

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, August 10th, 2026
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Regular Meeting

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

Agenda documents (including updates, revisions and additional materials) are available for review in person at the *Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms*, 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062, and electronically on the County's website, Parks and Recreation Commission, at:

<https://parks.santacruzcountyca.gov/Home/AboutUs/ParksRecreationCommission>

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 8-9)

Regular Agenda

5. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

6. PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. [Greyhound County Park](#) – Rob Tidmore, Principle Planner
- b. [New Commissioner Report Outline & Structure](#) – Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha, PRC Liaison

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.

8. **Approve minutes from June 8th, 2026**..... page 3.
9. **Consider Reports:**
 - a. Aquatics Section Report..... page 6.
 - b. Arts and Cultural Services Report..... page 7.
 - c. Maintenance Section Report..... page 9.
 - d. Planning Section Report..... page 11.
 - e. Recreation Section Report..... page 16.
 - f. Reservations Section Report..... page 18.
 - g. Volunteer Section Report..... page 19.

Written Correspondence Listing

- I. None

Adjournment

NEXT MEETING DATE:

5:00 PM *Tuesday*, October 13th, 2026

Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms

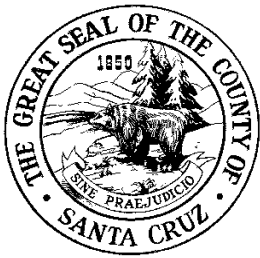
TRANSLATION SERVICES/SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION

Spanish language translation is available on an as needed basis. Please make arrangements at least 72 hours in advance at the Parks, Open Spaces, & Cultural Services Department, 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA; or by email at ParksCommission@parks.santacruzcountyca.gov.

Las sesiones de la Comisión de Parques y Recreación del Condado de Santa Cruz pueden ser traducidas del inglés al español y del español al inglés. Por favor, haga los arreglos con al menos 72 horas de antelación con el Departamento de Parques, Espacios Abiertos y Servicios Culturales, 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA; o por correo electrónico a ParksCommission@parks.santacruzcountyca.gov.

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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, is 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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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 8th, 2026
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** Meeting called to order by Chair de Sieyes at 5:01 PM.

Present: Nick de Sieyes (District 2), Jeremy Sanford (District 3), Elizabeth Hernandez (District 4) & Anne Less (District 5)

Absent: Alexis Konevich (District 1)

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

2. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** No modifications.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** 3 members of the public.
4. **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA** (items 8-9)

Approved consent agenda – Motion/Second: Sanford/Hernandez

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

Regular Agenda

5. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

District 1: Absent.

District 2: Reported continued involvement with the organized youth sports community in South County as President of the Aptos Soccer Club. Shared that the spring season concluded successfully, with approximately 200 local youth using County Parks fields exclusively. Noted that financial assistance was provided to all families who requested it and expressed appreciation to Parks staff and the maintenance team for their work maintaining the fields. Looking forward to the upcoming summer season.

District 3: Reported visiting Davenport Landing Beach after receiving concerns from a resident about reduced sand coverage in one area. Observed that the conditions have made beach access more challenging and could create safety concerns for surfers. Shared photos and observations with Parks staff and expressed hope that the area can be evaluated for potential improvements.

District 4: Reported that the second Valle del Pájaro County Park community workshop was held successfully, with a third workshop scheduled for June 23rd. Noted that the district has otherwise

been quiet and looks forward to increased community engagement opportunities during the summer.

District 5: Reported several recent milestones, including the opening of the Pace Trail and the groundbreaking for the Felton Covered Bridge Pump Track project in partnership with Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship. Shared that community feedback on the pump track has been overwhelmingly positive. Also noted participating in a meeting organized by the District 5 Supervisor, Monica Martinez, that brought together commissioners from multiple County commissions, providing an opportunity to identify areas for collaboration on shared issues. Lastly, reported receiving community feedback expressing concerns about the proposed parking pilot program.

6. PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gaffney reported that recreation and aquatics programming revenue is exceeding previous years, helping support free community programs. He shared updates on the restoration of Greyhound Rock County Park and the plans to expand outdoor education programming at the site. Additional updates included the opening of the Pace Wilderness Property, improvements to the soccer fields at Polo Grounds County Park, removal of the gates at Ben Lomond County Park, and more consistent hot water at the Simpkins Family Swim Center locker rooms.

Director Gaffney shared that the Moran Lake Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan is scheduled for a public hearing before the Board of Supervisors in August. The Planning team continues work on the Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study, with ongoing stakeholder engagement and upcoming community outreach events. He noted that the next Valle del Pájaro County Park community workshop is scheduled for June 23. County Parks hired 27 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Workers (PRCW) to support summer programming. He also briefly discussed and reminded the commission of the upcoming Budget Hearing at the Board of Supervisors.

7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. County Parks Summer Activities – Sarah Shea, Parks Superintendent

Sarah Shea provided an overview of the various programs going on at County Parks this summer. She highlighted activities of the arts program, aquatics, reservations and recreation teams.

b. Valle del Pájaro County Park Master Plan Activity – Rob Tidmore, Principle Planner

Park Principle Planner, Rob Tidmore, led commissioners through a “design your own park” activity. Commissioners were provided a map of Valle del Pájaro County Park and various amenities. County Parks Planning staff have been doing the same activity with constituents at the workshops. Results of this activity will be used to inform the park’s Master Plan.

Consent Agenda

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8. Approve minutes from April 13th, 2026..... page 3.

9. Consider Reports:

- a. Aquatics Section Report..... page 7.
- b. Arts and Cultural Services Report..... page 8.
- c. Maintenance Section Report..... page 10.
- d. Planning Section Report..... page 12.
- e. Recreation Section Report..... page 16.
- f. Reservations Section Report..... page 17.
- g. Volunteer Section Report..... page 18.

Written Correspondence Listing

- I. [Letter from Lynn Dunn – Santa Cruz County EEO Officer & ADA Compliance](#)

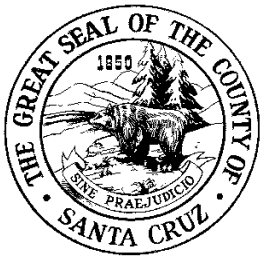
Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

5:00 PM Monday, August 10th, 2026

Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms

DRAFT



County of Santa Cruz

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979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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

Date: July 31st, 2026
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Anissa Childers, Aquatic Supervisor
Subject: Aquatic Section Report

Programming

We have successfully completed eight weeks of summer programming and are heading into our final week! This summer, we served 480 Junior Guard participants and 270 Little Guard participants, reflecting another strong season of youth aquatic programming.

We continued to offer swim lessons throughout the summer with both Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday sessions, along with weekend lessons.

In partnership with County Park Friends, we offered swim lessons with our private contractor, Sunshine. These sessions had full enrollment and served a large percentage of the community through swimming scholarships.

Facility Usage and Adult Programming

Since June, the facility has recorded 4,836 membership check-ins, not including daily drop-in admissions, making overall facility usage even higher.

Our adult programming also continued to see strong participation, with 1,876 Adult Fitness class check-ins and 966 Water Aerobics class check-ins.

Hiring and Training

We have put a hold on hiring since our big Summer hire the last week of May. We plan on recruiting for our Fall season in September.

Due to the high volume of summer programming, we do not offer American Red Cross certification courses during the summer months. We plan to resume these training opportunities in September as we transition into our fall programming schedule.

Upcoming Programming and Events

This summer, we hosted two Light Up the Night after-hours family pool parties, both of which were tremendous successes and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from families!

The first event, **Luau Night**, welcomed 184 registered participants, along with more than 50 additional drop-in guests. Our second event, **Under the Sea**, attracted 242 registered participants, plus more than 50 additional drop-ins.

These themed evening events have become a favorite for families, providing a fun and unique community experience outside of regular operating hours. Based on the great feedback, we are hoping to host one additional Light Up the Night event with another special theme in August or September.



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

Date: July 31st, 2026
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Kathy DeWild, Arts Program Coordinator
Subject: Arts & Cultural & Interpretive Activities - Section Report

Spotlight Award for Emerging Artists

The Santa Cruz County Parks Department is pleased to announce the **Santa Cruz County Arts Commission's 2026 Spotlight Award** recipients: *Tish Bertino* (Visual Artist), and *Barbara Martin* (Drummer/Percussionist). The artists' work will be exhibited on the 5th floor of the County Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, from August 3rd to October 9th, 2026. Join the artists for a [First Friday opening reception on August 7th from 5-7 P.M.](#)

The natural world serves as the source of inspiration for Tish Bertino's paintings, where she invites and encourages the viewer to visit real and imaginary places where shape, vibrant color, luminous light, and a sense of movement provide literal form to the pieces. Tish's style is loose and expressive impressionist. A longtime resident of Santa Cruz, Tish runs and hikes through the woods and along the ocean allowing nature's beauty to feed her soul and inspire her works. She returned to school in her mid-thirties to earn both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from San Jose State University. For several years she taught art in local elementary schools. Tish considers the process of creating art essential to leading a balanced and meaningful life and finds painting as a source of immense joy.

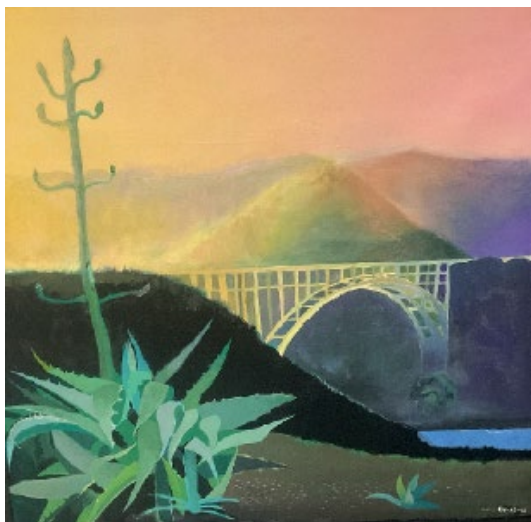


Barbara Martin is a Drummer and Multi-Percussionist, originally from Guantanamo City, Cuba. While studying music at Colegio Santa Clara in Cuba, she had the opportunity to perform with the Harvard Symphony Orchestra, as well as other traditional and popular Cuban bands. She also gained extensive teaching experience while in college by teaching music at the middle and high school levels. Arriving to the United States in 2016, she has taught music in various schools and performed in different bands throughout California. She is currently studying Music at Cabrillo College as well as working as a TA for the Music Department, where she also co-directs the Cabrillo Latin Jazz

Ensemble. She currently directs, plays drums/percussion and is the lead singer in various local bands including El Sol, La Otra Banda, and The Peacoat Project.

Through the Spotlight Award, the County Arts Commission publicly recognizes individuals who have achieved a high level of excellence and creativity in their work, but who have not received widespread acknowledgment of their talent. This annual award recognizes younger artists as well as those who are discovering their artistic voice later in life. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2xbu3nmk>.

Art Exhibitions



At 701 Ocean St. (1st & 5th floors) through mid-October:
The annual County Employee Art Exhibition is on display now through October 14 on the 1st and 5th floors of the County Government Center, 701 Ocean Street. Employees from many county departments participate each year, showing a diverse array of artworks including sculptures, jewelry, paintings, prints, photographs, digital media, and more. Drop by and check it out!

At the Simpkins Family Swim Center/Live Oak Library Annex now through September:

Vanessa Stafford - Acrylic Paintings

Ross Sheehan – Paintings, Drawings, and Prints

At 500 Westridge now through September:

Priscilla Martinez - Paintings and Mixed-media

Ben Lomond Transfer Station Public Art Project

Mary Tartaro has completed fabrication of her public artwork, *Humungus Fungus*, which will be installed at the Transfer Station in spring 2027.

Humungus Fungus features nine mushroom-shaped sculptures of welded metal covered with steel mesh, fiberglass cloth, and resin, which have been overlaid with weather-resistant reclaimed materials.

The sculptures will be painted and finish-coated to protect against the elements. Placed in groups of three, the mushrooms – nature's recyclers - range in height with the small ones 4-5 feet, the medium 5-7 feet, and the large 9-12 feet.

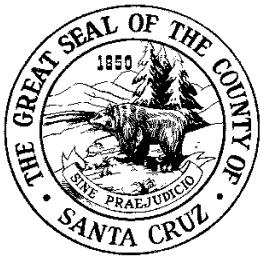
Quail Hollow Ranch Interpretive Activities

Full Moon Hike – August 27th, 8:30 – 10:00 PM

Come join us for a quiet exploration of Quail Hollow Ranch under the moonlight! On this guided hike on the lower trails, you can search for critters and meander through the forest. Bring flashlights and/or a headlamp (though we may try to hike without them), and some drinking water. Dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes.

We will meet up outside the Ranch House before heading out. Space is limited for this free activity. Rain cancels. This hike is for ages 8 & up. *Ages 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Participants may register in advance at [scparks.com](https://www.scparks.com) or call (831)454-7901.





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Date: July 31st, 2026
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jesse Williams, Parks Superintendent
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

Over the past two months, our maintenance teams have made steady progress across parks and facilities throughout the county, improving public access, enhancing recreational opportunities, and maintaining safe, reliable infrastructure during the busy summer season. Work completed in June and July reflects the department's ongoing commitment to providing safe, accessible, welcoming, and well-maintained parks while responding to seasonal needs and emerging maintenance priorities. The wide range of completed projects highlights the dedication and responsiveness of our maintenance crews.

North County, Highlands and Emeline Maintenance Shops

At **Anna Jean Cummings County Park (AJC)**, crews completed several projects aimed at preparing the site for upcoming soccer activities and improving visitor circulation. The DG walking path was repaired around the athletic fields, along with continued field preparation work to support sports programming. The team also performed high weed mowing and replaced several damaged slide sections to restore the playground. Additionally, a potable water leak at the lower restrooms was located and repaired, ensuring reliable services for park users.

At **Greyhound Rock**, extensive improvements have further opened these areas for programming and recreation. Staff installed new fencing, trail signage, and a fire pit, and completed construction of a campground now ready for recreation programming. Bridges were built and installed along the connector trail between Big Creek and Greyhound, significantly enhancing trail continuity and accessibility for program participants.

Several **infrastructure enhancements** were completed across North County facilities. A new memorial bench was installed at **Scott Creek**, providing a beach view for visitors. Public access stairs at **The Hook** received needed repairs, improving safety at this popular coastal access point. At **Wilder Hall**, flooring work was completed, contributing to ongoing facility upkeep. At **Ben Lomond Park**, old gates were removed and replaced with bollards, improving public access and providing a more welcoming entrance for visitors.

Across various park locations — including the Highlands County Park Wedding Lawn and sports fields — seasonal head checks and irrigation repairs were completed to maintain turf health and ensure these venues remain in top condition for both daily use and special events.

Mid County, Simpkins and Felt Street Maintenance Shop

One of the notable efforts this period involved addressing an encampment at **Brommer Street County Park**. Staff conducted a full cleanup of the area, restoring the site to a safe and usable condition for park visitors.

This work not only helps maintain the park's natural environment but also supports broader public safety and access goals.

In addition to general site maintenance, the team completed improvements at **Twin Lakes County Park** with the installation of a new memorial bench. This feature provides a peaceful aesthetic value for the park.

South County, Pinto Lake and Aptos Polo Grounds Maintenance Shops

High weed mowing was carried out across multiple key sites, including **Freedom Annex**, the Disc Golf Course at **Pinto Lake**, and **Seascape**. This work not only reduces fire hazards during the dry season but also keeps recreational areas tidy and accessible for public use.

Irrigation repairs were a major focus this cycle, with crews addressing leaks and malfunctions at several parks. At **Willowbrook County Park**, staff repaired two significant issues: a backflow failure and a main line break servicing the back lawn. Additional irrigation repairs were completed at **Pinto Lake County Park** and **Freedom Annex**, helping to stabilize water efficiency and support ongoing turf health as temperatures rise.

Crews also focused on facility and infrastructure improvements. A ramp at **Mar Vista** was repaired, restoring safe access for staff and visitors. At **Polo Grounds County Park**, the team continued the restoration of soccer field C. Along the Polo Grounds driveway, the damaged split-rail fencing was removed and replaced with bollards, enhancing durability and providing a cleaner, more functional boundary.

Tree work was another notable component of recent operations. Staff removed a large oak and pine that had fallen at **Scott Estate**, eliminating hazards and clearing the area for continued safe public use. Meanwhile, at **Mesa Village County Park**, crews restored a section of turf that had been disturbed during the contractor's removal of picnic tables.

Seasonal Maintenance or Upcoming Maintenance County Wide

Summer maintenance efforts focus on keeping parks safe, clean, and accessible during peak visitor use while reducing wildfire risk. Seasonal priorities include maintaining athletic fields to provide safe playing surfaces for sports leagues, increasing trash collection and restroom servicing, inspecting playgrounds and other high-use facilities, adjusting irrigation to support turf health during dry conditions, and performing routine mowing, weed abatement, and vegetation management.

A major seasonal focus is high weed mowing in open spaces to reduce wildfire hazards, typically from June through October until the first significant fall rain. This work requires careful coordination to protect ground-nesting birds and other sensitive habitats while balancing public safety, environmental stewardship, and seasonal maintenance needs.

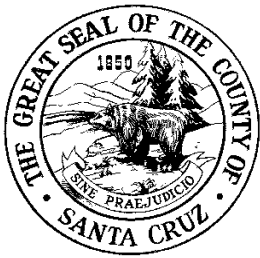
Maintenance Staffing Changes

Staffing updates also played a role in our operational progress. We are pleased to welcome **Scott Greathouse** as the new hire to the maintenance team! His addition strengthens our capacity to meet ongoing maintenance needs and supports the growing workload across several high-use parks.

While we have hired a new Park Maintenance Worker I and onboarded extra help staff to assist with the busy season, we have also received the resignation of a recently hired PMW I. Parks Staff has begun the interview process and is actively working to fill the vacancy. Continued investment in personnel remains essential as our park system expands and visitor demand increases. We hope to extend an offer of employment soon!

Vehicle/Equipment Update

The Parks Department received a new work truck through funding from the RTC for the maintenance contract on the North Coast Rail Trail.



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Date: July 31st, 2026
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Park Planners - Rob Tidmore, Mariana Colibri-Urgo, Mike Pruitt, Zane Mortensen
Subject: Planning Section Report

Coastal Rail Trail

Segments 8-11: The Board of Supervisors approved a contract amendment with RRM Design Group on February 24th to begin work on the Interim Trail. An analysis of Interim Trail designs is expected to go before the RTC for a decision in September.

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.

North Coast Rail Trail (Segment 5): The Panther/Yellowbank parking lot and permanent bathrooms are now officially open to the public. The Davenport parking lot is now under construction, and the trail is expected to open to the public this fall.

Freedom Lake Restoration Plan

Watsonville Wetlands Watch (WWW), in partnership with Santa Cruz County Parks, is advancing restoration planning and implementation at Freedom Lake with a focus on improving habitat, water quality, ecological function, and long-term resilience of the system. Recent efforts have included a combination of habitat restoration, technical studies, water quality monitoring, and conceptual restoration planning to help guide future implementation efforts.

Recent restoration work has focused on upstream and adjacent habitat areas, including invasive vegetation removal and native habitat restoration efforts within the upland riparian corridor. Ongoing efforts include installation of erosion control blankets and a community volunteer planting event to stabilize disturbed areas and support establishment of native vegetation. The project team has also significantly expanded technical investigations and monitoring efforts to better understand existing lake conditions and inform future restoration actions. Recent work has included installation of a stream monitoring gage, inlet and outlet channel surveys, bathymetric mapping of the lake, ongoing water quality monitoring and analysis, and eDNA sampling as part of the biological review efforts.

Current planning efforts are focused on developing a phased restoration strategy that combines habitat enhancement, invasive species management, water quality monitoring, and targeted restoration actions to improve ecological function while minimizing impacts to sensitive species and habitats. A Conceptual Restoration Alternatives Analysis is also being developed to evaluate potential habitat enhancement, water

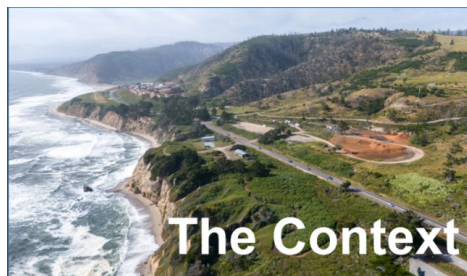
quality improvement, and recreation strategies that can help guide future restoration and management decisions at Freedom Lake.



Greyhound Rock

Following receipt of consultant proposals on April 10th, the Project Manager completed contract negotiations with the selected consultant. The contract was approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 9th.

The project's kick-off meeting was held on July 13th, bringing together the Consultant and Parks staff to formally launch the engagement. The site planning phase has now formally begun and is expected to continue over the next year.



Moran Lake County Park

Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan (HMP): A public hearing to approve the HMP will go to the Board of Supervisors on August 11th, 2026. The Board of Supervisors set the date of the hearing at their June 30th meeting. Since then, Staff publicly noticed the hearing with postings in the park, mailers sent out to neighbors, and an email to subscribers.

Tree Work: Staff are working with County Parks' consulting arborist to compile a prioritized list of recommended tree work for the upcoming late Summer/early Fall tree work window. Staff will seek funding for tree work later this month. If there is insufficient budget to complete all recommended tree work, the arborist's recommendations will be used to prioritize work based on risk.

40 Moran Way: Planting the site with native trees and shrubs is expected to occur this Fall/Winter after the onset of rain. Staff are working with volunteers to source plant material via donations.

Pace Property Connection Trails

Construction of the trails is complete and they are open to the public. Response to the project has been overwhelmingly positive and the community is enjoying the new trails. Volunteers have been instrumental on the trail work. The California Conservation Corps completed their work on the project as a part of the grant requirements by installing a trail gateway.

AmeriCorps team installed the trail benches, picnic tables, and trail directional signs. The interpretive signs production is underway. The artist has been chosen for the project and the art has moved into the fabrication phase. The project team is striving for a late summer installation of the interpretive signs, public art, and approved trail name signs, with final completion end of summer to early Fall 2026.

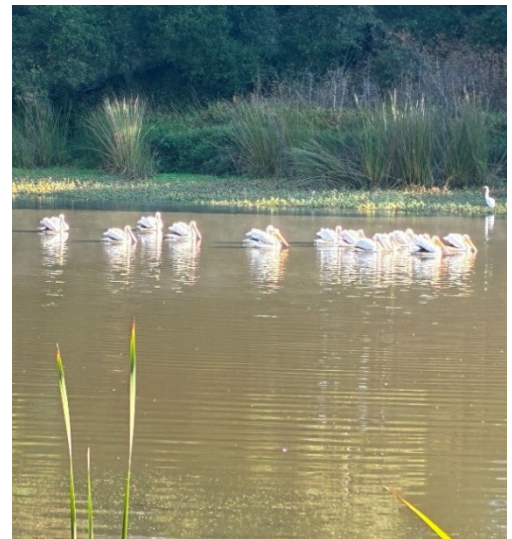
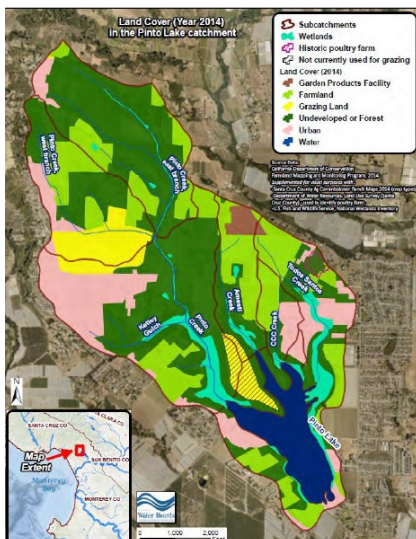


Pinto Lake

County Parks, in partnership with the City of Watsonville and County Environmental Health, continues to advance coordinated efforts to address long-standing water quality impairments at Pinto Lake. The lake is listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act for nutrients and cyanotoxins and is subject to a phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) with a 2029 compliance target. Over the past year, partner agencies have expanded water quality and flow monitoring, along with hydrologic studies and water quality analysis, to better understand contaminant input sources and help identify and appropriately scale treatment alternatives that provide sustainable solutions to both internal loading and watershed contributions.

The County has received Measure Q funding to support a comprehensive tributary monitoring study, which will quantify streamflow, nutrient, and sediment loading across the lake's priority subcatchments and identify which areas are contributing most significantly to lake impairment. Results will be used to identify watershed priority areas and target future best management practice (BMP) implementation to the locations where it will have the greatest impact.

The County is also advancing its in-lake management approach, including updated bathymetric mapping and water quality analysis to inform the type and scale of an aeration system to complement planned in-lake phosphorus treatment. Together, these efforts are intended to better align in-lake treatment with upstream BMP implementation and support progress toward TMDL compliance.



Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study

County Parks was awarded a \$650,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy to prepare a planning-level feasibility study of nature-based adaptation strategies to address sea-level rise along East Cliff Drive at three coastal lagoons—Schwan Lagoon, Corcoran Lagoon, and Moran Lagoon—in mid-Santa Cruz County. The project seeks to identify preferred adaptation strategies for each location that prioritize nature-based solutions, protection of coastal resources and ecosystems, maintenance of coastal access, and resilience of critical infrastructure.

Monitoring at the three coastal lagoons is ongoing in partnership with California State Parks and Santa Cruz County Environmental Health. ESA has completed multiple field efforts, including RTK-GPS topographic surveys, bathymetric mapping, beach profile surveys, sediment and water quality sampling, installation of long-term water level and water quality monitoring equipment, telemetry systems, and time-lapse cameras. Monitoring is continuing to capture seasonal lagoon conditions and will provide the data needed to support hydrodynamic modeling and evaluation of future sea level rise scenarios. The Draft Existing Conditions Report has also been completed, compiling historical information, prior studies, baseline environmental conditions, coastal hazards, and recent field data to establish the technical foundation for the project.

Phase 1 community engagement has been successfully completed and included the first Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, three Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) meetings representing environmental, recreation, and neighborhood/business interests, community tabling events at the Live Oak Farmers Market and Pleasure Point Street Fair, and Community Workshop #1 held on June 25, 2026. The project website is now live and serves as the central hub for project information, technical documents, meeting materials, and project updates. An online survey remains available for community members to provide feedback and sign up for project updates. The project team is currently reviewing input received through these engagement efforts, which will help inform the development of preliminary adaptation strategies to be presented during the next phase of public engagement later in 2026.



Valle del Pájaro

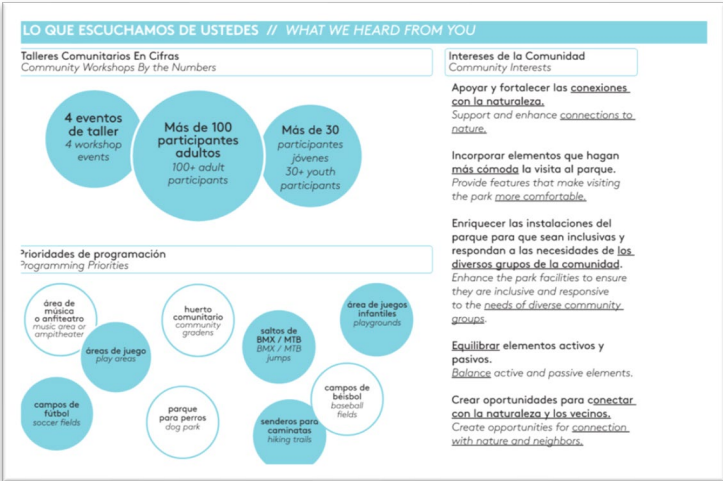
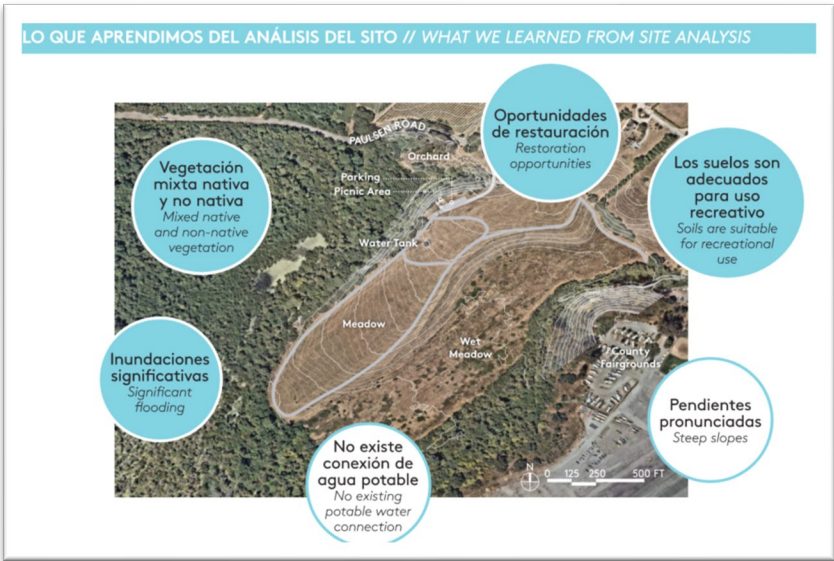
Long-term planning for the Master Plan is underway, with the Project Manager and a consultant leading the effort with a strong emphasis on community engagement throughout the process.

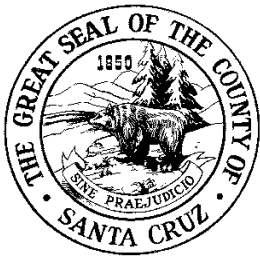
To date, the consultant and Project Manager, in partnership with County Parks Friends (CPF) and guided by the community engagement framework, have hosted three on-site workshops seeking community feedback on potential park concept options. Attendance and community participation have been strong.

Building on input gathered from four community outreach events (three on-site workshops and one off-site workshop), the consultant is now finalizing a survey to gather further community input on the parks concept options developed from that feedback. In August, CPF will administer the survey at various community events to meet residents where they are, with particular focus on reaching those who are less frequently heard from. The goal is to conduct up to five targeted outreach meetings with previously identified key community groups to

implement the survey.

A fourth on-site workshop is planned for late September or mid-October, timed to align with the start of the school year and to allow the consultant time to process survey data beforehand.





County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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

Date: July 31st, 2026
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jaime Jimenez, Recreation Supervisor
Subject: Recreation Section Report

Partnerships with Local Recreation Departments



During the summer of 2026, the Recreation Division continued to expand access to recreation, outdoor education, and community engagement through a variety of partnerships and programs across Santa Cruz County. In collaboration with County Park Friends, the Recreation team provided Outdoor Education field trips, weeklong camps and overnight camping experiences, including an overnight camping program at Greyhound Rock on July 11 and six day-trip field experiences for local youth ages 6–12. Pinto Lake County Park hosted a week-long Outdoor Education camp serving youth in the Watsonville area.

Through a partnership with Pajaro Valley Unified School District, the County provided free Camp Taking on Summer (TOS) programming at Mar Vista Elementary School from June 8 through August 7, serving local youth throughout the summer break.

Ongoing community programs included the Bridge Club at the Capitola Branch Library, held every Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and the popular Mall Walkers program at Capitola Mall, which meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The Recreation Division also partnered with community organizations to host several special events, including the Kick Off Santa Cruz Youth Soccer Clinic at Anna Jean Cummings Park on June 13 and the Wacky 5v5 Soccer Tournament at Skypark in Scotts Valley on June 14, which celebrated Parks and Recreation Month and promoted active, family-friendly recreation. The Recreation team contracted Central Coast FC from Watsonville to offer a fun weekend event.



Recreation Programs & Contractual Agreements

To support staff preparedness and safety, the Aquatics Team provided Basic CPR certification training for Recreation staff during the summer season.

Looking ahead, County Parks will once again partner with the South County Task Force to host National Night Out at Pinto Lake County Park on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, strengthening community connections through recreation and public safety outreach.



active adult participants this fall.

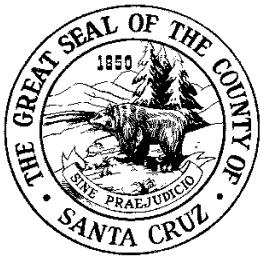
Health and wellness programming remained a priority throughout the summer. Youth Fit and Super Tots Sports programs were offered in North County and Mid-County, providing active recreation opportunities for children ages 3–12. Quail Hollow Ranch also hosted seven Outdoor Education camp sessions, giving participants hands-on experiences focused on environmental stewardship, nature exploration, and fostering a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

The County Parks team plan to extend its contract with El Palomar Ballroom to continue offering Big East Swing classes and introduce an additional Salsa Dance class for

Marketing Efforts

The Department is currently developing the Winter and Spring Activity Guide, which will promote seasonal programs scheduled between December 2026 and May 2027.

Marketing efforts continue to include the creation of bilingual flyers (Spanish/English) as well as regular social media updates to promote events and programs.



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Date: July 31st, 2026
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Garrett Smart, Recreation Supervisor
Subject: Reservations Section Report

Parks and Rex Dog Pool Party – August 15th at 11:00 AM

As of July 31st, more than 200 tickets have been sold for this year's **Parks and Rex Dog Pool Party** at Simpkins Family Swim Center. This response reflects the community's continued enthusiasm for the event. Staff are thrilled with the momentum and are actively preparing for another lively, well-organized tradition that brings together families, pups, and plenty of summer fun!



Park Service Officer (PSO) Team Growth

Four new Park Service Officers have been successfully hired, marking a meaningful step forward in strengthening park operations and overall field support. Training for the new hires is expected to begin in August. With these additions to our team, we plan to continue our work in hosting community events, enhancing park safety and increasing the stability of the Reservations team's operations.



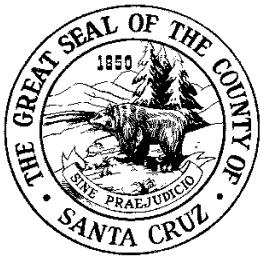
Event Reservations Highlights

Our parks and venues have hosted roughly 120 events so far this year, ranging from private gatherings and weddings to birthday parties and a variety of other community uses across our facilities, including Quail Hollow Ranch pictured on the left. We sincerely thank our current PSO team for their ongoing support, as well as all the community members who choose our spaces for their celebrations and special occasions. Looking ahead, we already have 74 additional events booked for the remainder of 2026. Dates in late September are still available for those

planning fall activities, and we hope to add even more community-focused events as the year continues.

Intern Contributions Update

We are also excited to highlight the work of **Brooke Schwartz**, our summer intern supporting several parks-related projects. Under the guidance of Kim Namba, Brooke has been sorting and conducting preliminary analysis on redevelopment documents to help determine which materials should be archived, digitized, or discarded. Additionally, she is assisting the facilities team by entering key information into the Rec.us platform as we prepare for the coming transition into new software. Brooke has also been helping with social media content and has quickly learned a great deal about our department and the county. She attends Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she studies anthropology and government, and we appreciate all she's contributed this summer!



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DIRECTOR

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

Date: July 31st, 2026
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jesse Williams, Parks Superintendent
Subject: Volunteer Section Report

Volunteer Coordinator and Volunteer Program

The Parks Department is in its second round of interviews for our new Volunteer Program Coordinator. We are optimistic that we will be extending an offer soon and beginning the onboarding process.

We greatly value the dedication and contributions of our volunteers and are excited to continue growing our volunteer program under the leadership of our new Volunteer Program Coordinator. We look forward to expanding volunteer opportunities and welcoming even more community members to get involved in the near future!

Anna Jean Cummings County Park

We'll be pulling invasive plants along the trails on **Saturday, August 29th** at 9:00 AM. Pulling these invasives will create increased trail access and restore the native habitats!

If you have questions regarding this volunteer opportunity, contact Park Host Kris (coulston.kris@gmail.com).

Felton Discovery County Park

Join us at one of our upcoming **Felton Discovery Park Volunteer Garden Work Parties** on **September 26th** and **October 24th**!

RSVP here: [Sign Up Sheet](#)

Park Hosts

In the absence of a Volunteer Program Coordinator, our Park Hosts – Kris, Beth, and Steve – have stepped up to help coordinate additional volunteer opportunities. They have been invaluable contributors to our volunteer program, leading volunteer workdays, supporting special events, and serving as an important presence at our parks after-hours. Their dedication and commitment have helped ensure the continued success of our volunteer efforts during this transition period.

Click here to visit the Santa Cruz County Parks website to view the Volunteer Calendar and sign up for volunteer opportunities!

