



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

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

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Regular Meeting

**Alternate Meeting Location:**  
Aptos Village Park Clubhouse  
100 Aptos Creek Road  
Aptos, California 95003

**I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

**II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Any person may address the Commission during its Oral Communication period. Speakers must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, or the time limit established by the Chair, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. All Oral Communication must be directed to an item listed on today's Consent Agenda, Closed Session Agenda, yet to be heard on Regular Agenda, or a topic not on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission members will not take actions or respond immediately to any Oral communication presented regarding topics not on the agenda but may choose to follow up later, either individually, or on a subsequent Commission Agenda. Oral communications will normally be received by the Commission for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. If, at the end of this period, additional persons wish to address the Commission, the Oral Communication period may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve minutes from August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.....page 2 - 4
- b. Consider Reports:
  - i. Aquatics Section Report.....page 5
  - ii. Maintenance Section Report.....page 6
  - iii. Planning Section Report..... page 7 - 9
  - iv. Recreation Section Report.....page 10 - 11
  - v. Reservations Section Report.....page 12
  - vi. Volunteer Section Report..... page 13 - 15

**V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Review and approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Biennial Report, page 16 - 20
- b. Discuss 2024 meeting schedule, page 21
- c. Determine workshop retreat date and time, page 21

**VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. Capital Projects Update
- b. "Results Count" presentation by County Park Friends

**IX. NEXT MEETING:** Date and location to be announced in public notice.

**X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**



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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, August 14, 2023  
5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Regular Meeting

**Alternate Meeting Location:**  
Board of Supervisors Chambers (5<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

#### I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- a. Commissioners Present: Katherine Lee (District 1), Jeremy Sanford (District 3), Martha Vega (District 4), Monica Martinez (District 5)
- b. Staff Present: Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Anissa Childers, Frankie Farr

#### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

#### III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Any person may address the Commission during its Oral Communication period. Speakers must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, or the time limit established by the Chair, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. All Oral Communication must be directed to an item listed on today's Consent Agenda, Closed Session Agenda, yet to be heard on Regular Agenda, or a topic not on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission members will not take actions or respond immediately to any Oral communication presented regarding topics not on the agenda but may choose to follow up later, either individually, or on a subsequent Commission Agenda. Oral communications will normally be received by the Commission for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. If, at the end of this period, additional persons wish to address the Commission, the Oral Communication period may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

- a. Mariah Roberts of County Park Friends expressed gratitude for work done with such limited funding, especially in comparison to other counties.
- b. Comments on the Felton Covered Bridge Pump Track Project from Steve Halmon, Phyllis Tveit, Angela Kelly, and Blair Zehm

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve minutes from June 12, 2023..... page 4-5
- b. Consider Reports:
  - i. Aquatics Section Report.....page 6
  - ii. Maintenance Section Report.....page 7
  - iii. Planning Section Report..... page 9-10
  - iv. Recreation Section Report.....page 11
  - v. Reservations Section Report.....page 12
  - vi. Volunteer Section Report..... page 13-18

#### V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- a. District 1: Anna Jean Cummings County Park has a good volunteer, LEO's Haven in Chanticleer County Park is updated and good, some parks are a little overgrown.
- b. District 2: Absent / No report
- c. District 3: No report
- d. District 4: National Night Out event at Mesa Village County Park, will encourage her students to participate in volunteer opportunities at Pinto Lake County Park

- e. District 5: Beautify Felton Event to clean up downtown area, Valley Women's Club Plant and Rummage Sale at Highlands County Park

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

- a. Expressed gratitude for public engagement. Encouraged attendance at upcoming events: Family Fun Day and Parks and Rex Dog Pool Party. Update on Volunteer Program and Park Host opportunities at Pinto Lake County Park and Quail Hollow Ranch County Park. Updates on upcoming projects: a new shade structure to be installed at Chanticleer County Park, Green Valley Pathway and Park. Ben Lomond County Park is now open.

## **VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS (None)**

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

- a. Parks Strategic Plan Update Draft presented by Mariana Colibri-Urgo, Planner III
  - i. Questions and Comments from Commissioners
    - 1. Katherine: clarification on core and stretch objectives
    - 2. Jeremy: inquired about survey process, survey results availability, and equity in relation to athletic facilities.
    - 3. Martha: expressed gratitude to those who worked on this project. Inquired about the working group, representation from District 4 within the working group and surveyed individuals, and staffing.
    - 4. Monica: expressed gratitude.
  - ii. Questions and Comments from Public
    - 1. Erica Schwanbeck: asked for clarification on survey outreach in District 5
    - 2. Working Group Member: highlighted the equity within working group and emphasized funding limitations.
    - 3. Tom Fredericks: expressed concerns for District 5, especially Felton.
    - 4. Mariah Roberts: echoed needs for funding and systemic approach to funding
- b. Deputy Director Rebecca Hurley will discuss potential pump track at Felton Covered Bridge County Park.
  - i. Questions and Comments from Commissioners
    - 1. Martha: clarification on Commission's role
    - 2. Katherine and Martha: inquired about public informational processes and feedback
    - 3. Jeremy: inquired about impact and if projections can be made from similar parks in the county
    - 4. Monica: commented on public input, highlighting an estimate 85% are in support of the project. Inquired about process, maintenance, operational, and budgetary implications.
  - ii. Questions and Comments from Public
    - 1. Support and opposition for project. Concerns for process, oversight, and impacts to the environment and local community.
    - 2. Bridget, Richard Zen, Virginia Rite, Erica Schwanbeck, Dave, Cory Otsborg, Tom Fredericks, Joan Morgan, Brian Largardy, Mary Sullivan
  - iii. Comments from Staff
    - 1. Jeff: provided clarification on Commission's role, the process for developing this project. Provided information on maintenance, operational, and budgetary implications and improvements.

2. Rebecca: provided clarification on park improvement project processes, rationale for this project.

iv. Questions and Comments from Commissioners

c. Discuss possible workshop retreat date and times.

i. Date, time, and location to be determined by survey to Commissioners.

ii. Topics to include Brown Act, Bylaws, Commission roles and responsibilities, Commission goals, Parks Department goals, onboarding with County Staff, and ways to get involved with the community.

d. Community attendance: 25 members present.

**IX. NEXT MEETING:** December 11, 2023 Location to be announced in public notice.

**X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**



# County of Santa Cruz

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## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

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

Date: November 27, 2023  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Anissa Childers, Aquatics Supervisor  
Subject: Aquatics Section Report

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- The Swim Center is now offering youth programming such as swim lessons, swim lesson training at a discounted rate for families, and upcoming junior guard clinics that start in Spring.
- The Swim Center has continued to provide American Red Cross lifeguard classes free of charge as an incentive to get more lifeguards hired.
- The Swim Center has been actively hiring and training lifeguards and head guards.
- The Swim Center is collaborating with Live Oak School District to use lanes at our pool, and quicksilver is using that space to teach 4<sup>th</sup> grade students swim lessons.
- The Swim Center offers Low Stimulation hours every Thursday from 3pm to 5pm. This program is geared for folks with adaptive needs that benefit from a quieter environment while using our pools.
- The Swim Center has been working with the National Inclusion Program and SARC Grant to order more equipment and provide a more inclusive environment for the public.



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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

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

Date: December 4, 2023  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Jesse Williams, Parks Superintendent  
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

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### North County.

- Staff completed a Quail Hollow Ranch Drainage Project before the winter storms.
- Highlands County Park and Anna Jean Cummings County Park have closed their athletic fields for winter renovations.
- Tree work was completed at 701 Ocean Street, removal of dead redwood trees.

### Mid County

- A new backflow was installed at 979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Simpkins Swim Family Center
- Restroom remodels are taking place at the new Library Annex at Simpkins
- Staff performed irrigation repairs at Brommer County Park.

### South County

- Staff are working towards a complete rebuild and renovation of a baseball field at Polo Grounds County Park
- South County athletic fields are closed and getting renovated for winter.
- New fencing and gates are being installed at Whiting Road.



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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

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

Date: November 27, 2023  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Park Planners Rob Tidmore, Mariana Urgo, and Mike Pruitt  
Subject: Planning Section Report

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### **Anna Jean Cummings Mitigation Plantings**

Mitigation planting was completed earlier this year. Due to the rains, the temporary protection fencing installation was delayed but is now complete. Confluence Restoration Inc. is maintaining and monitoring the mitigation planting for the next 4 years.

### **Coastal Rail Trail**

Segments 10 and 11 – The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project was released for public review on October 16, 2023. Comments on the DEIR are due at 5pm on December 15, 2023. A public meeting to take verbal comments on the DEIR was held on Thursday, November 16, 2023. Certification of the Final EIR is tentatively scheduled for the March 12, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting. For more information, or to view a copy of the DEIR, please visit: [www.santacruzcountyca.gov/RailTrail](http://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/RailTrail)

Segments 8 and 9 – The City of Santa Cruz is the lead agency for this project and is partnering with the County to deliver the project. Staff are currently negotiating a Cooperative Agreement with the City, County, and RTC to develop the project. The Cooperative Agreement will go to the Board for approval in Spring 2024, along with acceptance of the City's Final EIR for the project.

North Coast Rail Trail – The RTC is the lead agency for this project. The Board approved a Cooperative Agreement with the RTC for the County (Parks and CDI staff) to maintain the 7.5 miles of the North Coast Rail Trail on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Under the agreement, the RTC will reimburse County maintenance expenses, except for the cost of litter removal and graffiti abatement. The project is expected to start construction in early 2024.

### **Floral Playground Renovation**

\$400,000 in project funds have been confirmed from a combination of County Park Friends fundraising and District 1 discretionary funding. The money will be used to install new playground equipment and new rubberized safety surfacing. Community input and outreach are finalized and preferred play structure elements were selected. Staff are currently updating the final playground design with the play structure company and working on a contract for its implementation. The project is expected to be completed in Fall 2024.

## Hidden Beach

County Parks is currently selecting a civil engineer consultant to develop the plans for a permanent, prefabricated, ADA-compliant double-unit restroom. In addition to the restroom itself, the scope will include a building foundation and concrete paving, utility connections, landscaping, and associated irrigation surrounding the restroom. The civil engineer's scope will also include analyzing and developing an accessible path of travel to the restroom. The project is expected to be completed in Fall 2024.

## Moran Lake

County Parks and regulatory agencies met with the consultant team in August to review comments on the draft Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan (HMP). The consultant team has provided an updated draft HMP. A site meeting is scheduled for mid-December to further refine the strategies outlined in the draft HMP. A public meeting on the HMP will be held in early 2024. The final HMP and CEQA approval is scheduled for Spring 2024.

Parks staff reviewed the Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan project with Coastal Commission (CCC) staff in early Fall 2023. CCC staff indicated that they would not support issuance of a Coastal Development Permit for the replacement of the parking lot and restroom in their current location without confirmation from a larger planning study that the location/design would be compatible with future improvements to East Cliff Drive and the lagoon culvert that will be necessary for the long-term resilience of the roadway, utility infrastructure, and coastal lagoon ecosystem in the face of sea level rise. However, CCC staff expressed a willingness to fund the planning and design of the future of East Cliff Drive and the lagoon via a CCC grant. Coastal Conservancy, the grantee for the current project, is supportive of this new direction and has also expressed a willingness to fund the larger project.

Therefore, Parks will be modifying the scope of the Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan project to pursue a phased approach. This will allow the project to address more immediate needs in the short term while working towards a shovel-ready design for the larger coastal resiliency project in partnership with Public Works staff for the long-term. The phased approach will consist of four phases.

- **Phase 1** – Early termination of the current consultant and grant contract for the Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan with the current draft 60% DD set, and completion of the Monarch Habitat Management Plan.
- **Phase 2** – Development and implementation of a restoration plan for Moran Lake County Park, which will include drainage improvements and the planting of mitigation trees for past removals and nectaring plants to restore and enhance the windbreak and overwintering habitat for Monarchs.
- **Phase 3** – Planning and design for larger coastal resiliency project at roadway and lagoon mouth.
- **Phase 4a** – Construction of public access improvements (parking lot, restroom, trails)\*
- **Phase 4b** – Construction of larger coastal resiliency project\*

\*Completion of Phase 4 is contingent upon securing construction funding. Parks does not currently have funding for construction of any improvements at Moran Lake. However, the availability of funding in the Inflation Reduction Act for coastal resiliency projects like this is a potential source.

Staff are currently working with the Coastal Conservancy, as the current grantee, to modify the scope of the project to be consistent with the phased approach above. Staff will hire a consultant team to develop a restoration plan for Phase 2 in the first half of 2024, with the intention of implementing a portion of the restoration in late 2024. Staff will work with Public Works staff to put together a grant application to fund the larger coastal resiliency project in early 2024.

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

A draft of the North Coast Facilities and Management Plan (NCFMP) is currently available for public review. The draft NCFMP provides an analysis of existing conditions, and proposes a list of projects to address ongoing issues on the North Coast. Projects are identified by lead agency. Comments are due December 18. Comments can be provided via the Webmap [here](#). There is a public meeting scheduled for November 30 to get feedback on the plan. Public feedback will be used to shape project prioritization, and will be incorporated into the final plan, which is expected to be ready in early 2024. The final plan will help identify grant and other funding sources for the projects. There has been tentative interest from the Coastal Conservancy in funding several projects identified in the plan, and Parks staff will be putting together a grant application.

## **Pace Property Trails**

County Parks was awarded a \$210,000 grant from CA State Parks for construction of two new trails totaling 2.5 miles on the Pace Property with interpretive signage. The trails will connect to the existing trails at Quail Hollow Ranch, expanding public access to this unique ecosystem. The trails will be laid out to minimize impacts to the sensitive habitat in the area. Project kick-off is scheduled for early next year.

## **South County Parkland Acquisition**

County Parks maintenance staff cleaned out the site debris and made improvements to the existing gate. The planning team has selected a consultant to survey the property. The survey will be used as a base for future planning and design studies.

## **Willowbrook**

A new contractor has been hired for the Memorial Seating Area, and the project is again under construction. Completion is expected in Spring 2024. The Flagpole project was completed at the end of June. The Play Area Renovation project was completed at the beginning of November and the playground is now open for public use.

## **Strategic Plan 5-year Update**

Strategic Plan 5-Year update is finalized and available in the County Parks website in both English and Spanish.



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DIRECTOR

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

Date: December 4, 2023  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Jaime Jiminez, Recreation Supervisor  
Subject: Recreation Section Report

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

- We have partnered with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District to offer after-school programs at Mar Vista Elementary school and most recently added Rio Del Mar Elementary through the ELOP (Extended, Learning, Opportunity Program). Santa Cruz County Parks staff are in the process of extending that partnership throughout school breaks including Summer, Winter and Spring school-breaks.
- At these sites, Recreation Staff provide various active games, arts and crafts, outdoor nature, and science enrichment activities for stable groups between 40-50 elementary school aged children and 20 pre-school age kids. Programs operate Monday-Thursday from 2pm-6pm, with the exception of Fridays re-structured days which run from 12:30pm-6pm.
- Parks staff continue strong with the County Parks Friends non-profit partnership.
- The recreation team continues assisting with transportation and positive recreational experiences through the partnership, offerings collaboration and ideas to provide programs throughout the county until 2024 with the OEP (Outdoor Equity Program) grant – titled Young Outdoors Leaders.
- On Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, a team from Recreation was deployed to the Water Harvest Festival at Chanticleer County Park – Leo’s Haven Playground from 11am-5pm and it was a success. The Santa Cruz County Parks booth engaged visitors in a reusable water balloon toss as well as testing them on their knowledge of County Parks near them.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual - Trunk o Treat Special Event took place on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-8pm at the Sheriff’s Office Headquarters. The spooktacular evening consisted of candy giveaways, backyard games, decorated trunks, and food vendors made an evening of spooktacular fun. Parks staff attended the event and provided fun activities, candy giveaway and popcorn at their booth.

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

- Our active adult programs currently offer the following FREE recreational activities for community members: Mall Walking | Stretching Class | Bridge Club and Tai Chi.
- The recreation team continues seeking out potential contractual agreements with groups and individuals in the community to offer positive recreational programs in our county.
- We make strides in fostering human development opportunities and providing a safe place for the community to recreate.
- The Parks team offered and held its first Active Adults Line Dancing class at Aptos Village Park.
- El Palomar Ballroom will continue to, extended the agreement and will offer the Big East Swing classes along with another Salsa Dance Class.

- Turning the Tide Grant – Concluded with 29 swimming gift certificates for swim lessons to its 29 participants and mentors in the South County coastal stewardship and water safety components alongside with the City of Watsonville Parks & Community Services Department.

### **Marketing Efforts**

- The Department marketing efforts this month consist of creating a bilingual (Spanish/English) spring activity guide to inform the community of upcoming recreational opportunities and to help navigate their interest in our reservations and registrations system and opportunities on the Web.
- The Department has continued to create marketing flyers in both Spanish/English and social media posts and updates.



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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

Date: December 4th, 2023  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Garrett Smart, Recreation Supervisor  
Subject: Reservations/Facilities Section Report

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### **Events:**

As our events slow down for the winter season, we look back and celebrate the 130 wedding, private event, and special event reservations we have had in 2023.

We had a wonderful time at our Holiday Market on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, bringing in 19 vendors, live music and approximately 150 community members to the event at Simpkins.

### **Staffing:**

The Recreation Program Specialist role has been filled via a recruitment and an internal candidate prevailed.

We hope to expand our current team of 7 Park Service Officers over the winter season to be ready for next years' wedding season, which is already being booked quickly.

### **Picnic Areas:**

Chanticleer County Park now has a reservable picnic area, ready to be booked for spring picnics, available online.

Michael Gray Field now has a reservable picnic area, ready to be booked for spring picnics, available online.



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Date: November 29, 2023  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator  
Subject: Volunteer Section Report

### Anna Jean Cummings Park

Our trail maintenance volunteer at AJ continues to work on the trails.

Trail work to divert the water run-off.

We also have another 2 volunteers who help with litter pick up on Mondays.



### Brommer Park

We have a new volunteer at Brommer helping to clean and maintain the Pickleball courts.

### East Cliff Parkway

The Nature Lodge was back at East Cliff Parkway in August. At Pleasure Point they cleaned the mural, picnic tables, and landscaped areas. They also repainted the red curbs.



### **Felton Discovery Park**

During the October volunteer day the volunteers focused on planting many native plants they had purchased. Below is a list of what was planted.

- 3 hummingbird sage
- 5 Alum root
- 1 black sage
- 1 white sage
- 2 clevelandii sage
- 1 sage
- 1 saffron buckwheat
- 3 goldenrod
- 5 sticky monkey flowers
- 3 pearly everlasting
- 1 flowering current
- 1 coyote mint
- 1 manzanita 3-4 ft.
- 3 yellow yarrow



The community volunteer days are the first Saturday of every month from 9-11

Also at Felton Discovery Park, Ralph M., an independent volunteer built a bin for the volunteers to put the weeds and trimmings so that the maintenance staff can remove it easily.

### **Pinto Lake County Park**

We had a very successful volunteer day at Pinto and the entire restroom building by gazebo B was painted. We have another volunteer day scheduled for Dec. 2 from 9-12.

High school students and community members come together to paint the restroom building near picnic gazebo B.



## **Quail Hollow Ranch County Park**

Our new Park Hosts at Quail have moved in and are ready to start learning and working around the park.

Meet Zachary Coleman and Melani Santiago.

"Hey, we're Mel and Zach, your friendly Park Hosts at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park!

We are excited to be a part of this beautiful community, we bring our shared passion for the great outdoors to enhance your park experience. Mel loves connecting people with the wonders of nature. Zach, a seasoned outdoor enthusiast, is all about making your visit enjoyable and memorable. Together, we're here to assist, learn, contribute and ensure your time at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park is filled with fun. Whether you're a regular or a first-timer, we look forward to meeting you and making your visit special."



The Santa Cruz Astronomy club offers monthly star gazing at Quail and is free to the public. At the August star gazing we had about 30 visitors and 10 club members and at the October Star Gazing: We had about 20 visitors and 8 club members.

Volunteers from Highlands Community High School helped paint some of the fence boards.



## **Scott Creek Beach**

The Tai Kappa Epsilon Fraternity is back at to pull invasive Ice Plant and keep the viewing platform free of sand.

## **Twin Lakes County Park**

We have two new volunteers who have installed a Little Free Library.

We have just learned that we will be awarded an AmeriCorps Team in 2024! We look forward to them coming in February.

Volunteers and Park Host Iszy helped with conducting the State of the Trails survey.



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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2022 – 2023 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 meets quarterly on Monday evenings at 5:00 p.m., on dates determined by the Commission. 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 a rotating 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  
Robert Tidmore, Park Planner IV  
Noah Ross, Admin Aide  
Anissa Childers, Program Coordinator  
Frankie Farr, Clerk II  
Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha, Admin Aide

### **ATTENDANCE**

The Commissioners attendance for the past twenty-four months is attached with this report.

### **2022-2023 ACTIVITIES AND ACOMPLISHMENTS**

1. New commissioners were appointed:
  - a. District 1 Katherine Lee

- b. District 2 Tricia Wiltshire
  - c. District 3 Jeremy Sanford
  - d. District 4 Martha Victoria-Vega, Vicechair of the Commission
  - e. District 5 Monica Martinez, Chair of the Commission
2. Discussed:
    - a. Measure C Single Use Cup Tax and use for funds to clean beaches
    - b. Adding a new Park Renaming Policy and voted to change the name of Willowbrook County Park to Willowbrook County Park in Honor of Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller.
    - c. Winter 2023 Storm impacts on County Parks, restoration work, FEMA involvement and funding
  3. Adopted resolution regarding teleconference meetings under AB 361 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  4. Modified meeting schedule from six meetings a year to quarterly meetings per commissioner requests
  5. Fostered engagement with community members and stakeholders including participating in events at County Parks.
  6. Supported fundraising initiatives and grants for park improvement projects and youth programs.
    - a. Successful grants and fundraising initiatives include:
      - i. A water wheelchair is available for use at Simpkins Family Swim Center thanks to a collaborative endeavor with Shared Adventures, Omega Nu, and County Park Friends.
      - ii. The Keep America Beautiful Community Grant provided \$7,000 to support the stewardship of the North Coast with better trash receptacles, supplies for community clean-up days, and funding to our Volunteer Program.
      - iii. California Coastal Commission Whale Tail Grant of \$50,000 which provided access to underserved youth from South County to engage in coastal and watershed education, swim lessons, first aid and CPR training, and a family beach day.
      - iv. San Andreas Regional Center (SARC) Grant for Enhanced Community Integration for Children and Adolescents provided \$134,750 to enhance and create integrated and inclusive social and recreational programs for youth and families with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities.
      - v. California State Parks Habitat Conservation Fund Trails of \$210,000 to improve Quail Hollow Ranch County Park and Pace Property with two trails, benches, and interpretive signage.
      - vi. The Fixing Up Floral campaign led by County Park Friends raised \$275,000 through community donations to improve Floral County Park.
      - vii. North Coast Facilities and Management Plan was awarded \$100,000 from California State Parks Santa Cruz District and \$200,000 from California Coastal Conservancy.
      - viii. A shared effort between County Parks, County Park Friends, and the Santa Cruz County Deputy Sheriffs' Association raised \$375,000+ for the memorial project honoring Sergeant Gutzwiller at Willowbrook County Park
      - ix. In collaboration with County Park Friends, \$656,361 was awarded by the California State Parks Outdoor Equity Program for the Young Outdoor Leaders Comunidad de Live Oak Program. This 4-year program fosters

- environmental stewardship and career development for 34 core youth and 5,000 community members.
- x. The California Transportation Commission Active Transportation Program awarded \$67.6 million for the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11, which will install a 4.5-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail from 17th Avenue in Live Oak to State Park Drive.
7. Supported collaborations with partners such as AmeriCorps and County Park Friends.
  8. Received status reports on park improvement projects, potential projects, and fundraising endeavors including:
    - a. Anna Jean Cummings Park: 154 trees were planted in the open space to mitigate the impacts of the development of Highway 1 in collaboration with the Regional Transportation Center (RTC).
    - b. Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 Project: funding was awarded and the project is currently in the environmental phase with final design expected to begin in 2024.
    - c. Felton Covered Bridge Pump Track Project development
    - d. Floral Street County Park: fundraising for the new playground is complete, construction has started and is estimated to be open in early 2024.
    - e. Moran Lake County Park: Restoration and Public Access Plan and Monarch Habitat Management Plan
    - f. Simpkins Family Swim Center: funded by Proposition 68, the 50-meter pool was replastered, and new lights and tiles were installed.
    - g. South County Parkland Acquisition and Development Project: final acquisition of 188 Whiting Road completed in August 2023. Ideas for interim use and fundraising development underway.
    - h. Willowbrook County Park Memorial Project: Enhancements to the pedestrian walkway bridge, playground, and flagpole area are complete. Work on the memorial seating area has begun. A grand opening is expected in early 2024.
  9. Were informed on:
    - a. County Parks Budget
    - b. County Parks Strategic Plan 5-Year Update with the additional goal of equity, finalized in August 2023.
    - c. Measure C Single Use Cup Tax proposed project and event
    - d. Opal Cliffs Recreation District dissolution and absorption by County Parks
    - e. Park Impact Fees restructuring
    - f. Scott Creek County Beach conservation concerns in a presentation by Point Blue Conservation Science
  10. Received regular reports on the activities of the Aquatics, Maintenance, Planning, Recreation, Reservations, and Volunteers Teams
  11. Were informed of new hires and changes to County Parks staff.

### **PROPOSED 2024-2025 GOALS**

1. Support staff in developing an interim use plan for the County Park located at 188 Whiting Road and work with County Park Friends on fundraising development.
2. Meet with other Park Agency Commissions to exchange ideas and shared goals, in particular with the City of Santa Cruz and City of Watsonville Park Commissions.
3. Prepare letters of support as necessary for various grant opportunities and seek authorization from the Board of Supervisors.
4. Support efforts to collaborate with volunteers and other partners to provide parks, recreation, and cultural opportunities.

5. Support, collaborate, and advise staff on providing services and programs to underserved populations in the County and work towards supporting the County Parks Strategic Plan Equity Goal and the County's Equity Statement.
6. Continue to engage community members and stakeholders regarding Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Spaces and Cultural Services.
7. Support any potential tax initiatives that would benefit the County of Santa Cruz and specifically the Department of Parks, Open Spaces and Cultural Services.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE REPORT 2022**

	<b>Feb. 7, 2022</b>	<b>May 2, 2022 <i>Special Meeting</i></b>	<b>June 6, 2022</b>	<b>Oct. 3, 2022</b>	<b>Dec. 5, 2022</b>
<b>District 1</b>	Vivian Fenner-Evans	Vivian Fenner-Evans	Vivian Fenner-Evans	Katherine Lee	Katherine Lee
<b>District 2</b>	Kate Minott	Kate Minott	Kate Minott	Tricia Wiltshire Potts	Tricia Wiltshire Potts
<b>District 3</b>	Maggie Duncan-Merrell	Maggie Duncan-Merrell		Maggie Duncan-Merrell	Maggie Duncan-Merrell
<b>District 4</b>				Martha Victoria Vega	Martha Victoria Vega
<b>District 5</b>	Jim Rapoza	Monica Martinez	Monica Martinez	Monica Martinez	Monica Martinez
<b>Staff</b>	Jeff Gaffney, Noah Ross	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Noah Ross	Jeff Gaffney, Kim Namba, Noah Ross	Jeff Gaffney, Noah Ross	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Jillian Ritter, Noah Ross

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE REPORT 2023**

	<b>Feb. 6, 2023</b>	<b>June 12, 2023</b>	<b>Aug. 14, 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 11, 2023</b>
<b>District 1</b>	Katherine Lee	Katherine Lee	Katherine Lee	
<b>District 2</b>	Tricia Wiltshire Potts	Tricia Wiltshire Potts		
<b>District 3</b>	Maggie Duncan-Merrell	Jeremy Sanford	Jeremy Sanford	
<b>District 4</b>	Martha Victoria Vega		Martha Victoria Vega (late)	
<b>District 5</b>	Monica Martinez	Monica Martinez	Monica Martinez	
<b>Staff</b>	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Noah Ross	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Anissa Childers, Noah Ross	Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Anissa Childers, Frankie Farr	



# County of Santa Cruz

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## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

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

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

#### Regular Meeting Schedule 2024 Schedule

Monday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 13 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 12 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 18 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

#### Workshop Options

Friday, January 19 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Monday, January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday, February 9 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Monday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.