



# 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

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

### REVISED PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, June 3, 2019  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
Special Meeting

Bear Creek Country Club  
15685 Forest Hill Drive  
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

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

**II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS**

**III. CONSENT AGENDA (Action)**

- A. Approve minutes from April 8, 2019.....Page 2-3
- B. Consider Reports:
  - 1. Aquatics Section Report.....Page 4-6
  - 2. Maintenance Section Report.....Page 7-8
  - 3. Planning Section Report.....Page 9-10
  - 4. Recreation Section Report.....Page 11-14
  - 5. Reservations Section Report .....Page 15-16
  - 6. Volunteer Section Report.....Page 17-18

**IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission but not on today’s agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications.

**V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**VI. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Informational Items**

- 1. Presentation from Michael Beaton, Director of General Services Department, on the Ocean Street Government Center Expanded Access project
- 2. Discussion on withdrawn proposal for needle exchange by Harm Reduction Road Show (Pages 19-22)
- 3. Update on the County Parks Budget
- 4. Update on Bear Creek Country Club facility use and partnership with County Parks

**2. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items**

**3. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING Page 23**

**4. ADJOURNMENT**



# 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

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of April 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

#### I. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Bennett, Mariah Roberts, Kate Minott, Maggie Duncan-Merrell  
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Jennifer Mead

#### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Accept agenda as presented (Minott/Roberts 4/0)

#### III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approved minutes from February 4, 2018 (Minott/Roberts 3/0) (Duncan-Merrell abstained)

B. Accept and file reports as presented (Minott/Roberts 4/0)

#### IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (none)

#### V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Roberts 1<sup>st</sup> District – The fences are up at Chanticleer! My other hat is with Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks, and I want to encourage everyone to spread the word about County Parks Friends. We are trying to build on what we've learned with Chanticleer by creating partnerships to support other projects.

Minott 2<sup>nd</sup> District – Things are going well in 2<sup>nd</sup> district. Park Staff is working with SSA Landscape Architects to install a flushing toilet at Seacliff Village Park. Parents are excited for the Sycamore Concessions at Polo Grounds. I did a check-in with the Hidden Beach Park volunteers and everyone loves the new drinking fountain. They are building there membership and would like to raise funds for the playground.

Bennett 4<sup>th</sup> District – Pajaro Valley Sports Foundation meeting at the end of this month. They are making progress with Freedom school with the pilot program to get two soccer fields out there that can turn into a sports complex down the line. I will have more info for you as that unfolds.

Duncan-Merrell 3<sup>rd</sup> District – My name is Maggie Duncan-Merrell, I was on the City Parks Commission for four years. I was born and raised in Santa Cruz, my daughter has done junior lifeguard for the last 9 years and this is the first year I won't have to worry about weather or not she will be getting into the program! The summer registration for City Parks will open this Saturday for programs and classes. I'm also a landscape designer and firmly believe in keeping maintenance in our parks updated and planting wildlife appropriate foliage that can withstand use from the animals and people that visit parks.

#### VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community*

- Welcome Maggie, we are happy to have you on the Commission!
- We hired a new Parks Superintendent – Rebecca Hurley! She’s been working at Parks for a long time, she started as a recreation volunteer, and before that she was a participant in the summer camps and afterschool programs.
- We’re contracting with a grant writer, Kristina Tierney, to help us apply for grants. She’s worked as a Park Planner and we are fortunate to have her. We’ll be submitting grant applications for the Farm, Heart Of Soquel, and Moran Lake.
- I talked to Capitola-Aptos Rotary to see if they are interested in helping out at Hidden Beach. We are in need of \$100,000 to make the playground renovation possible.
- A few staff members attended the CPRS (California Parks and Recreation Society) conference in Sacramento. The conference always activates and engages staff. I was able to attend one day as well and got a lot out of it and found out how I can save the department more money!
- Chanticleer Park Phase 1 construction started last week. Commissioner Roberts and Tricia Potts have done so much for the project and they were recently honored at the Jefferson Awards for all their work. We were able to honor them at a CPRS Volunteer Awards breakfast as well. We can’t thank them enough. We are trying to get a time lapse camera in place so people can watch the construction phases online.

**VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items**

- a. Presentation on the Pure Water Projects was given by Ron Duncan
- b. Presentation on the Youth Violence Task Force was given by Julie Burr
- c. Presentation on the County Strategic & Operation Plan status was given by Jeff Gaffney
- d. Jeff Gaffney discussed upcoming grant opportunities for the Farm Park and Moran Lake. Commissioners had the opportunity to prioritize park features that were important to their constituents and provide additional suggestions.

**VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items**

- a. Mariah Roberts was elected Chair, and Kate Minott was elected Vice-Chair.  
(Roberts/Rapoza 4/0)

**IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (none)**

**X. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. (Roberts/ Minott 4/0)**



# 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

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

Date: May – June 2019  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Max Friedmann, Interim Aquatics Supervisor  
Subject: Aquatics Section Report

---

**Our modified spring schedule runs May 17<sup>th</sup> through June 7<sup>th</sup> and is as follows:**

**Lap Pool Hours:**

Monday thru Friday: 6:00 am to 7:30 pm  
Saturdays: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Sundays: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Warm Water Pool Hours:**

Monday thru Friday: 6:00 am – 9:30 am  
3:00 pm – 5:00pm  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Saturday: 9:00 – 10:30 am (Adults only)  
10:30 am – 12:30 pm (Adults and children 6 years and under)  
1:00 – 4:00 pm (All ages)

Sunday: 9:00 am – 12:30 pm – (All ages)

**Our summer schedule runs June 8<sup>th</sup> through August 18<sup>th</sup> and is as follows:**

**Lap Pool Hours:**

Monday thru Friday: 6:00 am to 7:30 pm  
Saturdays: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Sundays: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Warm Water Pool Hours:**

Monday thru Friday: 6:00 am – 9:00 am  
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm (Recreation swim with slide)

Saturday: 9:00 – 10:30 am (Adults only)  
10:30 am – 12:30 pm (Adults and children 6 years and under)  
1:00 – 4:00 pm (Recreation swim with slide and WIBIT)

Sunday: 9:00 am – 12:30 pm – (All ages)  
10:30 am – 12:30 pm (Adults and children 6 years and under)  
1:00 – 4:00 pm (Recreation swim with slide and WIBIT)

## **Events**

Join us on May 27th for a special Memorial Day Recreation Swim!



**Including the warm water pool, water slide, 1<sup>st</sup> lane of the lap pool & climbing wall!**

### **Swim lessons**

Spring lessons are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30am – 12:30pm; Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday evenings from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.

### **Water Polo**

Sundays from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Participants must be a member of USAWPA to participate

### **Aquatic Staff Hire**

The department hired 20 new extra-help Lifeguards, 1 new extra-help Head Lifeguards, and 1 new extra-help Aquatic Program Specialist.

### **Pool Junior Lifeguard and Little Guard Program**

The Spring Break Pool Junior Lifeguard Program will be running April 1 - 5 at Simpkins Family Swim Center, Mon – Fri from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm with the option for participants to stay for Recreation swim from 2:00 – 5:00 pm free of charge. The spring program follows similar schedules and activities as our very popular Summer Pool Junior Lifeguard Program and has a special activity day on the last day.

### **Lifeguard Training Classes**

Lifeguard Training Classes are being offered and will continue through the end of April. Most classes will be held on Friday evenings and Saturdays; fees are \$310 for residents and \$341 for non-residents. As well, Simpkins Family Swim Center will also be offering limited courses in First Aid for Public Safety Personnel (CA Title 22). Interested candidates can find more information on the parks website at [www.scparks.com](http://www.scparks.com). All course materials are included in the course fees.

### **Aquatic Staff Recruitment**

The following positions are currently open: Head Lifeguard and Aquatic Specialist.

### **Private Pool Parties**

Private Pool Parties are available on Saturdays & Sundays. A variety of aspects of the facility may be rented for Private Pool Parties, from just the warm pool to aspects accommodating up to 110 people. Private Pool Parties are scheduled on weekends, spring, summer and fall, after the facility has closed to the public.

### **School Parties**

Once again local schools will be renting the facility for their end of the year parties starting May 20th and continuing until June 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adult Fitness Swimming**

Adult Fitness Swimming is very popular at the Simpkins Family Swim Center. The best-attended workouts are Tuesday and Saturday mornings; up to 35 swimmers fill the 50-meter pool at these times. Fitness swimmers may choose from several different workout times: Mondays 6:00 am; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday workouts are at 6:00 am and 12:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 am. Starting in March we also have begun to offer a Saturday afternoon class every other Saturday which has so far been well attended.

For the past two months we have been offering an Introduction to Lap Swimming Class and an Introduction to Adult Fitness class on Wednesday and Thursday mornings which have continually gained attendance numbers. Beginning in April we will be offering an Introduction to Lap Swimming Class on Saturdays so swimmers that work during the week can take advantage of this great class.

### **Water Aerobics & Exercise**

The water exercise classes this year continue to reach their highest capacity to date. Water exercise is an excellent way for people to meet their fitness goals without impact on the joints. Classes are designed to appeal to all levels of ability including healthy, pre-natal, seniors, and rehabilitating or cross training fitness enthusiasts. A monthly calendar is available with dates, times and instructors' names. Previous swimming or water-exercise experience is not required for participation in any of the water exercise classes.

### **Lifeguard Training Exercises**

The lifeguard in-service in May was shallow water spinal rescues. For June we will have two very large in-service trainings with all staff included in preparation for the busy summer season.

### **Swim Teams**

The Aptos Cabrillo Swim Club and Quicksilver Swimming swim teams continue to rent lanes in the 50-meter pool. The swim teams offer school-age competitive swimming programs Monday through Friday from 4:00-7:30pm. Soquel High School will also be using our facility for their practices Monday through Friday 7:30-8:30pm while their new pool finishes up being constructed.

### **Pool Closures and Holiday Schedule**

There is one scheduled closure for pool maintenance on Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Live Oak Community Rooms**

The Live Oak Community Rooms at the swim center are now rented out regularly throughout the year for meetings, small events and classes.



JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

# 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

Date: May – June 2019  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Eric Sturm & Rebecca Hurley, Parks Superintendents  
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

---

### North

- Davenport Landing new restroom construction bid was received and we are moving forward with the company
- Staff have been diligently working on taking down the weeds at the Juvenile Probation building, Emeline Complex, the Government Center, Simpkins Swim Center and Graham Hill Showgrounds.
- Greyhound Rock Beach tree debris is being removed to clear the parking spaces prior to summer
- A building inspector came out to Quail Hollow Ranch and briefed staff on what to focus on for Capital Improvements
- Staff corrected the fence line at Pleasure Point Park per Coastal Commission permit
- Water slide got signed off by Cal-OSHA, good for another summer.
- Staff replaced a water intake cover in the 50M pool at Simpkins Swim Center which had caused a lane to be closed for almost a week.
- Volunteers helped to improve and re-paint the horseshoe pits at Jose Ave. Park.
- New soccer goals have been installed at Anna Jean Cummings Park.
- Chanticleer Park construction is underway, and a new work zone camera was installed with a link to it from the Parks Department website.
- DPW has officially handed over Twin Lakes beachfront to Parks and we have started providing maintenance needs for it.
- The trail from 30<sup>th</sup> Ave to Moran Lake trail is slated to be renovated mid July 2019.

### South

- Scott Park had irregular wind damage to trees during an unseasonal storm in May
- One of the old soccer goals from AJC was placed at Scott Park to create a “half-court” soccer play area in an underutilized space
- Polo Grounds county park is picking up in usage and trash removal and weed abatement needs continue to keep staff busy.
- High grass mowing was completed at all needed South County Parks to meet the deadline for fire safety of June 2, 2019.
- Staff are participating in the County’s PRIMO (continuous improvement process initiative) for re-routing staff routes for time efficiency.
- Huge effort at Shore Trail to prepare it for summer season

## **Veterans Building**

- Elevator is old and keeps breaking (1932 original installation). OEM and generic parts no longer available. Staff exploring opportunities for replacement.
- Vets Board conducting interviews for new Building manager. Several good candidates. By next Parks Commission meeting we should know more about that.
- HVAC not working properly; one room freezes, the other too hot. Staff is remedying.
- Several big names who rent the building are signing up for additional reservations for more shows. Very good news!!



# 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

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

Date: May – June 2019  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Sheryl Bailey, Project Manager & Will Fourt, Park Planner  
Subject: Planning Section Report

---

### **Felton Library**

Staff has been working with consultants and partners on construction documents and has submitted the building permit application and is working on revisions for resubmittal. The project is now out to bid and bids are due on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The California Conservation Corps have been working removing invasive weeds from the site. Staff has set up a contract with a graphic design team to do the interpretive panels.

**Chanticleer Park:** The construction contract was awarded to Granite Construction, and construction of Phase I, including LEO's Haven inclusive playground, parking, restroom, pathways, community garden and interim dog areas and pump track, is underway.

### **Quail Hollow Brook Restoration Grant**

Planning staff and Jim Williams of Friends of Quail Hollow Ranch walked the site together and reviewed the graphic artist team's conceptual outline of the grant funded interpretive signage. Volunteers are being sought to maintain the grant funded trail and brook restoration work in October 2019.

### **Heart of Soquel Phase 2 & 3**

The Soquel Creek Linear Parkway project (a.k.a. Heart of Soquel Phases 2 and 3) was awarded nearly \$1.5 million dollars by the California Natural Resources Agency for our CA River Parkways Grant application. On 5/23/19, the Heart of Soquel (HOS) Phase 3 Design Development was approved in record time by the Planning Department. Parks Planning staff and the SSA design team are currently developing the River Parkways grant funded building permit plans. The CA Conservation Corps have completed another two days of the ATP CCC grant funded riparian restoration work on HOS Phase 2. Construction of the trail and other major improvements may begin as soon as Fall 2019 or Spring 2020, pending building permit approvals.

### **Farm Phase 2**

Recently it was determined that grant applications for the Statewide Park and the Green Infrastructure Programs will be submitted. If awarded these grants will allow the Parks Dept. to complete most of the previously approved Master Development Permit recreational and related amenities and will include a permanent Bike Jump/Pump track. Planning staff is working with the design team to conduct five community meetings, complete other grant deliverables and

submit a planning application within the next two months. On 5/21/19, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the Waterways Contract for them to complete most of the design work related to the above.

**Seacliff Village Park Phase 2-** Planning staff and SSA Landscape Architects Inc met with members of the public and Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks to develop a scope of work. The proposed work will result in the construction of a permanent restroom, shade structure, and installation of memorial trees & benches. Three alternatives for the shade structure will be presented for the Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks' Consideration in the next couple of months.



# County of Santa Cruz

---

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062  
(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940

Date: May – June 2019  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator  
Subject: Recreation Section Report

---

### **Art Exhibitions**

Marie Massey's paintings will be on exhibition at the Simpkins Family Swim Center / Parks office through early August. At the County Government Center on the first and fifth floors through July 26: photographs by Mark Overgaard and Leon Canerot, paintings by Aaron Johnson and Janas Smith Durkee, and sculptures by Jeff Arnett.

### **La Selva Beach Library Public Art Project**

The selection panel met on May 23 to interview the two finalists for the project. Their recommendation will go the Arts Commission for their consideration on June 10.

### **Cell Tower Equipment Cabinet Art**

A selection panel met in February to choose a local artist, from among seven proposals, to paint a cell tower cabinet in Davenport, CA. Similar in nature to the County's "Outside the Box" program where drab traffic controller boxes are colorfully transformed by local artists, this project seeks to beautify a newly-installed utility cabinet which houses cell tower equipment. Vanessa Stafford was selected and will begin work as soon as weather permits. Similar future projects of this nature are planned for additional sites in Davenport, as well as in Live Oak on Portola Drive.

### **Behavioral Health Office Building (BHOB) Public Art Project**

Bruce Harman was selected as the public artist for the BHOB Public Art Project. Mr. Harman's project consists of three elements: an approximately 30' W x 12' L outdoor mural, four garden butterflies (each 20" W x 18" H) installed in the garden on 4' steel posts, and an indoor mural approximately 20' L x 8' H, which will serve as a background for client artwork created in staff- and therapist-led workshops. Bruce has completed fabrication of the four garden butterflies, and work will soon begin on the indoor mural.

### **Artist of the Year**

Poet and writer Ellen Bass was named 2019 Artist of the Year by the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission. Over 150 people enjoyed her "Profile Performance" on May 11 from 7-9PM at the Simpkins Family Swim Center, where Ellen read from her poetry and talked about how she makes her poems.

### **Adult and Senior Programs**

On May 31, Senior Mall Walk program participants will have their hard work acknowledged at the Mall Walkers 29<sup>th</sup> annual awards ceremony. Many walkers will receive awards for attaining their goals and reaching new mileage categories. Volunteers for the program will also be honored and recognized for their hard work and dedication. Lastly, we will raffle off great prizes donated by generous area merchants.

On June 2, trip-goers will enjoy a cruise on the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta exploring its cultural and natural history. Next, they will disembark in Rio Vista, where they will have time to visit the Rio Vista Museum and have lunch on their own. Lastly, we will travel to the nearby Western Railway Museum, where they will be treated to a car house tour and an approximate one-hour ride aboard a restored historic electric rail car.

### **Spring Camp & Mar Vista ACE**

Many of the Mar Vista ACE participants attended Spring Camp, held April 1-5 at Aptos Village Park, which included a field trip to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk and a variety of theme-related activities. Mar Vista ACE resumed the following week; the children spent time learning about inventors and inventions, making their own inventions, and participating in a STEAM project using Legos to build ziplines. The following week we learned about fuzzy animals, with a visit by a petting zoo offering the kids a fun afternoon of seeing and touching bunnies, chickens, ducks, pigs and goats. The next week was dedicated to science projects – highlights of the week included making parachutes and roller coasters, as well as a field trip to Whole Foods where the kids went behind the scenes in the meat department and bakery and learned about the operations of a working grocery store. We rounded out the month of April with “Goodness Snakes,” who brought reptiles to share and educate; all the participants enjoyed holding the snakes! School-year programming ends in less than a month, and summer camp is scheduled to begin on June 10 at the Selva Beach Summer Camp!

### **Girls Paving the Way**

Wednesday workshops: Participants in Girls Paving the Way have had a variety of fun programs with County Parks. Cooking projects have been a favorite among the girls, and watching them share ingredients, work together, and serve each other has been truly amazing. Cooking seems to be so positive for them, because they set aside their differences, they drop whatever drama or difficulty they were dealing with during school, and they focus on creating something delicious with friends. The social-emotional benefit is very strong. Recently participants have made pancakes, tacos, cookies, and sushi. Now that we have single burner hot plates and frying pans, the girls are not just learning prep, but understanding how to work with heat, and how to be safe doing so. We have also done a number of art projects. The girls have learned to sew, and gotten a lot of practice sewing together small monsters and other figurines. They also had the chance to paint small pots, and plant succulents to take home and care for. On a few occasions staff will spend the day playing games and chatting with the girls. These days are important for building rapport, and giving the girls a space to feel supported, and just to be a kid!

Friday workshops: During May’s first two Friday workshops, participants made Mother’s Day gifts -- the girls were pleased to take home a gift that they made that day. On May 25, Dr. Judith Garcia attend the GIRLS Paving the Way workshop and spoke about her journey as a Latina woman, becoming a Dr. of Medicine, and her successes and failures on that path. Friday, May 31 is the last day of the program this school year; we will have birthday celebrations and prepare for the end-of-year celebration, scheduled for June 3, which will highlight program participants’ progress made this year. Staff will display pictures of the girls participating in Parks workshop activities and some of their fantastic artwork will be showcased.

GPW partners will meet for a quarterly partner retreat hosted by Growing Up Wild at their camp facility on Thurs., May 30.

### **Mar Vista Kinder and TK**

Mar Vista Elementary Kindergarten Registration Day was held on April 10 and over 20 families attended. As the ambassador of the Kinder Enrichment Program, Heather Heider was available for questions about the flow of the program and different registration options, with 15 families expressing interest in enrolling their children in the program, which will resume in August. April highlights at the KE/Tk program included a discussion about recycling, reducing and reusing different items in our lives, as well as painting a mural. Continuing into May, appreciation week was full of crafts made from the heart to share with someone special. The children also went on a fantasy airplane trip to a luau.

### **La Selva Beach ACE Program**

LSB ACE is preparing to wrap up yet another sensational school year and looking ahead to an exciting La Selva Beach Summer Camp! Recent weekly themes at La Selva Beach ACE included Green and Growing week, with exciting new craft activities. Another recent theme was Amazing Earth week with activities such as a new bio-color blotter craft, a game of target practice, monster ball, a new Peeps House craft and a new anti-gravity galaxy jar! The recreation division also recently ran its annual Summer Youth Volunteer Training in preparation for La Selva Beach Summer Camp and other summer programs within our division. Teens from local school were trained on how to assist staff working with children at our summer programs. Training included role playing within different situations they may find themselves in and how to successfully handle the situations. We also discussed many important topics and had fun playing running tag games while learning how to successfully lead activities. We are very much looking forward to La Selva Beach Summer Camp!

### **Quail Hollow Ranch**

April and May were two of Quail Hollow Ranch's busiest months of 2019. This year, The Department of Fish and Wildlife decided on allowing 15 people only for each Sandhills excursion, and a total of 5 hikes- each Sunday in April, and the first in May. All five were at capacity with a waiting list.

Quail Hollow's continued partnership with the UC Master Gardener program has been positive for all involved. The Master Gardeners were here most recently on April 7 for a workshop on container gardening that brought over 50 visitors to the Ranch; they'll be back June 2 for a succulent workshop and swap.

Coast Redwoods Montessori, Tara Redwood School, and Quail Hollow Montessori all visited the Ranch in April for outdoor science field trips. Students learned about ecosystems and adaptations, how to be better stewards, and practiced observation and inquiry-based science.

The Fungus Federation came to QHR for a fun Mushroom 101 event. From 9-1 people from the federation lead foray's, inoculation workshops, and cooking demonstrations. Participants got to go home with bellies full of mushroom soup and other mushroom snacks, and bags of straw that they got to inoculate themselves with blue oyster mushrooms. It was a community event around education, conversation, and mushrooms -- a great day to be a QHR.

Quail Hollow Kitchens ran a Science of Sourdough class in the historic kitchen of Quail Hollow Ranch; participants left with sourdough cultures and the skills to bake delicious sourdough bread at home.

On May 10, staff went to their final teacher leadership institute with the County Office of Education. Throughout the last year, staff has been working to create field trip curriculum for teachers. Quail Hollow Ranch now offers a five-lesson sequence of environmental science for teachers.

A Mosaic Garden Stone program was held at QHR on Mother's Day. In this one program, there were three generations of family members working together and everyone had a blast.

The Santa Cruz Fly Fishing Club came to QHR for their annual BBQ. It poured rain most of the day, but they still brought over 40 people to the event. There were history talks, gear demonstrations, fly-tying workshops, casting practice, and delicious food.

Staff had the opportunity to attend the 2019 Children and Nature Network Conference in Oakland. This is an international conference that brings together outdoor education leaders around the world to share ideas for moving forward. Speaker panels, breakout sessions, workshops, and networking for three days left staff with tools to be more effective leaders, and ideas for programming and partnerships.

June 10 begins the first ever Zombie Camp held at Quail Hollow Ranch. The third and fourth weeks of June will see two sessions of a Nature Adventure Camp at QHR, aimed at getting kids comfortable in nature, and adverse situations, all while having fun and exploring.



# 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

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

Date: May – June 2019  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Mary Chavez, Program Coordinator  
Subject: Reservations Section Report

---

### **Summary for Reservations in the Parks:**

#### **Overall Facilities Reservation Summary:**

February and March have been typical for off season events with ongoing programming on park grounds and rentals of picnic areas, meeting rooms, centers, and athletic fields. Staff estimates that approximately 24,000 park visitors attended programs and events in reserved facilities at County Parks this month.

There were 5 events hosted at park centers and 126 meeting room rentals. Revenues totaled \$10,000 for these two months.

The season for athletic field use began late February for baseball and softball fields, while soccer fields were opened at the end of March. Due to the rainy weather conditions during these two months, fields were closed intermittently for rainouts and some opening dates were delayed in order to complete field preparation. Revenues prior to rainout credits for these two months totaled \$14,000.

Use of the reservable picnic areas have increased during the months of February and March, with 33 rentals for parties and family events taking place so far, as compared to 4 rentals in January. The newly added reservable picnic area at Jose Avenue Park opened on February 1<sup>st</sup> and made up 10% of these bookings. The Highlands Park picnic area will once again be available as of April 1<sup>st</sup> and the new group picnic area at Scott Park is being planned. Revenues for February and March total \$4,000.

#### **General Park Use:**

**Tara Redwood School** provides bi-weekly recess and outside lunch activities at the Heart of Soquel Park. Fitness programs include: the **Fit4Mom Santa Cruz**, which offers Stroller Strides workouts three times a week at Felt Street, Anna Jean Cummings and Seascape Park. **Julie Grant Yoga** provides bi-weekly yoga programs at Highlands Park. **Good Dog Santa Cruz** provides weekly dog training at Willowbrook Park. **Pickleball** continues weekly/bi-weekly use of courts at Brommer Street and Willowbrook Park.

### **County Parks Special Events, Administration:**

Updates to the County Parks Commemorative Program were approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 26<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to effectively administer the Program and better meet community needs and requests, there are several revisions to the Program. These include: name change from Commemorative Tree, Bench & Picnic Table Program to Commemorative Program; expansion of available commemorative features and potential specialty projects; and, a renewal option after the end of a 10-year term, with original donors receiving right of first refusal to renew. Staff has prepared draft public information materials and plans to reach out to former donors and give them right of first refusal to renew installations that have exceeded the original 10-year term.

The RFP process for the Polo Grounds and The Hook Concessions Opportunities has been completed and one proposal was received per site, both from Sycamore Concessions. They have been issued new exclusive concessionaire permits for both sites and are moving forward with plans to begin concession sales as soon as health permits are issued.

Facilities staff is currently training 4 new hires of Park Services Officers (PSO). There are typically 8-10 extra help PSO's that provide an integral, seasonal role for the Department as they act as facility attendants for all private rentals of Park centers, assist with staffing special events, provide various levels of on-site enforcement of Park rules and ordinance, and provide support for office staff. Three of the new staff have volunteered in the Parks and Sheriff volunteer programs. The event season is gearing up, so we look forward to preparing staff for another successful season.



# 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

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

Date: March – June 2019  
To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator  
Subject: Volunteer Program Report

---

### NORTH COUNTY

#### Scott Creek Beach

The Tai Kappa Epsilon UCSC fraternity did their final day of volunteering for their school year at Scott Creek beach by staining the wood sand barrier that they have previously installed. This group was recognized at the Board of Supervisors Meeting for being Outstanding Volunteers.

Jay Todd, volunteer on the North Coast continues to pick up trash rain or shine! He puts in approximately 20 hours each month.

#### Quail Hollow Ranch

Nest Box program is continuing. All the boxes are up and the volunteers are actively going to monitor the birds and maintain the habitat to protect them with hopes to increase their population.

The Volunteer Trail Crew of 6 regularly meets Tuesday mornings to maintain the trails

On May 14<sup>th</sup> our docents Richard and Kathy James hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> in a series of 10 visits from various Senior Centers around the County at Quail Hollow Ranch. The seniors are transported to Quail Hollow Ranch in Meals on Wheels vans. The seniors get to enjoy their lunch at our beautiful park and learn about the history from our docents.

A past volunteer Summer Cotton created a digital photo book of weddings at Quail Hollow. It is being reviewed and will be ready for print to show when people are interested in reserving the QH Park for weddings and events.

#### Anna Jean Cummings Park

VIP Volunteer Carl Silverberg has spent over 20 hours creating a new trail and maintaining current trails at Anna Jean Park.

#### Parks Office

Parks Service Officer, Natalie Hoffman will be covering the volunteer program and helping with volunteer events while Margaret is away on vacation in Europe!

Volunteer, David Kwan continues to help in office on T/Th 10-1pm

## **SOUTH COUNTY**

### **Pinto Lake Park**

VIP Volunteers Dave Suno and Scott MacDonald have spent over 20 hours maintaining Pinto Lake trails.

New signs have been printed for the Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course and have been installed!

### **Junior Recreation Volunteers**

2 Volunteer Work Days during National Volunteer Week! Jose Ave. Park welcomed 20 volunteers, including 10 middle schoolers from Shoreline who heard about the event from their teacher! We weeded, cleaned the playground sand and signs, and completely uncovered the horseshoe pit. At Scott Park volunteers showed up ready to paint, now the bathrooms have a fresh new coat of paint!

Coming in June, 80 middle school students will be at Aptos Village Park to stain the built-in wood benches and posts, and re-paint the no parking area red.

# Santa Cruz County community responds to proposed mobile needle handout

Public comment window closes Friday

By [Jessica A. York](#) | [jyork@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:jyork@santacruzsentinel.com) | Santa Cruz Sentinel

PUBLISHED: May 19, 2019 at 2:45 pm | UPDATED: May 22, 2019 at 3:08 pm



Thousands of clean hypodermic needles were distributed and a similar amount of used syringes collected by the Harm Reduction Coalition on one day last month at the former homeless camp behind Gateway Plaza. (Dan Coyro — Santa Cruz Sentinel file)

SCOTTS VALLEY — This week, the Scotts Valley City Council joined a growing list of public officials voicing objections to a proposed [mobile hypodermic needle distribution program](#).

The Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County's application for state backing of the new needle access program has come under local fire during the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS' 45-day public comment window, which closes Friday



City workers found hundreds of drug injection needles left behind in vacated tents at the Ross camp earlier this month. (Dan Coyro — Santa Cruz Sentinel file)

According to her [application to the state](#), coalition leader Denise Elerick is applying to offer once-a-week services in Santa Cruz’s Harvey West neighborhood, Felton’s Covered Bridge Park, a triangular area south of San Juan Road in Pajaro and at a fixed site at the Salvation Army in Watsonville, though the Salvation Army’s Capt. Harold Laubach Jr. has denied on social media his approval of the group’s use of his site.

In the latest program denouncement, the City Council voted Wednesday to send a letter to the Department of Public Health in opposition of the program’s certification and authorized Police Chief Steve Walpole to do the same. The city joins law enforcement and elected officials from across the county. Councilman Jim Reed, who requested the item be put on last week’s agenda, said studies show lives are saved “if you’ve got a well-regulated needle exchange program where they have access to services, where they can get counseling, hopefully get treated for their addiction.” The proposed mobile program, he said, was not that.

According to its state certification application, the Harm Reduction Road Show will provide sterile syringes in addition to syringe disposal and education on proper disposal practices; overdose prevention and naloxone distribution; harm reduction and first aid supplies; referrals to HIV/HCV testing, vaccinations, substance use disorder treatment and services for people experiencing homelessness.

Vice Mayor Randy Johnson joined his council peers in raising concerns about the program's naming of the Felton Covered Bridge County Park as a site for needle distribution, saying he feared that needle giveaways amount to "almost like tacit approval," compared to putting more funding "into a positive resolution and treatment."

"If you have a problem with alcohol, we don't send around a beverage cart with Jack Daniels minis or something like that to help out, because that doesn't benefit them," Johnson said.

Mayor Jack Dilles said he believed proponents of the mobile program desired to help those struggling with drug addiction but critiqued the group's method of moving forward. Scotts Valley and neighboring Felton want to "project a wholesome healthy image and grow our tourism and not shoot ourselves in the foot," he said.

"I looked at the rules online, and this could be a local decision. This group has the option of applying either through local jurisdictions, city councils or supervisors or to the state," Dilles said. "And they chose to go to the state. And I think this should be more of a local discussion and decision so we have more local control."

## **First-hand experience**

Scotts Valley resident Sharon de Jong also has been among those vocal in her concerns about the mobile program's organization. She wrote a letter to council members, asking them to take a stance on the budding effort.

An addict in recovery who has been clean for more than 27 years, de Jong said she supports sterile syringe programs with connected health, treatment and counseling services, but is "terrified" about a program secondary to the county-run Syringe Services Program. She's particularly worried that the grassroots program's efforts to ensure that those receiving the needles are at least 18 years old may not be as stringent as the county's. Ideally, de Jong said, the public outcry will put a "pause button" on the Harm Reduction Road Show, derailing efforts to "normalize the drug lifestyle."

"You don't need a prescription to buy syringes, you can go in — they're 50 cents. If the guy's got enough money and enough wherewithal to go meet his dope dealer a quarter mile away, they've got the wherewithal to walk into Walgreens and buy syringes, too," de Jong said. "Some people might say, well, that's shameful and stigmatizing. Well, you know, that's part of addiction. There are shame-producing things that we do, that just comes with the territory."

While many who have spoken out against the program have highlighted their preference for a program that, like the county's program, have a "one-to-one" needle exchange policy, the state, said Elerick in a previous interview, does not certify new programs that limit needle exchanges to one-for-one, as that procedure is no longer considered "best practice" by state health officials. The county syringe program is regularly under public fire, including in a [June 2017 grand report](#) highlighting

increasing needle litter, less-than-full transparency and limits on public access to services.

In addition to community members raising alarms on social media and at least [one Change.org petition's](#) more than 1,400 signatures as of Friday, other public opponents to the program to date have included Santa Cruz County Sheriff Jim Hart, Santa Cruz Police Chief Andy Mills, Watsonville Police Chief Dave Honda and Santa Cruz County Supervisors Bruce McPherson and Ryan Coonerty.

## Officials weigh in

"I cannot support a needle exchange expansion without local oversight and accountability, a plan to reduce discarded needles and ensuring the effectiveness of reducing infection rates," Santa Cruz Police Chief Mills [wrote in his blog](#) last month. "When these standards are met, I'll gladly support a harm reduction program expansion."

"A new exchange would rob the County's exchange of the opportunity to connect with clients, counsel them and connect them to treatment," County Supervisors Coonerty and McPherson wrote to the state. "Santa Cruz County has worked very hard to design and implement a Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System, which has significantly expanded treatment capacity and the County's syringe program is in the best position to be able to connect injection drug users with treatment."

"I am not aware of any outreach by the Harm Reduction Coalition to the proposed communities they would serve. The Board of Supervisors, the business community, the Parks Department, the schools and I were not contacted about this proposed program," Sheriff Hart wrote to the state. "If outreach were done, I believe the Harm Reduction Coalition would hear that this program is not wanted or needed."

"In reviewing the application, I am concerned regarding the following issues," Watsonville Police Chief Honda wrote to the state. "The applicant refers to a "significant overdose increase" in the City of Watsonville in 2018. In reviewing our statistical data there is no indication of an increase in overdoses in our City, in fact, there was no change from 2017 to 2018.

The applicant makes no distinction between overdoses from those involving syringes to those related to pills or alcohol. Our statistical data indicates the majority of our reported overdoses were from the use of pills and alcohol, not syringes."

## WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING:

The Written Correspondence Listing is established to act as a report of materials received by the Commission as a whole, but may also include items requested for inclusion by individual Commissioners.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has received the following items of correspondence which require no official action by the Commission at this time:

1. Email from Big Joe 77, dated April 27, 2019, expressing concern for needle distribution at Felton Covered Bridge Park
2. Email from Big Joe 77, dated April 29, 2019, expressing concern for needle distribution at Felton Covered Bridge Park
3. Email from John & Linda Brown, dated May 28, 2019 in support of funding County Park Rangers