



Coastal Encroachment Program

Santa Cruz County Parks Department



History of encroaching private improvements

Many streets in the coastal areas do not have sidewalks or curbs and gutters to define the edge of the public right-of-way (ROW).

Over time, encroachments of private landscaping, patios, fences, private parking, and other encroachments in the public right-of-way have grown significantly.



Example of private landscaping encroaching into ROW



Program's Purpose & Goals

The Coastal Encroachment Program was approved by the County Board of Supervisors to:

- **Improve Coastal Access** with:
 - Stairs
 - Trails
 - Public parking
 - Scenic vistas
 - and more
- **Improve Communication** between all agencies with jurisdiction along the coast
- **Improve Consistency** in the way the County addresses encroachments



36th Avenue Stairs



Coastal Encroachment Applications

Property owners with existing encroachments or those proposing encroachments onto public property should:

1. Submit a **complete** application to County Parks, including:
 - current application fees;
 - site plan; and
 - approximate square footage of the encroachment.
2. Coordinate with County Parks during the encroachment application review process.



Coastal Encroachment Applications & Determinations

County Parks will coordinate with the appropriate agencies and the property owner to determine the extent of the encroachment(s) and craft possible resolutions.

After application review, County Parks will determine if the best approach includes:

- permitting encroachments
- removal of existing encroachments, or
- a hybrid of permitting/removal of encroachments.



Coastal Encroachment Applications & Determinations

Encroachments may be permitted to remain if, at the time of application, the encroachments **are not impeding public access** to the coast **and are not located** in an area where improvements are planned in the near term. Encroachment permits must be **renewed annually**.

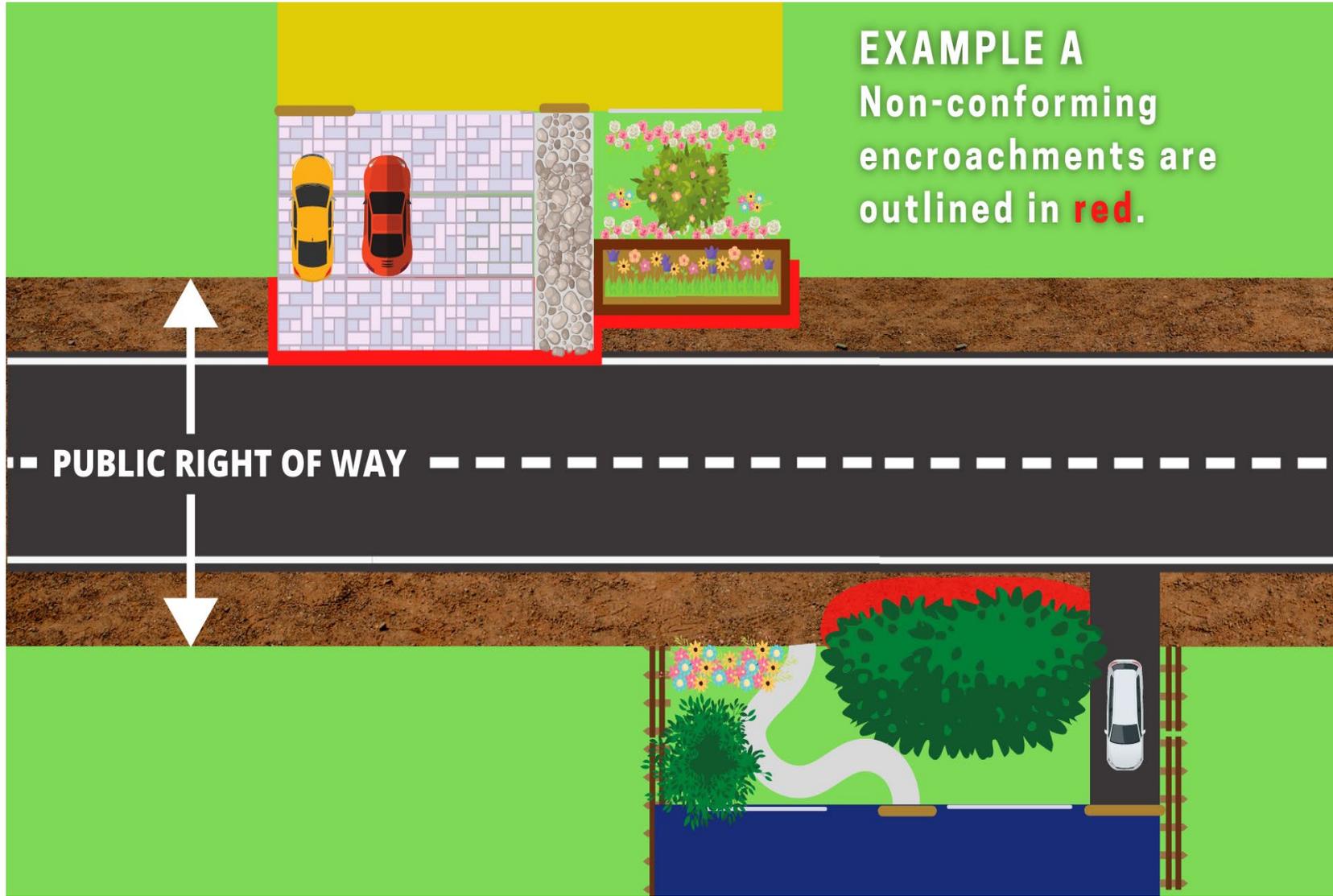
Encroachments may need to be removed if, at the time of application, the encroachments **are impeding public access** to the coast **or are located in areas** where improvements are planned in the near term.



Example A (Encroachments permitted)

Determination: Non-conforming encroachments are not impeding existing or planned public access to the coast.

Action: Permit encroachments and process annual fees based on square footage of encroachments.

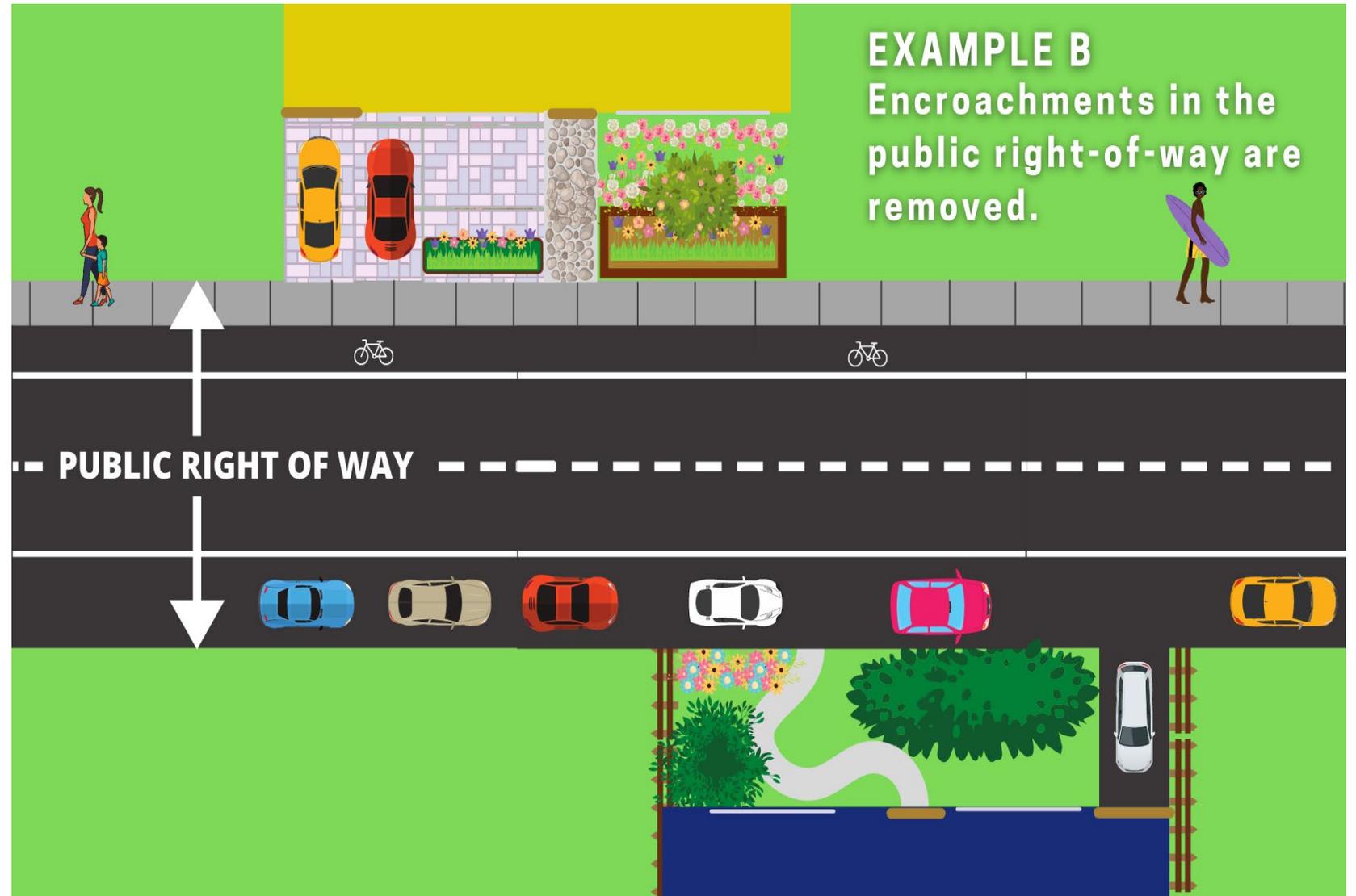




Example B (Encroachments removed)

Determination: Non-conforming encroachments are impeding public access to the coast or are in an area planned for future coastal access improvements.

Action: Remove encroachments and install coastal access improvements using revenue generated by the Coastal Encroachment Program.





Revenue & Improvement Projects

- Revenue generated by permits is used to maintain and improve coastal access.
- Accounts have been set up for coastal access improvements within three zones (North, Mid, and South), which match coastal supervisorial districts, guaranteeing the money is spent in the same area where fees are assessed.





Applications & Fees

Fees for Fiscal Year 2021/2022



Application Fee: \$1,123.63

Annual Exclusive Encroachment Fee: \$17.17 per square foot **annually**

Annual Non-Exclusive Encroachment Fee: \$6.76 per square foot **annually**, capped at \$5,202 per parcel **annually**

- For most current fees, please visit the County's [Unified Fee Schedule](#).

Any questions?

Contact:

Encroachment@scparks.com



Greyhound Rock County Park