



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, April 14th, 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. Presentation on Updated Parks Department Communications Plan – Sarah Shea, Parks Superintendent

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Discussion on the upcoming Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors hearings to remove Park Designations for parcels in Santa Cruz County.
- b. Review, discuss, and assign Commissioners to 2024-25 Commission Work Plan goals... pages 19-20.

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 February 10th, 2025**..... pages 3-4
10. **Consider Reports:**
- a. Aquatics Section Report..... page 5
 - b. Maintenance Section Report..... pages 6-7
 - c. Planning Section Report..... pages 8-12
 - d. Recreation Section Report..... pages 13-14
 - e. Reservations Section Report..... page 15
 - f. Volunteer Section Report..... pages 16-18

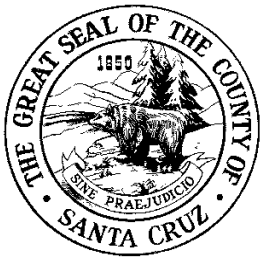
Adjournment

NEXT MEETING DATE:

5:00 PM Monday, May 12th, 2025

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 MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 10th, 2025
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Regular Meeting

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

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL Meeting called to order by Chair Wiltshire at 5:11 PM.

Present: Alexis Konevich (District 1), Tricia Wiltshire (District 2), Jeremy Sanford (District 3), Elizabeth Hernandez (District 4)

Vacant: District 5

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

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS No Modifications.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Four members of the public.

Miko and Alisha: Spoke about the Farm Park and the bridge that is on the property but currently being used.

Brady and Wendy: From the Free Diving Association spoke about the importance of education and wanted to have a conversation about how they may be able to assist in mitigating any safety or health concerns with respect to free diving or breathing.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA Konevich recommended amendment to correct the date listed on the November 18th, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion to approve with amendment: Wiltshire/Second: Sanford/All in favor.

a. Approve minutes from November 18th, 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

District 1: Receiving emails about the status of bathrooms, in the spirit of welcoming spaces maybe different colors for the bathrooms would look better. Thankful for the work that was done at Jose Ave Park, the volleyball court revitalization and transformation at the park are great, as well as bark around the playground. Currently an open survey for the re-stripping of East Cliff drive, hoping to have the results soon on Supervisor Koenig's website.

District 2: Farm Park constituents reached out; they are here today to speak. There is some maintenance issues with the roller slide at Chanticleer Park. Floral Park is getting a lot of praise, there is a planting event that is being rescheduled for March 8th. Pinto Lake skate feature, various Skate groups were interested about the design of the skate feature.

District 3: No news is good news; it has been quiet up in District 3.

District 4: First meeting, hello to everyone. She is excited to learn and contribute, make strong connections and collaborate/brainstorm.

District 5: Vacant

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Floral playground update: the path has been upgraded and is ADA compliant, new playground with pour in play, and a new water fountain.

Pinto Lake County Park updates: the new Green Valley Improvements are currently ongoing, and the skate feature is soon to come.

Update about Federal funding: FEMA reimbursement is very slow if not completely stopped, we will see what if any direct impacts there will be directly to County Parks, Federal budget for new fiscal year is October 1st.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS

a. Officer elections

Motion to nominate Alexis Konevich as chair and Jeremy Sanford as Vice-Chair: Wiltshire/ 2nd: Hernandez/All in favor.

b. Determine remaining Commission Dates for 2025

Change to six (6) meetings with proposed dates: April 14th, May 12th, August 11th, October 14th, and December 8th

Motion to approve: Wiltshire/2nd: Hernandez/All in favor.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Measure Q Presentation: The Santa Cruz County Safe drinking water, clean beaches, wildfire risk reduction, and wildlife protection act presentation was given by Parks Director Jeff Gaffney. He gave a brief oral presentation as to what Measure Q is (a parcel tax approved by voters in November to generate revenue to enhance and protect the environment, natural resources and wildlife), a brief explanation of the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board (which will be comprised of nine members selected by the Board of Supervisors and Local City Councils, how funding allocation and distributions work, priorities for eligible projects, and what the current proposed timeline of activities is.

IX. NEXT MEETING: April 14th 5:00 PM, at Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms.

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn at 6:34 PM: Sanford/2nd: Hernandez/All in favor.



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

Since the beginning of the year, the Aquatics section has been active delivering a wide range of programs and certifications. We have provided swim lessons to 273 participants, continuing to focus on water safety and skills for all ages. In addition, we hosted two Junior Guard Clinics, designed to prepare participants to pass our swim test, with 119 participants involved. We launched our first-ever Spanish swim lesson session, broadening our outreach to the Spanish-speaking community. Another session of Noodleball was hosted, with 22 participants, and we are hopeful to start a Noodleball league in the future with such high demand for this program.

We are excited to offer our new Spring Break camp, which has 30 participants enrolled and another 30 on the waitlist. On April 1st, we opened registration for our Summer programs, offering a total of 672 participant spots, the most we have ever offered. Junior Guard camps reached full enrollment in their first two AM and PM sessions. Little Guards has full enrollments for all sessions throughout the Summer.

For the first time, we also offered a Lifeguard Instructor (LGI) course, certifying 4 new Lifeguard Instructors. Furthermore, we sent two team members out of the county for additional training, which has led to the addition of a new Water Safety Instructor and a Lifeguard Instructor Trainer to our team.

Throughout all of our successful programming, we have continued to maintain a great, safe, and beautiful swim facility that remains open seven days a week, offering lap swimming and a warm therapeutic pool to the community. We have three swim teams that rent lanes each evening, we offer Adult Fitness, Water Aerobics, and Dominican PEP classes throughout the week.



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Date: April 1, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jesse Williams, Parks Superintendent
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

North County

- The Pollinator Garden at Felton Discovery Park is currently being restored to rejuvenate the garden's natural beauty while enhancing its role as a vital habitat for bees, butterflies and other pollinators restoring local biodiversity.
- Along the discovery loop trail at Quail Hollow Ranch work is being done to restore the sensitive Sand Hill habitat which is a unique ecosystem with several endemic species.
- Work at the Anna Jean Cummings Park athletic fields is being done to upgrade playing surfaces and enhance usability.
- Access to natural spaces is also being expanded. The Pace Family Wilderness trail project is being established which will open opportunities for connection and exploration.
- Landscaping around the new playground at Floral County Park is creating a more inviting and family-friendly atmosphere, blending natural beauty with safe and engaging play areas.

Mid County

- In late March, the Simpkins Family Swim Center was closed for a dedicated pool maintenance day, involving deep cleaning and general repairs to ensure the facility remains safe, clean and enjoyable for swimmers of all ages.
- The new Felt Street Office and Maintenance Shop is currently undergoing a conversion to repurpose the existing space into a functional office and shop, enhancing efficiency for parks staff and service delivery.
- The Felt Street Park restrooms were vandalized again. Maintenance staff made timely repairs to reopen clean and accessible facilities.
- Jose Avenue turf renovations and tree work were completed to enhance the park's natural beauty and improve its functionality for recreational use.
- Brommer Park Baseball field renovations were completed, upgrading the playing surfaces and drainage for improved play and safety.

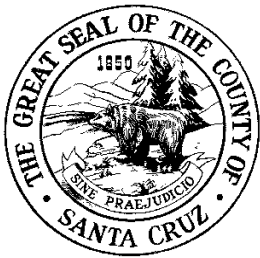
South County

- Via Palo Alto coastal access deck underwent construction to help ensure a healthy, open space for the community to enjoy.
- At Seascapes County Park, a donated spring rider was installed in the playground making it more enjoyable for a broader group of children.
- Seasonal mowing was done at The Farm Park and Freedom Annex to maintain these spaces and keep them usable throughout the year.

- Aptos Polo Grounds had upgrades to its irrigation systems, enhancing the quality of the fields and ensuring they remain in excellent condition for sports and events.
- Scott Park is undergoing Acacia tree removals to maintain safety and improve the overall health of the landscape.
- Pinto Lake continues to see fieldwork aimed at improving park facilities and overall park health.

General Maintenance

- Lots of spring weed whipping and landscaping this time of year to keep various sites clean and presentable to the public.
- Training newly hired Maintenance Worker I staff ensuring that the team is well-equipped to handle the ongoing needs of the County Parks facilities.
- General drainage and storm maintenance is an ongoing priority, addressing water management issues to ensure that parks remain accessible and safe.



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Date: April 7, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Park Planners - Rob Tidmore, Mariana Colibri-Urgo, and Mike Pruitt
Subject: Planning Section Report

Coastal Rail Trail

Segments 10 and 11: The project team has spent the last two months coordinating with the City of Capitola to seek City Council support for a trail alignment along the southern edge of Park Avenue between Monterey Ave and Grove Lane. The Park Avenue alignment would replace the original design for a trail on the coastal side of the tracks through this area. The Park Avenue alignment has multiple benefits including reduced construction cost, better neighborhood connectivity, increased safety along Park Avenue and alignment with the City of Capitola's Park Ave Traffic Calming project goals, better ocean views, and would be further from the eroding coastal bluff. The City Council declined to vote on the Park Avenue alignment when County staff presented it to them at the February 13 City Council meeting and requested additional information on the project at a Town Hall event. At the request of the Capitola City Council, County, RTC, and City staff held a City-hosted Town Hall on April 2 to discuss the overall Segment 10/11 project, the Park Ave alignment, the project's plan to route trail users through the Village, and implications of Measure L for development of the Segment 10/11 project. The future use of the Capitola Trestle for a trail and/or the future replacement of the Trestle as part of passenger rail, as well as details on the RTC's Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail project were also discussed. A recording of the Town Hall, as well as informational materials presented at the meeting by staff are available at this link: <https://www.cityofcapitola.org/citycouncil/page/town-hallspecial-city-council-meeting>. The City Council is expected to make a decision on the Park Ave alignment at a special City Council meeting on April 17.



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A slide from the April 2 Capitola Town Hall showing the proposed Park Ave alignment design

City Council direction on the Park Ave alignment is needed prior to determining a final design scope of work with the consultant team. An amendment to the existing consultant contract to add final design will go to the Board for approval on April 29. Additional environmental review of the Park Ave alignment is needed since the alignment was not included in the project's EIR. Should City Council support moving forward with the Park Ave alignment, a second consultant contract amendment to add environmental review of the Park Ave alignment will also go to the Board on April 29. Environmental review would be conducted over the summer, and the entire project would return to City Council in Fall for approval of the entire project and issuance of permits. Should City Council not support moving forward with the Park Ave alignment, the project team would seek RTC support for pursuing the coastal alignment, despite the increased costs and conflict with future passenger rail. Final design for the project will kick-off after approval of the contract amendment, and will start by modifying the design to incorporate suggestions from the RTC-led value engineering study conducted in 2024. Updated designs and cost estimates for the project are expected in late Summer.

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.

North Coast Rail Trail (Segment 5): The RTC expects to open the Panther/Yellowbank parking lot to the public this summer prior to the rest of the project opening in Summer 2026. The early opening of the parking lot is a permit requirement for the project in order to minimize impacts to public coastal access. The trail itself will not be open. As part of the Maintenance Agreement for the project, County Park and Public Works will be maintaining the trail on behalf of the RTC. An addendum to the Maintenance Agreement will need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors and RTC to have Parks staff begin early maintenance of the parking lot.

Floral County Park Playground Renovation

Site work, drainage modifications and landscape modifications have been completed; play structure and PIP have been installed. The project was completed in Winter 2024. Through volunteer effort, Parks is currently working on the implementation of a pollinator garden within the planting areas in the playground areas. The Public Art piece will 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. During the winter rains approximately 100 native understory plants and shrubs are being planted within the Acacia removal areas to increase diversity of native plants growing on site and improve the park user experience. Phase 2 for this project, including a series of planning studies and analysis will be performed in coordination with staff from Santa Cruz County Parks and other resource professionals in the region, is expected to commence in late Spring 2025.



Greyhound Rock

Parks staff are finalizing consultant contracts to conduct an initial feasibility study that will analyze the potential for biological, geological, and cultural constraints on the for the cabin 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 Late Summer 2025.

Hidden Beach County Park

Site Prep Work for construction of the project started in January. The permanent, prefabricated, ADA-compliant double-unit restroom was delivered on-site on February 26th. Site Work including final utility connections, parking lot modifications, ADA path of travel and landscape modifications are currently undergoing. The project is expected to be completed in Spring 2025.

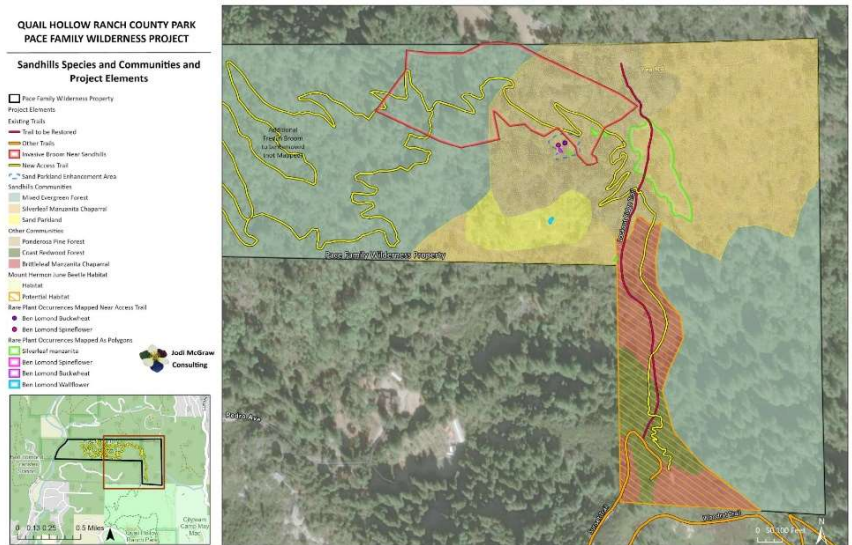


Moran Lake County Park

Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan: A draft of the wind study was provided by the consultant team at the end of March. Parks will schedule a community meeting to discuss results of the wind study and next steps likely in May.

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 construction on the trail and was held in February. The topics covered were 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% for 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. Parks Department will be working with an AmeriCorps team late spring to clear invasive broom and begin construction on the loop trail.



Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study

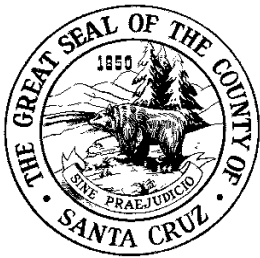
County Parks was awarded a \$650,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy to develop an initial planning-level feasibility study of nature-based adaptation strategies to sea level rise for East Cliff Drive at the three coastal lagoons (Schwan Lagoon, Corcoran Lagoon, and Moran Lagoon) in mid-Santa 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.

An RFP for consultant support for the project was released on January 6. The County received three proposals from highly qualified consultant teams. A selection committee comprised of staff from the Coastal Conservancy, California State Parks, County Public Works, and County Parks evaluated the proposals, conducted reference checks, and interviewed the consultant teams and selected Environmental Science Associates (ESA) as the top-ranked consultant team. The County will begin negotiations on scope and fee with the top-ranked consultant team, and if those negotiations are successful, staff expects to bring a contract to the Board for approval in May.

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. Funds have been allocated for phase 1 implementation and staff are coordinating required access improvements to scope out the Phase 1 work. Partial funding for Master Plan development has been allocated from the District 4 Supervisor's office, and staff will begin work on an RFP to select a consultant team for the effort.



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

Partnerships with Local Recreation Departments

- The SC County Parks Department collaborated with magazine Growing Up in Santa Cruz at the Capitola Mall - Museum of Discovery on Saturday, March 22nd. The event efforts were to promote preschool/teens, health and fitness, summer activities and identify resources to the over 150 people who attended the event.
- County Parks Friends hosted its Career Day at Simpkins Family Swim Center on Saturday, March 29th. County staff provided information for current and upcoming openings to youth who live in the Live Oak area.
- Santa Cruz County Parks Department is planning its next Family Fun Day event. The event is going to be held on July 19th in Scotts Valley. Meetings continue taking place with local recreational agencies (Watsonville, Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scott's Valley and SC County) for the planning and implementation of the upcoming event.
- Recreation staff provided a youth late night program for the Mar Vista Elementary Parent Club on Friday, March 21st. The program took place at Aptos Village Park from 5-10pm and served youth from the Mar Vista Elementary school.
- Recreation team attended a Job Fairs/Career Day with Your Future Is Our Business organization to maximize exciting job opportunities awareness for the students at San Lorenzo Valley High School.

Recreation Programs & Contractual Agreements

- The recreation team extended its contract with Live Oak School District – Del Mar Elementary school for an additional 10 dates. Staff will visit the school on Fridays from 2-4pm to work with sixty (60) 5th and 6th grade students in cognitive thinking, promoting team building, health and wellness and Outdoor Education activities.
- The Recreation team secured two (2) contracts
 - Santa Cruz Group Open Air Training (GOAT) to offer sessions during the summer.
 - Skatedogs will be offering three (3) skateboarding camps at the Seacliff Skate Park during the summer months where youth will make new friends, learn new skills and more importantly have fun and hopefully fall in love with a new sport.
- Our active adult programs continue to offer the following FREE recreational activities for community members through the partnership with the Capitola Mall:
 - Mall Walking
 - Stretching Class
 - Bridge Club

- Tai Chi - In March, 22 participants engaged in an 8 class Tai Chi session offered at SFSC Community Room. The Tai Chi community has continued to grow with a full class each session since June 2023. The program will take a break this summer and will resume in the fall with a fee.
- Active Adults took a fee-based field trip to the City of San Jose and started the day with lunch at San Pedro Square. After lunch the group headed to San Jose Center of the Performing Arts for the Broadway “The Cher Show”. The group enjoyed themselves and Cher fans danced and sang throughout the performance.
- Mobile Recreation
 - We are visiting a different County Park each month and bringing a free activity plus snack for Mobile Rec Mondays. We had a variety of Sports plus chicken hot dogs at Mesa Village in March. This month, April 14, we are back at Felton Covered Bridge. Come stop by to say hi and play with us between 3:30-5:30 to find out which activity and snack we will have this time!
- Field Trips
 - We hosted our first two field trips of 2025 over the past few weeks at Quail Hollow Ranch! Students learned how to do Nature Journaling using words, pictures, and numbers, and explored animal and plant adaptations while making connections. Participants utilized the new Quail Cottage for the first time in-between hikes to get a break from the rain, and some were lucky to find a few California newts on the Discovery Trail. We have more field trip days available at Quail Hollow Ranch in April and May, as well as for next school year starting in the fall.
- The Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Spaces and Cultural Services is proud to announce that the Outdoor Education Center at Quail Hollow Ranch is opening soon. This recently reconditioned facility will be dedicated to fostering environmental awareness, hands-on learning, and community engagement. The center will officially open to the public in April by hosting its first youth Spring camp from April 7th-11th. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and family-friendly activities will be scheduled at a later date. The Outdoor Education Center, located at 800 Quail Hollow Road, offers a diverse array of interactive programs designed for students & educators. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore nature trails, participate in outdoor science experiments, and engage in sustainability initiatives. The center's mission is to foster a lifelong appreciation for the natural world by providing future generations with the knowledge, skills, and passion needed to protect and preserve the environment.

Marketing Efforts

- The [Summer/Fall 2025 Activity Guide](#) is here! It can be found online at our website and copies have been distributed County wide. The guide is available 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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Date: April 7, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Garrett Smart, Recreation Supervisor
Subject: Reservations Section Report

Athletic Fields

Our Athletic Fields reservations are off to a great start this year, with 24 distinct user groups over 5,000 reservation hours, several new groups for 2025 and reports that many of our fields are improving in condition.

Parks And Rex Doggie Pool Party

We have already begun planning this year's Parks and Rex, Doggie Pool Party. In tandem with the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter, we have seen this community event grow and grow. This year we expect much of the same, which means several months of planning looking forward to a great day in the sun for Pups and Parents.

Food Truck Fridays

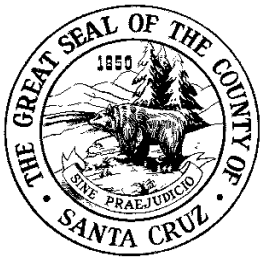
At Simpkins Family Swim Center, out in the Live Oak Library Annex Plaza, there will be a new event this summer! Food Truck Fridays will be a community event using this centralized hub for the Live Oak area to bring together Food, Drinks, and Family Activities. Join us on May 23rd, June 20th, July 18th, and August 22nd!

Social Media Assistance

Over the last few months our Social Media and Marketing for the department has been undergoing a change. Kaylo Zubey joined our team and has been receiving direction from Tiffany Martinez, Departmental Communications Officer for the Department of Community Development and Infrastructure. Kaylo has been creating Social Media Posts, interfacing with the entire parks department, updating the website, and creating a marketing calendar for increasing promotion and engagement with our department and programs.

Award Winner on the Reservations Team

Alongside all our department's winners, The California Parks and Recreation Society District 6 awarded the Reservations Team Member, Emma Lee, the Rising Professional Award. Emma's time with the department has been filled with new ideas, workplace excellence and continuous service to the public. She has proven herself an asset to the department time and time again and this recognition is well deserved.



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Date: April 3, 2025
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Subject: Volunteer Section Report

701 Ocean St. County Building

We have two more volunteer days planned for the front of the County building. We will be weeding, mulching and planting more succulents, the dates are:

- Wednesday, April 9th from 3 PM-5 PM
- Wednesday, April 23 from 3 PM-5 PM

Anna Jean Cummings County Park

The workability group continues to show up weekly to volunteer at AJC by picking up litter, raking, blowing and are always willing to do extra tasks, as needed.

We will be hosting a group of Scouts who will be participating in the Great Scout Trash Out on Sunday, April 27th from 9 AM-11:00 AM.

Ben Lomond County Park

Kym and Phil Morello volunteer regularly at the park to tend to the pollinator garden, by weeding and checking on the plants. Most of the plants have survived and they are looking forward to a Spring of new growth.

East Cliff Drive County Parkway

Volunteer Kari spent a morning out along East Cliff with her crew weeding the newly planted areas. She and her crew pulled a dump truck load of weeds, and the maintenance team picked them up. The Parkway looks amazing and most of the plants that were planted by Kari and her crew have survived.

A little further down East Cliff, we had another successful community volunteer day with Brittany from the Nature Lodge. We weeded and prepped another planter area. We have 3 more dates scheduled to continue this beautification along East Cliff:

- Saturday, April 19th 9 AM – 12 PM
- Sunday, May 18th 9 AM – 12 PM
- Saturday, August 16th 9 AM – 12 PM





Felton Discovery County Park

The monthly volunteer day in March was successful and volunteers planted some Clarkia seedlings which were grown by one of the volunteers. This month we have organized a larger volunteer day on Saturday, April 5th. The plan is to spruce up the park by doing lots of weeding, mulching and we will be adding playground fill to one of the playground areas.

Floral County Park

We have several volunteer days scheduled at Floral to plant pollinator gardens! The first two days were March 8th and 11th and were very successful. Volunteers prepped the ground, planted 28 plants, mulched the area and watered the new plants. Come join us at the next volunteer days!

- Saturday, May 17th 9 AM – 12 PM
- Saturday, May 31st 9 AM – 12 PM



Pinto Lake County Park

We will participate in the Pitch In litter pick up event this year on Saturday, May 10th from 9 AM - 12 PM. This event will be led by two Park Hosts.



Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

The Highlands High School students continue to volunteer regularly at the park. In March, they raked and weeded around the house which was supervised by one of our Park Hosts.

We have started a composted manure program at QHR and our first free giveaway of composted manure was very successful with 17 people benefiting from it. Some of the recipients donated to the Friends of Quail

non-profit for the compost. Our next giveaway day is scheduled for April 12th from 10 AM - 1:00 PM. To sign up for a timeslot go here: <https://forms.gle/RRTd7t9eHFDP1xXE8> or email volunteer@parks.santacruzcountyca.gov.

AmeriCorps

We have been awarded an AmeriCorps Team again this year. They will arrive April 24th and be here through June 9th! We are very excited once again for the opportunity to work with these young adults!

Park Hosts

Bert Scott Estate: Kris has done a lot of work around the Bert Scott property to clean it up and improve the landscaping. He has also done quite a bit of fire abatement work on the property, and he works closely with maintenance to get the debris hauled off the property.

Kris also spends time at Pinto Lake County Park, Polo Grounds County Park, and Scott County Park, greeting community members and picking up litter. Kris is planning some volunteer days at Scott Park and Polo Grounds Park. He and the Park Hosts from Pinto Lake are also planning volunteer days at Pinto Lake County Park and will host the Pitch In event on Saturday, May 10th.

Additionally, Kris has helped with volunteer days at Floral County Park and the East Cliff Drive County Parkway. He will be helping with the volunteer day at the Felton Discovery Park as well.

Pinto Lake County Park: Alex is becoming very familiar with the regular park users at the park and building relationships. He has done a lot of landscaping around the historic home at the park and some cleaning inside the house. Alex helps to close the park up at night and report issues he sees. Alex has also helped with volunteer events at Floral County Park and East Cliff Parkway.

Elizabeth continues to work on the landscaping around the front house, helps to close the park up at night and reports issues she sees. Elizabeth is familiar with many of the regulars at Pinto Lake and has good relationships with them.

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park: Beth and Steve Egelhofer have painted a couple of the outbuildings and acres of fences keeping the park looking fresh and clean. They have helped to repair many fence posts and boards and have been instrumental in creating a new space for all the volunteer tools and supplies. They have also helped with volunteer events at the park and our first composted manure giveaway.

Beth has led volunteer groups at QHR and is training to lead more events and help with the sandhills hikes offered to the public in the month of April. Beth also helped with volunteer events at Floral County Park and will help with a volunteer event at Felton Discovery Park.

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

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

#	Stated Goal	Members Involved	Timeline	Fiscal Impact*	Projected Outcomes	Update #1 05.13.2024
COMMUNITY OUTREACH						
1	Attend County sponsored events, serving as County ambassadors by welcoming, meeting and greeting the public, and serving in a volunteer capacity conducting various event duties as needed.	All	April 2024 - _____ 2025	No Impact	Commissioners engage and interact with citizens while remaining aware of current trends in the public use of parks, beaches, trails, recreation programming, and special events. Create outreach to the public, educating them on what the Parks & Recreation Commission does, how to engage with the Commission and local government, programs the County offers, and spaces & places to recreate. Each Commissioner participates in a minimum 2 events.	Wiltshire - Attended Willowbrook Memorial Seating Area Unveiling and Live Like Coco events. Martinez - Attended Willowbrook Willowbrook Memorial Seating Area Unveiling. Plans to attend Felton Library Community Event and Felton Remembers.
2	Connect with local City and County Commissions to better understand collaboration opportunities.		April 2024 - _____ 2025	No Impact	Attend meetings of area commissions, create connection with members. Better understand efforts of area commissions generating ideas for future Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation goals and determining opportunities for collaboration where synergy exists.	Wiltshire - Has been visiting/working with Commission on Disabilities. Would like to work with Brenda Gutierrez Baeza more on reviewing plans and possibly making adjustments to consider those with disabilities and increase equity throughout County Parks. Trying to make it to the Arts Commission meeting in July.
3	Identify and schedule guest speakers for all Parks & Recreation Commission meetings.		April 2024 - _____ 2025	No Impact	Commissioners gain awareness and understanding of topics relevant to goals outlined in this Commission Work Plan and other topics of interest.	Martinez - Working with County Parks staff to have a speaker from RCD on 8/12.
GREAT FACILITIES						
4	Research community needs related to facility use, development, and programming.		April 2024 - _____ 2025	No Impact	Generate a better understanding of community interests and needs related to facilities and programming. Identify related core and stretch objectives. Provide findings to Parks & Recreation department for consideration and planning.	Sanford - Would like to bring youth rugby to the Monterey Bay area. The league could use various facilities such as Pinto Lake or Polo Grounds. One challenge identified with programming and facility use is the limit in time. Many fields are not designed to be used year-round, is there a way to address this issue?
EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP						
5	Examine climate resiliency efforts and advise Park & Recreation department of best practices.		April 2024 - _____ 2025	No Impact	Gain awareness and understanding of topics relevant to climate resiliency through research and connection with local organizations. Identify gaps in climate resiliency efforts/education and advice Parks & Recreation department of best practices.	Lee - Did some research on pollinating creatures and planting hedgerows. Maybe Parks can take advantage of some spaces in various parks and plant some hedgerows to increase resiliency and support pollinating populations.

6	Identify best practices for sustainability and advise Park & Recreation department of findings.		April 2024 - _____ 2025	No Impact	<p>Commissioners examine current sustainability efforts within the County and explore additional best practices in all areas of sustainability.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Provide recommendations on best practices, potential partnerships, and community outreach opportunities to Parks & Recreation department.</p>	<p>Lee - Has been working with maintenance team and workers at different Parks regarding maintenance. Suggested planting hedgerows.</p> <p>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.</p>
SPECIAL PROJECT(S)						
7	Explore Best Practices for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) related to Parks & Recreation		April 2024 - _____ 2025	No Impact	Explore DEI best practices and make recommendations for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in all areas of parks & recreation including, but not limited to, those outlined in the Strategic Plan 5-year Update such as signage, health and well-being, park accessibility, recreation programming, and collaboration with non-profit groups.	No update.
ADVISE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS -- NOTE:						
	2024/25 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan Outcomes to be submitted in the Biennial Report	Chair	On or before December 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 December 31, 2025		Board of Supervisors reviews proposed work plan goals and intended outcomes in Biennial Report.	