail layout and flagging have been completed with great interest from the community. Park staff have coordinated directly with the biologist and trail design consultant in refining the trail layout. The trail design consultant will be providing a cost estimate for the anticipated construction costs. Project biologist is working on the permitting requirements for the project. Trail construction will be a coordinated effort between Parks staff, the trail design crew, and local volunteers. With an estimated volunteer percentage of 35%-45% of the trail construction. Trail construction will have to occur outside of the Mount Hermon June beetle flight season from May 15 to August 15 and all workers will be required to be trained on the sandhill habit ecosystem prior to working.





**Pace Property Loop Trails
Flagged Alignment**

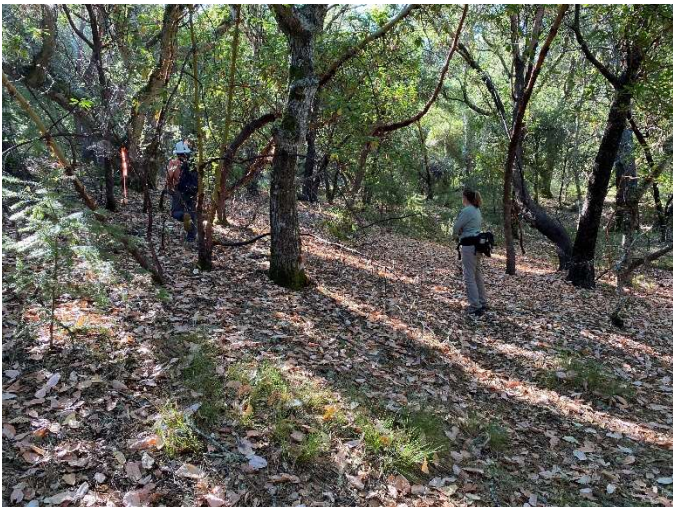
Property lines from Santa Cruz County Assessors Parcel map and are approximate.
 Topographic Data from 2018 Santa Cruz County LIDAR courtesy of San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, CALFIRE, Sanborn Map Company Inc., Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, County of Santa Clara, Tukman Geospatial LLC
 Contour Interval 2'



Legend	
Pace Trail Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Loop Trail (Blue line) Lower Access Trail (Green line) Mid Access Trail (Yellow line) Upper Access Trail (Light Green line) Middle Loop North (Purple line) Middle Loop South (Orange line)

Ground Slope	
<= 10%	60-80%
10-20%	80-100%
20-40%	100-130%
40-60%	130+%

drew@santacruztrails.org
 V2 08/28/2024



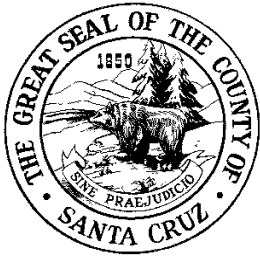
Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study

County Parks was 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. 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. Staff are currently coordinating project scope with other similar sea level rise adaptation efforts in the region and consulting with scientists and coastal experts to refine and improve the project scope prior to issuing

a Request for Proposals for consultant support. Consultant procurement is expected to start late 2024, and a full project schedule will be developed in early 2025 after a consultant is selected.

South County Parkland Acquisition – Whiting Road

A preliminary park diagram for phase 1 was developed by County parks while a permanent plan is developed. The diagram was shared previously with the Commission. County Parks needs further funding for the park development.



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Date: November 6, 2024
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jaime Jimenez, Recreation Supervisor
Subject: Recreation Section Report

Partnerships with Local Recreation Departments

- The County Parks Department showed their support with Monarch Services who provides essential intervention and prevention services to survivors and their families of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking across Santa Cruz County. The organization serve over 1,800 individuals each year with services ranging from crisis intervention, child and youth counseling, confidential shelter, legal support, housing and more. This was Monarch Services 4th Annual “Stronger Together!” 5K / 1K Fun Run and Walk and Community Event. The activities took place at Aptos High School track & field stadium located on 100 Mariner Way in Aptos, CA on Sunday September 22nd, at 9am. The event included children’s activities, music, food and community tabling by many local organizations.
- The SC County Parks Department participated in the South County - National Night Out – “Fight Against Crime” on Tuesday, August 6th at Pinto Lake County Park. The community came out and connected with neighbors. Participating agencies hosting the event included - the So. County Sheriff Task Force, Santa Cruz County Office of the Public Defender, Zach Friend - Second District Supervisor for Santa Cruz County, Felipe Hernandez – 4th District Supervisor for Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz County Probation, Sheriff-Coroner Dept., California Highway Patrol, Cal Fire, Santa Cruz County Fire Dept., Pajaro Valley Fire and Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County Inc.,. There was free food, drinks and plenty of entertainment for kids and adults (music, crafts, raffles, prizes, games, balloons, and more!
- “Wheeling Good Time” was a special event hosted by the County Park Friends of SC as a fundraiser for improvements at Felt St. County Park. The event was held on Saturday, October 19th. The recreation team hosted several backyard games and helped engaged the community in fun positive recreational experiences and providing a strong safe sense of place.
- The 8th Annual - Trunk o Treat Special Event took place on Friday, October 25th from 5pm-8pm at the Sheriff’s Office Headquarters and at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. The spooktacular evening consisted of candy giveaways, backyard games, decorated trunks, and food vendors made an evening of spooktacular fun. Parks staff attended both events and provided fun activities, candy giveaway and popcorn at their booth.
- The SC County Parks Department collaborated with the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter and Wolfpack Inc., on a HOWLoween movie doggie date night with a movie at the park at Anna Jean Cummings on Saturday, October 26th. Those in attendance got an opportunity to

watch Disney's The Hunted Mansion under the stars in a fun and family environment while dressed in fun Halloween costumes.

Recreation Programs & Contractual Agreements

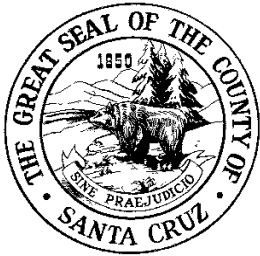
- The Recreation team is monitoring its three (3) contracts this fall. Contracts include
 - Line Dancing
 - Watercolor
 - Ball Room Dancing
- Our active adult programs continue to offer the following FREE recreational activities for community members:
 - Mall Walking
 - Stretching Class
 - Bridge Club
 - Tai Chi

Programming is moving indoors now that

- We make strides in fostering human development opportunities and providing a safe place for the community to recreate.

Marketing Efforts

- The County Parks Summer Activity Guide continues to be available in English and Spanish. The Winter/Spring 24/25 is currently being created.
- The Department continues to create marketing flyers in both Spanish/English. As well as social media posts and updates.



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Date: November 7, 2024
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Garrett Smart, Recreation Supervisor
Subject: Reservations Section Report

Winter Wonderland Holiday Event

We are very excited to be well into the planning phase for 2024's Winter Wonderland! This event is the upgraded and reimagined Holiday Festival, which last year was called Splash with Santa. This year will include a Holiday Market, Live Entertainment, Free recreation swim, 20+ vendors, an appearance from Santa Claus, and a Pancake Breakfast hosted by our own Recreation Team! We will have large scale decorations, children's performances, and we are hoping to have a very fun time. December 14th at Simpkins Family Swim Center.

New Park Service Officer

We recently brought on an additional Park Service Officer, Jillian Liu, who began training on 10/8/24. By continuing to expand this team, we increase our ability to staff events on late notice, or when the events grow to be longer than a single staff person is able to work.

Bulletin Boards

Emma Lee, with assistance from Merritt Grooms from the Recreation Section, is in the process of identifying locations for all of our existing bulletin boards in county parks. Once all locations are identified, our team will begin creating and sourcing new material to post. Park Service Officers will be able to update the bulletin boards on a revolving basis to create another touchpoint for informing the public about our events, services, and programs.

Concessions Program Update

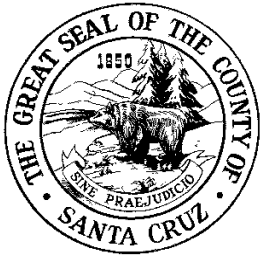
Since the removal of vending machines in August, our team has successfully launched a new concessions program, which has continued to expand. The program now offers over seven beverage options, along with a variety of snacks such as corn and potato chips, granola bars, fruit leather, trail mix, protein bars, and cup noodles. Melody Barker has taken the lead on the day-to-day operations, receiving significant support from the aquatics front desk team. We are focused on refining our inventory process to improve profitability while maintaining our commitment to serving pool customers, patrons of the Live Oak Library Annex, and County Parks clients.

Upcoming Santa Cruz Public Library Ribbon-Cutting Event

The Santa Cruz Public Library system is planning a ribbon-cutting event for November 23rd. Garrett Smart is representing County Parks at the planning meetings as a liaison. The event will feature a dance performance, remarks by Manu Koenig, and potentially additional elected officials.

Skills of Life Café Debut

We are eagerly anticipating the debut of the **Skills of Life Café** at the Live Oak Library Annex by the end of October. This non-profit life skills program will culminate in food and beverages served to the public by student workers. The café is partnering with Three Waves Coffee to operate as a popup concession, open seven days a week.



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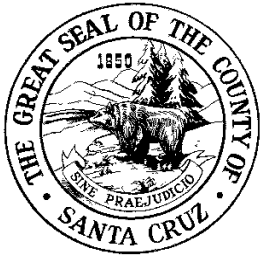
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Wheelie Good Time Event at Felt Street Park

The first **Wheelie Good Time Event** at Felt Street Park was a success on October 19th! This community-organized fundraiser aims to benefit the park by raising funds to plant shade trees and create a mural. The event also seeks to foster community support for maintaining a safe space in the Live Oak area, specifically at Felt Street Park.



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Date: November 7, 2024
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Subject: Volunteer Section Report

Anna Jean Cummings Park

The Workability volunteers rose to the call to help us remove invasive Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) that was reported growing at Anna Jean Cummings Park. They have worked on it for several days and have removed all that has been reported so far. Now that they know what it looks like and how to remove it, they will be able to remove any more that pops up.



Ben Lomond County Park

As reported in our last report a large area at the Ben Lomond County Park was prepared for a fall planting of Native Pollinator plants. Kym Morella, member of the Ben Lomond Village Alliance picked up over 100 plants and Linda Skeff, from the SLV Habitat Restoration Program donated additional plants.

On November 2 over 20 volunteers showed up to install the plants! Volunteers also pulled weeds, installed a visual fence/border, installed drip irrigation emitters, repainted a wooden sign and installed other informational signs. It was a great turnout, and we are looking forward to watching the garden grow!



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Chanticleer County Park

On Saturday, Aug. 24 volunteers showed up at Chanticleer Park to clean the play structures. It was a fun family outing for many.





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East Cliff Parkway

The East Cliff Parkway is looking great!

On July 27th members from the Nature Lodge and the community donated plants and volunteered to install plants, and remove weeds.

On August 1 members from the Nature Lodge and the community prepared another area for planting by turning up the hard dirt, weeding, and adding soil amendment and mulch to the already planted areas.

Sept. 21st, Whole Foods employees, and members from the Nature Lodge, worked together to prepare an additional planter bed for planting on November 16th.





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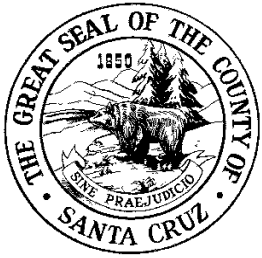
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Also at East Cliff Parkway, volunteer Kari Constantino organized volunteers and landscapers to install over 100 native plants to Pleasure Point and the parkway. The volunteers weeded and removed dead shrubs, enhanced the soil planted and then mulched.





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Felton Discover Park

At Felton Discovery Park volunteers meet the first Saturday of the month and have been spending their time lately focusing on the pollinator garden, as well as keeping the blackberries from encroaching into the park. The Earth Steward volunteers have started back up and help keep the weeds and blackberries in check.

Highlands County Park and Senior Center

Linda Skeff with the SLV Habitat Restoration Project has held 2 volunteer days to enhance the pollinator garden around the Senior Center. The volunteer days are held the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Polo Grounds County Park

The Cabrillo Host Lions Club installed an Owl box at the Polo Grounds County Park.

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Volunteers and Park Hosts help with the Full Moon Hikes at Quail. The volunteers lead, talk about the stars and the moon, search for scorpions and allow the community to enjoy the park on the full moon nights.

We have new volunteers at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park in the capacity of Mounted Patrol! We are excited to welcome these five exceptional equestrians to the team. All five equestrians are Santa Cruz County Posse members and experienced equestrians. We are pleased to have them join us as Mounted Trail Watch Volunteers at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park. They will greet visitors and be a presence in the park and on the trails. They are prepared to educate visitors about the park and the rules, as well as report any issues they come across.



Pictured are Blaze (horse) Sandi Woods, Nancy Murray, Jamie Tinette, Chris Rice, Shady (horse) and Aniko Milan. Horse volunteers not pictured are Yoda and Doc.



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Park Hosts

Please welcome our new Park Hosts at Quail Hollow County Park, Beth and Steve Egelhofer! Below is a bit about the Park Host position at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park and an introduction bio from Beth and Steve.

Our Park Hosts at Quail help us by being a welcoming presence and stewards at the park. They are required to work 20 hours a week performing Park Host duties. Park Host duties include; being in uniform while greeting guest, performing trail watch duties, educating the public about the wonders and rules of the park, performing maintenance and gardening tasks, and opening and closing the gate daily. They are also eyes and ears at the park during the parks closed hours. The Park Hosts will also be trained to help with interpretive programs, volunteer events, and assist with issues at the ranch house when necessary. The Park Hosts have direct communication with Parks staff and the horse boarders to report any issues or concerns that arise at the park.

From Beth and Steve;

Hello! Some of you may already know me/us, as I have been a horse boarder at Quail Hollow since October 2000. Not certain where that time went, but surely there has been a lot of water under the bridge in that time.

My husband, Steve and I have recently become the Park hosts here at Quail Hollow. We retired from Veterinary medicine in 2021, sold our practice and have been trying to enjoy retirement.. maybe not such an easy task for us. Steve continues to work on our sweet but old home in Felton, and I keep busy volunteering locally and working as a PSO on weekends for Santa Cruz County Parks, and taking care of the horse, "Mouse."



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My husband and I love the outdoors, wildlife and bird watching, the changes of the seasons, walking trails locally, and of course with my horse connection here, we have loved Quail Hollow County Park over these last 24 years.

When we are not on duty, you can find us camping in the Sierra, fishing with our pup and perhaps even with our daughter and her husband!

We are excited and flattered to live here, to call it home, to work on some projects around the Ranch House, share the history of the Ranch with visitors, and help guide others when they visit, to seek out and enjoy its unique beauty.

You are welcome to come by to say hello and meet us so we are at least not strangers! We are grateful to be here, and excited for the coming change of season: Autumn, our favorite time of year.

Beth & Steve Egelhofer



Our Park Host at Pinto, Elizabeth Dawson, worked with a Youth Serve group in August to help with painting of a restroom at the park in addition to her regular duties of closing restrooms and gates, walking the park, reporting issues, and being a friendly face to answer questions about the park.

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

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

#	Stated Goal	Members Involved	Timeline	Fiscal Impact*	Projected Outcomes	Update #1 08.12.2024
COMMUNITY OUTREACH						
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	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. Create outreach to the public, educating them on what the Parks & Recreation Commission does, how to engage with the Commission and local government, programs the County offers, and spaces & places to recreate. Each Commissioner participates in a minimum 2 events.	Wiltshire - Attended Floral Groundbreaking. Konevich - Attended Floral Groundbreaking and Moran town hall. Martinez - Attended Boulder Creek Rec an Park district community conversation.
2	Connect with local City and County Commissions to better understand collaboration opportunities.	Wiltshire	April 2024 - March 2025	No Impact	Attend meetings of area commissions, create connection with members. Better understand efforts of area commissions generating ideas for future Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation goals and determining opportunities for collaboration where synergy exists.	No update
3	Identify and schedule guest speakers for all Parks & Recreation Commission meetings.	Martinez	April 2024 - March 2025	No Impact	Commissioners gain awareness and understanding of topics relevant to goals outlined in this Commission Work Plan and other topics of interest.	Martinez - Taking suggestions for future meetings. Looking at topics similar to Climate Resilience.
GREAT FACILITIES						
4	Research community needs related to facility use, development, and programming.	Sanford	April 2024 - March 2025	No Impact	Generate a better understanding of community interests and needs related to facilities and programming. Identify related core and stretch objectives. Provide findings to Parks & Recreation department for consideration and planning.	Sanford - Contact with various vendors for new playing surfaces and a list upcoming of potential funding sources.
EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP						
5	Examine climate resiliency efforts and advise Park & Recreation department of best practices.	Martinez	April 2024 - March 2025	No Impact	Gain awareness and understanding of topics relevant to climate resiliency through research and connection with local organizations. Identify gaps in climate resiliency efforts/education and advice Parks & Recreation department of best practices.	

6	Identify best practices for sustainability and advise Park & Recreation department of findings.	Sanford	April 2024 - March 2025	No Impact	Commissioners examine current sustainability efforts within the County and explore additional best practices in all areas of sustainability. 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. Provide recommendations on best practices, potential partnerships, and community outreach opportunities to Parks & Recreation department.	No Update
SPECIAL PROJECT(S)						
7	Explore Best Practices for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) related to Parks & Recreation	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.	No update.
ADVISE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS -- NOTE:						
	2024/25 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan Outcomes to be submitted in the Biennial Report	Chair	On or before January 31, 2025		Board of Supervisors is advised of past year work plan outcomes in Biennial Report.	
	2025/26 Parks and Recreation Commission Proposed Work Plan/Goals to be submitted in the Biennial Report	Chair	On or before January 31, 2025		Board of Supervisors reviews proposed work plan goals and intended outcomes in Biennial Report.	