



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, December 8th, 2025
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center
Community Rooms
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Introductory Items

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

2. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

3. 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.

4. ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA (items 9-10)

Regular Agenda

5. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

6. PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. CPRS Mini-Conference – Sarah Shea, Parks Superintendent
- b. Potential Upgrades at Floral County Park

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Ordinance Signage at Moran Lake County Park.
- b. Discuss and Approve Parks & Recreation Commission 2024-25 Biennial Report..... page 3.
 - i. Subcommittee Oral Report – Nick de Sieyes & Anne Less
- c. Discuss and Approve 2026 Meeting Schedule..... page 6.

Consent Agenda

Consent items include routine business that does not call for discussion. One roll call vote is taken for all items. Only a Commissioner may pull items from Consent to Regular Agenda. Members of the public must request that a Commissioner pull an item from the Consent Agenda prior to the start of the meeting.

9. **Approve minutes from October 20th, 2025**..... page 7.
10. **Consider Reports:**
- a. Aquatics Section Report..... page 12.
 - b. Arts and Cultural Services Report..... page 14.
 - c. Maintenance Section Report..... page 16.
 - d. Planning Section Report..... page 18.
 - e. Recreation Section Report..... page 23.
 - f. Reservations Section Report..... page 25.
 - g. Volunteer Section Report..... page 26.

Written Correspondence Listing

- I. Email from Julie Howard - Concerns Regarding Proposal for Half-Court Basketball Facility at Floral County Park

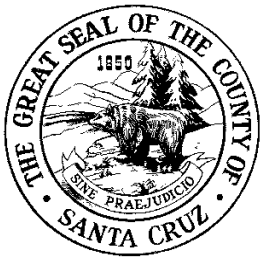
Adjournment

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date & Time TBD

Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. The Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms, located at 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA, are an accessible facility. If you are a person with a disability and wish to participate in the meeting and require special assistance in order to participate, please contact the Parks, Open Spaces, & Cultural Services Department at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format.



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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2024 – 2025 BIENNIAL REPORT

ROLE OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Assess the needs and resources of the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services and recommend programs to satisfy those needs.

- I. Advise the Board of Supervisors and Parks Department on matters regarding parks, recreation, and open space in the County.
- II. Advise the Board of Supervisors on the preservation of historic, cultural, and natural resources in the County.
- III. Review the annual budget for County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

MEETINGS AND STRUCTURE

The Commission met quarterly in 2024 on a Monday evening at 5:00 p.m. determined by the Commission. The Commission voted to meet bimonthly in 2025 on identified Monday evenings at 5:00 p.m. The Commission will agree upon a schedule for the year's meetings at or prior to the first meeting of the year.

The Commission is made up of five members, one nominated by each Supervisor and operates using Roberts Rules of Order. Commission meetings are governed by a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson who are elected on an annual basis each April. Staff support is provided by the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services.

COMMISSION STAFF

Jeff Gaffney, Director
Rebecca Hurley, Deputy Director
Juan Perez Alvarez, Admin Services Manager
Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha, Admin Aide
Annalise Rodriguez, Admin Aide

ATTENDANCE

The Commissioners attendance for the past twenty-four months can be found on page **XX** of this report.

2024-2025 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Four new commissioners were appointed:
 - a. **District 1** Alexis Konevich (6/25/2024)
 - b. **District 2** Nick de Sieyes (3/25/2025)
 - c. **District 4** Elizabeth Hernandez (12/17/2024)
 - d. **District 5** Anne Less (8/19/2025)
2. Attended a Commissioner Workshop on February 12, 2024, in which the 2024-25 Commissioner Work Plan was developed and adopted.
 - a. The commission amended the Work Plan in early 2025 to assign new members and clarify the goals.
3. Modified meeting schedule from quarterly (4) to bimonthly (6).

4. Made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, such as:
 - a. Naming the new South County Park located at 188 Whiting Road “Valle del Pajaro County Park.”
 - b. Protecting land currently zoned for park use and expanding access to open space in the County General Plan.
5. Fostered engagement with community members and stakeholders including participating in events at County Parks.
6. Encouraged fundraising initiatives and grants for park improvement projects and youth programs.
7. Encouraged collaborations with partners such as AmeriCorps and County Park Friends.
8. Received status reports on park improvement projects and potential projects including:
 - a. Mitigation planting and Natural Resource Management Plan at Anna Jean Cummings County Park;
 - b. Valle del Pajaro County Park – survey for interim use, name proposal development, and master plan;
 - c. Natural Resource Management Plan and Rapid Assessments for South County Parks;
 - d. Playground renovations at Floral County Park;
 - e. New ADA bathrooms at Hidden Beach County Park;
 - f. Moran Lake County Park - updates to the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan, wind study, and tree work;
 - g. Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study; and
 - h. Water quality issues at Pinto Lake County Park.
9. Were informed on:
 - a. Aquatics and Recreation Programs;
 - b. The Parks Department communications plan;
 - c. FY26 County Parks Budget;
 - d. the Santa Cruz County Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Initiative (Measure Q);
 - e. County Park Friends’ Young Outdoor Leaders (YOL) Program; and
 - f. Countywide Trails Update & Plan.
10. Received regular reports on the activities of the Aquatics, Arts, Maintenance, Planning, Recreation, Reservations, and Volunteers Teams.
11. Were informed of new hires and changes to County Parks staff.

PROPOSED 2026-2027 GOALS

1.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE REPORT 2024

Meeting	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	Staff
Workshop – 2/12	Katherine Lee	Tricia Wiltshire	Jeremy Sanford	Absent	Monica Martinez	Jeff Gaffney, Frankie Farr, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha
Feb. 12th, 2024	Katherine Lee	Tricia Wiltshire	Jeremy Sanford	Absent	Monica Martinez	Jeff Gaffney, Frankie Farr, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha
May 13th, 2024	Katherine Lee	Tricia Wiltshire	Jeremy Sanford	Absent	Monica Martinez	Rebecca Hurley, Juan Perez Alvarez, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha
Aug. 12th, 2024	Alexis Konevich	Tricia Wilshire	Jeremy Sanford	Vacant	Monica Martinez	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Juan Perez-Alvarez, Annalise Rodriguez, Frankie Farr
Nov. 18th, 2024	Alexis Konevich	Tricia Wilshire	Jeremy Sanford	Vacant	Absent	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Juan Perez-Alvarez

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE REPORT 2025

Meeting	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	Staff
Feb. 10th, 2025	Alexis Konevich	Tricia Wilshire	Jeremy Sanford	Elizabeth Hernandez	Vacant	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Juan Perez-Alvarez, Annalise Rodriguez
Apr. 14th, 2025	Alexis Konevich	Nick de Sieyes	Jeremy Sanford	Elizabeth Hernandez	Vacant	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Juan Perez-Alvarez, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha
May 12th, 2025	Absent	Nick de Sieyes	Jeremy Sanford	Elizabeth Hernandez	Vacant	Jeff Gaffney, Juan Perez-Alvarez, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha
Aug. 11th, 2025	Alexis Konevich	Nick de Sieyes	Jeremy Sanford	Elizabeth Hernandez	Vacant	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha
Oct. 14th, 2025	MEETING CANCELLED					
Oct. 20th, 2025 <i>*Special meeting</i>	Alexis Konevich	Nick de Sieyes	Absent	Absent	Anne Less	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Juan Perez-Alvarez, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha
Dec. 8th, 2025						



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DIRECTOR

County of Santa Cruz

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

The Parks and Recreation Commission meet on a weekday to start no earlier than 3 pm but no later than 6 pm, unless otherwise determined by the commission and specified in the public notice. Additionally, the Commission may call for *special public meetings* in order to conduct timely Commission business.

Meetings are held in person at the **Community Rooms at the Simpkins Swim Center, 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062** or at an alternate location specified in the public notice. Please check the meeting agenda for details. For questions regarding the Parks and Recreation Commission, please email ParksComission@scparks.com or call (831) 454-7901.

2026 Regular Meeting Schedule

OPTION 1

Monday, February 2 at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 6 at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, June 1 at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, August 3 at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, October 5 at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, December 7 at 5:00 p.m.

OPTION 2

Monday, February 9 at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 13 at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, June 8 at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, August 10 at 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 13 at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m.



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MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 20th, 2025
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Special Meeting

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

Introductory Items

1. **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL** Meeting called to order by Chair Konevich at 5:05PM.

Present: Alexis Konevich (District 1), Nick de Sieyes (District 2), Anne Less (District 5)

Absent: Jeremy Sanford (District 3), Elizabeth Hernandez (District 4)

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

2. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

Item 8a. All Kids Play Campaign – County Park Friends will be heard after item 6. Parks Director's Report.

3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** 1 member of the public.

Tricia Proctor: Thanked the County Parks Department for their collaboration with the Richard Novak Foundation.

4. **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA** (items 10-11)

Motion to approve: de Sieyes/**2nd**: Less/All in favor.

Regular Agenda

5. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

District 1: There is a community meeting on Floral Park on November 5th at 5:30pm. Recently connected with Chairs from other local Parks and Recreation Commissions.

District 2: Youth soccer program at Polo Grounds in Aptos is in full swing (400+ youth). It has been great to see the facilities in use and the work the maintenance team is doing to maintain the fields during the season.

District 3: Absent.

District 4: Absent.

District 5: Introduced herself and is excited to represent district 5. Looking forward to bridging the challenges the district experiences in relation to park and recreation. Working on cultivating new relationships with local groups.

6. **PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Board of Supervisors

Two Measure Q items will go before the Board of Supervisors on October 21: a presentation of the Five-Year Vision Plan and recommendations for first-year County funding. Additionally, two new positions — a Recreation Coordinator and Parks Maintenance Worker I — were approved on September 30.

Park Updates

Felton Library Friends inquired about a land acknowledgment; Parks staff noted that rather than installing a plaque or sign, they aim to honor local tribes through ongoing partnership and collaborative efforts. The bridge at Farm Park is planned for surplus. Staff are coordinating with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County on the Valle del Pajaro County Park Master Plan and with Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship on North Coast trail work. Tree work has been completed at 40 Moran Way, trenching at Greyhound Rock did not identify a fault line, and improvements and fuel reduction are underway at Miller County Park. Cabrillo Gals are building batting cages at Anna Jean Cummings County Park, and Parks is partnering with Shoreline Middle School to provide pool access for PE. Pace Trails are about halfway complete, with volunteer work continuing.

Events

Floating Pumpkin Patch last weekend was a success. Trunk or Treat on October 24th at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds and the Sheriff's Office Headquarters.

8(a) All Kids Play Campaign – County Park Friends

Mariah Roberts, Executive Director, provided an overview of the organization and their All Kids Play campaign. County Park Friends aims to raise \$100,000 by December 2025 to expand youth access to Santa Cruz County Parks programs. The initiative provides scholarships for swim lessons, sports camps, and nature programs, and supports park improvements to reduce barriers for families. Last year's donations funded access for over 1,000 youth, and the campaign continues to promote equitable, affordable recreation opportunities for all children in the county.

Public Comments

- Yadira Flores, Community Engagement Director for County Park Friends, spoke of the Youth Outdoor Leaders program and how this program benefits the youth and benefits through the support of the community. She also invited everyone to "Festival Los Muertos to the Park" that youth in District 1 helped to make possible.
- Sarah Shea, Parks Superintendent, spoke about the benefits of the All Kids Play Campaign and shared feedback they had received from families that had participated.
- Tricia Wiltshire invited commissioners to the opening of the new, all-inclusive Treasure Cove Playground in the city of Capitola.

Motion to endorse, amplify and share information about the All Kids Play Campaign by County Park Friends: Konevich/2nd: Less/All in favor.

7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Pinto Lake Water Quality – Zane Mortensen, Park Planner III

Zane Mortensen, Park Planner III, presented an update on Pinto Lake's water quality issues and ongoing restoration efforts. He reviewed the lake's history, past and current mitigation work, and outlined next steps, including continued monitoring, pursuing grant funding, and implementation. He noted the collaboration among the City of Watsonville, the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, the County Environmental Health Division, and County Parks.

Commissioner Questions

- *Commissioner de Sieyes asked when the harmful algal blooms (HABs) problems occur.* Zane explained that HABs have been an issue since the 1970s. An alum treatment was effective in treating the issue, but after the 2023 flood became ineffective.

- *Commissioner Less asked if an increase in rain events and flooding would change the situation as to what strategies are available. If it does, she asked how that is being planned for.* Yes, and that is why there is a focus on the upstream implementation. Another alum treatment would be successful but only in the short term. *She also asked what efforts have been made to make the community aware of the hazards.* Creating awareness is a collaboration between the City and County, but the lake is currently closed. On the County side, there are signs and notices, as well as restricted access.
- *Commissioner de Sieyes asked what is being monitored and how often.* Environmental Health monitors the toxin levels in the water weekly. *He also asked if staff have looked into any case studies for other lakes.* Zane confirmed that the consultant is looking into them and will provide a report to County staff on other similar cases.

b. Measure Q Update – Robert Tidmore, Parks Principle Planner

Robert Tidmore, Parks Principle Planner, provided an overview on Measure Q, the Citizens Oversight Advisory Board (COAB) and the newly developed Five-Year Vision Plan.

Commissioner Questions

- *Chair Konevich asked if the Parks department would apply for a grant or if the money is automatically given to the County.* Parks staff clarified that the Parks Department is an eligible applicant for grant money, but there is a separate bucket of money for the County.
- *Commissioner Less asked for clarification on what “bucket” the allocation being requested at the Board of Supervisors was coming from.* Parks staff explained that the projects proposed would be using funding from the 20% allocated to the unincorporated County.
- *Commissioner de Sieyes asked if the COAB will be the one to evaluate and make the decision for grant proposals.* No, County staff will manage the grant program. There will be an outside consultant that assesses the applications, so County departments are eligible to apply for grants.
- *Commissioner Less asked for clarification on the new Senior Analyst position.* This position is a collaborative effort between Parks and OR3. However, the position will be housed in OR3.
- *Chair Konevich asked if the commission would be considered a stakeholder.* Robert Tidmore clarified that it may have been an oversight to not include the commission as a stakeholder. Since there was already an established advisory group for the Measure, there could have been a potential conflict between the two groups and their opinions. However, it is possible to include the commission on future decisions regarding County Parks and Measure Q funding.

Public Comment

- Mariah Roberts commented on her participation as a stakeholder in the Parks group. She appreciated the recognition of working collaboratively within the parks world and being able to represent the opinion of County Parks during the process.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. All Kids Play Campaign – County Park Friends..... page 3.

Moved after item 6.

- b. Draft Parks & Recreation Commission 2024-25 Biennial Report..... page 4.

Director Gaffney provided a brief background on the Biennial Report prior to the Commissioners discussing changes and approaches to completing the report.

Commissioner Comments

- *Chair Konevich requested adding the previously submitted letter to the Board of Supervisors — recommending the expansion of open space rather than rezoning for new development — to the accomplishments section. She also recommended forming a subcommittee to draft goals, allowing*

commissioners to dedicate time outside meetings to develop recommendations for discussion at the next meeting.

- *Commissioner Less asked for clarification on how the commission's goals relate to the work plan and proposed outcomes.*
 - o Chair Konevich expressed that the commission should either establish goals or develop a work plan, but not both. She noted that the Watsonville Parks Commission uses broader themes assigned to commissioners and suggested adopting a similar approach. Commissioners could then report on their focus areas during commissioner reports rather than as a separate process.
- Commissioner de Sieyes noted a disconnect between being assigned topics from a work plan developed by others and the individual reasons commissioners volunteer. He expressed support for restructuring the system so that focus areas are more commissioner-driven.

Further discussion among commissioners supported aligning future goals with the Powers and Duties outlined in the commission's bylaws. Commissioners also discussed strategies for drafting these goals and approaches for reviewing and discussing them at the next meeting.

Motion to create a subcommittee of Commissioner de Sieyes and Commissioner Less focused on creating goals for the Biennial Report that will guide the next 2 years: Konevich/**2nd**: de Sieyes/All in favor.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE ORAL REPORTS

- a. Parks and Recreation Commission 2024-25 Work Plan..... page 7.

See attached report.

Consent Agenda

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- 10. Approve minutes from August 11th, 2025.....** page 9.

11. Consider Reports:

- a. Aquatics Section Report..... page 14.
- b. Arts and Cultural Services Report..... page 16.
- c. Maintenance Section Report..... page 18.
- d. Planning Section Report..... page 20.
- e. Recreation Section Report..... page 24.
- f. Reservations Section Report..... page 26.
- g. Volunteer Section Report..... page 27.

Written Correspondence Listing

- I. Email from Clinton Robustelli – Request for Consideration of a Local Pet Cemetery at the Miller Property.
- II. Letter from Santa Cruz Bird Club – Anna Jean Cummings Park Swallow Nest Removal

Adjournment Motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM: de Sieyes/**2nd**: Less/All in favor.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

5:00 PM Monday, December 8th, 2025

Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms.

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	Update #2 08.12.2024	Update #3 11.18.2024	Update #4 02.10.2025	Update #5 04.14.2025	Update #6 05.12.2025	Update #7 08.11.2025	Update #8 10.20.2025
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 - December 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.	No update provided.	No update provided.	No update provided.			de Sienes - Went out to the location in Aptos village, where members of the community are discussing the potential of a parcel being donated to County Parks. Beginning conversation. Hernandez - Attended the Valle del Pajaro County Park grand opening. Spoke to neighbors, heard their concerns and connected them with resources that could address the concerns. Konevich - Plans to attend some volunteer events in the fall.	No update provided.
2	Connect with local City and County Commissions to better understand collaboration opportunities.	All	April 2024 - December 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.	No update provided.	No update provided.	No update provided.			No update provided.	Konevich - Met with Noe Ibarra (Chair of the Watsonville Parks & Recreation Commission) and David Sanguinetti (Chair of the Scotts Valley Parks & Recreation Commission and member of the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board).
3	Identify and schedule guest speakers for Parks & Recreation Commission meetings, as appropriate.	All	April 2024 - December 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.	No update provided.	No update provided.	No update provided.			Konevich - Reached out to Mariah Roberts to have County Park Friends regularly attend meetings and provide commission with updates on their activities/programs.	No update provided.
GREAT FACILITIES													
4	Research community needs related to facility use, development, and programming.	de Sienes, Sanford	April 2024 - December 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?	No update provided.	No update provided.	No update provided.			Sanford - Heard from some constituents that limited field usage in the winter creates an impediment in growing their sports programs. de Sienes - Has heard some excitement from constituents on the modification to the County's reservation systems. There is a hope that other organizations will follow in suit and modernize their systems.	No update provided.
EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP													
5	Examine climate resiliency efforts and advise Park & Recreation department of best practices.	Hernandez	April 2024 - December 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 advise 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.	No update provided.	No update provided.	No update provided.			No update provided.	No update provided.
6	Identify best practices for sustainability and advise Park & Recreation department of findings.	Konevich, de Sienes	April 2024 - December 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.	No update provided.	No update provided.	No update provided.			No update provided.	de Sienes - Asked County Parks staff for data related to water usage at County Parks with playing fields. Has not had a chance to dive fully into it, but plans on reviewing it for possible recommendations on sustainable practices.
SPECIAL PROJECT(S)													
7	Explore Best Practices for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) related to Parks & Recreation	Konevich, Hernandez	April 2024 - December 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 provided.	No update provided.	No update provided.	No update provided.			Hernandez - While networking with CPFA and Young Outdoor Leaders at the ribbon cutting, some of the group expressed wanting to create a plaque that discusses the history of the land.	No update provided.
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.								

AMENDED WORK PLAN AND REASSIGNED COMMISSIONERS TO GOALS.

AMENDED WORK PLAN AND REASSIGNED COMMISSIONERS TO GOALS.



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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Date: November 22, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Anissa Childers, Aquatic Supervisor
Subject: Aquatic Section Report

These past few months have been highly successful, with continuous program enrollments and strong participation across all offerings. Demand for consistent lap swimming remains high, and our new programming continues to attract participants and maintain strong enrollment.

Programming

- **Noodle Ball:** we wrapped up our fall noodle ball session with 18 participants enrolled. This program introduces children to basic water polo using noodles, combining instruction with friendly scrimmage games to develop skills and confidence in the water. This program has had amazing feedback and a great way to introduce youth to the basics of the sport. We have an upcoming session with 21 enrolled and only 4 more open spots.
- **Splashgiving:** A new three-day camp offered during Thanksgiving break, providing in-water sports, swim lessons, water play, outdoor games, nature walks, and fall-themed activities. Designed to support working parents during the school break, the camp filled within its first week, expanding from an initial 30 spots to a final enrollment of 45 participants due to high demand.
- **Winter Water Warriors:** Two one-week sessions of this winter camp will include swim lessons, water activities, games, and physical fitness. This program offers a convenient option for parents seeking camp options during Winter Break. Both sessions have 30 spots available. Schools throughout the Santa Cruz County have different breaks so we provided this camp to meet all Winter break school calendars. Both camps have 30 open spots and are in the process of filling up.
- **Swim Lessons:** Multiple swim lesson levels are currently being offered throughout the winter months to accommodate all skill levels. Most lessons have had great enrollment so far with some more open spots for people to register.
- **Simpkins Sharks:** A new non-competitive swim team led by experienced Simpkins staff instructors who have had years of experience on swim teams. The team began October 21 and runs through January 29, with 30 participants currently enrolled. Parents have expressed strong support, and we plan to offer two sessions annually (Feb–May and Aug–Dec), expanding enrollment as lap lane availability allows.
- **Junior Guard Clinic:** This clinic children for the Junior Guard swim test, all participants who have completed this clinic have successfully passed the Summer Junior Guard swim test. There are 60 spots available, and this clinic has had great enrollment success in past.

Lifeguard Training & Staffing

- **New Certifications:** 22 new lifeguards were certified, strengthening the team for daily operations and upcoming seasonal programming.

- **Recertifications:** 7 current staff members were recertified, ensuring ongoing compliance with safety skills, rescue procedures, and in-service training standards.

Events

- **Floating Pumpkin Patch:** This annual event had 185 pre-registered participants, and all drop-in pumpkins sold out within 90 minutes. A total of 270 pumpkins were sold, making it one of our most successful seasonal events and a strong revenue generator.

Facility Updates

- **Shoreline Middle School Partnership:** Hosted 16 days of physical education swim sessions for 164 students, many of whom do not regularly access aquatic programs.
- **Pool Operations:** Open Monday–Friday from 6:00 a.m.–7:30 p.m., and Saturday–Sunday from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., consistently busy with lap swimmers.
- **Adult Fitness Classes:** Offered Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6:00 a.m., 7:15 a.m., and a new noon class. Our morning classes have had extremely high enrollment and our noon class has continued to grow.
- **Water Aerobics:** Classes run Monday–Friday at noon, Saturday at 9:15 a.m., with a new Sunday class starting in December. These classes continue to experience high enrollment and participant satisfaction. All weekday classes offer multiple different instructors and aerobic class options.



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

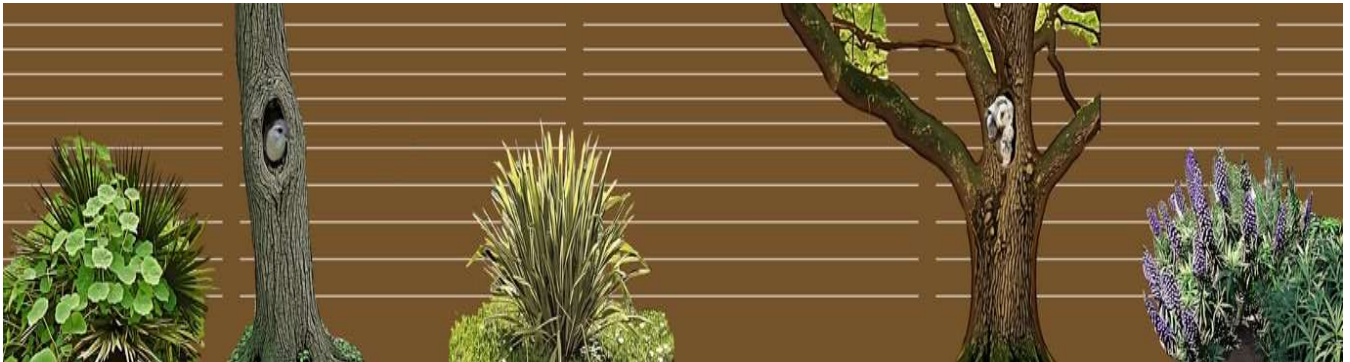
979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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

Date: November 21, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Kathy DeWild, Arts Programs Coordinator
Subject: Arts & Cultural Services Section Report

Percent for Art Public Art Projects



Bruce Harman's proposal for the **Behavioral Health Bridge Housing public art project** goes to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration on December 9. The artist's proposal, "Homeward," will feature local flora and fauna (such as birds, monarchs, and hermit crabs), finding and enjoying their homes. The images will be hand-painted with artist-quality acrylics on 80-mil. thick aluminum panels, cut to shape on a waterjet machine. Each finished piece will be protected with an anti-graffiti/UV clear coat. After fabrication in the artist's studio, the cutouts will be grouped by theme and attached to four fences and the guardrail using stainless steel brackets and tamper-proof hardware.



A "Call to Artists" for proposals for the **Pace Trails public art project** has been released to the public. The Pace Trail Construction Project will expand the existing 4.5-mile Quail Hollow Ranch trail network by connecting to the Pace property with a half-mile Access Trail, finally opening public access to the property.

Artists are invited to submit a proposal for a site-specific artwork which enhances the experience of Pace Trail hikers, featuring imagery that reflects the area's unique habitat, plants, and animals. Information about what to submit is available on the Parks website. Proposals are due on December 12.

Art Exhibitions



County Government Center Exhibitions

Santa Cruz County Parks and Arts Council Santa Cruz County collaborate to present three exhibitions at the County Government Center on the 1st and 5th floors. Paintings, prints, crafts, photographs, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, drawings, and mixed-media works by local artists and crafts people are exhibited year-round. Currently on display through January 9, 2026: Jeff Arnett, Sculpture; Amber Engfer, Cyanotype; Kevin Lohma, Photography; Ronit Reznichky, Acrylic Paintings; Sylvia Valentine, Photography. **Applications for 2026 Exhibitions are currently being accepted.** Artists who apply may be contacted (if desired) about exhibiting their work at other County facilities, including Health Services Agency, South Co. Government Ctr., Swim Center, and others. Pictured: work by Kevin Lohman, Jeff Arnett

Exhibitions at the Simpkins Family Swim Center/Live Oak Library Annex

Santa Cruz County artists, arts organizations, and history groups are invited to apply for an exhibition in the Simpkins Family Center/Live Oak Library Annex. Preference will be given to artists/exhibitors who feature Live Oak related imagery and content. **Applications are currently being accepted for 2026 exhibitions.**



Events

Micha Scott, dancer and choreographer, has been named 2026 Santa Cruz County Artist of the Year by the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission. The Artist of the Year award is presented to local artists for outstanding achievement in the discipline of performing, visual, or literary arts who have also made a substantial contribution to the cultural enrichment of Santa Cruz County.

Save the date for a free Profile Performance at the Museum of Art and History, June 5 from 7-9PM. Admission is FREE to the public; seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis the night of the event. To learn more about the award and previous recipients: www.scparks.com.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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

Date: November 21, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jesse Williams, Parks Superintendent
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

North County, Highlands and Emeline Maintenance Shops

The North County Maintenance team has already addressed some seasonal winter needs, including several tree failures at **Anna Jean Cummings Park** and along the riparian corridor at **Highlands County Park**.

A new spring rocker was installed at the **Felton Covered Bridge** play area.

Horse stalls at the **Quail Hollow Ranch** barns were winterized, with new material added to each stall in the upper barns.

New interpretive signage was installed at **Davenport Landing**, **Scott Creek**, and **Greyhound Rock**.

The Maintenance and Planning teams supported playground resurfacing repairs at Leo's Haven at **Chanticleer County Park**.

Restoration work continued at **Moran Lake County Park** and the **Moran Way parcel**, including reinstalling split-rail fencing in preparation for plantings and the new park plan. The team continues to monitor eucalyptus trees in the park and has recently spotted some monarch butterflies!

Mid County, Simpkins and Felt Street Maintenance Shop

The Mid County Maintenance team has been working on setting up a maintenance shop in the Felt Street Garage. This new shop will allow maintenance to work on equipment and make repairs in a secure, dry area as well as store material and equipment for park maintenance county wide.

At **Jose Avenue County Park**, the maintenance team repaired a large fence line along the bridge walkway, added additional decomposed granite to the walkway, and finished installing wood chips in the perimeter planters.

An old BBQ at **Twin Lakes County Park** was replaced with a new one.

South County, Pinto Lake and Aptos Polo Grounds Maintenance Shops

The South County Maintenance team recently sealed and weatherproofed the skylights in the bathrooms at **Willowbrook County Park**. They also replaced the privacy walls inside the restrooms.

The team completed a regrading project in the parking lot at **Aldridge Lane County Park**.

Athletic field renovations are underway at **Pinto Lake County Park** and **Polo Grounds County Park**.

The team regraded the open space field at **Seascape County Park** and sowed wildflower seeds that are germinating nicely in the area. We are looking forward to springtime to enjoy this newly seeded area!

Seasonal Maintenance County Wide

The maintenance team has been monitoring the recent storms ensuring that storm water, wind and winter rains do not negatively impact our public spaces.

Seasonal maintenance county wide consists of winterization of park owned facilities, gutter cleaning, ensuring all drains, culverts and ditches are flowing properly, wintertime tree work, leaf and debris cleanup, addressing areas that are subject to flooding, and areas that are susceptible to runoff and erosion.

Along with these winter tasks, staff also continue to do routine maintenance to create a safe and clean environment for park patrons by ensuring that all restrooms are cleaned and stocked daily and that all trash receptacles and dumpsters are emptied daily.

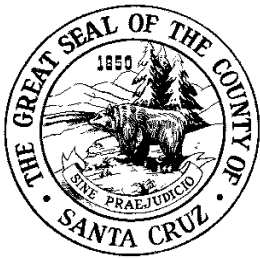
Maintenance Staffing Changes

The Parks Department has recently had two exceptional park maintenance professionals retire. Both Bernardo Chao and Blanca Rocha will be sadly missed, but we celebrate their excellent careers and their commitment to the service that they provided to the community.

We now welcome 2 new park maintenance workers – Robert English and Charles Gilbert. We look forward to having them on our team and wish them both a long and successful career!

Vehicle/Equipment Update

The Parks Department has acquired 2 wide area mowers, a new equipment trailer, and look forward to a new truck that will be designated for park maintenance on the North Coast.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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

Date: November 25, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Park Planners - Rob Tidmore, Mariana Colibri-Urgo, Mike Pruitt, Zane Mortensen
Subject: Planning Section Report

Coastal Rail Trail

Segments 10 and 11: The RTC is expected to provide additional direction regarding the trail alignment and cost saving measures at the December RTC meeting.

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 2025.

North Coast Rail Trail (Segment 5): The RTC is coordinating with County Parks and other agencies to potentially open the Panther/Yellowbank parking lot to the public prior to the rest of the project opening in Summer 2026. The purpose of the early opening of the parking lot would be to minimize impacts to public coastal access. The trail itself will not be open. As part of the Maintenance Agreement for the project, County Parks and Public Works will be maintaining the trail on behalf of the RTC. An addendum to the Maintenance Agreement went to the Board of Supervisors on August 5th for approval for Parks staff to begin early maintenance of the parking lot. RTC and Parks staff are currently working with the contractor to complete the punch list for the parking lot.

Freedom Lake Restoration Plan

Watsonville Wetlands Watch (WWW) is actively collecting background data to support planning studies for the site. A Working Group has been established to guide these efforts and will prepare a background memo outlining preferred alternatives by December. Current activities focus on riparian enhancement and invasive species management, including acacia removal near Sunflower Lane and along Freedom Boulevard, cape ivy removal, native understory revegetation, and bank stabilization in affected areas. Additional acacia removal and riparian restoration are planned upstream of Sunflower Lane within the park.

In addition to on-the-ground restoration work, WWW is conducting site monitoring and research to inform management strategies. This includes drone imagery and analysis for mapping, water quality monitoring, and ongoing eDNA sampling. Research on potential restoration and management methods is also in process. The Working Group will compile these findings into a comprehensive memo to outline the preferred site alternatives and guide future planning decisions.



Drone Imagery

Greyhound Rock

Draft biological and cultural reports have been submitted, and seismic trenching was completed across the development area. Based on the draft findings, the northern portion – where trenching was proposed – consists of previously disturbed habitats and contains no indigenous archaeological resources. Two trenches were excavated perpendicular to the dominant trend of local faults: an upcoast (longer) trench and a downcoast (shorter) trench.

The trenching work yielded positive results: no fault was identified on site, no new cultural resources were discovered or impacted, and vegetation and other biological resources were minimally affected, all under strict environmental compliance protocols. The geological and biological consultants also implemented robust erosion control measures, leaving the site stabilized and prepared for the rainy season. Parks staff will complete revegetation work in early December.

Final reports for the biological, cultural, and geological studies are currently in development and are expected to be completed by the end of the year. These reports will inform site planning and guide the identification of suitable locations for the environmental education center and cabins. Concurrently, the project manager will initiate the development of the RFP to advance the project's planning phase.



LONG TRENCH



LONG TRENCH



SHORT TRENCH

Moran Lake County Park

Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan (HMP): Staff are working on updating the draft HMP to clarify that habitat management will prioritize public safety, protection of monarch habitat, and restoration of native species and habitat for biodiversity, in that order. The HMP will also outline regularly recurring, proactive arborist inspections to assess grove risk, hazard abatements as identified, regular maintenance of trimmed trees, continued drainage improvements to reduce ponding at the base of trees, and ongoing native tree and shrub planting. County Parks' consulting arborist is in the process of a risk assessment of all the trees in the park that is expected to be completed before Thanksgiving. Parks staff are currently working on pre-applications to the Wildlife Conservation Board for Prop 4 funding for a large-scale habitat restoration project in the park.

Tree Work: October 15 marks the beginning of Monarch season and a moratorium on non-emergency tree work. County Parks conducted a significant amount of tree work this summer that was funded by the County's Risk Management fund. All the trees in the South and North Lakeside area were pruned to reduce risk, and the trees along the Placer Street edge received restoration pruning and removal of dead branches in October. This work is science-based and is part of Parks' ongoing efforts to improve the monarch habitat at Moran Lake while prioritizing public safety and increasing climate resilience.

40 Moran Way: All the eucalyptus trees on the 40 Moran Way parcel were removed earlier this summer. The 40 Moran Way parcel was re-graded to improve drainage on that property. The site has also been seeded with an annual cover crop to reduce erosion and improve soil health and to prepare the site for planting native trees and shrubs next winter. The cover crops have germinated with the recent rains and the drainage is working as intended. Maintenance staff are finishing adjustments to the fence layout. Planting the site with native trees and shrubs is expected to occur next rainy season.

Pace Property Connection Trails

Trail construction is underway. Volunteers have made great progress on the trail work. The Middle Loop trail has been completed and work on the Lower Loop trail has begun. The Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewards have led two weekend volunteer days providing excellent construction support. Park staff are finalizing coordination with the California Conservation Corps to perform work on the project as part of the grant requirement. An RFP for the interpretive signs is underway as well as the Call to Artists for the project.

The project team is striving for a productive winter trail construction season anticipating the late spring and summer construction moratorium in the sandhill habitat for the endangered Mount Hermon June Beetle. The excellent volunteer effort has provided solid trail construction progress and Parks is capitalizing on the momentum for the project moving forward.



Pinto Lake

County Parks, in partnership with the City of Watsonville and County Environmental Health, has been actively advancing efforts to address long-standing water quality issues at Pinto Lake. The lake is listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act for nutrients and cyanotoxins and is subject to a phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) that must be met by 2029. Over the past year, the agencies have expanded water-quality monitoring, completed updated sediment and nutrient assessments, coordinated with local universities on data collection, and evaluated treatment options through recent technical studies to better understand internal sediment loading and watershed nutrient inputs.



Staff have prepared a pre-application to the Wildlife Conservation Board for Proposition 4 funding and are coordinating with the City of Watsonville to pursue a State Water Board NPS 319(h) grant. These funding efforts will support planning and implementation of key restoration measures, including in-lake phosphorus sequestration, habitat restoration, and upstream improvements such as sediment basins, drainage retrofits, partnerships with farmers and adjacent landowners, and riparian restoration to reduce nutrient loading. The County and project partners have also expanded monitoring activities to establish baseline conditions and track progress toward TMDL targets and long-term water quality goals. Building on this work, the team is developing a comprehensive implementation strategy that integrates targeted in-lake treatments with upstream watershed actions to support durable, long-term improvement in lake health.

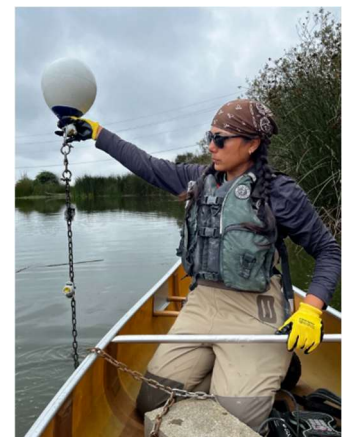
Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study



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.

Monitoring work at the three lagoons has been ongoing in partnership with California State Parks and Santa Cruz County Environmental Health. ESA has completed multiple field efforts to date, including RTK-GPS topographic surveys, small-vessel bathymetric mapping, sediment and water quality sampling, and installation planning for long-term monitoring cameras. The County also recently received a draft Existing Conditions Report, which compiles historical data, prior studies, and the initial findings from the 2025 field season.

The project team has finalized both the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Coordination Plan and the Interested Parties List and is currently in the process of confirming TAC members, with the first TAC meeting anticipated in December. In parallel, the project website is being developed and is expected to go live this fall with background information, monitoring updates, and engagement opportunities. The Community Engagement Plan has also been finalized, and early outreach activities planned to begin in 2026.



Valle del Pájaro



Long-term planning is underway. The County has selected Mithun to lead the development of a Master Plan, with a strong emphasis on community engagement throughout the process. The Master Plan process began this fall, starting with a kickoff meeting that included the planning team, the consultant, and County Park Friends. Mithun is currently working on the site analysis and developing the community engagement framework.

In addition, Parks is collaborating with the consultant on a site assessment to identify key issues and outline potential strategies for sediment management and the overall hydrological approach at

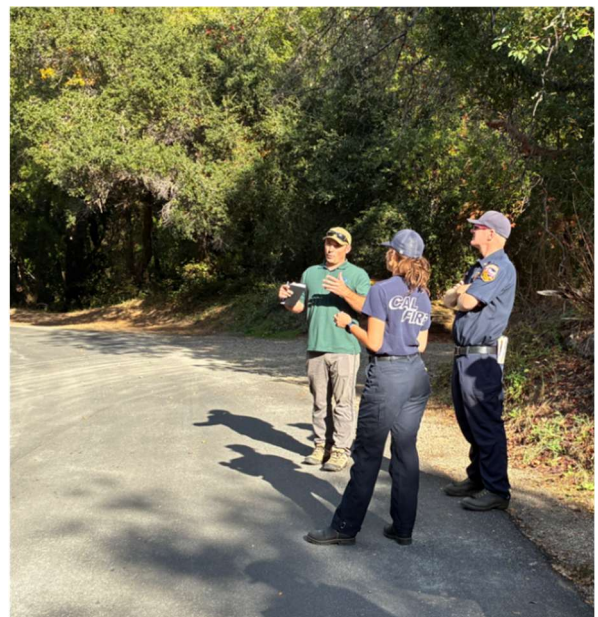
Paulsen Road and its larger watershed. The goal of this analysis and strategy development is to establish a strong foundation for subsequent planning and design efforts.

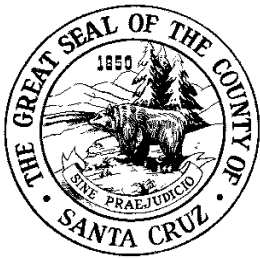
Miller Property County Park

The Miller Property County Park Shaded Fuelbreak Project is a collaborative wildfire prevention effort between Santa Cruz County Parks and CAL FIRE (San Mateo–Santa Cruz Unit). The project aims to establish a shaded fuelbreak along Kings Creek Road to reduce wildfire risk, strengthen community resilience, and improve forest health by reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Over the past several weeks, the project team has completed on-site evaluations, refined the treatment area, and completed the necessary environmental review. The project map and treatment boundaries have also been updated in collaboration with CAL FIRE, and Save the Redwoods League has been brought into the process to ensure full compliance with the property's conservation easement.

The project will take place along Kings Creek Road within the bounds of Miller Property County Park near the communities of Boulder Creek and Riverside Grove in Santa Cruz County. Vegetation management activities will extend up to 300 feet both east and west of Kings Creek Road, encompassing approximately 52 acres in total—39 acres west of the roadway and 13 acres east. To protect sensitive resources, a 50-foot bankfull elevation buffer will be maintained from Kings Creek and its associated riparian corridor, ensuring that all vegetation management activities remain outside the creek's influence.

Work will be carried out by CAL FIRE engine crews during non-fire assignments and will take place over multiple field seasons, with oversight and coordination provided by Santa Cruz County Parks. With the project details and approvals now in place, we anticipate beginning the first phase of work this December.





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: November 20, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jaime Jimenez, Recreation Supervisor
Subject: Recreation Section Report

Partnerships with Local Recreation Departments

On October 14th, the SC County Parks team hosted an Activity Swap Meet with the recreation divisions of Watsonville, Capitola, and Santa Cruz. The event provided an opportunity for all teams to pull resources, explore new program ideas, identify strategies to boost participation, trends and strengthen community impact. By sharing their expertise in a collaborative and creative setting, the groups generated fresh, innovative concepts for future recreational offerings.



The 9th Annual Trunk or Treat Special Event took place on Friday, October 24th from 5pm-8pm at the Sheriff's Office Headquarters and at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds from 3pm-7pm. The spooktacular evening consisted of candy giveaways, backyard games, decorated trunks, and food vendors. Parks staff attended both events and provided fun activities, candy giveaway and popcorn at their booth.

This year, the Recreation Team collaborated with County Park Friends in their first ever Dia De Los Muertos celebration event held on November 1, 2025, at Chanticleer County Park. The event consisted of captivating performances, music, delicious food, engaging activities and a movie at the park. "Coco" helped create a space where traditions were honored, culture was celebrated and new memories were formed.



Recreation Programs & Contractual Agreements

The Recreation team is monitoring three (3) contracted classes this fall. Contracts include East Coast Swing, Cha-Cha dance, and GOAT Outdoors Circuit Training offerings for adults. Our active adult programs continue to offer the following FREE recreational activities for community members: Mall Walking, Stretching Class and Bridge Club. We make strides in fostering human development opportunities and providing a safe place for the community to recreate.



The Recreation Team created a FREE family workshop series at the Simpkins Family Swim Center on Wednesdays from 4pm-6pm. For the month of October, a series of Spook-TACULAR workshops consisted of spooky arts and crafts to cookie decorating, while for the month of November families came together to create beautiful watercolor lanterns — blending colors, sharing laughs, and lighting up the season with creativity.

The fall season continues with our contracted after-school child enrichment (ACE) programs at Mar Vista Elementary and Rio Del Mar Elementary Schools. These programs run Monday through Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. and

Fridays from 12:15pm-6pm. These programs are provided in partnership with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District's Extended Learning Opportunity Program. We are currently serving over 120 students.

Looking ahead, the recreation team is preparing for winter camps that will be held at four locations across the county: Highlands County Park, Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, Mesa Village County Park, Simpkins Family Swin Center and Aptos Village County Park. These camps offer a diverse mix of enrichment activities, including games, arts and crafts, sports and cooking classes.

Marketing Efforts

The County Parks Winter/Spring Activity Guide just came out covering the months of December 2025 to May 2026. The activity guide continues to be available in English and Spanish. The development of the Summer/Fall 2026 activity guide will start by collecting information as early as January 2026 to help promote the Superbowl and World Cup events scheduled to be held in Santa Clara. The Department continues to create marketing flyers in both Spanish/English. As well as social media posts and updates.





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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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

Date: November 27, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Garrett Smart, Recreation Supervisor
Subject: Reservations Section Report

Commemorative Program

We are in the process of adding several new Commemorative Features. One bench at Quail Hollow Ranch on the Discovery Loop Trail looking out over the horse arena toward the Quail Hollow Ranch House. Another Bench at Twin Lakes County Park near the entrance of the park just off the sidewalk. A Commemoration is being added to an existing picnic table at Chanticleer Park, and a few other locations are also in progress.

Felton Covered Bridge Holiday Market

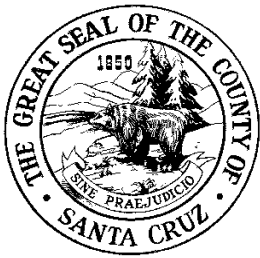
The San Lorenzo Valley Chamber of Commerce is once again hosting their Holiday Market at Felton Covered Bridge County Park. Santa Cruz County Parks is a cohost and partner of this event, and we are excited every year for this community event to return.

Athletic Field Reservations

Our team is preparing for another year of Athletic Field Reservations. The fields are scheduled to open March 1st, 2026. In January, we will send notification to all 2025 user groups calling for them to resubmit their field requests for March to November 2026. There is an additional closure of Polo Grounds Baseball Field C, beginning September 1st, for the Maintenance Team to complete field renovations, that exceeds the scope of annual closure maintenance.

Photo Project

An additional project the Facilities team is beginning is compiling a collection of new photos to be used on our reservation/registration system as well as on the County Parks website, to have up-to-date photos for each park location and many in-park features/sites. While maintaining the website is an ongoing effort, this project intends to highlight all newly added upgrades and new park features.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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

Date: December 3, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Emma Lee, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Subject: Volunteer Section Report



701 Ocean St. County Building

The succulent planting and beautification project is still ongoing at the County building! We've continued to eradicate weeds and plant succulents around the entrance of the facility. We have three community volunteer days scheduled in 2026: January 30th, February 13th, and February 27th from 2:00pm – 5:00pm. Weather permitting, we'll be there to weed, plant succulents and spread more mulch!

Anna Jean Cummings County Park

We now have monthly volunteer days scheduled at Anna Jean Cummings Park! On the last Saturday of every month, currently extending from March through June from 9:00am – 12:00pm, we'll be pulling invasive plants along the established hiking trails. This is an effort to increase trail access and restore native habitats.

We also once again have had workability groups joining us weekly to pick up litter, rake, blow leaves, and pick up extra tasks as needed.

Ben Lomond County Park

Volunteers Kym and Phil Morello have continued to support Ben Lomond County Park and are planning to resume their planting efforts in the garden beds, with a proposed focus on donated daffodil bulbs to bring a pop of color to the park in the Spring.

Daubenbiss Parking Lot

We now have a independent volunteer, Rose Jacobs, at the Daubenbiss parking lot in Soquel. Rose came to us with an interest in the area and the desire to be active in the community! She picks up litter and weeds county-maintained areas of the parking lot on Monday mornings.

Felton Discovery County Park

Along with the quarterly community volunteer days in partnership with the Felton Library Friends, we also once again have the Earth Steward Group volunteering at the park! Students will continue to prune, pull invasive plants and weeds, and pick up garbage. They're planning to be at the park next on March 26th.

Floral County Park

We are continuing our monthly community volunteer days at Floral County Park to weed and maintain the Native Pollinator Garden. The upcoming dates are on January 3rd and February 7th from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Park Host Kris will be leading these efforts.

Pinto Lake County Park

Following the scheduled volunteer day on November 2nd, we're planning more volunteer efforts in the new year to plant native plants at the entrance island area of the park. This is in collaboration with the UC Master Gardeners and our maintenance team. We've already accumulated native plant donations for the space!

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Volunteers and Park Hosts have continued to help lead the Senior Walks and Full Moon hikes at Quail Hollow Ranch! Additionally, Nest Box volunteers are projected to begin their season in March.

Our visitor center has remained open on a weekly basis thanks to our Park Docents Kathy and Richard James, Kathy Sparrow, Suzanne Rather, Cathy Hoeft, and Steve Bakaley! Our Quail Hollow Park Hosts have also helped to open the house for parkgoers when docents aren't scheduled.

We'll be hosting our annual Volunteer Recognition Awards in the Spring. Stay tuned for the scheduled date! We look forward to celebrating our wonderful Quail volunteers.



Pace Property

We're continuing volunteer efforts for the Park Trail Project! Thanks to our amazing volunteer leads, Zack Steinkamp and Jeff Ustick, we've had five volunteer days in November, with seven scheduled for December and seven more planned in January.

We'll be out on the trail, weather permitting, most Mondays and Saturdays from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Our Santa Cruz County Parks website has a volunteer calendar that lists the full range of dates and allows volunteers to sign up in advance.

Park Hosts

South County: Park Host at Bert Scott, Kris, and at Pinto Lake, Alex and Elizabeth, continue to focus on park stewardship and assist volunteer efforts across the county. They also continue to close parks in the South County area.

Alex leads the volunteer days at Floral Park, with assistance from Alex. Both Alex and Elizabeth will continue to spearhead the planting project at Pinto Lake County Park.

North County: Park Hosts at Quail Hollow, Beth and Steve, continue their projects around the ranch and assist visitors in the park.

Beth continues to be at every Pace Project volunteer day to check in volunteers! Beth will also assist with the upcoming events at 701 Ocean Street and future volunteer days at Felton Discovery Park.