



# 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, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
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 November 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 - 13
  - iv. Recreation Section Report..... page 14- 15
  - v. Reservations Section Report..... page 16
  - vi. Volunteer Section Report..... page 17 - 21

#### V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

#### VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS

- a. Officer elections
- b. Determine remaining Commission Dates for 2025

#### VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Measure Q Presentation

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

#### X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING

- a. Letter from the Calendula's – Farm Park Concerns

#### XI. ADJOURNMENT



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### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting  
Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms, 979 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL** Meeting called to order by Chair Wiltshire at 5:04 p.m.

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

Absent: Monica Martinez (District 5)

Vacant: (District 4)

Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Juan Perez Alvarez

**II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** No modifications.

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

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No Oral Communication.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA** Motion to approve: Konevich/2<sup>nd</sup>: Sanford/All in favor.

- a. Approve minutes from August 12<sup>th</sup>, 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: Spoke about the emails she received from constituents in her district regarding Anna Jean Cummings, specifically the sports field conditions. She is excited to see the continued maintenance of the fields and looks forward to hearing more about fields and turf at AJC in the February meeting. Additionally, Commissioner Konevich brought up the condition of the volleyball court at Jose Ave Park, as she received an email about it. Finally, she thanked all the commissioners for their efforts in the "All Kids Play" campaign. The housing authority reached out to County Park Friends in hopes of partnering to serve more families, the goal is to raise \$30,000.

District 2: Officially congratulated Commissioner Monica Martinez for her win as the District 5 Supervisor. Thanked Ryan Hoffman for organizing the Wheelie Good time at Felt Street County Park, the event took place on October 18<sup>th</sup> and raised \$1,600 for Park improvements. Additionally,

Commissioner Wiltshire praised the Capitola and Aptos Rotary club for raising three quarters of a Million dollars towards the City of Capitola "Treasure Cove" at Jade Street Park, as well as the Sunrise Rotary raised \$75,000 with a charity ride. Commissioner Wiltshire also thanked Director Gaffney for championing LEO's Haven, which started the projects for inclusiveness at playgrounds. She also visited Mesa Village Park, where she spoke to a constituent that said she always felt safe there, thanks to the Sherrif station that is there. Commissioner Wiltshire also wanted to thank Richard Novak and Park Planner Marianan for working with the community. Finally, she thanked Derek and Lina Draper for their work on Floral, her theme for this report was community members.

District 3: Received little correspondence. Did bring up the possibility of all weather fields. (Which will be a future agenda item). Constituents feel it is unsatisfactory to not have fields in the winter.

District 4: Vacant

District 5: Absent

## **VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gaffney spoke about the Artificial turf comments by the Commissioners, and the need for a greater discussion. Speaking about the meeting dates and frequency of meetings, the idea that 6 meetings might be more effective rather than 4. Director Gaffney gave an update on the South County Park, phase 1 would bring pedestrian and bicycle access to the park, as well as trails and possible community garden with District 4 funds sometime in mid-2025. Additionally, Director Gaffney gave an update on the naming of the new South County Park, County Park Friends created a survey and began surveying. It is anticipated that in Spring County Staff will expand that survey and bring the results to the Parks Commission for a vote. Director Gaffney gave an update on Measure Q, when money might be available, what the advisory board consists of and how being involved in the County budget would be beneficial.

## **VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Determine Commission Meeting Dates for 2025
  - i. February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 was the proposed date for the next Parks Commission meeting. Motion to approve by Commissioner: Sanford/2<sup>nd</sup> Wiltshire/All in favor.

## **VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. Freedom Lake: Park Planner Mariana gave a brief on the great work that Watsonville Wetlands Watch is doing in cleaning up the area and removing non-natives.
- b. Floral County Park: Park Planner Mariana gave an update on the park, the timeline of the new playground installation, pour in play and now the landscaping.
- c. Natural Resources Management at Anna Jean Cummings: Park Planner Mariana gave an update on the NRM or Desktop analysis from RCD at Anna Jean Cummings.

**IX. NEXT MEETING:** February 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 6:28 p.m.: Konevich/2<sup>nd</sup>: Sanford/All in favor.



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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

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

Date: 2/4/2025  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Anissa Childers, Aquatic Supervisor  
Subject: Aquatics Section Report

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### Programming:

- Staff-Taught Lessons: 149 participants enrolled in staff-led lessons.
- Private Contractors: 96 families received private lessons from contractors.
- Winter Warrior Swim Camp: A successful new camp, receiving positive feedback from families and participants. Plans are in place to offer a Spring session as well.
- Noodle Ball Program: This introduction to water polo for children had full enrollment and a waitlist, we had a high demand for this class and excited to continue to offer more sessions and next Fall turn this into a league.

### Staffing:

- Lifeguard Hiring: 10 people have been offered lifeguard positions for Spring, with 4 already trained. The remaining 6 will be trained in March.
- Aquatic Program Specialist: A new full-time specialist has been added to the Aquatics team, we look forward to having her bring new knowledge and ideas to our team.

### Training:

- Lifeguard Training: Lifeguard classes have continued, and the new Aquatic Program Specialist has signed up a Lifeguard Instructor certification. We will be continuing to offer American Red Cross lifeguard courses along with our new Lifeguard Instructor Course which is planned to be offered in April.

### Facility:

- The facility remains open 7 days a week with the usual schedule. Winter hiring was consistent, helping maintain staffing levels and avoid early Sunday closures that occurred in previous years.



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### Adult Exercise Classes:

- Water Aerobics & Adult Fitness: Both programs have maintained full classes throughout Winter, with offerings multiple days a week.



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

Date: 2/4/2025  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Jesse Williams, Parks Superintendent  
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

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### **South County Maintenance**

- Soccer field renovations at Aptos Polo Grounds and Pinto Lake County Parks
- Baseball field renovations at Aptos Polo Grounds
- Installation of woodchip at Seascape playground

### **Mid County Maintenance**

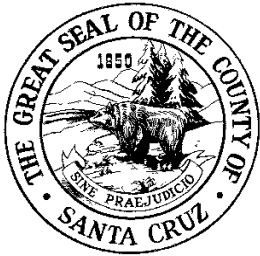
- Jose Avenue turf renovation and volleyball court reconstruction
- Installation of woodchip at Jose Avenue playground
- Brommer Park baseball field renovation

### **North County Maintenance**

- Downed tree removal at Felton Covered Bridge Park
- Tree planting and drainage work at Moran Lake County Park
- Quail Hollow Ranch Cottage renovation

### **General Maintenance and Operations**

- Onboarding 3 Park Maintenance workers for 1 position to fill vacancy
- Purchase of new equipment to replace aging equipment and increase efficiency of maintenance operations



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

Date: February 6, 2025  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Park Planners - Rob Tidmore, Mariana Colibri-Urgo, and Mike Pruitt  
Subject: Planning Section Report

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### **Coastal Rail Trail**

Segments 10 and 11: Coordination between Rail Trail and the RTC's zero emission passenger rail and trail project has largely been completed. Staff are completing scope and fee negotiations for the final design work. An amendment to the existing consultant contract to add final design will go to the Board for approval on March 11. The project will go to the Capitola City Council on February 13 for a design update and to seek approval from the City Council to proceed with additional environmental analysis for a trail alignment on Park Avenue between Monterey Ave and Grove Lane.

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 2025.

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 began in late 2024.

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

Site work and drainage modifications have been completed, play structure and PIP have been installed and landscape work was completed in Winter 2024. Pollinators' garden planted by volunteers is scheduled for March. Public Art to be finished in Spring 2025.



## **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 workday events, dedicated teams from Watsonville Wetlands Watch and the California Conservation Corps worked 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 were 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**

Parks staff are working to procure consultants to conduct an initial feasibility study for the cabin project that will analyze the potential for biological, geological, and cultural constraints on the project. This feasibility study will identify suitable development locations for the environmental education center and cabins. Results of the initial feasibility study are expected in Summer 2025.

### **Hidden Beach County Park**

The permanent, prefabricated, ADA-compliant double-unit restroom has been designed and built and is scheduled to be delivered on-site on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. A contractor was selected through the Formal Bid process and is currently working on the Site Work Phase 1 in preparing the site for the coming restroom delivery. The project is expected to be completed in late Spring 2025.



### **Moran Lake County Park**

**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. Once the wind study is

complete, Parks will schedule a community meeting to discuss results of the wind study and next steps.

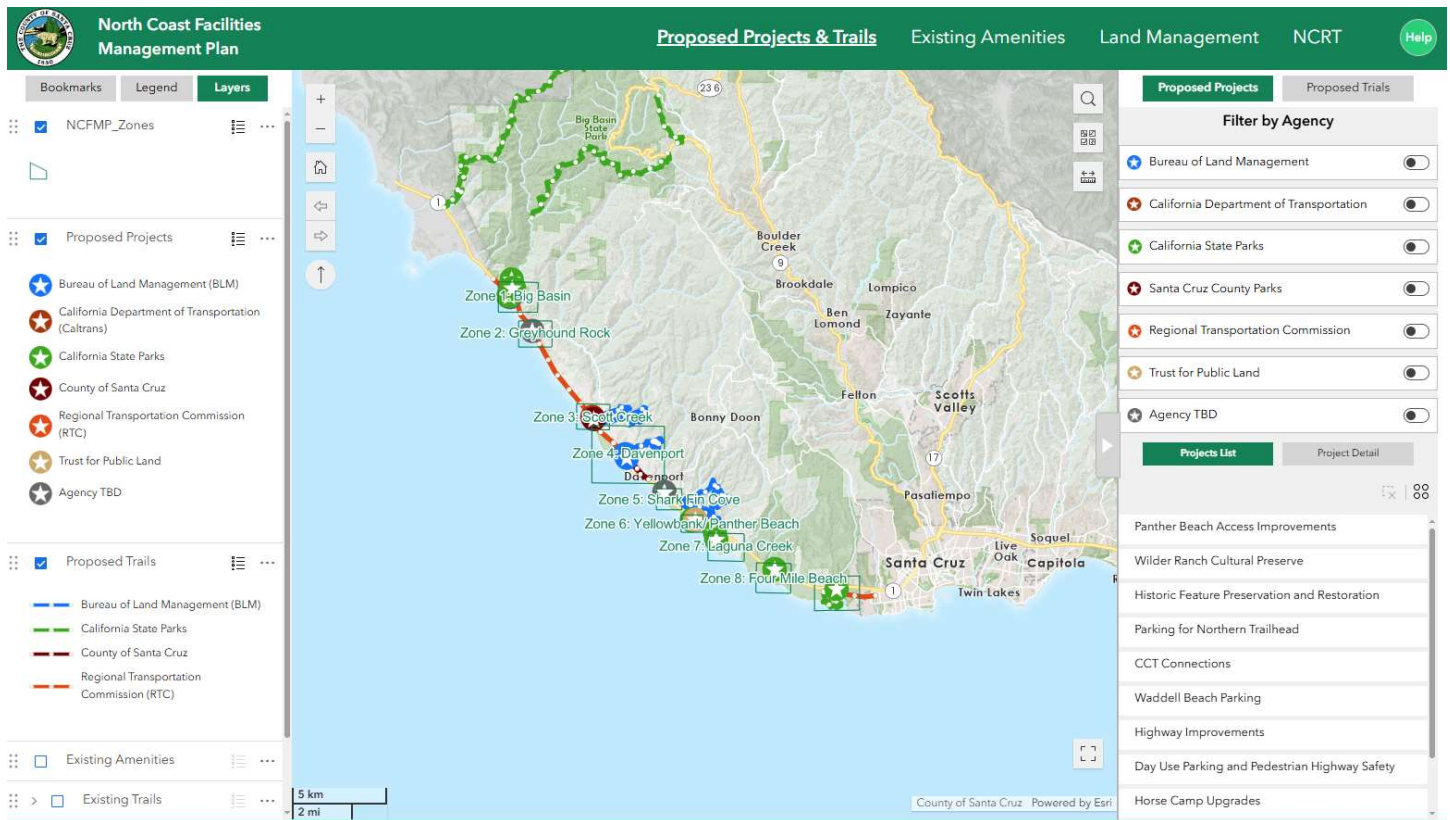
Tree Planting: Parks staff led a successful community tree planting event of native White Alder and Monterey Cypress trees at Moran Lake on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm. More than 30 volunteers attended the event, including District 1 Supervisor Manu Koenig. Volunteers and Parks staff planted 53 Monterey Pines and 11 White Alders. The native 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 ecosystem.



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

The next quarterly meeting of the Working Group will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup>. 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](#)



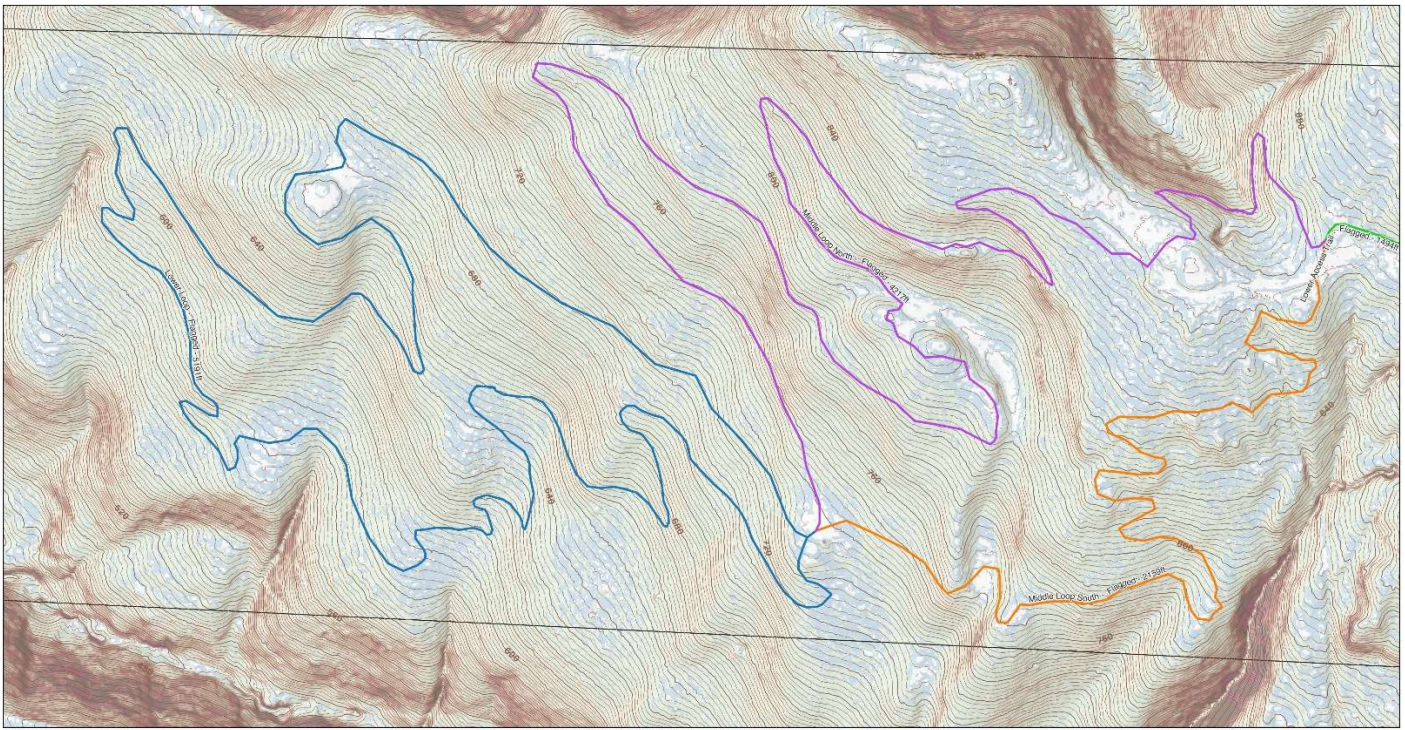
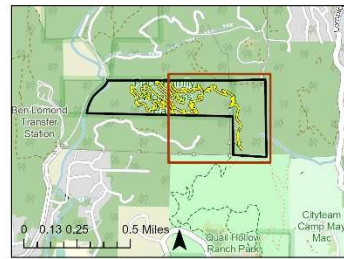
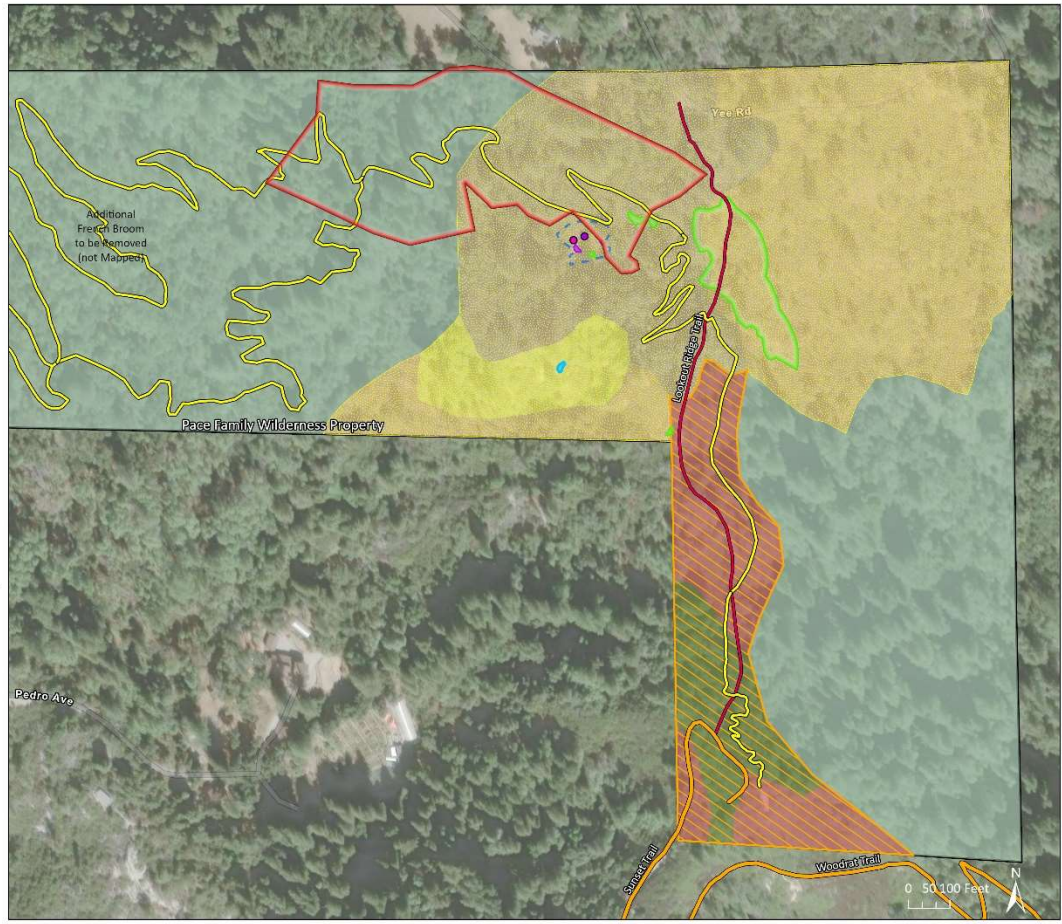
## **Pace Property Connection Trails**

Pace Property Trails will bring residents through the sandhill habitat, one of the rarest ecosystems in the United States and found only in Santa Cruz County. 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. Park staff and the project biologist have collaborated in creating the worker environmental awareness training program. The training is required for all workers and volunteers associated with the construction on the trail. Topics will cover construction best management practices, and biological resource protection measures, including the special status species that reside in the sandhill habitat. The project biologist has submitted the permitting requirements for the project with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 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 bird nesting survey will be performed prior to the spring construction.

**QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH COUNTY PARK  
PACE FAMILY WILDERNESS PROJECT**

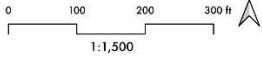
**Sandhills Species and Communities and  
Project Elements**

- Pace Family Wilderness Property
- Project Elements**
- Existing Trails**
- Trail to be Restored
- Other Trails
- Invasive Broom Near Sandhills
- New Access Trail
- Sand Parkland Enhancement Area
- Sandhills Communities**
- Mixed Evergreen Forest
- Silverleaf Manzanita Chaparral
- Sand Parkland
- Other Communities**
- Ponderosa Pine Forest
- Coast Redwood Forest
- Brittleleaf Manzanita Chaparral
- Mount Hermon June Beetle Habitat.
- Habitat**
- Potential Habitat
- Rare Plant Occurrences Mapped Near Access Trail**
- Ben Lomond Buckwheat
- Ben Lomond Spineflower
- Rare Plant Occurrences Mapped As Polygons**
- Silverleaf manzanita
- Ben Lomond Spineflower
- Ben Lomond Buckwheat
- Ben Lomond Wallflower



**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	
<span style="border-bottom: 2px solid blue; width: 20px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Lower Loop Trail
<span style="border-bottom: 2px solid purple; width: 20px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Middle Loop South
<span style="border-bottom: 2px solid orange; width: 20px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Middle Loop North
<span style="border-bottom: 2px solid green; width: 20px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	Upper Access Trail

Ground Slope	
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<span style="background-color: #c8e6c9; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	10-20%
<span style="background-color: #fff9c4; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	20-40%
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<span style="background-color: #ffe0b2; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	60-80%
<span style="background-color: #ffcdd2; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	80-100%
<span style="background-color: #e91e63; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;"></span>	100-130%
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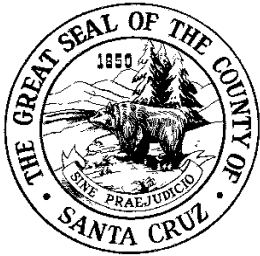


### **Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study**

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 released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consultant support on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Proposals are due February 7<sup>th</sup>. Additional information, including a project schedule will be shared 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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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

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

Date: February 5, 2025  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Jaime Jimenez, Recreation Supervisor  
Subject: Recreation Section Report

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

- The SC County Parks Department collaborated with the City of Watsonville and City of San Ramon on our inclusion efforts by attending a virtual round table session on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. The group covered inclusivity topics which provide accessible and inclusive recreation programs for individuals of all abilities.
- The recreation team offered an after-school program with Live Oak School District – Del Mar Elementary school for a total of 10 dates. The group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students walked over to Simpkins Family Swim Center and participated in Outdoor Education activities, talks, and walks.
- Santa Cruz County Parks Department is planning its next Family Fun Day event. The event is typically held in the month of July. Several meetings have taken place with local recreational agencies (Watsonville, Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scott's Valley and SC County).

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

- Recreation Team added a “Dia De Los Muertos-Altar” in order to expand cultural awareness. An altar was placed at the Simpkins Family Swim Center – lobby for three days. Information about the celebration festivities was posted at the altar.
- 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
- The recreation team hosted a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at Simpkins Family Swim Center – Live Oak Community Rooms. There were two sitting times available where

those in attendance enjoyed, music, raffle tickets, pictures with Santa Claus, the Grinch and live performances by local ACE (After-School Child Enrichment) program participants.

- Recreation team hosted three (3) Winter Camps and a Theater Camp during the holiday break.
- We make strides in fostering human development opportunities and providing a safe place for the community to recreate.

### **Marketing Efforts**

- The County Parks Summer/Fall Activity Guide is being developed. The material will be published in both English and Spanish.
- The Department continues to create marketing flyers in both Spanish/English. As well as social media posts and updates.



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

Date: February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Garrett Smart, Recreation Supervisor  
Subject: Reservations Section Report

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### **Winter Wonderland Wrap Up**

The Winter Wonderland event, featuring a holiday market, Breakfast with Santa, Live performances and synchronized swimming, was a huge success. We estimate 300 total people attended throughout the day and vendors, performers, guests and staff all had a really fantastic experience. We will be pursuing this event again in 2025 and hope to continue expanding this wonderful Parks Offering.

### **Athletic Fields**

Our annual user groups have begun submitting their requests and it is looking like another great year for sports at County Parks! Field users are excited and thankful for all of the renovations the Maintenance Team has been working on at all of our field locations.

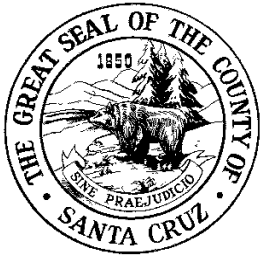
### **Wedding and Event bookings**

We are thrilled to announce that we have a total of 86 private events already booked in 2025, across all of our venues. The community is still growing in excitement for the spaces at the Live Oak Community Center and those rooms are highly sought after for meetings and we are starting to see more interest in that location for private events and weddings as well.

### **Special Events**

Our annual special events are returning, and things are starting to get booked and finalized. Currently there are over 10 of our returning special events organized by community members that have booked dates for 2025. These include but are not limited to the Live Like Coco Fun Run, The Walk to End Alzheimer's, Gourmet Grazing at Aptos Village Park, and the Run for Rio.





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

Date: February 10, 2025  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator  
Subject: Volunteer Section Report

### 701 Ocean St. County Building

Our own county employees, Shauna Soldate and Claire Beyers wanted to help make the entrance to the 701 County building inviting, so they went to work to plan, organize, and execute 2 volunteer days. Shauna provided most of the succulents which she grew herself, and we also received a succulent donation from another County employee! County employees, community volunteers, and Supervisor Koenig showed up to volunteer for the project and Parks maintenance staff helped with the mulch delivery and application. The volunteers installed weed barriers, planted over 100 succulents and applied the mulch.





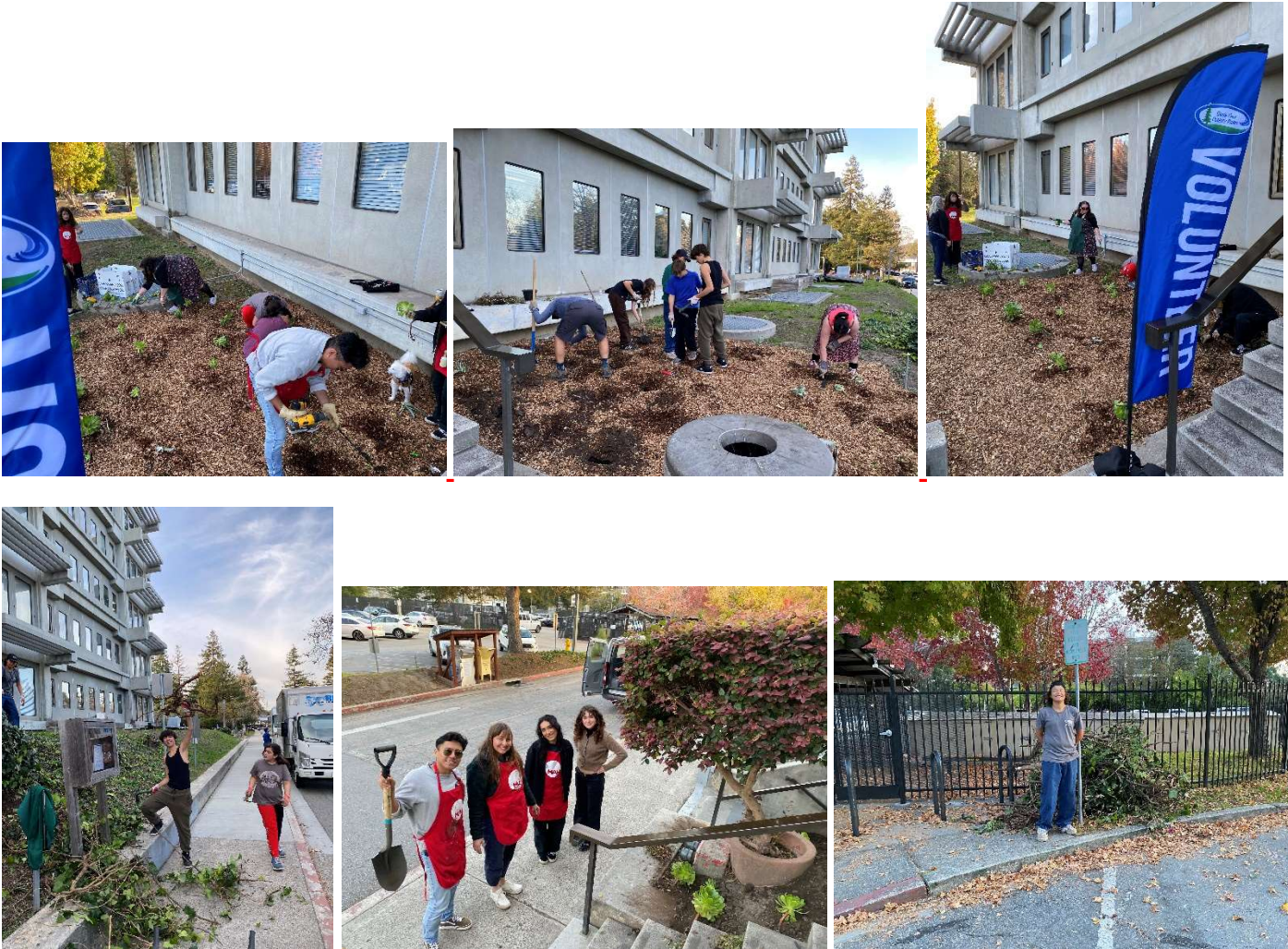
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## Ben Lomond County Park

Kym and Phil Morello regularly volunteer at the park keeping an eye on the Native Pollinator plants to ensure their survival. They check the irrigation, pull weeds, and monitor the health of the plants.



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## East Cliff Parkway

We had another successful Community Volunteer Day along East Cliff to plant more succulents!





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## Moran Lake

Volunteers and Parks staff all worked together at Moran Lake County Park to plant over 50 native Monterey Cypress and some native White Alder trees.

It was a very successful volunteer day with over 30 community members showing up to volunteer.





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### Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

The Ben Lomond High School students volunteered 2 times at our Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, and their efforts were directed by Beth Egelhof, our Park Host. The students moved and spread mulch and helped to clean out the volunteer tool shed for an upcoming project.

### Park Hosts

Park Hosts 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 tasks, gardening tasks, and opening and closing gates and restrooms daily. They are also eyes and ears at the park during the parks' closed hours. Park Hosts will also be trained to help with interpretive programs, and volunteer events.

### **Please welcome our two new Park Hosts in South County.**

Alex Banuelos is our new Park Host for Pinto Lake County Park and Kristoper Coulston is our new Park Host at the Bert Scott Estate. Kristopher will also perform Park Host duties at other South County Parks, including Pinto Lake County, Scott Park, Mesa Village Park, Polo Grounds Park, and Aldridge Lane County Park.

From Kristopher Coulston:

My name is Kristopher Coulston, and I am grateful to serve as Park Host, where I get to combine my love for nature with my passion for connecting with people. With a background in education, I get the most joy from creating welcoming spaces and engaging experiences. And being outdoors has always been a source of inspiration for me. When I'm not in the classroom or being a park host, I am either spending time in nature or writing and creating—much of which is influenced by nature.

From Alex:

Coming soon!

Beth and Steve Egelhof, our Park Hosts at Quail have been doing a lot of painting of fence boards to keep the ranch looking nice. They have also helped with volunteer days, done light construction, installed tool racks, and some major clean up and remodeling of the volunteer tool shed. Along with these tasks they are also performing trail watch duties and opening and closing the gate.

Elizabeth Dawson, our Park Host at Pinto, is helping to train the two new south county Park Hosts, performing trail watch and closing restrooms and gates. Elizabeth has also been instrumental in helping with the RV trailer details for the other Park Hosts.