



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, August 12th, 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 May 13th, 2024..... page 2
- b. Consider Reports:
 - i. Aquatics Section Report..... page 4
 - ii. Maintenance Section Report..... page 5
 - iii. Planning Section Report..... page 7
 - iv. Recreation Section Report..... page 10
 - v. Reservations Section Report..... page 12
 - vi. Volunteer Section Report..... page 13

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS

- a. All Kids Play Scholarships..... page 19

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Natural Resource Management Plan and Rapid Assessments for South County Parks – Lisa Lurie & Angie Gruys, Resource Conservation District
- b. Update on South County Park Located at Whiting Road – Rebecca Hurley, Deputy Director
- c. Commissioner Reports on 2024-25 Work Plan..... page 20

IX. NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2024, at Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms.

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING

- a. Letter from Jeanette Lovely – Cleanliness Concern at Jose Avenue County Park Restrooms

XI. ADJOURNMENT



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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of May 13th, 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: Katherine Lee (District 1), Tricia Wiltshire (District 2), Jeremy Sanford (District 3), Monica Martinez (District 5)

Absent: Martha Victoria Vega (District 4)

Staff: Rebecca Hurley, Juan Perez Alvarez, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS No modifications.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS One member of the public.

Jim Helmer: Lifelong resident of Ben Lomond addressed a concern regarding severe flooding in Ben Lomond Park and 30+ foot trees. Has received no response from CDFW and after reviewing County Policy, believes the County can address the issue as it is causing a “threat to infrastructure.” Asked for advice on next steps and what agencies to contact.

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

- a. Approve minutes from February 12th, 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

District 1: Big Stick had a great turnout for the Logjam Surfing Competition, which took place at Pleasure Point, and raised money for local charities. Visited Anna Jean Cummings and was able to see progress on mitigation and a maintenance worker weed whacking and cleaning up the Park. Commissioner Lee is working with Margaret Ingraham in hopes of hosting a weed pulling volunteer event on June 1st at Felt Street Park.

District 2: Thank you to Parks for hosting the Commissioner Workshop. Commissioner Wiltshire was able to attend the Willowbrook County Park Memorial Seating Area Unveiling. In April, she attended the Live Like Coco event at Pinto Lake, lovely to see the community and staff. Have had members of the public reaching out about bench memorial placards. Asked for and quickly discussed Hidden Beach Restroom progress (is there a potential for adult changing table?).

District 3: Mainly communications, not many events going on in the district. Several people have reached out and acknowledged that the facilities at Davenport Landing have improved. Suggestions from the public regarding a potential park at the schoolhouse site that burned in the CZU fire. Has received some questions and concerns about the data being collected for the North Coast Plan. Also received concern surrounding the Rail trail project and how that affects the organic farms in the area.

District 4: Absent

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. Invited everyone to the Celebration at Felton Library and Felton Discover Park on Sat. June 8th and Felton Remembers event on Memorial Day Weekend.

VI. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS

- a. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair for Parks & Recreation Commission 2024.
Motion to nominate Monica Martinez as chair: Lee/2nd: Wiltshire/All in favor.
Motion to nominate Tricia Wiltshire as vice-chair: Lee/2nd: Sanford/All in favor.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Mitigation Monitoring Report on Anna Jean Cummings – Mike Pruitt, Planner II.....page 19-34
The RTC entered into an agreement with the County to complete a riparian restoration on site involving planting, irrigation, and maintenance of the planting for a period of 5 years. Mitigation planting began on December 12, 2022, and was completed on May 8, 2023. The project will establish and protect a native riparian woodland on slope adjacent to the creek. Monitoring of the site will continue for a period of 5 years from the date of planting. The project is currently at 100% success rate and yearly monitoring reports will be provided by Biotic Resources Group.

b. County Park Friends Youth Outdoor Leaders (YOL) Presentation on Climate Justice Program made possible through the OEP grant. Group of teenagers that, through the program, have gotten to explore more areas of the County and several parks. The program has supported their growth as individuals and helped build their confidence. They would like to continue to see change and a growth in equity throughout the County through programs, artwork, etc.

- Commissioner Sanford – Would it be beneficial to connect YOL students with university students and create partnerships? Yes, it would be beneficial and inspirational to have someone at that level to look up to and work with. They understand the struggles of the POC community.
- Commissioner Wiltshire – How long have you been a part of the program? Some one year, others closer to two. Encouraged participants to connect with other peers at their high school and encourage more participation within the program. If they can use the skills they have learned, they can continue to build the program and create a larger impact.

c. Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons and East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study
County Parks with Public Works has received a \$650,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy to do a feasibility study on the portion of E. Cliff roadway between Moran Lake, Schwann Lake, and Corcoran Lagoon.

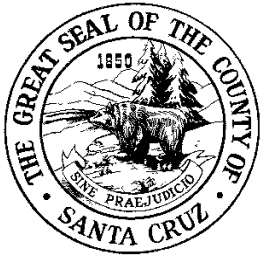
d. Commissioner reports on Work Plan.....page 35-37

See attached work plan document.

IX. NEXT MEETING: August 12th, 2024. ~~Location to be announced in public notice.~~ 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: Lee/All in favor.



County of Santa Cruz

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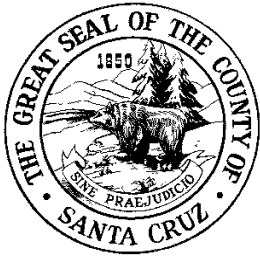
979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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

Date: July 24, 2024
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Anissa Childers, Aquatic Supervisor
Subject: Aquatics Section Report

- We are now more than halfway through our summer season. Aquatics programming is going strong, and we are on track to completing our summer programming successfully.
- We are finishing up our last session of Junior Guards and Little Guards. These programs have provided a safe environment for children to practice the necessary skills to become a lifeguard and become strong swimmers, while emphasizing fun. We had 510 spots available for children.
- We've had 4 swim lesson sessions a month running all summer and currently have two more summer session's which begin on July 29th and 30th. This is the first Summer in 5 years that we have been able to offer so many lessons. A total of 986 swim lessons spots were made available to the public.
- Our summer 2024 hiring event resulted in the hiring of 47 lifeguards who have worked hard to keep everyone safe while visiting the facility. Our lifeguards continue to do weekly trainings to keep up on their skills.
- We have teamed up with County Park Friends for their "Learn to Swim" program which offers free swim lessons for the community. We had 40 students in our spring session and have 70 kids in our current summer session. We are in the process of running one more fall session as there is a large waitlist of interested families.
- All 10 aquatics contractors have submitted their proposal forms to continue providing services at the Swim Center. This includes two private swim instructors, five water aerobics instructors, and three adult fitness instructors.
- Along with all our youth programming we also offer Water Aerobics and Adult Fitness classes. Our water aerobics class reached its highest total yet with 66 participants in one class!
- Our facility remains open 7 days a week Monday-Friday 6:00am-7:30pm and Saturday/Sunday 9am-4:00pm.



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Date: July 17, 2024
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jesse Williams, Parks Superintendent
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

North County

- Quail Hollow Ranch
 - June 1st, 2024 was National Trails Day. Work was done on the Discovery Loop Trail.
 - The upper horse barns were re-roofed.
 - A new wedding trellis was built.
- Highlands Park
 - Staff continue to make sports field restorations.
 - A new wedding trellis was built.
- Beach Access Points
 - Several coastal access stairs were repaired.
- Moran Lake County Park
 - Staff continues to conduct cleanup after the February 2024 wind event.

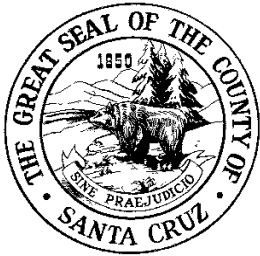
Mid County

- Staff have been tackling the seasonal park lawn mowing while maintaining daily operations at the swim center.
- Brommer Park and Felt St. Park
 - Continued arson and vandalism at these locations.
 - Maintenance staff are actively repairing and cleaning vandalized park restrooms.
- Park Administration offices have been remodeled.
- Live Oak Library Annex (LOLA) has opened to the public for use.

South County

- Pinto Lake County Park
 - Staff have begun seasonal mowing.
 - Field repairs/renovations continue.
- Mesa Village Park
 - The second restroom has reopened for public use.
- Scott Park
 - Repaired the septic drain field.

- Reopened the restroom.
- Aptos Polo Grounds
 - Soccer field renovations continue.
 - The first round of gopher control has been applied.
- Seascape Park
 - Staff removed dead pine trees.
- Whiting Road
 - Seasonal mowing.
 - Wellhead repairs.



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Date: July 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 unanimously approved the project at the April 30, 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. The Board also approved the Baseline Agreement with Caltrans. The project was granted an extension 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 meeting. Staff are working with Caltrans to complete the federal environmental review and expect to request 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.

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. Pedestrian safety classes were held at Mar Vista Elementary and Soquel Elementary School in April and May. Walk and Roll to School Day events were held at six area schools on May 9th, 2024. Additional pedestrian and bicycle classes at area schools are scheduled for Fall 2024. A Family Fun Festival is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31st at the Boys and Girls Club Live Oak Clubhouse. A community event, in partnership with Latino Outdoors and The Bird School Project is tentatively planned for August 17th in the Live Oak area.

Segments 8 and 9: Staff are still working on finalizing the Cooperative Agreement with the RTC and City of Santa Cruz.

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 were finalized and preferred play structure elements were selected. Staff updated the final playground design with the play structure company before placing the order. County Parks has completed a bidding process and selected a contractor for the site work which is expected to begin in August. The playground and pour-in-place rubber surfacing will be installed following the completion of the site work. 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. County Parks has ordered the prefabricated restroom which will be delivered and installed in the fall. The project is expected to be completed in late Fall 2024.

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 is being negotiated with Graniterock and minor work is expected to take place later this summer, with the bulk of the work, including any work in the lagoon, to occur after the lagoon has naturally breached in the fall and water levels have dropped below the elevation of the work area.

Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan: Work has been completed on this project.

Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan: The consultant has completed a public draft of the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan (HMP), and it has been posted on the Parks website under current projects and linked here: [Moran Lake Draft MBHMP Update - Clean Document.pdf \(santacruzcountyca.gov\)](#)

A public meeting was held on Tuesday, July 23rd to present the draft plan to the public and provide an opportunity to answer questions.

The Phase 2 restoration and tree planting work is scheduled for the fall, after the onset of rains. Staff are developing a planting list and working to secure plant material.

North Coast Facilities and Management Plan

The Board of Supervisors accepted the final North Coast Facilities Management Plan on April 30, 2024. A Working Group meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 2024.

Pace Property Connection Trails

Project trail layout, flagging, and scoping has begun with great interest from the community. Park staff are in the process of refining the trail layout with the consultants to create a trail design package

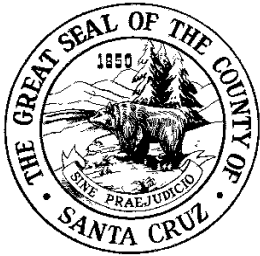
that can be posted for construction bidding purposes.

Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study

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 late summer, and a full project schedule will be developed this fall after a consultant is selected.

South County Parkland Acquisition – Whiting Road

County Parks is working with County Park Friends to review and analyze the results of the South County Park at Whiting Road Alternative Uses survey. Results are being used to create a temporary park plan while a permanent plan is developed.



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

Partnerships with Local Recreation Departments

- The County Parks Department joined forces with the City of Capitola, City of Santa Cruz, City of Scotts Valley and City of Watsonville to host a Family Fun Day event at De Laveaga Park to kick-off Parks Make Life Better! month.
- County Parks collaborated with the City of Capitola and City of Watsonville to prepare the recreation team for summer. The organizations met at Jade St. Park to share resources and knowledge on recreation strategies to provide positive recreational experiences and provide a sense of place for all to enjoy.
- Recreation is continuing in their partnership with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District to offer after-school programs at Mar Vista Elementary school and La Selva Beach this summer through the Extended Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP).

Recreation Programs & Contractual Agreements

- Three new contracts for programming have been acquired by the recreation team:
 - Line Dancing – Shanta Shenoy
 - Watercolor - Anastasiya Bachmanova
 - Skateboarding Classes at Seacliff County Park for youth between the ages of 4-15.
- Our active adult programs continue to 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.

Marketing Efforts

- The County Parks Summer Activity Guide continues to be available in English and Spanish.
- Flyers and banners are consistently being developed to inform the community of upcoming recreational opportunities, help navigate their interest in our reservations and registrations system, and opportunities on the department site.
- Constant Contacts platform has been used to promote Park offerings this summer.
- The Department continues to create marketing flyers in both Spanish/English. As well as social media posts and updates.



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Date: August 12th 2024
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Garrett Smart, Recreation Supervisor
Subject: Reservations Section Report

Parks and Rex

Our largest Parks Hosted event of the year is right around the corner. The 9th Parks and Rex is coming together smoothly and will be located at Simpkins Family Swim Center on August 17th, 2024. This will be host to hundreds of people and dogs and raises money for Santa Cruz County Animal Services and Santa Cruz County Parks youth programming. We will have food from Areperia831, and Taquizas Gabriel this year, with Three Waves Coffee serving iced coffee and tea.

Special Events

Outside of Parks and Rex, the last few months have also been filled with many large special events that bring the community together. Our Parks have been host to the True Love Christian Music Festival, the Jim Walters Softball Tournament, the San Andreas Regional Center Summer Superhero Festival, the White Hawk Dancers Xilonen Festival, the Aptos Chamber Fourth of July Festival and a great deal of private events as well.

Live Oak Library Annex

A very exciting new chapter at Simpkins Family Swim Center is the soft opening of the Live Oak Library Annex. We have been able to be open 9 am to 4pm Monday through Friday, and some Saturdays! The team reporting to the newly added reception desk is growing and learning how that space functions in tandem with the rest of the facility. A few members of the public are beginning to utilize the study rooms, and we are starting to see some regular faces. We have heard great reports from some of the regular pool users about how excited they are to see the new addition become available for use. We are excited to incorporate the library services and programming and continue to grow our offerings and partnership with the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.



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Date: July 24, 2024
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Subject: Volunteer Section Report

Anna Jean Cummings Park

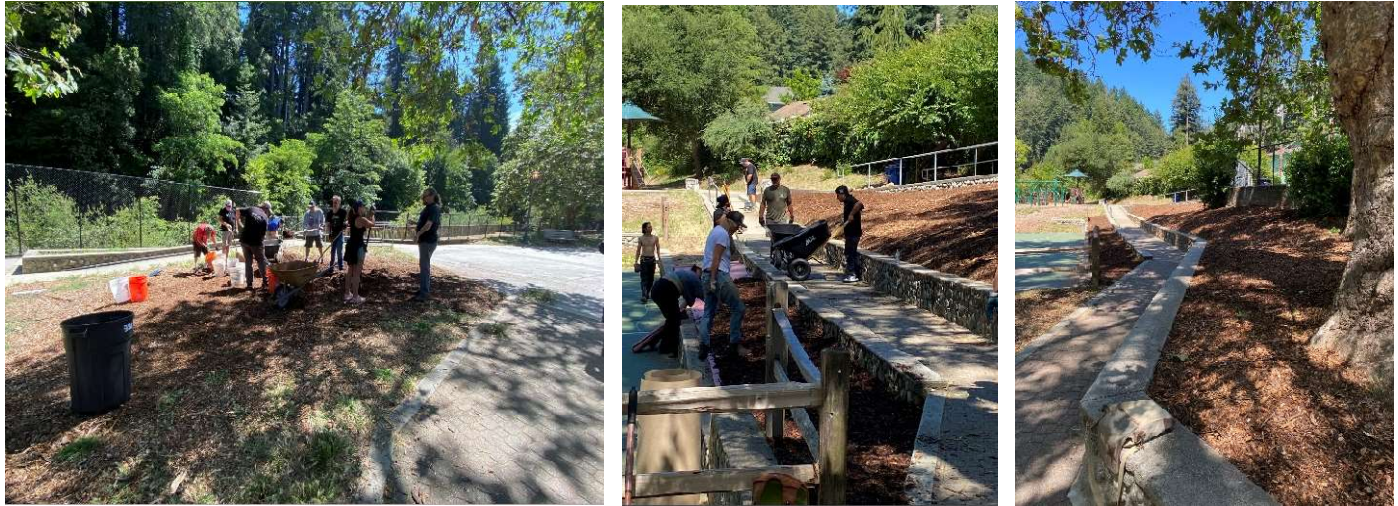
The workability student group logged 246 hours at AJC in the last school year and are on break for the summer.

Ben Lomond County Park

In May, over 30 volunteers gathered at the park to prepare planter beds by sheet mulching for a planned fall planting. The event was led by Sarah Doyle from the Watershed Stewards Program, Linda Skeff from the SLV Restoration Program and Parks Staff.



In June, the Ben Lomond Village group gathered 25 volunteers to continue sheet mulching the planter beds at the park.



Kym Morella, member of the Ben Lomond Village Alliance applied for and won a grant to receive 90 native pollinator plants from the Pollinator Habitat Monarch Conservation program through the Xerces Society. Linda Skeff, from the SLV Habitat Restoration Program has secured funding for additional native pollinator plants. Over 120 native pollinator plants will be planted in the fall!

East Cliff Drive County Parkway

We had another successful volunteer day on May 25th. Volunteers did a lot of weeding in the planter beds and then planted more succulents that neighbors donated. Volunteers also watered and mulched the area. Volunteers will be back again on July 27th to continue in the beautification project along East Cliff.

Volunteer Kari has been keeping the new landscaping at Pleasure Point watered and added a new border to try to deter the dogs from coming into the area.



Felton Discovery Park

May and June volunteer days at the park were successful with lots of weeds being pulled!

Earth Steward volunteers, led by Chris Soriano, showed up most Thursdays in the park to help with weeding and pruning. They are done for the summer but will be back in the fall.

Miller Property

Our newest volunteer up on the Miller property logged over 50 hours since he started. His focus has been to help maintain the trails and pull French Broom.

Pinto Lake County Park

On May 4th and May 25th, community members volunteered to paint the picnic gazebos and outside of the restrooms. On May 31st, we hosted Westlake Middle School from Sacramento. Arriving in 3 buses, they had over 100 students and 15 adults volunteer with us to paint the red curbs on the driveway into Pinto.

In June and July, we hosted youth from the Youth Serve Summer program who volunteered to paint the restrooms at Pinto. The group was led by our park host, Elizabeth.



Polo Grounds County Park

In May, members from the Cabrillo Host Lions Club washed the soccer storage shed to prepare it for painting at a later date.



Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

June 1st was National Trails Day, and a county wide event was organized by the Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship, which we were a part of. At Quail we had over 35 volunteers who gathered to help. Our regular volunteer Trail Crew members led different groups of volunteers in projects on the trails. Volunteers finished a new section of the Discovery Loop (earlier in the year a large eucalyptus tree fell and left a giant hole on the existing discovery loop trail, which closed the trail, maintenance created a new trail, but had not finished it yet). Volunteers also worked on a drainage project, did lots of pruning, and removed invasive thistle. Maintenance staff were on site to help and did all the preparation for the event.





The Habitat Restoration group has been busy pulling invasive French Broom. They have logged 278 hours since January. They are finished for the season now because the ground is too hard, but they will be back next year.

We have two new volunteers at Quail – Bonnie and Bill. Bonnie is a Trail Crew/Trail Watch volunteer and Bill will be a historian for the park. Currently, he is learning about the history of the park from Richard James, our current historian, and he is reading the material we have at the park as well as doing on-line research.

We had our annual **Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** for the volunteers at Quail in May. We recognized all the hours volunteers spent at the park in 2023 (3,575) and gave out our special volunteer pins. Over 25 volunteers attended along with County representatives and Parks staff.



Park Hosts

Our Park Host at Pinto, **Elizabeth Dawson**, is now leading volunteer days for us at Pinto along with her other duties of greeting park users, patrolling the park, locking the restrooms and gates, landscaping and light maintenance.

We are interviewing for Park Hosts at Pinto and Quail Hollow Ranch, the Park Hosts that were there have moved on to other jobs and locations.

Outstanding Volunteer Awards

In May, the Board of Supervisors recognized several Parks volunteers. Kari Constantino was recognized for her work at Pleasure Point.

Brandon Perez, Aidan McDaniel, Annabelle Contreras, Sophia Smith, and Bridget Smith were all recognized for repeatedly showing up for the Pinto Lake County Park volunteer days.

Nada and Dave Misunas were recognized for building, installing and maintaining a small free library at our Twin Lakes County Park.



All Kids Play - EOY Campaign Support Invitation

Introduction - The context

All kids in Santa Cruz County should experience park programs in our beautiful outdoors. However, due to chronic underfunding, [programs offered](#) by our public County Parks Department are mostly fee-based. Many families cannot afford the fees and too many youth miss out on formative experiences such as swim lessons, Pool Guards or sports camps.

County Park Friends targets equity by raising funds from individuals, then awarding “access grant scholarships” with financial support for Santa Cruz County Parks programming. Applications are open to the public in February and March each year, then are applied throughout the year to programs.

Our goal is to raise \$30,000 by December 2024 to award out in 2025.

Our Invitation - How you can help

1. State your support this campaign as a Commission
2. Commit to joining us by amplifying the campaign throughout your individual networks
3. Share the campaign with County District Supervisor and invite additional amplification

Our Commitment - How we'll support your success

We will share a media kit including:

- Press Release and various text communications
- Graphics and social media
- Easy online donation button and other ways to donate

Thanks for your consideration!

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 05.13.2024
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 Willowbrook Memorial Seating Area Unveiling and Live Like Coco events. Martinez - Attended Willowbrook Willowbrook Memorial Seating Area Unveiling. Plans to attend Felton Library Community Event and Felton Remembers.
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.	Wiltshire - Has been visiting/working with Commission on Disabilities. Would like to work with Brenda Gutierrez Baeza more on reviewing plans and possibly making adjustments to consider those with disabilities and increase equity throughout County Parks. Trying to make it to the Arts Commission meeting in July.
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 - Working with County Parks staff to have a speaker from RCD on 8/12.
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 - Would like to bring youth rugby to the Monterey Bay area. The league could use various facilities such as Pinto Lake or Polo Grounds. One challenge identified with programming and facility use is the limit in time. Many fields are not designed to be used year-round, is there a way to address this issue?
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.	Lee - Did some research on pollinating creatures and planting hedgerows. Maybe Parks can take advantage of some spaces in various parks and plant some hedgerows to increase resiliency and support pollinating populations.

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.	Lee - Has been working with maintenance team and workers at different Parks regarding maintenance. Suggested planting hedgerows. Sanford - Is continuing to research more sustainable, all-weather fields that could be implemented throughout the County. This would expand the opportunity to provide year round programming and field use.
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.	