# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION Regular Meeting (virtual)

October 4, 2021, 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

### **Public Participation Guidelines**

The public may conference into the meeting via Zoom using the info below.

- Once in the meeting, ensure your microphone is <u>muted</u> when you are not speaking.
- If disruptive sound is coming from your device/phone line, the moderator will mute your device and you will have to unmute yourself to participate.
- You will NOT be able to attend the meeting in person.
- RELATED CORRESPONDENCE: Written comments may be sent to the Parks & Recreation Commission in care of Jennifer Mead, County Parks Secretary, either by Email or U.S Mail. Please include the agenda item number.

Email: jennifer.mead@santacruzcounty.us

Call: (831) 454-7905

U.S. Mail:

Parks & Recreation Commission c/o Jennifer Mead 979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

#### **Zoom Meeting link**

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3689630872?pwd=aGR4eEFySDNtMkFnbkE0aUx5OXhEQT09

### **Meeting information**

Meeting ID: 368 963 0872

Passcode: 790501

#### Calling in – audio only

1 (669) 900 6833 US (San Jose)

(AGENDA to follow)



#### **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, October 4, 2021 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Passcode: 790501

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 368 963 0872

Regular Meeting (virtual) Meeting Link https://us06web.zoom.us/i/3689630872?pwd=aGR4eEFvSDNtMkFnbkE0aUx5OXhEQT09

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

#### II. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

#### III. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission or on today's Agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. Commissioners will not take actions or respond immediately to any public communications presented regarding topics not on the Agenda but may choose to follow up later, either later, or on a subsequent Commission Agenda.

#### IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

a.	Approve minutes from August 2, 2021	Page 3-4
b.	Consider Reports:	-
	1. Aquatics Section Report	Page 5
	2. Maintenance Section Report	Page 6-7
	3. Planning Section Report	Page 8-9
	4. Recreation Section Report	Page 10-11
	5. Reservations Section Report	Page 12-13
	4. Volunteer Section Report	Page 14-15

#### V. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

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

#### VII. **REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items**

- a. Presentation from Will Fourt about Moran Lake public meetings and the Restoration and Public Access Plan progress (Page 16-79)
- b. Update from Todd Marco and Barry Scott about Nisene Rio Gateway progress

#### VIII. **REGULAR AGENDA - Action Items**

- Approve support letter to the Board of Supervisors for the Parks FY 21-22 Budget (Page 80-84)
- IX. NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 6, 2021, 7:00-9:00 p.m. - Virtual Meeting via Zoom
- X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 85)
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT**



#### **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

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JEFF GAFFNEY DIRECTOR

# PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of August 2, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting Virtual via Zoom

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Vivian Fenner-Evans, Kate Minott, Maggie Duncan-Merrell, Steven Bennett,

Jim Rapoza

Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Jennifer Mead

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS Approved agenda as presented. (Rapoza/Minott 5/0)

#### **III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- 1. Barry Scott Subject: Cabrillo Lions are thankful for access to Aptos Park Center. Todd Marco of Nisene Rio Gateway is interested in having parcels surveyed for Nisene Rio project.
- 2. Jean Brocklebank Subject: Concern about riparian corridors and wildlife habitat, and the need for more protection.
- 3. Larry Corridon Subject: Concern about bird habitat being removed during invasive plant removal. The disc golf course eats away at the park habitat. Staff should watch what volunteers do.
- 4. Aniko Millan Subject: 50 Art Frames are up throughout the County. Planning Corazon de Mujer event on Aug 22 at Felt Street park with local artists, music, and vaccination booth. Also planning a fundraiser to auction off the art frames in September.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Minutes of June 7, 2021 were approved (Duncan-Merrell/Rapoza 5/0)

Motion: Reports were considered and accepted (Rapoza/Duncan-Merrell 5/0)

#### V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Minott 2nd District: Deep regret for the loss of Pepper Golesh, we will miss her. Aptos Park will host a concert on Aug 14 to raise funds for teens recovering from drug addiction. I took a hike with Todd Marco and Barry Scott to discuss the Nisen Rio project. I visited Pinto Lake park with Chair Bennet, we found answers to questions we had. We were pleased by the politeness of the disc golf players and the multi-use of the park.

Rapoza 5th District: Went to Quail Hollow, it is looking good. I continue to see a lot of use of Ben Lomond dam, it's too bad they can't put the dam in. The parks are looking good in the 5th district.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: The 3rd District continues to be used heavily. There was a beautiful note from the Santa Cruz City Mayor in the Santa Cruz Sentinel about parks and open spaces. It's exciting to have a good advocate sitting in the mayor's seat.

Fenner-Evans 1st District: I took a couple field trips - I visited Leo's Haven and had to play on the playground, the community gardens are full of food. I visited Felt St. park and the garden has amazing sunflowers. I went to Brommer park and watched the Foklorico which is traditional dance, there were 19 children dancing. From early spring to present, many parks have had baby owls. A baby owl can eat 13-17 mice in one night!

Bennett 4th District: I've had a busy last two weeks. We had a good Brown Act training, just Rapoza and I, we covered the basics. Kate and I walked around Pinto Lake, it was nice, right after hole 14 there is a shed, behind that are there are fence posts buried that possibly became a growing spot. I had a good conversation with Jean and Michael and discussed a letter they had submitted. Vivian and I talked about Anna Jean Cummings. I also stopped by Mesa Village park, all looks good in District 4.

#### VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- We are holding drop-in public meetings on Aug 19 and Aug 22 to get input on the Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan
- The Park Impact Fees were approved by Board of Supervisors
  - It started at Parks Commission, then went to Planning Commission, then BOS and will go to Coastal Commission next.
  - It is great for Parks, we probably won't notice for first 5 years but it will start to help with deferred maintenance and repair current infrastructure.
- We finished the public service announcement about dogs off leash. It was a collaboration with City of Watsonville and City of Santa Cruz.
- Upcoming site visits with grant administrator for Chanticleer and Farm Park
- Following up on the mysterious tree survey, it was done by developer. They worked with drainage division of DPW and was signed off years ago that I did not have any knowledge of.
- I wanted to echo appreciation of Donna Meyers. We are lucky to have her influence.

#### VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Kat Palermo gave a preview of the new County Parks website
- b. Jeff Gaffney reviewed the role of an Ad-hoc Committee for the Commission

#### VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items (none)

- a. Jeff Gaffney reviewed the FY 21/22 Parks Budget. Motion: Accept and file Director's review of FY 21/22 Parks Budget (Rapoza/ Duncan-Merrell 5/0)
- The Commission discussed possible formation of an ad-hoc committee for mitigation plantings at Anna Jean Cummings park. Motion: Instead of ad-hoc committee, the Parks Commission recommends staff to hold a public meeting by April 2022 for the public to offer input on mitigation plantings at Anna Jean Cummings park. (Fenner-Evans/Minott 4/0) (1 Nay, Duncan-Merrell)
- IX. NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 4, 2021, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting via Zoom
- X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 29)
- XI. ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. (Duncan-Merrel/Rapoza 5/0)



#### 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: September 29, 2021

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Max Friedmann, Aquatics Supervisor

Subject: Aquatics Section Report

### **Swim Center Daily Programing in Fall**

- Lap Swim: Simpkins Family Swim Center offers lap swim lanes 7 days a week all hours of operation.
- Warm Water Pool: The Swim Center has expanded warm water pool availability this fall with most hours of operation allowing for warm water pool use.
- Water Aerobics: Water aerobics classes are offed Monday through Friday at 12pm and Saturdays at 9am.
- Adult Fitness: Adult fitness workouts are offered every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6am and Tuesday and Thursday at 12pm.
- Dominican PEP Program: The Swim Center host Dominican Hospital's PEP program water exercise and therapy classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the warm water pool.
- **Swim Teams:** The Swim Center hosts three local swim teams in through 50m pool Monday through Friday afternoons.
- Shoreline Middle School PE Classes: For the month of October Shoreline Middle school will hold their daily PE classes at the Swim Center.



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JEFF GAFFNEY DIRECTOR

Date: September 29, 2021

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Rebecca Hurley, Parks Superintendent

Subject: Maintenance Section Report

### **South County**

- Large Eucalyptus stump was removed from The Farm Park along Soquel Ave
- County Lot along Rio del Mar Esplanade was cleaned of demolition debris from the former Seabreeze Tavern, and public access was restored to the parcel
- Improvements to Polo Grounds Dog Park: new wood chip was spread, fabric shade structure was cleaned, and Adirondack chair style seating was put out
- Continued gopher control on sports fields Polo Grounds and Pinto Lake
- Two Large trees that fell at Aptos Village Park were cut up and removed
- A large water leak servicing the Seacliff Village Park restroom was located and repaired

#### Mid County / Swim Center

- Staff replaced a bridge on the play structure, at Jose Avenue Park
- Invasive ivy was cleared off of oak trees at Jose Ave Park
- The door to the Brommer Park restroom was repaired
- Staff rebuilt the chlorine injectors and replaced lights in the 50m pool at Simpkins Swim Center
- The 6" 3-way valve was rebuilt on the Recreation pool filtration system at Simpkins Swim Center
- Due to a CO2 shortage, staff is bringing in portable CO2 tanks that are filled remotely to keep the pool open

### **North County**

- A new horse corral was installed at Quail Hollow Ranch
- Azolla fern abatement was completed at the Quail Hollow Ranch Pond
- At Highlands Park, staff completed major tree work, turf & infield work on the fields, created a
  fire break around the Senior Center, and worked on trail maintenance on the Nature Trail.
- Irrigation repairs were done at Felton Covered Bridge
- A large irrigation project was completed at Ben Lomond Park
- Staff applied top dressing to the athletic fields and cleared brush at Anna Jean Cummings Park
- Irrigation repairs and tree work was done at Chanticleer Park

- Plumbing and facility repairs were completed to the restrooms at the Hook, Pleasure Point, and Moran Lake County Parks
- Continued parking lot and landscape maintenance at Emeline and 701 Ocean Street campuses



#### **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: September 29, 2021

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Will Fourt and Michael Hettenhausen, Park Planners

Subject: Planning Section Status Report

<u>Chanticleer Park</u>: Staff submitted supplemental information needed for the application for Prop 68 Statewide Park Program grant application for Chanticleer Park Expansion and development of Phase 2 at the park. The development permit amendment for time extension to the existing development permit was approved by County Planning.

#### **Hidden Beach**

The playground replacement project groundbreaking occurred September 15<sup>th</sup>; since then, the contractors have removed the former playground equipment, moved the playground sand to Anna Jean Cummings County Park for reuse, and installed base rock. The anticipated completion date for the installation of the new playground equipment and rubberized surface is mid-November. Also, the Parks Department and consultant is obtaining required information from the County's Sanitation District and the Soquel Creek Water District to submit a permit application to County Planning for the new restroom.

#### **Moran Lake**

Staff and consultants held two community meetings at the park on August 19 and 22 to get preliminary input for the Restoration and Public Access Plan. Consultants are preparing a lagoon monitoring plan and have installed a gage at the culvert at East Cliff Dr. Staff has applied for partnership grant funding to complete an updated monarch habitat site assessment and management recommendations for the site from US Fish and Wildlife Service through the Coastal Program, and UFWS has stated they intend to award a \$20,000 grant.

#### **Greyhound Rock**

Staff continues to work with staff from the state Coastal Conservancy and state Department of Fish and Wildlife on a grant application for planning and development of minimalist overnight accommodations and indoor programming facilities at the park.

#### **Live Oak Library Annex**

Staff is participating on the Technical Advisory Group with County Department of Public Works and Library staff as well as an architectural firm to produce interior and exterior design plans for the Live Oak Library Annex, proposed for construction along the north wall of the Simpkins Family Swim Center. The County's Planning Commission recently approved the development permit and CEQA Notice of Exemption for the library annex.

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

Staff has set up a contract for local seed collection and plant propagation in anticipation of planting in fall 2022.

#### Farm Future Phase 2

Staff and consultants are preparing a Master Plan Amendment Application (MPAA) to include a

bike pump/jump track as an additional alternative feature and revise the development permit expiration date. The MPAA will be submitted to the County Planning for review and consideration. On July 13, the Parks Department director and Planning staff hosted the Statewide Park Program grant administrator at the park. Also, staff has addressed questions from the grant application's incomplete letter and resubmitted the required information. Grant awards are anticipated late September/early October.

#### Park Dedication In-Lieu Fees and Park Impact Fees Update

Proposed ordinance amendments and fee schedule updates have been approved by the California Coastal Commission and take effect October 1, 2021.

#### **North Coast Multi-Agency Coordinating Committee**

The state Coastal Conservancy awarded a planning grant to the County for the development of a North Coast Facilities and Management Plan, which would consolidate all the various federal, state, and local government agencies' planning and capital improvement plan documents into one comprehensive document. State Parks has also contributed funding for the project. The state contributions will fund the hiring of a consultant to review existing documents, facilitate stakeholder meetings, and produce a regional planning document. Staff is currently drafting the Board resolution to accept the funds.

#### **North Coast Rail Trail**

Parks staff is working in partnership with the Regional Transportation Commission on the feasibility of submitting Prop 68 grant applications for partial funding of construction of the North Coast Rail Trail segment from Yellowbank to Davenport, to be completed by RTC.

Simpkins Family Swim Center Indoor Youth Activity Center and Outdoor Learning Center
Staff is preparing a Prop 68 Regional Park Program grant application to design and construct an indoor Youth Activity Center and an outdoor Learning Center. The indoor Youth Activity Center would be located in the south plaza area and offer free play as well as programmed activities for youth while their parents/guardians use the aquatic center. The outdoor Learning Center would be located adjacent to the indoor Youth Activity Center and offer a dedicated space for outdoor trainings for Junior Guards and others.



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JEFF GAFFNEY DIRECTOR

Date: September 29, 2021

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Jaime Jimenez, Recreation Supervisor

Subject: Recreation Section Report

#### **Recreation**

- We ended a fantastic Summer Day Camp program this 2021 and now switched gears to our After School Care Enrichment (ACE) Programs at Mar Vista Elementary school and at La Selva Beach Clubhouse.
- At these sites, Recreation team provide positive recreational experiences with various activity games, arts and crafts, outdoor nature, and science enrichment happenings for children Transitional Kinder (TK) through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade.
- The sites have weekly themes such as: Walking on Sunshine Week; Aquatics Week; and most recently Fantastic Fall Week. Activities range from tie-dye art, sun wars game, team relays, scavenger hunts, aluminum sculptures, lifeguard games, and much more!
- Highlights for ACE program include a field trip to Manresa Beach, the Simpkins Swim Center and a Fall Celebrations included a dance competition and a talent show.
- We continued our popular youth volunteer program after the summer. We have several
  youth volunteers ranging between ages 13-17 from local junior high and high schools
  volunteering their time to help create positive recreational opportunities at our after-school
  enrichment programs.

### Partnerships with Local Recreation Departments

- For the month of September, we partnered with the City of Watsonville, County Parks
  Friends and Salud Para La Gente to offer a movie night under the Santa Cruz County
  Skies at Callaghan Park in Watsonville. Disney's Raya The Last Dragon was enjoyed by
  the community in the South County.
- We are collaborating with the La Selva Beach Library branch where participants get to use up to 17 laptops to play Mine Craft every Thursday.
- We will be partnering up with the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter for another community movie night event on 10/23 where we will enjoy a "HOWLoween" movie -Hocus Pocus at Brommer Park.
- We are in communication with the City of Watsonville Public Works Department exploring a possible Agents of Discovery site at their Nature Center. Progress was placed on hold while renovations are taking place at their site.
- After several meeting for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Trunk-o-Treat collaboration with the Sherriff's
  Department ceased after the event was cancelled due to the recent COVID-19 spike. We
  look forward to adding this fantastic event to our offerings in 2022.
- We look forward to the months to come as we seek out additional potential partners to offer high quality programs to the community.

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

- We are currently working with a couple of promising contracted instructors for Winter/Spring offerings.
  - National Academy of Athletics Youth Volleyball, Youth Basketball & Jr. Academy All Sorts of Sports for youth ages 3-12.
  - Watsonville Yoga South County Pinto Lake
- The recreation team continues seeking out potential contractual agreements with groups and individuals in the community to offer positive recreational programs in our county for the winter and spring.

#### **Marketing Efforts**

The Department launched the updated website and continues to conduct social media
postings 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.



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JEFF GAFFNEY DIRECTOR

Date:

September 29, 2021

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Sarah Shea, Recreation Supervisor

Subject: Reservations Section Report

#### **Summary for Reservations and Facilities:**

The reservation department is coming off a busy summer with the reopening of facility reservations. August and September have seen a great turn out by the public in picnic reservations and overall park usage. Request for outdoor events, especially small picnics and gatherings for the fall and moving into winter months has been steady, with a sense of a return to what was once normal.

Early September, Sarah Shea joined the department as the Recreation Supervisor and is looking forward to adding additional organization, ease of use within the reservation system, and continued growth in the use of our public spaces.

<u>Picnic Reservations</u> saw over 115 groups reserve and use the county parks these two months.

<u>Athletic Field Usage</u> - Field usage is heavy with daily league use at Highlands, Pinto, Michael Grey, Polo, Anna Jean Cummings. Soccer leagues have returned and outdoor play for youth and adults is alive and welcome.

<u>Meeting Room Rentals</u> are slowing returning with15 reservations including County Clerk Voting, Language Classes, and County Department Meetings.

#### **Venue Rentals Overview:**

- 5 Private Events were held in August
- 9 Private Events were held in September
- Many weddings that were to be held in 2020 were rescheduled and held in September.
   The department is preparing for a busy month in October with 2-4 events held every weekend.
- Outdoor and Beach Ceremony Events saw an increase over the summer and into fall, as a safe and beautiful option for couple to hold their ceremonies.

#### **Special Events** supported:

- Christian Music Festival
- Walk to End Alzheimer's
- Santa Cruz County Parks Friends Outside the Frame Auction
- Save our Shores held over a dozen cleanups within the county in the last two months.
- County Parks Special Events: Parks and Rex took over the Simpkins Pool in August with a great turn out.

•	Plans for next month inc Program Specialist.	lude hiring addition	al Park Service Offic	ers and one Recreation



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JEFF GAFFNEY DIRECTOR

Date: September 29, 2021

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator

Subject: Volunteer Program Report

### **Anna Jean Cummings Park**

North and South County Maintenance staff are supervising projects for students enrolled in a Workability Program through Cabrillo. The group of up to 5 students meet at AJC and **Willowbrook Park** on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 – 12 and maintenance staff directs them on projects. This program will continue through May, maintenance staff is appreciative of the help and the students are learning new skills and gaining work experience.

#### Felton Discovery Park

August and September volunteer days attracted 15 volunteers to work on projects around the park, mostly weeding and pruning. The next scheduled volunteer days are October 2 and November  $6^{th}$  10 am - 12pm.

Starting in October a group of high school students as part of the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's Earth Stewards program will start volunteering at the park. They will be supervised by Education Coordinator, Chris Soriano and 2 of our lead volunteers from the Friends of Felton Library group will also be present to assist. The projects they will be working on have been approved by Parks staff. The group will be volunteering at the park 4 hours a month, through May.

#### **Quail Hollow Ranch**

We have 2 new docents being trained to answer questions for the public, hike the trails, and open the Visitor Center once we are ready to open it to the public again. In the meantime our docents for the park sign up for shifts to sit at the park by the front door or to hike the trails.

Volunteers helped maintenance staff in their efforts to reduce the Azola fern growing on the pond. Maintenance staff was very grateful for the help.

The **Santa Cruz Astronomy Club** had good turnouts for their August and September free star gazing outings at Quail. In August they had 20 and in September 25 community members join them.

#### **Brommer Park**

Pickle Ball volunteers got approval from maintenance staff to repair some cracks in the courts and spent two afternoons making the repairs.

#### Interns

Summer Intern hours totaled over 560 hours: 140 hours in June 291 hours in July 136 hours in August

#### **Other Volunteer/Intern News**

The Parks Department hired the Accounting Intern into part-time position!

David Kwan, the Parks Department office volunteer is back with us after a leave. He is volunteering Thursday mornings and hopes to add Tuesday mornings soon. David is very helpful with office tasks such as copying, scanning, data entry, answering the phone and a variety of other tasks. We are happy to have David back and grateful for his help.



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JEFF GAFFNEY DIRECTOR

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Will Fourt, County Parks Department

DATE: October 4, 2021

SUBJECT: Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan Initial Outreach

Parks Department staff and consultants completed initial community outreach related to the site plan and scope of park improvements to be included in the Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan. This letter includes a summary of what staff heard at the meetings, and comments received.

Staff, along with a consultant team, will complete the Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan by the end of 2023 through a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy. The project covers updating restoration and park renovation concepts from the 2010 plans for the park, completing additional community outreach, and submitting updated plans to the County Planning Department for review, and for analysis pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and issuance of a development permit for the updated plans. The Project also includes lagoon monitoring and conceptual hydraulic modeling to be used for partnership-based future restoration planning for projects related to modifying the road crossing, culvert and mouth of the lagoon under East Cliff Drive, as well as other restoration projects related to the wetland area of the coastal lagoon.

The recent meetings were held at the park on Thursday August 19 and Sunday August 22, from 3PM to 6PM and from 11AM to 2PM, respectively. Meetings were held in a drop-by format and participants were asked to review project information and give input through a short series of prompts, and staff recorded each comment. Meetings were advertised through Parks social media, a press release, a postcard mailed to the entire Pleasure Point neighborhood, posting on NextDoor, the County Supervisor's newsletter, and posters in the park. There was also an online questionnaire for interested community members to give input online without coming to a meeting. All meeting publicity and materials were provided in English and Spanish.

A total of approximately 324 people participated in one of the meetings and/or online questionnaire, providing extensive comments. The comments received are transcribed and listed anonymously in Appendix 1.

The following list includes general groups of types of comments received:

- <u>Support for previous park plans</u>: Generally, most people were supportive of the both the access and restoration concepts included in previous plans. Most participants stated that they generally supported implementation of the park plans from 2010.
- Importance of natural park experience: People visit Moran Lake County Park to experience the unique natural setting of the lagoon among the urban surrounding neighborhood of Pleasure Point. It is important to most people to keep the natural feeling of the park experience. It is important that accessibility improvements such as trail upgrades, drainage, parking upgrades, and restoration projects continue to create what is perceived as a natural environment for park users to experience nature and connect with the natural landscape.
- Water Quality: Anything that can be done to improve the water quality in the lagoon is universally supported by the community, including the goals of limiting toxicity, reducing pollutant levels that can impact wildlife, and limiting the algae that forms in the summer and fall that is unsightly. Many community members are not aware of the extent of the completely urban watershed that feeds the lagoon and is the source of degraded water quality concerns.
- <u>Beach Access</u>: Improved crosswalk safety, and improved accessibility and safety of the path from crosswalk to the beach is universally supported by the community.
- <u>Trail Accessibility</u>: Improving trail drainage and accessibility of the trail along the western bank of the lagoon is important to community members. There is also a desire from many to keep the surface of the trail natural, and some resist the idea of paving the trail along the west side of the lagoon.
- <u>Picnic areas</u>: Community members have differing opinions on whether they support the addition of new picnic areas. Some strongly oppose picnic tables, because they perceive that they would attract unwanted park use, which has been an issue in the past and resulted in previous informal picnic tables being removed from the park. Some strongly support the addition of new accessible, aesthetically designed, and maintainable picnic areas that would encourage positive park use.
- <u>Unsure of change</u>: Park users enjoy and like the park the way it is. While there are desired improvements for accessibility and habitat, there is some concern from community members that these projects will change the character of the park that they love and they are concerned about that change. Additionally, some community members are concerned that improvements to the park may bring more park users and people to the neighborhood, which they feel could impact the neighborhood.
- <u>Frustration with lack of Implementation</u>: Many community members remember the previous planning efforts before 2011 and are frustrated that a new planning process is starting 10 years later while the previous plans have not been implemented. Others are

concerned that the proposed projects will never happen. Others are concerned that restoration and accessibility improvements are too expensive.

- <u>Tree Hazard Concern</u>: Neighbors that live immediately under and adjacent to the large eucalyptus trees in the park are universally concerned primarily with mitigating hazards from these trees including pruning, continued monitoring, and removal of hazardous trees.
- <u>Migratory Monarch Butterfly Habitat</u>: The community universally supports habitat protection and enhancement goals for the migratory monarch butterfly. This is a primary concern and priority for community members.
- Park Security: Many community members are concerned about the prevalence of activities that are against park rules, and the need for more enforcement for activities such as beach fires, graffiti, drug use, off-leash dogs, litter, nighttime use, and encampments.
- <u>Park Maintenance</u>: Many community members are concerned about tree maintenance, trail maintenance, parking lot maintenance, restroom cleanliness, and graffiti removal.

Based on the comments received, staff will tailor the project in the following ways to best address the needs of the community to the extent feasible:

- Move 2010 Park Plans forward: Because previous park plans from 2010 were generally well supported by the community, the plans will generally be incorporated into the Restoration and Public Access Plan and will be the basis of the development permit and CEQA review to be completed as part of this phase of the project. Since the plans are generally well supported there is not a need to comprehensively amend the concept that the Board of Supervisors approved in 2011. Rather, this board-approved concept plan will be the starting point for this next phase of the project.
- Pursuing Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan Update: Because primary concerns of the community are mitigating hazards from existing trees in the park, and also protecting and enhancing migratory monarch overwintering habitat, it is important to update and complete environmental review for the existing Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan for the park and Lode Street sanitation facility. Completing an update of the plan and completing environmental review would allow Parks and Sanitation to move forward with a more comprehensive implementation through grant writing and future phases and with ongoing maintenance. While this plan update is not eligible for the existing approved grant funds, which are allocated through a Prop 1 grant focused on improvements that relate to water quality, staff continues to pursue other funding opportunities to complete the monarch butterfly habitat management plan update and environmental review simultaneously with the Restoration and Public Access Plan.
- Trail Accessibility and Maintaining Natural Experience: To meet both community goals of improving drainage and accessibility of the trail on the western edge of the lagoon, and of maintaining and maximizing the natural experience for trail users, both goals will be pursued and balanced in further planning and designing trail upgrades. Proposed trail surfaces will strive to be both accessible, and to create a natural aesthetic. The project will explore the option to keep a dirt trail that is similar or the same as the existing trail

experience, in addition to a stabilized accessible trail that is proposed for any sections of trail.

- <u>Focus on water quality</u>: Because water quality is a primary concern for all community members, all park restoration and accessibility projects will be designed with biofiltration for stormwater runoff to improve water quality. Other projects that could be beneficial to water quality will be pursued to the extent feasible in the long term.
- Add beach accessibility: Improving accessibility and safety of access to Moran Beach from East Cliff Dr and the park parking area is important to the community. These parts of the project will be added to previous park plans, to the extent feasible, as they are universally supported as a priority.
- <u>Picnic Area Consideration</u>: Because the inclusion of new picnic areas was controversial with some community members, some different options for picnic areas will be considered as part of this project. Options may include making proposed picnic areas reservable to encourage positive use, replacing the proposed two small picnic areas with sitting and viewing areas that are more tailored to brief visits, adding picnic areas at the 40 Moran Way parcel, or eliminating the two small proposed picnic areas.

#### **Recommended Action:**

1) Accept and file this report

#### **Attachments:**

- 1) Meeting Publicity Materials
- 2) Meeting Materials
- 3) Meeting Photos
- 4) Online Questionnaire
- 5) Comments Received

### **Attachment 1: Meeting Publicity Materials**



MORAN LAKE COUNTY PARK

**RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN** PLAN DE RESTAURACIÓN Y ACCESO PÚBLICO



Public Access Plan for Moran Lake Park over the next two years through a planning grant from the State Coastal Conservancy, including Prop 1 funds. Please stop by during a meeting at the park to learn about the upcoming planning process, review project goals and previous draft plans for the park, and give ideas and priorities for park improvements.

#### **REUNIÓN COMUNITARIA DROP-BY**

County Parks colaborará para completar un Plan de Restauración y Acceso Público para Moran Lake Park durante los próximos dos años a través de una subvención de planificación de State Coastal Conservancy, incluidos los fondos de la Prop 1. Visite el parque en durante una reunión emergente para conocer el próximo proceso de planificación, revisar los objetivos del proyecto y los planes preliminares anteriores para el parque, y dar ideas y prioridades para el parque.

momento durante una reunión:

Jueves 19 de agosto: 3PM - 6PM Domingo, 22 de agosto: 11AM - 2PM

For more information or to give input online: www.scparks.com

Para más información y opinar en línea: www.scparks.com



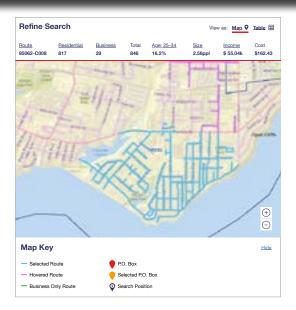




### **Attachment 1: Meeting Publicity Materials**











# MORAN LAKE COUNTY PARK RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN

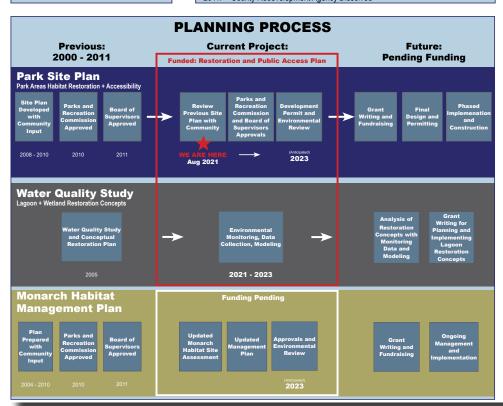


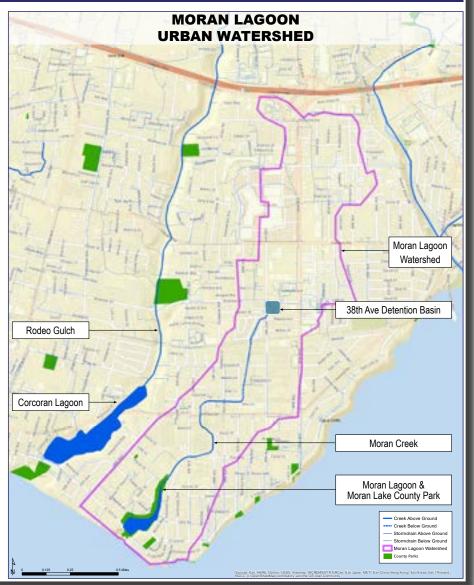
### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The County Parks Department, with funding from the State Coastal Conservancy and Prop 1, will be completing the Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan over 2021 – 2023. The project will build on previous park planning efforts including park improvements for accessibility such as trails, restroom and parking lot renovations, potential additional picnic and seating areas, and interpretive educational signage. Project plans will also consider options for improving water quality including bank stabilization and revegetation, restoration of wetland vegetation, restoration of wetland vegetation, restoration of wetland vegetation of bioswales and biofiltration features to filter the park's stormwater.

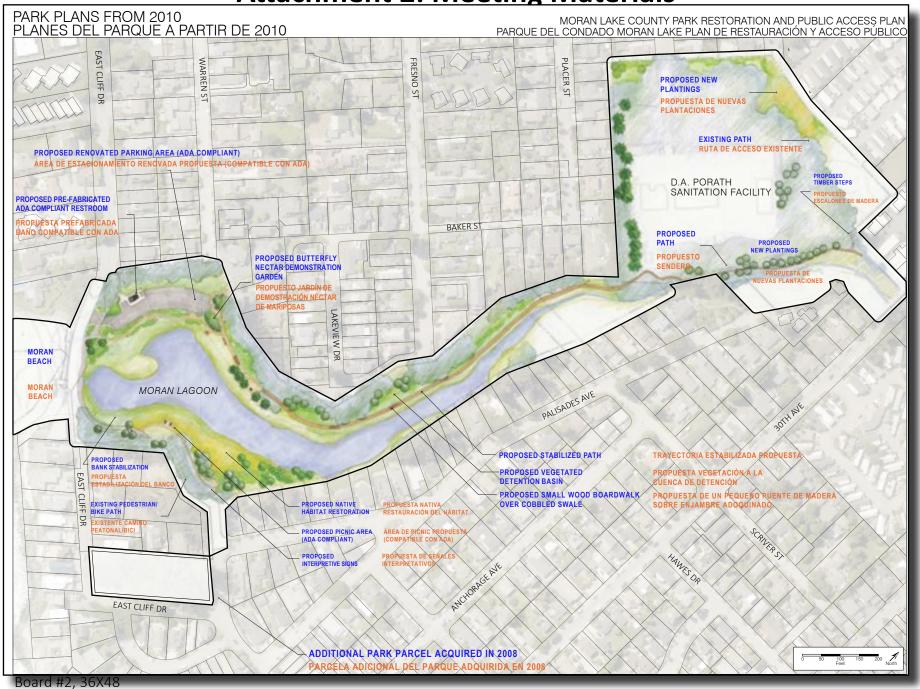
#### PARK HISTORY

- 1960s: Fill from constructing the harbor was deposited at the south end of lake and a drainage culvert was installed under East Cliff Drive
- 1975: County purchased 9-acre Moran Lake property
- 1981: Lagoon restoration completed including reshaping lagoon banks, installation of tidal gate replacing previous culvert, and construction of parking lot and restrooms
- 2005: Moran Lake Water Quality Study & Conceptual Restoration Plan Completed
- 2010: Moran Lake Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan Completed
- 2010: Draft Park Improvement Plans prepared by County Redevelopment Agency
- 2011: County Redevelopment Agency Dissolved











# **Attachment 3: Meeting Photos**









August 19, 2021

# **Attachment 3: Meeting Photos**











August 22, 2021

### **Attachment 4:**

### Moran Lake County Park Questionnaire

Fall 2021

Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan With funding from State Coastal Conservancy and Prop 1

The County Parks Department has received a planning grant to complete the Restoration and Public Access Plan for Moran Lake County Park. The following survey seeks to get input before beginning the planning process to get ideas from the community on what is most important.

Moran Lake County Park is located in the Pleasure Point neighborhood in Santa Cruz.

On the map:

https://goo.gl/maps/5YqYuvtLrFun92F17

For more information: <a href="https://www.scparks.com/moran">www.scparks.com/moran</a>

\* Required

1. Email \*



Section 1: User Information

How often do you visit Moran Lake County Park?
 Mark only one oval.

Every day

At least once a week

At least once a month

A few times a year

I have never been to Moran Lake County Park before

3.	What is your typical purpose for visiting the park?
	Check all that apply.
	Going to the beach
	Surfing or other water sports
	Walking
	Biking
	Dog-walking
	Wildlife viewing
	Picnicking
	Fishing
	Other:
4.	How close to the park do you live?
	Mark only one oval.
	Less than a mile
	Within 3 miles
	Within 10 miles
	Within 30 miles
	Farther than 30 miles
Se	ection 2: Public Access Improvements
5.	3. Do you support the idea of improving park amenities for increased accessibility, safety, aesthetics and sustainability?
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	Maybe
	No

es or maybe, which types of public access improvements are most important t ? (check all that apply)
ck all that apply.
Improved Accessible Park Trails
Renovated Parking Area
Renovated Restroom
Renovated Outdoor Shower
Improved Crosswalk Safety
Improved Beach Access Path
Improved East/West Bicycle Route
Interpretive Exhibits and Signage
Drainage Improvements
Picnic Areas
Benches and Viewing Areas
er:
are these improvements most important to you?
are these improvements most important to you.

9.	Do you support the idea of implementing restoration projects in the park to improve water quality, increase and enhance key coastal habitat types in the park, and
	increase resiliency to climate change?
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	Maybe
	No
10.	If no, why not?
11.	If yes or maybe, which restoration priorities are most important to you? (check all
11.	that apply)
	Check all that apply.
	Park Stormwater Treatment for Lagoon Water Quality
	Migratory Monarch Butterfly Habitat Enhancement
	Hazardous Tree Management
	Invasive Plant Management
	Lagoon Wetland Habitat Enhancement
	Lagoon Bank Stabilization
	Wetland Vegetation Establishment
	Establishing Native Planting Areas
	Creating Pollinator Demonstration Garden
	Increased Lagoon Tidal Connection
	General Improvements to Lagoon Water Quality
	Other:

12.	Why are these restoration priorities most important to you?

Section 4: Previous Plans & Stay Informed!

13. The previous draft plans for the park from 2010 will serve as the starting point for the upcoming planning process. Do you have comments on the previous plan to consider as updated plans are developed?



This site plan was developed by the Redevelopment Agency in 2010 with community input. See full pdf here: <a href="http://www.scparks.com/Portals/12/pdfs/!New%20Website/Current%20and%20Complete%20Projects/2010">http://www.scparks.com/Portals/12/pdfs/!New%20Website/Current%20and%20Complete%20Projects/2010</a>

\_MoranSitePlan.pdf

1.	What concerns do you have about potential park improvements and restoration projects at the park?
	Is there any additional feedback you would like to provide?
	First Name (optional)
	Last Name (optional)
	Would you like to be added to the project email list to receive updates about park planning milestones? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No

### **Attachment 5: Comments Received**

### **Section I: Community Meeting Comments**

Comments from meeting participants' conversations with staff. Response to question "do you have any comments about accessibility improvements?":

- 1. Like interpretive panels. Concerned about picnic areas
- 2. No picnic area in green space. Keep it natural. Don't like the two tables.
- 3. Crosswalk and beach ramp safety is important
- 4. No
- 5. Like it the way it is. Would like improved accessibility. Like the natural experience.
- 6. Fear of gentrification and excessive traffic. Trail is special as it is. Bike route E/W and connection through the park is important. The left turn when headed towards Capitola to get on the bike trail in the park needs to be improved.
- 7. Litter is an issue. Would like educational signage.
- 8. graffiti is a concern. Keep maintenance up. Picnic areas become homeless areas.
- 9. The park is safe. Funds should be spent at 38th Avenue stairs instead of Moran to improve safety at that staircase.
- 10. Extend the walkway further up the creek. Heated showers
- 11. Homeless is a huge problem. ADA access is important including access to beach.
- 12. waste management, recycling only today not landfill bin. Would like to have consistent locations for the trash/recycle bins. A water bottle filling station would be great at new restroom.
- 13. Add upper area that was ID'ed as potential treatment wetland to the restoration plan.
- 14. Like the path the way it is. Don't want to see changes. It floods, let it flood.
- 15. Owl boxes needed to control rodents.
- 16. Butterfly garden at 40 Moran Way
- 17. Glad to make the path hard surface because I am visually impared. I keep hitting my head on a tree that hangs over the path. I like the timber steps proposal. Would like a wider trail at 30th St entrance. Markers help visually impared. Better trash bins and enclosures are needed.
- 18. Make trail more clean. I like natrual surface. Park should be clean and well maintained. Make the trail inviting.
- 19. Trail is too muddy for use about 20 days per year.
- 20. Prefer keeping trail as is. Don't want more people like happened to East Cliff.

- 21. No picnic tables, issue with BBQ, security in parking lot. There is activity at night. No gate, dead body.
- 22. Poison oak removal
- 23. Pedestrian crossing; bike speed down from Palisades
- 24. unsafe on East Cliff Dr
- 25. Safer pedestrian crossing. Against a gate, without access to bathroom and parking people pee in my bushes.
- 26. personally no
- 27. Path is natural without ups and downs. People come here for other purposes; want to feel safe. Beach access needs to be safe access needs to be safe.
- 28. Repave parking
- 29. Control drug users. Road bridge to allow flushing to ocean. Gate plus paid like Capitola behind merchantile.
- 30. a little more parking. Trash cans. Has hit concrete piller at beach while on boogie board when tide comes up.
- 31. Equitable access
- 32. More native butterlies and birds
- 33. need trash/waste management + water bottle filling station
- the less asphalt/paving, the better, keep parking the same. Wheelchair access. Keep it "rural" like that it is not used too much except by locals.
- 35. Tree clearance good for safety, picnic area past where shown on SE side of lagoon (improved native habitat area)
- 36. Hazardous trees are a priority very concerned about trees falling
- 37. Art at restrooms all good ideas for improvements. Longtime Planning Dept member, neighbor
- 38. Parking lot plan by sanitation facility. Don't want people to come to neighborhood. Great owls.
- 39. Yes to bathrooms, access
- 40. No fires on beach
- 41. Kayakers and canoers if it becomes official, there will be too many. Member of Santa Cruz bird club. We have great horned owls, cormorants, etc.
- 42. Rocky dangerous path to beach improve for senior access

- 43. Would like better beach access so do not have to walk over rocks.
- 44. Corcoran Lagoon neighbor, looks terrible.
- 45. should clean up water before access improvements. Help environment and community.
- 46. That would be good but restroom is more important
- 47. Improve path all the way to 30th. Would like to see a more improved path (clar or asphalt) to go all the way up. Concerned about mud, etc.
- 48. Daughter uses wheelchair and accessibility would be nice.
- 49. Not concerned about access
- 50. Feels like it is good, they could maybe clean up parking lot. Like the rural nature.
- 51. Path on opposite side needs a lot of improvement. Get rid of bicyclists (dangerous)
- 52. Need wider walk at parking (trucks stick out into path)
- 53. Believe it is great how it is but it is not well maintained (trees, trees and trees).
- 54. Like the idea of improvements. More continuous walkable pathways
- 55. Lots of flooding on paths
- 56. No access to 21st. Don't like calling it a park. Shouldn't be able to charge for parking. Paid for by coastal conservancy.
- 57. none
- 58. Concerned about parking lot renovation impact
- 59. No signage along trails
- 60. Don't want trail in treatment wetland because that is in front of my house. Makes sense on other side where there is more setback.
- 61. Repave parking charge a dollar. Drug use in parking. Picnic tables led to unsafe conditions
- 62. making things more accessible is always important
- 63. Better to improve accessibility
- 64. Mother is 88 and comes down all the time. Accessible trail would help her a lot.
- 65. Trail drainage important. Bikes don't know about trail add better signage so that motorists are not inconvenienced by bikes on East Cliff Dr
- 66. Bathrooms, trails
- 67. Crosswalk safety, picnic, benches
- 68. Crosswalk, trail, bicycle

- 69. Bicycle route
- 70. bathrooms, shower, picnic area
- 71. restrooms, parking
- 72. bathrooms, crosswalk safety
- 73. benches, bathrooms
- 74. none
- 75. bike route
- 76. bathrooms, signage
- 77. Left turn onto bike trail when headed towards Capitola + signage
- 78. good to add kid activity area on 40 Moran Way parcel. Picnic benches would be nice.
- 79. stop overnight parking. Trail is fine as it is. Parking is adequate.
- 80. decomposed granite path is good.
- 81. Paving the trail will bring more crime.
- 82. needs to be cleaned up. Maintenance has improved by removing picnic tables. New picnic tables would be bad.
- 83. safety in upper section
- 84. not really; improve ad-hoc trail
- 85. raise back of lake to avoid flooding path
- 86. Make sense to be ADA compliant. No ram to access beach or maybe not due to tidal surves.
- 87. not a concrete jungle. Parking is ok as is. Repaint but doesn't care about ADA compliance.

  New restrom and shower.
- 88. ADA pot holes filled
- 89. Flooding trails leading to detouring. Carts and strollers get stuck at 30th. Wayfinding.
- 90. path gets covered with dirt. Slippery with bikes. Challenging for strollers, wheel chairs.
- 91. flooding of trails could be improved. Like seeing ongoing mowing.
- 92. increase trail at upper reaches due to flooding. Grow ice plant over concreat at road.
- 93. don't want to pave it. Keep it natural. Like how we leave fallen trees for nature play. Keep it natural.
- 94. More natural path; not paved, natural

- 95. No improvements
- 96. no
- 97. no pretty accessible (not in a wheelchair). Parking lot in poor shape, bike hazard.
- 98. Not really
- 99. pathway from Placer could be improved. Reuse path for flooding with rock on stable stuff instead of costly boardwalk. Bicycle and pedestrian worthy.
- 100. part of them is leave as is.
- 101. Eucalyptus falling. No additional concrete. Don't like to see a lot of trucking materials in and out of site. Concerned about the trees
- 102. needs more signage on bike path cause people walk on street. Safety concern along road. More level ground and widen.
- 103. Keep trail unpaved, so nice to be able to get off of pavement. "mulch trail" should just be dirt. Can't bike on mulch.
- 104. Integrate curriculum from nearby schools. Local indigenous populations should be consulted. Amah Mutsun. Should be on board with any future staging.
- 105. lots of picnic tables. Minimum 2, otherwise too lonely! The more the better. Use composite look like wood. Need additional tables in both spots.
- 106. Need sidewalk across St on East Cliff
- 107. great if we have safer crosswalk, better bathroom, showers.
- 108. crosswalk safety, move visitors on weekend. Rides bike on trail improve connection
- 109. would love to see new bathrooms, better access to beach (too rocky as you age). Showers? Picnic tables and benches would be great. Concerns regarding homeless.
- 110. playground only have Floral Park
- 111. Trail accessibility is important. Bring mother around on wheelchair and not many places to do that in Santa Cruz.
- Paid parking but cheap? Better shower or two showers. Bring benches back by bathroom. Parking taken by tourists from San Jose, campervans.
- 113. no new parking lot but ok to improve existing.
- if maintained, improvements ok. Not thrilled about bikes. Keep bike paths and crosswalks clean and simple (don't need street clutter).
- crosswalks need refresh/renew (street safety). Not so in favor of amenities like picnic areas (left more to nature).

- 116. Accessibility is nice but concerned about homeless nearby (parking and camping). Accessibility could open things up to more homeless issues.
- 117. People ignore the current bike lane and ride up East Cliff Dr.
- 118. no pavement. No improvements through lagoon.

# Comments from meeting participants' conversations with staff. Response to question "do you have any comments about restoration priorities?"

- 1. Concerned about eucalyputus height. Would like native habitat grove. Concerned about eucalyptus on the east side of the lake. They haven't been maintained.
- 2. Lived here 12 years and never seen a butterfly. The County is using butterflies as an excuse to not cut trees.
- 3. Keep as many trees as possible for wildlfire and monarchs and owls. Proponent for native plants.
- 4. Focus on walking. Ban fires
- Do all of them.
- 6. No monarchs this year. Not worth spending a lot of money on monarch habitat.
- 7. Trash bins. Bank stabilization
- 8. We are into native habitat restoration. Restore habitat and make it look as natural as possible.
- 9. Incorporate extra vacant area on the Sanitation facility parcel.
- 10. Nectar sources for monarchs. Lots of owls in these trees, including screech owl.
- 11. More important than trail.
- 12. Add trees to replace the ones that have been lost. So far Parks has maintained the trees only in from of the property owned by a real estate agent.
- 13. Trash bags
- 14. Like butterfly garden
- 15. Would be nice to have 24 hr access to provide option for bathroom use.
- 16. I like the idea of native plants
- 17. Tree trimming/hazardous tree care. Like the cleaning of corner lot. Maintain trees!!! Fire danger needs to be mitigated.

- 18. Neighbors cutting down trees (watch how much money goes into trees). Butterflies loved eucalyptus trees. More native plants. Live oaks, Monterey cypress.
- 19. Tree hazards and debris
- 20. Dark sky lighting at Sanitation Dept
- 21. birds
- 22. No picnic tables. No birds due to poor water quality. Control discharge into lagoon. Discharge flooded area.
- 23. Water quality is so bad for such a beautiful piece of nature; improvement without impacting nature.
- 24. Wouldn't want to see eucalyptus go; useful to her garden; love looking up at them; smell good; owls; good air; upper stretch is dark and neglected. Concerned with fire. More upkeep and maintenance.
- 25. restoration under longer term plan
- 26. Lagoon plus eucalyptus and monarchs
- 27. How will we maintain the improvements. Budget beyond 1 fiscal year. Mushroom plant fire spilled into lagoon.
- 28. Want to let kids in lagoon, kids raise monarchs, monarch habitat is a priority, very supportive of native plant restoration and other habitat improvements.
- 29. bring locals to nature, not just amenities or habitat but connection between two. Bird watching pavilions, sculpture/habitat/science connection, interpretive signs
- 30. Love monarchs. Doesn't feel comfortable commenting on water quality/monarchs/trees, etc. Restoration is important.
- 31. cleaner water, move pet waste stations, improved native plantings, more trash cans, pretty with butterflies.
- 32. Take out trees by fenceline
- Out of control beach fire, eucalyptus trimming paid for by neighbors, who get together and clear trees, butterflies will get burned up, fireworks on the beach every night.
- 34. Reduce lighting at Sanitation facility.
- 35. Make the lake a real wetland, will become a tidal lagoon in time. Make decent habitat for wildlife, handle inflows.
- 36. Eliminate eucalyptus trees behind parking lot, homeless concerns
- 37. Eucalyptus are dangerous, but monarchs are important. Alternate monarch-friendly trees?

  Parking needs to be expanded and/or cleaned up, but currently feels safe. Removing picnic

tables increased safety. Worried about adding them back in. Water quality has dramatically been reduced very recently should be teaming with birds, but there are very few, in lake or on beach.

- 38. Key factor. Habitat for birds, etc. Worry about poison oak control. Wanting it to remain dog and bike friendly.
- 39. Should all be as natural as possible. A lot of stuff that needs to be cleaned out (debris, etc). We need better garbage disposal.
- 40. Most of the money should go towards the restoration.
- 41. Wildlife is a priority
- 42. Glad to see it happen. Put the dog bags back. Graffiti fences are an eyesore and construction should start.
- 43. Trees need to be maintained or removed or topped. Needs slope stabilization, needs better connection to ocean. Needs more trimming of trees.
- 44. Tree management is main priority with invasive management
- 45. The water quality is gross especially at top. Bring back more butterflies. Improvements near parking. Think the trails are nice like they are, very natural. Likes the obstacles.
- 46. none
- 47. Levee/road retrofitting for water flow/quality is the priority.
- 48. Leave as is (within reason)
- 49. Very concerned about water quality
- 50. get rid of eucalyptus and ice plant
- 51. Improve water quality. Trees that fall in the lagoon make boating hard.
- 52. Fire marshal said to maintain trees. I don't believe it is the home owners' responsibility. Parks needs to remove.
- 53. succulents can be appropriate
- 54. Tidal connection is important
- 55. Ocean Protection Council could be a potential grantor
- 56. I am part of Monterey Water Keepers, a community-based water quality group in Monterey
- 57. Main concern is tree maintenance. Need to keep path clear. Fire danger from eucalyptus stumps left should remove.
- 58. Not artificial and paved and commercialized. Definitely like to see restoration stuff happen.

- 59. Invasive plant and poison oak removal. Maintain butterfly habitat.
- 60. Tree management and invasive plant management.
- 61. Water quality, tidal connection, monarch, lagoon wetland
- 62. Tree management, water quality
- 63. Tree
- 64. Tree management, butterflies, tidal connection, water quality
- 65. Tree management, water quality, pollinator, wetland
- 66. pollinator, lagoon water
- 67. monarch, tree management, water quality, wetland habitat
- 68. Pollinator demonstration
- 69. Tree hazards, pollinators, water quality, wetland habitat, native planting
- 70. tree hazards
- 71. none
- 72. monarch, tree management, water quality
- 73. wetland habitat, lagoon bank stabilization
- 74. Trim eucalyptus to keep them as beautiful trees
- 75. Clear water with specific plants for treatment
- 76. Picking up garbage. Love trees at 40 Moran Way.
- 77. Plan for water quality
- 78. Need to do environmental review of the lagoon water quality, which is declining.
- 79. Picnic tables draw people with bbqs; concerned about fire. Water quality improvement. Lake floods into park 3/4 the way up retaining wall at first rains.
- 80. Water quality improvement, seeing less ducks. No more trees; keep view of lagoon.
- 81. no need
- 82. Like how open the rectangular lot. Undeveloped and not paved. Allows for more infiltration. More native plants to help with erosion, improve water quality before coming into lagoon.
- 83. Enjoy wildlife and outdoors, more access for wildlife
- 84. Landscape by road, remove eucalyptus and plant natives. Picnic tables and enjoy view.

- 85. Flooding, fire safety, clean up leaves and debris.
- 86. Plant stuff could be helped. Permeable nature look. See Watsonville natives garden for examples (UC). May not need demonstration garden
- 87. Keep as natural as possible. Maintenance of trash. Do not replace tables. Maintain trees. Keep it safe.
- 88. Two groups of tables to create security and add more trees along road for sound dampening. Carmel like.
- 89. Like how it is. Cool to have bench land on east side for play structure. Small and natural (Floral Park only one nearby.)
- 90. more natural, pro-animal approach. Water is too scummy to look at.
- 91. loss of monarchs in grove. Great to figure out how to help them out.
- 92. good to make lake cleaner
- 93. More drought tolerant plantings; look nicer; discourage camping; flowering ice plant; keep dogs from pooping on ground.
- 94. Like the idea; rectangle: leave as natural with a couple picnic tables, walking path, not a parking lot.
- 95. Reduce impact of eucalyptus trees. 20 trees over 120 feet on property.
- 96. Protect nature; mitigate impacts, educating people about nature. Keep as wild as possible. Replace eucalyptus if beneficial to monarch.
- 97. California sycamores would do well. Deciduous don't blow over and don't shade out.
- 98. All for butterflies and monarchs and replacing with native trees.
- 99. Clean up the water. Treat runoff, more tidal connection but not if it means just pumping dirty lagoon water into the beach like at Capitola Beach.
- 100. Lagoon needs to be dredged flooding at top of lagoon (needs outlet when it rains). Wood material fills up, nowhere to go (Same thing happened in Soquel Creek). Tear up iceplant along banks. Beach access is important; riprap along beach is ugly.
- 101. All good! Establish native plantings, not picnic areas. Keep more natural area. Haven't seen monarchs.
- 102. Can we replace some eucalyptus, gradually, with cypress and other native trees? Bank erosion an issue. More natives.
- 103. Tree management is huge. Lagoon stabilization, monarchs. Has garden at home would really enjoy a demo garden.

- 104. Bank stabilization a priority. Native plantings would be great but eucalyptus make it difficult to grow. Tide can flood yards along the lagoon and neighbors up to their doors.
- 105. Keep it natural, not too built up. Whatever is best for ecology. Keep a refuge.
- 106. Need eucalyptus for butterflies, even if its non native.
- 107. Maintain access to trail in winter, gets very muddy and floods somewhat.
- 108. Keep things as natural as possible. Blend into environment. Retain nature. Maintain normal parking sports. Should not kick homeless out.
- 109. Monarch enhancement and stormwater treatment big priorities. Establishing native lagoon wetland improvements (natural environment). Decrease human impact on area.
- 110. Enhancement of monarch habitat most important. That is her priority. Bathroom problems mean we need new ones. Hazardous trees too. Trail management needed.
- 111. How do you improve water quality when you have Lod St. We had picnic areas how do we keep homeless/drug addicts from camping. How do we keep people from pooping on the trail?
- 112. Monarch habitat enhancement. Water quality being so close to sewer plant. Wetland vegetation.

## <u>Comments from meeting participants' conversations with staff. Response to question "Do you have any comments on the previous site plan?"</u>

- 1. Facelift is needed
- 2. Make it bigger
- 3. Generally support
- 4. Areas on east side for flat use, fill holes for dog play.
- 5. BBQ pits
- 6. like the boardwalk. Beach: no patrols at night; fires every night.
- 7. County bought from Coastal Commission
- 8. Follow arborist report. Two trees fell on house. Create butterfly habitat alternative.
- 9. Restrooms, no graffiti, people sleep here. Concern with bikes and their speed.
- 10. playground for children
- 11. No bridges through properties
- 12. No fences, built up things, they take away from natural look.
- 13. Picnic area is a concern because of people doing drugs.

- 14. Close at night to discourage camping
- 15. Picnic tables could be an issue attracting bad people.
- 16. Much more interested in the habitat restoration than adding amenities, don't waste money on people instead of nature.
- 17. Get rid of campers
- 18. Like the idea of it being left along but improvements would be nice
- 19. Start acting. Like the way the extra lot is an open space.
- 20. Do it
- 21. Add more trash cans along path. Make trash cans more visible.
- 22. none, worried about off-leash dog enforcement with new improvements.
- 23. Concerns about litter and graffiti with improved access.
- 24. adding cycling/pedestrian right of way signs along road.
- 25. Signage about water safety is necessary (water quality in particular
- 26. Hate to become commercialized.
- 27. Concerned about planting on east bank. No more trees, shrubs ok.
- 28. No paving
- 29. Add the tables
- 30. connecting inland areas where water collects to lagoon
- 31. Parcel don't add parking. Beach is already full in summer. What about habitat value? Consult tribal band.
- 32. Mulch trail at sanitation facility needs to be well above grade of lagoon. Trees near road sheild park from road noise.
- 33. Live nearby so don't use parking/restrooms, but feels they are important
- 34. Bike path needs to be widened (for bikes and pedestrians)
- 35. Do not support previous parking plans at Sanitation facility

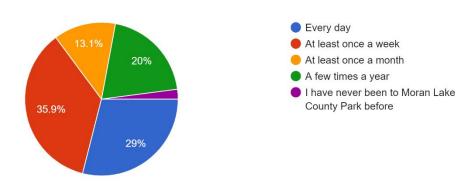
#### Other comments received at community meetings:

- 1. Save trees for butterfly windbreak. Pull dead trees on lagoon. Put wood chips on trail. Plant milkweed.
- 2. Fountain for algae. Screen LED lights at pump station. Screen pump station. Make lagoon boat-friendly.
- 3. Don't raise taxes!

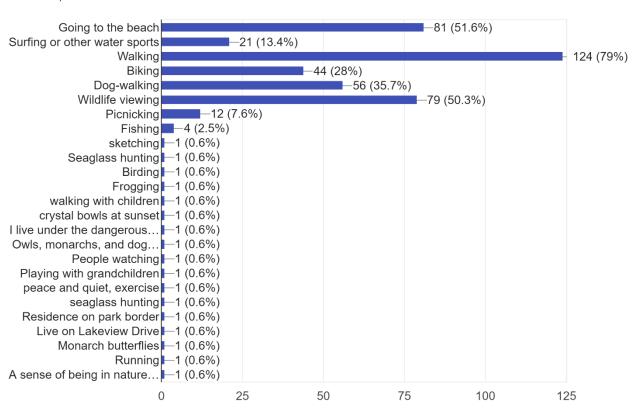
- 4. What about the homeless problem, they take over here.
- 5. Minimal improvements. Fix bathrooms. Replace lighting fixtures especially at the sanitation facility with dark sky features. No improvements to draw others to our neighborhood
- 6. Put dike on lagoon like Capitola, for intertidal protection with lagoon fountain for algae.
- 7. Improved quite hours enforcement needed
- 8. checking on health of trees
- 9. Take a look at poison oak
- 10. Need for educational signage to inform public about importance of healthy lagoon to community, animal/plant life
- 11. No need for trail improvements through lagoon, would reduce quality of area.
- 12. Add garbage bin at end of lagoon and dog bags.
- 13. Water conservation measures for public shower. Hold to keep on.
- 14. Discourage camping and night use of park. Encourage day use.
- 15. Parking lot improvements.
- 16. No motorized bikes on trails.
- 17. Long-term education for community members and opportunity for engagement/spaces for community.
- 18. Prioritize human safety, ie trim trees.
- 19. Do not pave trail.
- 20. Increase native trees and reduce non natives
- 21. Is there a way to encourage monarchs while decreasing non-natives/flammable species?
- Add a viewing ramp on beachside of East Cliff Dr that connects with crosswalk for differently abled people, per ADA, so there is closer access to sand/water.
- 23. Educate people about monarch migrations and habitat.
- 24. Ged rid of the ice plant!

## Section 2: Online Questionnaire Comments (159 responses)

How often do you visit Moran Lake County Park? 145 responses

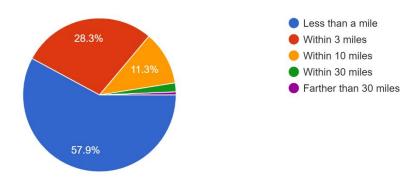


What is your typical purpose for visiting the park? 157 responses



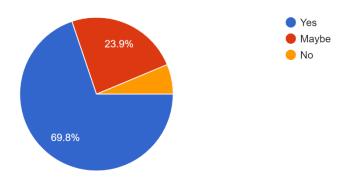
## How close to the park do you live?

159 responses



3. Do you support the idea of improving park amenities for increased accessibility, safety, aesthetics and sustainability?

159 responses



### If not, why not?

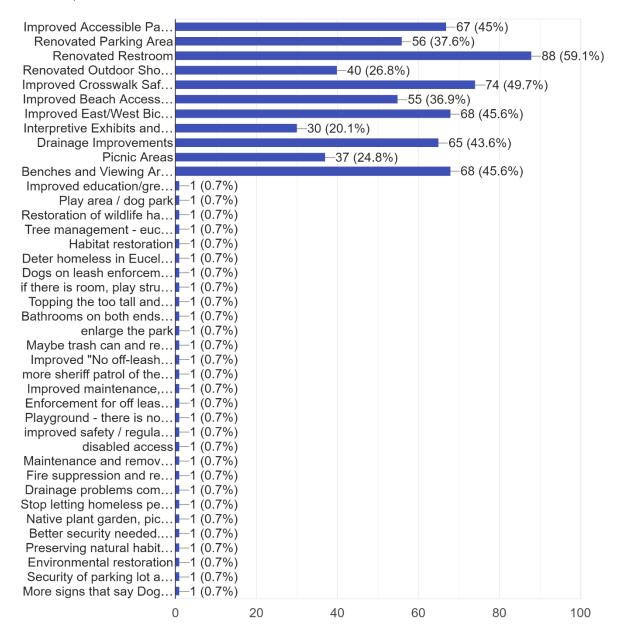
- 1. It's perfect as is.
- 2. concerned that it will disrupt the wilderness feel of the park.
- 3. It depends on what is proposed
- 4. Most neighborhood residents would choose that the park remain in a primitive state. So many of our parks are paved over. Children are losing the opportunity to play in the dirt, throw sticks and just be in nature without development. I fear that more development other than the parking area will add to the decline of natural habitat four the native animals
- 5. Enjoy the park as it is
- 6. We like it the way it is. We consider it a neighborhood park and enjoy seeing the seasonal changes that I fear would be lost with "improvements".

- 7. For me, it depends on what the amenities are & what they entail.
- 8. I prefer we preserve nature vs making it more aesthetically pleasing. Please no more tree cutting, we can do both without sacrificing the other
- 9. ecological values are primary, followed by open space and aesthetic values
- 10. More people tourists will come
- 11. I worry that a too groomed area will attract more people... and there isn't the infrastructure (parking, trash enclosures, etc) to support it. Even expanding the parking lot wouldn't support it and the burden will be get passed to our residential neighborhoods.
- 12. wasting tax dollars
- 13. I would rather see how nature changes the paths and the surroundings through the seasons
- 14. It is accessible currently. Don't want more traffic that will happen, if improvements go forward. Traffic is terrible in this area, especially currently
- 15. Too often, "improvements" don't actually make a place better.
- 16. It's already been "over improved" by an unsightly "outhouse" leave it alone!
- 17. Seems great as is. All the proposed things seem like an unnecessary waste of money and would be better spent elsewhere. Just do a little improvement to the trail so it doesn't get so muddy and that's it.
- 18. I'm concerned that we might overdevelop it. What's so special is that this park, we call it "the grove" feels like a little bit of wilderness in our neighborhood. Cutting down trees or paving it would be tragic. If drainage improvements just means dumping the stagnant lagoon water into the ocean, that would adversely affect sea water quality
- 19. I like wild places.
- 20. Better security needed. Quit going when picnic tables were taken over by meth heads. Did not feel safe to walk the trail alone or with dogs.
- 21. The focus of this project should be preserving nature not turning it into another tourist attraction that provides no benefit to the community. Please don't ruin our community green space by adding more parking, paving bike trails, destroying trees and adding obstructive signage. If this "restoration" project is just an excuse to add more bike infrastructure and attract tourists, please don't pursue it. There is no community demand for such endeavors.
- 22. I like the trail "wild" i.e. without paving or "amenities"
- 23. Sustainability, yes. Accessibility and aesthetics no. So many cool animals and birds and used to be butterflies in there. And LOVE that it is and has been a peaceful, uncrowded space.
- 24. Already too much gentrification in our neighborhood. Moran keeps it a little wild. There is nothing that begs to be "fixed". Ok bathrooms could use remake.

25.	It is fine the way it is. If people want to change their surroundings, ask them to change themselves or go back to their home and change it.

If yes or maybe, which types of public access improvements are most important to you? (check all that apply)

149 responses



Why are these improvements most important to you?

- 1. These upgrades are primarily renovations not "improvements", feel the Improvements listed will impact the current eco balance in that area
- 2. Trail
- 3. I ride my cruiser down from upper pleasure point area. I take the path down since the road has no bike lane. There's a lot of leaf litter on the path which makes it difficult to share with pedestrians and other cyclists. The path around the lake is accumulating sand so that needs to be maintained also. People are heading East on East Cliff at high speeds when they come around the corner and can be difficult for pedestrians to get across. I don't use a parking lot but it needs to be repaved.
- 4. Improve existing trails and parking area. Do not add benches, displays, tables, signs, lamp posts etc. that disrupt natural views. Keep it natural and uncluttered. Mitigate user damage.
- 5. I mostly walk along Moren between Fresno and the beach. I think the trail could be a little improved because it can be kinda hard for my daughter to ride her bike when there's lots of leaves and loose dirt. It also seems like the water quality can be bad sometimes.
- 6. Very important
- 7. I need to know more about the planned improvements. I would hope trees will not be removed and the wildlife not disturbed.
- 8. when it rains, it floods over E. Cliff Dr. at times.
- 9. I use these daily
- 10. These improvements will promote a peaceful setting to respect the natural beauty of the area. Too many improvements will distract visitors from the ocean.
- 11. The park has been neglected. Parking is important as are usable restrooms (the existing ones are just gross) and the trail to 30th Ave is often not safe.
- 12. Parking area and showers. Have mechanism to prohibit illegal camping and overnight parking. There's so bad behavior at night there, and sometimes drug use during day. I'm concerned that the grove will turn into a homeless encampment at some point soon and we need measures to guard against this
- 13. I don't want to see a modern trail that takes away from nature. My kids and I love nature & don't want them growing up in a place where that's all been taken away little by little
- 14. It's a spectacular location at the ocean connecting to a lake and natural habitat! Please upgrade dislocation and also provide safe access four people and wildlife.
- 15. I love this space. It looks uncared for and old. But the maintenance is clearly happening with the trash cans and relatively clean bathrooms and trail maintenance. Newer facilities will be great. Make it safe to cross from parking to the beach and give us a proper pathway to enter the beach that is more accessible to everyone, even those who can't scramble over boulders.

- 16. The place is a mess and encourages homeless/drug use. It needs to be cleaned up to encourage tourists and residents alike
- 17. These are the features I typically make use of in a public park
- 18. Safety and beauty
- 19. The bathrooms are disgusting
- 20. we live in the neighborhood next to parking lot and moran laggon
- Enhance visitor-ship and wildlife viewing
- 22. Moran park is such a great means of getting off the streets and going from the 30th/Portola zone down to the beach. The path is sufficient, but needs drainage improvements and some reinforcements, as well as vegetation management. The road crossing and beach access "pathway" could also be greatly improved.
- 23. Wheelchair and stroller accessibility are important.
- 24. It's one thing that's kind of janky.
- 25. I'm mindful of the impact of increased traffic on the birds that make Moran Lake their home.
  I want the park to be clean and functional for people but am not interested in attracting a lot more traffic.
- 26. Cleanliness and accesssbility for locals
- 27. I would like to see it left as is, but with drainage improvements so the trail isn't muddy during the winter, and with better security so it feels safe to be on the trail (or even the parking lot).
- 28. Very wet and muddy in winter
- 29. It would be nice to fix the decrepit railings around the drainage area. The bathrooms could use an upgrade. But ideally the path that runs by the creek would stay relatively unspoiled.
- 30. Accessibility
- 31. More parking takes people off the side streets in the residential neighborhood
- 32. I see that they need improvement.
- 33. They're much needed and can be done without changing the overall feel and aesthetic of the area.
- 34. The trees create the nice conditions that people & monarchs seek. We have lost over 50 large eucalyptus there, much could have been avoided if county had dealt with drainage problems when they were identified in 2010.
- 35. Dogs on leash enforcement
- 36. Safety for young families
- 37. It's kind of dangerous to cross the street when people are coming down that hill sometimes a high rate of speed. And entrance to the beach really has no entrance. It could be like Sea

- Bright Beach with an official entrance and exit. Also need to have someone sweep the sand off of the pathway cuz it gets very slippery especially on bikes.
- 38. More parking would be nice, and a safer walking & bike path on East Cliff is a must.
- 39. To improve the experience for all visitors. Bathroom access is critical for unhoused folks who live in the pleasure point community.
- 40. The restrooms could use some work. I think pedestrian safety is important.
- 41. Makes a nicer environment. Today's state is kind of run-down.
- 42. This area is both ecologically sensitive and adjacent to a lot of human activity, I'd like the project to balance those. But the habitat restoration is top of my list to get done, the planning process has already been quite lengthy. Please start restoration & mitigation work asap!
- 43. I like what is there, just needs to be updated
- 44. I enjoy this area daily, and it's definitely time for improvements! Will encourage me to stay for a while, vs. just cruise through.
- 45. Safety measures are most important as I visit the area daily
- 46. The transition from riding bikes east on East Cliff to entering the Moran Lake bike path is clumsy, requiring crossing the road, riding over a sidewalk and onto the steep, bumpy and narrow path shared with pedestrians, and then crossing the mouth of the parking lot which is often congested. The restroom/shower area could definitely use some upgrades.
- 47. Health of people and wildlufe
- 48. I live adjacent to the park.
- 49. Trail gets unusable or thrashed during heavy rain/high tides. Cars don't always stop at that high use cross walk to beach
- 50. Ecosystem
- 51. Moran Lake is home to many different species of native flora and fauna and we should preserve their endangered habitat by protecting what's already there, removing invasive species and reintroducing plants and animals that create a healthier environment.
- 52. Leash signs
- 53. Accessibility and education are very important to me.
- 54. benches and viewing areas
- 55. To be able to spend more time there.
- 56. I walk from 30th Ave. (x Portola) using the trail through the ravine. It gets very wet and boggy most of the year. Improved trails are a must.
- 57. The improvements are appropriate for the ways in which I use the park most often.

- 58. "#1 Bicycle route: very dangerous intersections of paths, cross-walk, oncoming traffic. some kind of signage, flashing light, stop sign, left turn lane, to control the traffic in, out and bypass by cars, bikes and pedestrians.
  - #2 Restrooms are very nearly disgusting and unsanitary
  - #3 Improved crosswalk safety, see #1"
- 59. The parking is very necessary considering few other options available, but currently it seems terribly unsafe crossing from the lot to the beach. Restroom services are also crucial—it is not uncommon to see tourists walk onto a resident's property to urinate in the cover of their bushes—especially to families. Proper drainage is always essential near the ocean. Improved, accessible benches and viewing areas would create pleasant opportunities for those with mobility issues to enjoy our shared natural resources. The other improvements listed would also be welcome, but in my opinion these are priorities.
- 60. bathrooms create access for young kids, there is a dearth of disabled access opportunity for open space.
- 61. I rarely go to this beautiful park due to safety concerns or unless I am with a group
- 62. They make the park more accessible and help visitors understand the ecosystem.
- 63. It's dangerous and inaccessible to get onto the beach from the road, especially after sunset.

  The benches don't face the water and are uninviting. The toilets are nasty! Parking is difficult.
- 64. These seem to me to be the basic things needed to provide safe access for all
- 65. It the things I use
- 66. Want to make the park better for those living in the community but NOT for those who want to abuse the parking area by using it to sell drugs or park overnight.
- 67. The pavement is really funky, I never use the parking lot because we live close, but I empathize for those folks! Also the pathway from the parking lot to Pleasure Point is overdo for some repaving/smoothing. I'd love it if we could have picnic areas again!
- 68. Overall area needs a facelift
- 69. Because I fucking live here.
- 70. They help everyone not just tourists
- 71. We walk and bike here with kids every day
- 72. Restore habitat for animals and birds and replace non native plants
- 73. Too crowded to walk East Cliff. Locals need alternative
- 74. Public safety.
- 75. Lots of traffic here especially in the summer-
- 76. Make it more accessible. More park like
- 77. These improvements seem to encourage more walking/biking/beach use.

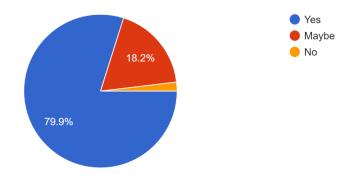
- 78. So us locals can enjoy the park and I feel like this park has been neglected
- 79. Restroom is a disaster. Biking along East Cliff Drive is unsafe. Crosswalk is not safe, either. Not enough picnic tables or benches.
- 80. Add to overall enjoyment
- 81. Dangerous to cross East Cliff with Traffic,
- 82. Trails and parking lot are uneven, water is very brackish, off-leash dogs are constant.
- 83. Good bathroom and shower facilities are important. The lake water needs to drain so it that it is not like a sewer. Picnic tables and benches need to be replaced here and at Pleasure Point so one can enjoy the view.
- 84. The parking lot needs to be maintained and monitored more frequently. It should have an attendant or be permit parking at the very least. It has people that live there part time and take it over. It often feels unsafe walking through with my children. I can hear people yelling and partying constantly from my home. The shower needs to preserve water more efficiently and maybe even be payment operated. We are always in drought and the shower is overused. The bathroom is small and is beyond cleaning since it is so disgusting. It definitely needs a redo.
- 85. children need areas to play that are in the neighborhood
- 86. I like that Moran Lake still feels very natural and hidden away from the activity of the surrounding roads and neighborhoods. I hope we can keep this character as much as possible and not cover it with too much concrete.
- 87. I'm worried about using that restroom because it is so gross. I have tripped over the drop that leads into the sand next to the road. People drive through there pretty fast and it seems hazardous to cross the street. I saw a bicyclist wipe out and fall on the sand that spills from the beach onto the bike lane.
- 88. It's nice to have some place to sit and enjoy the park with a picnic.
- 89. It's difficult to walk there during the rainy season when the lake overflows
- 90. We need better connectivity within city limits to increase options for non vehicular travel
- 91. sanitation and enjoyment
- 92. I typically drive to this beach, so the parking area needs repainting and filling in the pot holes. Also, please do whatever is possible to prevent the large lagoon from forming (on the ocean side of East Cliff) that prevents foot access to the ocean.
- 93. I would visit more often.
- 94. "Many young families with young children are moving into Pleasure Point. We have grandchildren and there is no playground withing walking distance.
- 95. Parking area should be limited to 4hrs per car. This would discourage people living in their cars using a parking spot for families that want to enjoy the park or beach. Cameras should

- be installed in the parking area. There is lots of drug dealing, alcohol abuse, noise and trashing going on. "
- 96. No bike lane and a poor transition from the road to the public path is dangerous. Most bikers opt out of using the public path and most pedestrians are upset with bikers on that path. Clarity will help. As for drainage, erosion... there's been a lot of it.
- 97. Because the area currently is a hazard zone for vagrants and junkies with a need for safety and aesthetic improvements
- 98. The homeless people who "live" there make it very unpleasant to walk in Moran. They leave behind piles of human feces that are a health hazard, as well as piles of other trash that are unsightly. The trails themselves flood when the "well" at the top releases water, or if we have a lot of rain (hasn't happened in years), making it very difficult to walk there.
- 99. Take a look, it's obvious the eucalyptus trees are too tall and have not been maintained. All trimming so far has been done by homeowners under these dangerous trees for their own safety during fire season and wind storms.
- 100. the parking lot is home to some people who live in their cars, so anything we can do to make it stay clean and monitored is appreciated
- 101. "Bathrooms because There is human poo all over.
- 102. Drainage, I don't mind that the park gets muddy in the winter it's supposed to but a bit of work to help stop sediment from effecting the lagoon would be good.
- 103. -The tree thinning has really helped open the park up and make it feel safer to be in, I would like to see the eucalyptus slowly cleared and replaced with native appropriate vegetation."
- 104. Keeping the area clean and safe is good for the community, kids, pets, and wildlife.
- 105. Safety, flood prevention, fire hazard
- 106. bicycle access
- 107. The proposed improvements from the 2010 drawing appear to address needed upgrades.
- 108. Enhancement and sustainability
- 109. the park needs a liitle updating and rpair, but I would not want the small charm of the parking area to change. There is no need for giant bath rooms that do not fit the character of the existing park.
- 110. enhance pedestrian experience & safety.
- 111. "1) Off leash dogs are the biggest danger on the beach to all human and wildlife users except the dog owner. Many people park and allow multiple dogs to race around with no supervision. Occasional visits by animal control are ineffective.
  - 2) The sidewalk bordering the lagoon side of the parking lot should be doubled in width. At present overhanging bumpers and tailgates take up most of the width. And those unloading

vehicles don't understand that there's a through route/trail from Portola to the beach that serves walkers, bikers, baby carriages and surfers.

- 3) The attempt at native vegetation beside the parking lot was a complete failure. At least the ice plant prevented people from trampling all over the banks (yes I know it's not native!) But after a few weeks all we had was blowing dirt. From observing around Santa Cruz the only successful native vegetation projects are fenced off and have weekly volunteers doing intensive care."
- 112. To enjoy the beauty and wildlife
- 113. Because myself and my neighbors live here and the trees fall regularly, sometimes on people's homes. Whenever we have high wind, we are all nervous about trees falling. But we do need wildlife friendly areas, so we can't just remove trees, but replace with other native plants for butterflies, birds and other animals that rely on this area. We are nature lovers and love the beach, which is why we live here. But the eucalyptus trees are not being managed properly.
- 114. As Santa Cruz becomes more developed there are fewer special green spaces that are preserved for wildlife habitat.
- 115. Maximize natural space. Minimize human junk like signs, benches, tables, etc.
- 116. Because I happen to live within walking/biking distance, am fortunate to know about existing alternate path to get off E. Cliff Dr on your way past Moran. I cringe every time I drive past pedestrians, realizing they must have no way to realize there's a much safer (& scenic) bypass. Love newer existing educational signage, would be thrilled to see more.
- 117. for relaxing outdoors and wildlife viewing
- 118. Restrooms are basic need.

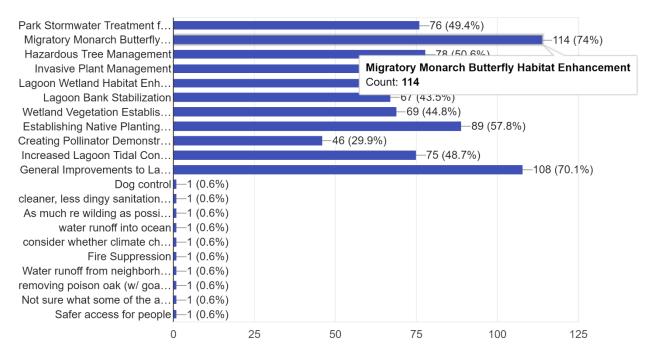
Do you support the idea of implementing restoration projects in the park to improve water quality, increase and enhance key coastal habitat types in the park, and increase resiliency to climate change? 159 responses



#### In no, why not?

- 1. When you say "restoration" how do you chose which moment in the past was the best time to restore to?
- 2. risk of losing current natural setting
- 3. You don't mention controlling the growth and maintenance of the eucalyptus trees!
- 4. I think this is really only helpful if you address safety concerns and campers who dump around there, litter, defecate, and participate in illegal activities, Santa Cruz spends money and effort to restore the environment to later allow it to be destroyed and trashed often after the work is completed.
- 5. Why is that necessary? How much would it cost? Maybe the funds could be better used for other improvements instead.
- 6. Not sure what specific projects are included in this statement.
- 7. waste of taxpaer money
- 8. Many people want to replace eucalyptus with native oaks & other trees, which are not trees that create monarch habitat or support them through the winter
- 9. I don't trust the planning "process"
- 10. I'm concerned that restoration would be taken too far. We love the trees and natural environment-
- 11. Not clear what those projects entail, and support of restoration projects would depend on what they are and how they would change the area's natural setting.
- 12. If it is TRULY for the restoration of that space for coastal habitat then would be open to it.

If yes or maybe, which restoration priorities are most important to you? (check all that apply) 154 responses



Why are these restoration priorities most important to you?

- 1. in other words returning the area to its original
- 2. Water quality
- 3. Sometimes the lagoon water exits on to the upper Beach area. It can be pretty gross sometimes.
- 4. Improve water quality. Keep lagoon full, deep, clean, unlittered.
- 5. The benefit of the lagoon is the habitat to native wildlife (and the beauty to humans!).
- 6. Park ecosystem has been deteriorating since the original planning efforts were developed and improvements have been minimal
- 7. I want to see improvements to the ecosystem. Owls and green herons nest here. Monarchs over-winter.
- 8. Encourage the Monarch Butterflies, keeping the invasive plant management under control, and keeping it as natural as possible, but safe as well.

- 9. Water quality needs much improvement in Moran Lake. Change the name to Moran Lagoon to highlight the original purpose of it.
- 10. We need to use our resources to help nature restore itself.
- 11. The lagoon has lost much of it's natural connection. It could be a beautiful wildlife area if restored
- 12. A lot of the improvements I've seen in our county are always at the expense of taking away from nature, wildlife habitats, cutting trees, etc. We should be making an effort to preserve as much as we can as a requirement.
- 13. Unique location
- 14. All matter, right? The water quality, at times, smells bad and looks awful. If this can be improved with wetlands habitat enhancement to increase water quality Yes Please! I think the priority should be having nature support water quality first and resorting to treatment only if necessary or if that supports cleaner oceans. I don't know much about the chemicals that would be used for treatment and whether than is better or worse for our ocean.
- 15. the water can be quite stagnant and I've wondered if that might not be healthy for the ecosystem. Love the idea of creating environments that are pollinator friendly
- 16. Preservation of what already exists with enhancements to ensure the entire lagoon remains safe and accessible in the future
- 17. Protecting and sustaining the environment in Santa Cruz should take priority over what are largely aesthetics wants such as updating the parking lot, bathrooms, showers, etc.
- 18. I believe nature should be kept as intact as possible
- 19. Improve on it's strengths
- 20. All take advantage of lagoon's assets and potential
- 21. The lagoon get's pretty gross, both in low levels (when the mud flats expose lots of urban nastiness), and in high levels (when the water is stagnant, sheened w urban nastiness, and overflowing the trail). Any improvements to water quality and tidal connections would be great.
- 22. It is important to restore the estuary habitats. With sea rise, Moran Lake could provide an inlet for high tides and prevent flooding in other areas. Habitat expansion is necessary for the animals that depend on the estuary.
- 23. Clean water is the key to healthy wildlife!
- 24. I care about the environment and climate
- 25. All are good for the flora and fauna.
- 26. I would like the lagoon to be kept as close to its natural state as possible, and to keep the water clean and clear of contaminants.
- 27. Keeping the eucalyptus grove safe is important, as is improving the habitat.

- 28. Protect wildlife
- 29. Often the lagoon smells and gets backed up. It's concerning when that water then breaks through to the ocean as that can't be good for anyone
- 30. They improve the lagoon and its natural purpose
- 31. Monarch habitat has been severely compromised here, largely due to lack of any I ad agency really being in charge. Master plans for monarchs have already been created but n verbimplemented. We dont need new plans...we need some action & accountability from the county.
- 32. Water quality
- 33. Habitat for native species and safety for young families
- 34. Eucalyptus trees coming down the path often drop branches and litter. That whole path needs to be maintained and kept clear of debris and sand.
- 35. Too many eucalyptus trees in the area.
- 36. Ensuring the habit supports plant and animal life, and is sustainable in a changing climate environment
- 37. The lagoon water seems problematic, stagnant.
- 38. These wetland habitats are critical and also fragile, we already have seen huge declines in monarch population and reduction in lagoon water quality & habitat health. The lagoon supports a wide variety of wildlife including birds, insects and invertebrates but it's been degraded by human activity. We need to start restoration now, with as few delays as possible.
- 39. Preserve the natural state of the area
- 40. It's a beautiful area that should be optimized, maintained, and strengthened for years to come.
- 41. Moran lake has always seemed to have a lot of potential for wildlife/plant/bird habitat but doesn't quite make it because of water quality maybe....I'm not sure. Improvements in this regard would be nice.
- 42. Improve health of lagoon for the people and wildlife
- 43. Hazardous trees are a threat to my house and me. Upgrading the park may deter the partying and camping there. A healthy lagoon/ wetland is important environmentally. I hope the butterflies will come back, which I use to see from my window.
- 44. Love to support all the wildlife we get here: Great Horned Owls, Monarchs, diversity of Herons
- 45. Restoring and maintaining this natural green space improves the quality of life for community members visitors, and wildlife. Adding destructive and obstructing signage, exhibits, and bike

- trails does not and indeed actively harms nature and our community. Please only make changes that benefit the wellbeing of the community you serve and our wildlife.
- 46. Saving this ecosystem helps to keep us safe and healthy. The Eucalyptus trees pose a serious fire risk to the surrounding area and we need to come up with a solution.
- 47. For preservation of natural quality
- 48. Water is life, basically.
- 49. water quality
- 50. They will all be important
- 51. I would like to invite more friends to join me on my walks through the trail
- 52. I'm most interested in things that will restore the lagoon to a more natural, healthy state.
- 53. Generally, return the lagoon/bay intertical area to as close to natural as possible and increasing habitats for Monarchs and migratory birds
- 54. They make me happy.
- 55. We must continue to protect our natural landscape while fostering healthy human interactions 1/for quality of life purposes and 2/to instill these values in future generations
- 56. all contribute to lagoon functional enhancement plus support native wildlife. caution: native pant areas are often not adequately maintained and they are lost to invasive species. consider whether that is a good investment.
- 57. I would like to see the monarchs and pollinators supported and the lagoon water quality improved
- 58. It is important to maintain a healthy ecosystem.
- 59. Generally important to preserve wildlife habitats and native plants.
- 60. I don't know much about the ecology and water quality in the lagoon but invasive plant management is a basic requirement to address habitat degradation. I have a background in working with water quality and have no doubt that the water quality is degraded but would guess that runoff from nearby roads and developed areas contribute to this more than runoff from the park itself.
- 61. It what's needed to make it a nice area
- 62. All will enhance beauty of the area and safety
- 63. Because I fucking live here.
- 64. Leaving the area as I have known it for over 60 years
- 65. To protect the natural habitats
- 66. More wildlife and beauty of natural settings
- 67. Loss of habitat is driving the decline of native flora and fauna

- 68. Natural habitats are great but upper creek area smells ,is ugly, and needs to be cleared to avoid flooding
- 69. Public Safety
- 70. The water quality is poor now due to lack of water-don't know what you can do about that in a drought. A couple of years ago when 20+ eucalyptus fell, a few of them on houses, tree management became more important to me.
- 71. Been lacking
- 72. These improvements seem to help native plants and animals.
- 73. the lagoon gets stagnant at times
- 74. Monarchs and other animals need to be supported and PLEASE remove all those foxtails!
- 75. Eucalyptus trees are non-native and hazardous. Lagoon often gets stinky.
- 76. Quality of water and surrounding wetland plantings restore aesthetics and safety and natural conditions. Pour water in affect animals a swim in it
- 77. Butterfly habitat & protection of wildlife.
- 78. Park and pond could be improved locations for wildlife after improvements
- 79. It is currently a brackish pond that needs help.
- 80. Changes that add enhancements to the wildlife are positive (such as the butterfly habitat improvement), but changes that have the area overrun with people will have a negative impact.
- 81. I personally don't care as much about native vs invasive plants. But the water does look dirty and stagnant, and I think it would be a more plant and animal friendly space if the water were clean and circulated.
- 82. We have a responsibility to be good stewards of the lands in our community. It would be fantastic to restore the wetlands and monarch habitat for animal watching purposes.
- 83. Increase wildlife sustainability and lagoon ecosystem health
- 84. Establishing native plants and managing invasive species can benefit existing habitats, improve water quality, and improve bank stabilization. Many of these restoration priorities can potentially be rolled into one effort.
- 85. These would improve and maintain the native environment
- 86. sanitation and safety
- 87. The lagoon would be better quality if allowed to fully drain out to the sea. This improves conditions for humans AND wildlife.
- 88. Improve water quality of Santa Cruz oceans
- 89. Prevent further erosion which may lead to greater issues

- 90. Improving water quality is the most important priority to me. It gets pretty stinky there at times and I suspect that it has to do with runoff both from the adjacent homes (fertilizers and pesticides) as well as leakage from the sewage station. Making the habitat more "natural" as a wetland, including with native plants, is second in importance to me. However, I do NOT support removal of the eucalyptus trees as they provide important stabilization and habitat functions, and these functions need to be maintained by replacing the trees BEFORE any removal happens.
- 91. Nothing has been done by the county for over 10 years to control the eucalyptus trees, unless they have fallen on homeowner's homes or are blocking the trail. Maintenance is a must requirement before someone is injured or killed by falling limbs and trees!
- 92. The cypress trees need trimming and the eucalyptus trees are dangerous. My house is directly in the line where these trees would fall or drop burning branches.
- 93. This park is the closest wild space for many people in this neighborhood. It would be wonderful to free it from the toxic fire prone eucalyptus and plant back native vegetation. I recognize that the monarchs need some protection so doing tree removal in stages seems reasonable. Those trees are dangerous to walk in during weather and I would love to see the lagoon allowed to be as wild and attached to the ocean tidal zone as possible. I would like to trade eucalyptus, ice plant, and non native black berries for naive berries, oaks and rushes.
- 94. Maintaining a healthy environment and park for community enjoyment now and to last into future
- 95. safety and fire hazard
- 96. Re-establishes native plants and feeders. I love the Monarchs and want to protect them, but understand the challenges of Eucalyptus trees. Maybe they're topped to discourage "rangy" growth
- 97. Water in the lagoon often appears to be stagnate
- 98. The butterflies used to be there in such greater numbers ... would be great to have them returning though they like the non-native eucalyptus ha! Goes against my second point.
- 99. Sustainability of a natural environment and beautification
- 100. it's important to me to bring the park and lake back to it origanal state where possile. it would be grate to see monarchs and migratory birds back at the lake
- 101. improve lagoon management without over doing it.
- 102. Same as previous answer. Support local birds and wildlife
- 103. Because we love this area and want it to be healthy for people and animals and safe for all.
- 104. They keep the lagoon and the surrounding habitat healthy for present and future generations.
- 105. We keep chopping down trees and trashing the planet. Any efforts to reverse this are worth doing.

- 106. The "lagoon" is a tidal estuary, that like Corcoran, has been artificially dammed & cut off from their natural flow & health. While realizing it's way beyond the scope of current project, ultimately both estuaries will have increasing opportunities to reconnect w/the Bay, as sea levels rise. At some point, E, Cliff Drive will have to raised above these estuaries, as the road will continue to be increasingly buried in sand during winter storms. In the meantime, any increased opening between Moran & the Bay, will be a small step in the towards restoring a natural habitat. Think it would be wise to incorporate long view in current planning (like not spending too much \$\$ on any low-lying portion, closest to the beach.) Already annual damage/repair cycle to that segment. Part of local entertainment after every storm.
- 107. for natural benefits

The previous draft plans for the park from 2010 will serve as the starting point for the upcoming planning process. Do you have comments on the previous plan to consider as updated plans are developed?

- 1. Just improve the trail and don't do anything else
- 2. No
- 3. I strongly oppose the picnic area. Don't add man-made structures/furniture/signs/etc. Keep the area natural to maintain views and beauty.
- 4. Water quality and invasive species in upper reaches of creek are in very bad condition. Public access facilities: restrooms, trails, and sitting and picnic tables are poor and deteriorating. It is a sad reflection on the county Parks Department that these issues have been neglected for such a long time
- 5. I'm not familiar with the plan
- 6. Additional lands or easements should be obtained to expand and restore the coastal wetlands.
- 7. This would have been good to have at the beginning of the survey. Bathrooms need to be larger. Keep path rustic. We love walking and biking the path
- 8. More trees!
- 9. Update and improve plan
- 10. Please just implement the plan!
- 11. No
- 12. That's a good place to start
- 13. no additional comments
- 14. Looks like a good start.
- 15. This looks fine to me, as long as people can still walk their dogs off leash.

- 16. Link not working
- 17. no comment
- 18. How many new eucalyptus trees has the county planted to replace all of the tree that have been lost by removal & natural losses of trees in this grove over the past decad? Answer: hardly any. County park keeps removing trees without replacements, thus continuing to the ongoing damage the monarch habitat.
- 19. Generally support. We'd like to see a playground at the end of quartz st. If possible for all the families that live here.
- 20. Playground with swing set at the end of quartz st
- 21. No
- 22. I continue to support the 2010 proposal
- 23. ok
- 24. Has the project taken into account new data as it progresses--that is, since the plan above is over a decade old, has it tracked changes in conditions over time?
- 25. Looks nice as planned
- 26. It looks nice. I'm not sure if interpretive signs are necessary but they're ok. The picnic area is a nice idea. Please don't get rid of the access from Warren St, we often enter the park from there.
- 27. No
- 28. I bike along this path 1-2x daily, would want to keep the new path "bike-friendly".
- 29. There is no reason to pave trails or add a "wooden boardwalk" or steps. This does not improve accessibility except for bicycles, which are actively destructive of this habitat.
- 30. No
- 31. no
- 32. None
- 33. no
- 34. No
- 35. At first glance it seems like a good basis for ongoing discussions; would definitely like to see additional parking and possible expansion of restroom cavities (a second location?)
- 36. really important to determine what trees will support Monarchs, and in what strategic locations. Then aggressively plant and maintain to replace eucs, since the eucs will undoubtedly be removed incrementally for safety purposes.
- 37. I did not see the earlier plan, but I'm glad to see the new paths and bank stabilization.

- 38. I do not think a picnic area is needed. This just attracts druggies to hang out. Families can go to the beach to have a picnic. I think benches to sit on and view the lagoon or beach are fine, but no tables. Also do not know how many would use path behind the sanitation facility. Would focus funds on areas from Placer towards East Cliff. Would also love to see a gate that closes the parking between 10pm-5am.
- 39. Add pathways to Quartz and 30th Ave as they exist now.
- 40. Yes!
- 41. I don't want to see all the trees removed for the additional park parcel.
- 42. No.
- 43. Skip the wood boardwalk and cobbled walkway. The dirt path is okay. Nectar demonstration? Restrooms should include the outdoor shower and feet cleaning faucet. Curved parking lot pretty but impractical. Mainly important to clean up the "Lake".
- 44. I am for an update to the bathroom, parking lot, the better crosswalk and the water flow to the ocean, but not much else. The crosswalk could use lights. I have almost been hit in the crosswalk there on several occasions over the years.
- 45. Happy to see bathroom updates. I would like to see beach access be addressed to be more safe when crossing the road and stepping into the sand area. The additional Park Parcel could be beautified as well for picknicking... The existing bike path is pretty lumpy and could use improvement I think.
- 46. I'd like to see the Eucalyptus grove at the top protected, for the Monarch butterflies and wildlife
- 47. No
- 48. looks okay but prefer trail/path improvements not be asphalt
- 49. It would be great if this area allowed well behaved and voice controlled dogs to be off leash.
- 50. I do not see ANY eucalyptus tree maintenance by Warren Street! This is the most dangerous area of the tallest trees that would reach neighborhood homes and cause injury or death!
- 51. A bathroom on 30th ave. Might mean that I wouldn't have to clean as much human poo out of the park. I don't see the homeless /vehicle camping situation changing anytime soon but it would be really great if they had open access to a bathroom on both ends of the park.
- 52. I will review the previous plans. Thx for the link
- 53. Looks good
- 54. Prefer no wood boardwalk, keep it natural
- 55. no
- 56. It's important to me that the Park retain & if necessary, improve the pathway from the beach to 30th Avenue.
- 57. I am curious about "plantings" and the demonstration garden, and what that entails.

- 58. Sometimes less is more. More nature, less concrete, less stuff for people.
- 59. cancel all plans, save the money to decrease county debt.
- 60. I would like less interference with the pathway.....restore around lake but let the stream and nature change the pathway through the seasons.

What concerns do you have about potential park improvements and restoration projects at the park?

- 1. Would like to understand how much of these improvements actually occurred
- 2. Of course the cost is a factor. I like that beach as local hangout as much as possible. If putting in picnic tables and more benches there needs to be County supervision because the homeless have taken them over before.
- 3. Less is more. Stabilize the bank, improve the paths and parking lot. Don't add new stuff. Ensure that no paths are lost/removed during the restoration.
- 4. That this planning process will generate a lot of good ideas but the County Parks will not have the ability to implement anything because of lack of funding and failure of staff to provide the adequate technical expertise in order to move forward move forward.
- 5. Impacts on the plants and animals in the area
- 6. Illegal camping and more traffic. Parking is difficult already.
- 7. "I want to keep the area as natural as possible while recognizing that humans use it too. Please don't increase paved parking areas or add more structures like picnic tables.
- 8. Please create a new system for fires on the beach next to Moran Lake. The sand is typically covered in charcoal. People leave burning fires on the beach regularly "
- 9. I am concerned it may be over-developed; I advocate for a low-key approach focused on plant and animal habitat.
- 10. don't plant more eucalyptus; budget money for ongoing maintenance of native plants and pollinator garden; confer with Amah Mutsun Tribal Band for interpretive sign content and native plantings; install good bike racks; don't install anti-homeless architecture
- 11. The park should not become a homeless/RV camping area
- 12. That you won't adequately solicit snd consider feedback from neighbors. A mailer should be sent out ASAP. No one knows about this yet
- 13. That natural habitats will be disrupted or more trees will be cut down
- 14. Better and safer pedestrian and bicycle at the street needs to be provided
- 15. I want all plantings to be native and to support the monarch habitat.
- 16. I would hate to see the natural feel of the park disappear

- 17. The parking area and surrounding spaces need to be continuously monitored to prevent camping, drug use and litter.
- 18. Costs exceeding budgets
- 19. parking lot needs to not allow camper vans, rv's, and no overnight use. Place locking gate at nighttime. Sheriff needs to patrol park and parking lot more.
- 20. I don't have concerns
- 21. Only concern would be potential intra-community social/political battles between those who want zero change (and assume, incorrectly, that the lagoon/park as-is is in its natural form) vs those who want to see full paved-path city parkification of the area. The sweet spot is somewhere in the middle.
- 22. While serving people is important; ie bathroom and shower renovations.....Restoring the habitat, removing non native plants, having better tidal flow is how I would like to see the majority of the money spent. If not now, when?
- 23. Keep the dirt vibe. Making everything all tidy just makes it harder to actually connect with natural environment.
- 24. More folks from outside the area using the park and overwhelming its size a d having an impact on the environment
- 25. I would not want trails to be paved, and would want to keep it dog-friendly.
- 26. Noise, disruption during improvements and how long the project will take
- 27. Homeless camping
- 28. Too many tourists will be attracted to area.
- 29. It would be ideal to keep the path relatively unspoiled.
- 30. Even more people will come which impacts the quality of life for residents
- 31. Please keep walking path natural and do not turn park into a museum experience. It would be great to remove blue gums as they become hazardous and replace with native trees species. The biggest problem in this area is the constant homeless human presence.
- 32. Impact to the neighborhood. Don't plan improvements to facilitate more visits or traffic. The area can't take it.
- 33. Another plan is made which doesnt get implemented, so nothing substantial ever gets done
- 34. Off leash dogs are our greatest safety concern, to protect our kids.
- 35. Off leash dogs
- 36. I'm hoping there's not going to be machinery interfering with people using the parking area or the paths. The loud noise could also scare away the species are trying to help.
- 37. Add parking to the open property between East Cliff & Moran Way.
- 38. No.

- 39. no concerns. Please make improvements!
- 40. I'd like the restoration projects to be emphasized, and for that work to begin as soon as possible. I'm concerned that continuing delays will allow greater damage to the habitat to occur.
- 41. The trail going to 30th Ave is now called Pervert Path in the neighborhood, I wouldn't like to see a lot of money spent on something that will still be attracting transient lurkers.
- 42. None -- just keeping it wild(ish) and safe for wildlife.
- 43. I'd like to limit parking because it brings too many homeless and others that are disrespectful to the area
- 44. I guess I'd like to see a wider path on the east side of the park to accommodate bike+foot traffic. I can't tell if that's the case here.
- 45. Homeless residents occupying the space
- 46. Make parking lot safe
- 47. None
- 48. I want it to stay open to bikes & dogs
- 49. I am concerned that this project will lead to unnecessary and unappealing signage, development, bike trails and a larger parking lot. All things we DO NOT need and the community does not desire.
- 50. Too much development for pathways or benches. We should keep our intrusion of the wildlife's habitat to a minimum, while ensuring it's accessible to all.
- 51. I enjoy walking in dirt paths, so hoping sime remain.
- 52. That a minority of squeaky folks stop great things from happening. Climate change is real.
- 53. Increased foot traffic, more trash
- 54. timeline too long
- 55. Long term. Management and parkland safety and security
- 56. None
- 57. I love the plan in general, however, how will that new parcel acquired in 2008 will be used? Could there be picnic tables and benches?
- 58. All projects should be approached from the perspective of what will most help the water quality and health of the lagoon
- 59. Its budget will be cut. Design decisions will be based on cheapest bid.
- 60. We need to change ourselves and our nature, not nature.
- 61. Is there an existing funding source for this project, or is it it going to raise our taxes? How much oversight will there be to ensure compliance with budget and timeline?

- 62. "that eucs will be removed in response to neighbor complaints and real or imagined concerns, before adequate replacement habitat is in place."
- 63. My main concern is SC will put all of this effort and money in to restore the park, only to have it decimated and ruined by the illegal campers.
- 64. None
- 65. Not ADA compliant
- 66. None, looks good to me.
- 67. The commitment to keep it nice
- 68. Doing anything that will make it easier for drug use and drug sales. The parking area already has a constant stream of drug dealings. I'd like better lighting around the parking, and for the lot to close at night. Maybe make it paid parking?
- 69. concern with it becoming a homeless encampment
- 70. I think it needs a light touch I wouldn't want the path to be paved over for instance. It's so nice that the park feels somewhat "wild".
- 71. That they take too long to be complete
- 72. Parking lot already appears unsafe and any new features/amenities will be destroyed or vandalized
- 73. Wildlife habitat loss
- 74. Not enough
- 75. Please put the proposed butterfly/nectar habitat on the other side of the lagoon next to the ADA location.
- 76. Is there a dedicated budget for this or are our taxes impacted additionally?
- 77. That our neighborhood "park" will be overrun with people who do not care about the neighborhood. We're very happy with it the way it is now. It's part of the reason we live here. Hopefully there are no plans for paving or artificial "improvements".
- 78. None
- 79. The removal of the trees at the 'additional park parcel'.
- 80. Unhomed taking over the park
- 81. Overdoing projects bc you have the money
- 82. None
- 83. The paved walkways are not what we want. Anytime that type of improvement happens, the area becomes crowded. The best thing about Moran Lagoon area is walking in the peaceful area while looking at butterflies and the many species of beautiful birds. I'm afraid that some of these proposed changes will ruin some of the best things about the area. In general, some minor updates would be okay but, I'm afraid you guys are going to ruin it. Also, the picnic

area is a concern since the other existing picnic benches were removed at the request of local residents because the area was becoming a combination of a homeless encampment and drug use area. The picnic tables were always taken by people who were not there to enjoy the park. It's been improved since the tables have been gone.

- 84. Ensuring that it is safe for all users and not an area for homeless to congregate
- 85. I want to maintain the natural feel of the park as much as possible.
- 86. add trees at the north end of the park
- 87. Beach access and safety crossing the road is my biggest concern.
- 88. noise, disruption to wildlife, increased public use, more homeless camping because of increased amenities,
- 89. Multi-use bike/pedestrian trails create safety issues for both bikers and pedestrians (conflict over space)
- 90. That it will change too much from what time has always been a low key classic location in Santa Cruz that's for the locals to enjoy
- 91. the butterfly garden may be obsolete as the monarch population is greatly decreasing
- 92. I am worried about the social impacts of certain improvements. I wish the coastal commission would consider the people who live in these areas. Why improve access to a (small) beach that is already at capacity. The beach has become increasingly popular in the last years, rolling out the red carpet of amenities for people will just make it another Instagram-worthy mess. Please protect the one wild-feeling area that serves our side of town.
- 93. I fear increased use by the homeless, removal of the existing trees before full size native replacements have grown, and more trash from more poorly behaved visitors.
- 94. My answer is above!
- 95. The butterfly garden sounds like a great idea Monarchs are a highlight of the ecosystem. However, there are many houses whose view of the ocean is currently over the lagoon, and if the butterfly garden was built too high it could destroy their property values.
- 96. I dislike how gentrified east cliff has become, I don't really want to see that change come to Moran lake. I recognize that it's coming weather I like it or not so it would be great if instead of paving and opening it up for tourists the Moran lake project focused on restoring the wetlands as much as possible with some small human amenities.
- 97. Budgets for park maintenance and patrol of area for community safety
- 98. Do not want to see picnic tables or playgrounds because of fire concerns(people lighting bbq's under eucalyptus trees) and homeless population increase which happened before with the picnic table being there and it had to be removed. Plus trash is a concern
- 99. I would support projects that improve habitat and encourage day use and safe places for kids/families

- 100. None
- 101. Like everywhere else here, just the increased numbers of people that would be there and hope that wouldn't disturb the cool home for the owls, falcons and other creatures who we are so lucky to have there in our neighborhood.
- 102. See above
- 103. I would hope that the architect does make this some grandiose design, i have concerns about parking spaces that have unnecessary planting areas that will reduce parking areas, i am concerned that the restoration will limit our access to the park. I am concerned that if the eucalyptus trees are removed and planted with navtive trees that the park will look bare
- 104. That increased use/demand will lead to more parkland used for parking, which I do not support.
- 105. An increase of biking and recreational activities that degrade wildlife habitat.
- 106. I love the idea of improving the area, but we need to manage the trees properly, the trimming that has been done is pretty bad (made the trees look like telephone poles) or not at all. There are still downed trees from our last storm that litter the area.
- 107. It will become overdeveloped and lose it's natural essence and charm.
- 108. Too much focus on things for people. Hysterical neighbors demanding that trees be removed
- 109. This location is pretty much at the mercy of the tides and storms so I wouldnt go too crazy on expenditures but maybe a swing or 2 in the back..
- 110. leave it the way it is,
- 111. Our attempt to control the out comes of nature can cause more trouble than we realize

Is there any additional feedback you would like to provide?

- 1. Nope
- 2. The beach is littered with charcoal from fires. I suggest banning fires at the beach.
- 3. The section of Moren park from about Placer to Portola can be a little dicey. It can smell bad; it seems like there's a lot of refuse, a lack of maintenance, and general disrepair. Because of the state of it, it feels less used and more prone to some isolated homeless tents. I don't usually walk there anymore because it's not very pleasant. I would love to be able to walk along Moren to get toward Portola, so restoration of that area and making the walking/bike path more accessible, would be the thing I would be most happy about (along with improving water quality for the native animals) with this restoration.
- 4. Small improvements, like better maintenance would go a long way toward showing the community and neighbors that the Parks Department is serious about moving forward with basic improvements
- 5. This presents a good opportunity to expand local wetlands and pursue funding sources.

- 6. Very dangerous along east cliff in that location. The trail around the lake needs to be upgraded and made safer. Provide fire rings on the beach so beach fires are contained.
- 7. Please plan for annual or quarterly maintenance to the creek after the storm season when trees fall.
- 8. See above---funding for patrols to provide the monitoring should be included in any planning.
- 9. water runoff needs to be constant, not when lake is full or overflowing or bad storm. Must be inline with fisheries, ocean advocates, steelhead fisheries and such to not hamper marine wildlife out front.
- 10. Moran Lake has the potential fir great habitat snd to absorb energy and water from the ocean as a result of climate change
- 11. Given the lagoon is fed 100% by urban runoff and isn't exatly a pristine waterway, does it necessarily have to fall into the coastal commission protections? By that, I mean, would it be OK to encourage better tidal connections for beautification of the lagoon area in general, and better water circulation for quality?
- 12. Once restored, volunteers could help plant natives and have sections to maintain as is currently happening on West Cliff drive and happened in Pacific Grove. That encourages continued interest and buy in to keeping the area maintained, safe and preserved.
- 13. Environmental concerns and restoration is more important than anything!
- 14. If it isn't safe for kids or people to be there alone, few will use it. Not sure how to solve this as there seems to need to be a reported incident to get the Sheriff out there and by then it is too late.
- 15. I would like the restrooms to be accessible longer hours so people sleeping there would have a place to defecate and would not do it in the park.
- 16. Replanting monarch habitat with native trees will not help rehabilitate the monarch habitat at all, it is just a feel good exercise for the public.
- 17. No
- 18. I would forgo more parking for a Safe Walking and Bike Path on East Cliff.
- 19. no
- 20. Moran Lake is both unique and precarious, please take every precaution to conserve and protect it!
- 21. Keep it in as natural a state a possible with no urbanization. no zip line, rock climb, commercialization.
- 22. Should make it one hour parking only
- 23. More native plants are always better!
- 24. Poison oak management
- 25. Keep it clean.

- 26. I love dogs, have them as family members, but they are out of control in the park.
- 27. Please make sure homeless don't live in the park
- 28. no
- 29. No
- 30. Please lets get this started.
- 31. no
- 32. Thank you for undertaking this project
- 33. Thank you. Please consider my comments.
- 34. Keep the community involved, please.
- 35. Good job getting his done!
- 36. I would love to go to this park more and I bet others would too, but without some effort made to make the nearby environment safer, it leaves it as not an option for many people.
- 37. No dogs!
- 38. Would also like to see better wood fencing/rail along the lagoon towards the street + take down that awful looking corroded metal railing on the beach side that is just an eyesore now.
- 39. Glad you folks are doing this!
- 40. Please have a locking gate at night to the parking lot entrance to keep people from partying all night in the parking lot.
- 41. Improvements need to be in the interest of keeping the area natural and in harmony with the surrounding area. Please don't enlarge the parking, make a huge bathroom and pave over the park that exists today.
- 42. Moran Lake Park is the perfect place for a demonstration composting toilet. The County Board of Supervisors will soon endorse four sites for such demonstration toilets, which are non-odorous and hygenic and part of the solution to our water shortage. Modern composting toilets are nothing like outhouses of the 19th & 20th centuries. People need to see one to understand them. Moran Lake Park needs additional toilets--why not install the most advanced technology for biodegrading human waste efficiently and cleanly, without the need for wasteful water plumbing?
- 43. Don't cut down the trees & don't expand the parking lot
- 44. No
- 45. Please keep changes very minor.
- 46. I usually enter this area via Moran Way off of East Cliff. I had no idea that additional parcel was part of the park. I think this space could be used differently.
- 47. No

- 48. not at this time
- 49. Is it possible to extend the walking path all the way to Portola Drive, or even Capitola Road?
- 50. Please keep the area dog friendly.
- 51. This is a lovely area and I am glad efforts will be made to improve it. Please don't make it worse. All it needs are some raised wood/plastic walkways to allow people to walk when the area is flooded, and better control of what is released into the lagoon from surrounding properties to improve water quality. Thanks for taking our input!
- 52. Please show more priority towards controlling the eucalyptus trees for local residents who live under them and less on non-locals who come to visit and shoot off fireworks without regard to the hazardous conditions around them. With the very concerning threat of fires and how flammable eucalyptus trees are, plus the fact that they are not a native tree, and besides people loosing their homes to them, the monarchs and their habitat would all be destroyed as well.
- 53. Please trim or remove the two cypress trees that are planted along the pond. They have doubled in size in the past few years and are lopsided and scraggly.
- 54. This space is super important to me I spend 5 hrs a week enjoying it as is.
- 55. Demonstration gardens and descriptive plaques are nice to have but I think a lower priority as compared to general clean up and infrastructure improvements.
- 56. We are for the park being a natural habitat, but do not want to see an attraction for people's activities essentially in our back yard under the trees.
- 57. I am opposed to night use of the park including camping
- 58. try to mitigate the smell of the sanitation facility
- 59. I strongly support improved pedestrian access to Moran Lake Park/Beach from the western side right now we have to walk in the bike lane/street. E. Cliff is a busy road & walking in the street there feels pretty unsafe.
- 60. See comments on three priorities above.
- 61. Appreciate the focus on this restoration. Thank you.
- 62. Focus on nature not on people.
- 63. this is a waste of taxpayers money.
- 64. Hope the restoration has a minimalistic approach



# County of Santa Cruz

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

JEFF GAFFNEY DIRECTOR

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

October 4, 2021

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors 701 Ocean Street, Room 500 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services Department Budget

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We, the Parks and Recreation Commission, commend the Department of Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services (Parks) on the parks and services they have provided to our community while operating on less than a fully funded budget. They would not have been able to do this without the staff that is in place both in the field and in the office.

While we understand that all County departments were severely impacted by COVID-19 and were required to make significant cuts. We as a community have seen over the last 19 months that Parks have been a safe haven for physical and mental health while nearly all other public and private outlets were forced to close, thus elevating the priority of fully funding the Parks Department. If it were not for this department, its field crews, its management, and its assets this county would have been in a worse situation, as far as community health, during the pandemic.

While we recognize the roles of first responders and their budgets should, of course, be the top priority; please consider Parks to be next in line for funding priority in your future budget deliberations. As stated above, we believe the previous almost two years has proved that it is a near requirement to keep our parks safe, clean, and accessible; and their associated services operating at capacity.

Please let us know if there is anything the commission can do to help and thank you for your support.

Respectively,

Steven Bennett, Commission Chair Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commission



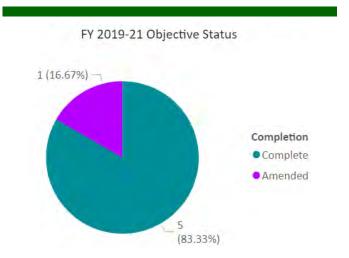
# PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & CULTURAL SERVICES

PROPOSED BUDGET • FY 2021-22

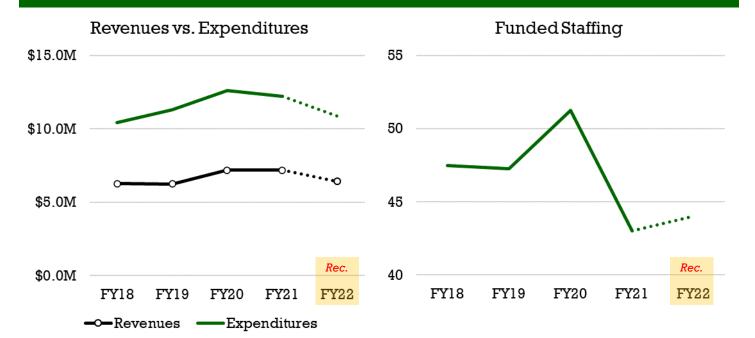
# **PROPOSED BUDGET**

All Funds	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	Δ	
Revenues	7,169,843	6,403,800	-10.7%	
General Fund	4,230,667	4,230,667	0.0%	
Other Funds	808,961	245,055	-69.7%	
<b>Total Financing</b>	12,209,471	10,879,522	-10.9%	
Total Expenditures	12,209,471	10,879,522	-10.9%	
Total Staffing	48.00	48.00	0.0%	
Unfunded Staffing	(5.00)	(4.00)	-20.0%	
Funded Staffing	43.00	44.00	2.3%	

### **OPERATIONAL PLAN UPDATE**



# **BUDGET TRENDS**



Revenues are down due to operational restrictions from COVID-19 and end of Coronavirus Relief Funding. The gap between expenditures and revenues is financed by a combination of General Fund contributions and available fund balance.

Staffing changes include eliminating 3.0 limited-term full-time equivalent (FTE) Recreational Program Specialist limited-term positions in 2020-21 and funding a previously unfunded 1.0 FTE Recreation Supervisor in 2021-22.

#### **DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW & FUNCTIONAL CHART**

#### Mission

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.

Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Services

Recreation & Cultural Services Page 245

Art in Public Places

County Service
Area 11

**Departmental Programs** 

#### Park Operations

Administration\*

Maintenance & Facilities

**Swim Center** 

Planning & Development

#### Recreation

Recreation

Administration\*

**Special Events** 

Outdoor Education

Youth Recreation

Fitness & Health

Seniors

**Cultural Affairs** 

# PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & CULTURAL SERVICES

Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services is responsible for 1,400 acres of County park land, the Simpkins Family Swim Center, multiple County beach access points, a variety of afterschool and summer recreational programs and cultural services programs.

#### ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Art in Public Places provides art in the development of County building and remodeling projects with construction costs over \$100,000, as well as public art in highly visible public areas for the general public's enjoyment. The 2021-22 expenditures for on-going programs include \$10,000 for the Outside the Box traffic box art program and \$3,500 for the Community Mural Program.

#### **COUNTY SERVICE AREA 11**

County Service Area 11 (CSA 11) encompasses the entire county except for the four cities and the independent recreation districts of Alba, Boulder Creek, La Selva, and Opal Cliffs. It provides funds for park acquisition, park development and maintenance, recreation programs, and the overall operation of the Parks Department.

## PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION



<sup>\*</sup>Administration costs are allocated to all Parks programs.

#### **EMERGING ISSUES**

During 2021-22, Parks anticipates continuing to transition out of the COVID-19 restrictions, including restoration and re-creation of reservation offerings, recreational programming, and aquatics programming. Parks will continue to prioritize increasing equitable access in the reimagining of all services.

There was a significant increase in the use of parks, park facilities, and participation in outdoor programming by the public during the COVID-19 shutdown. This has increased maintenance requirements and impacts to natural resources. Parks will begin using new software in 2021-22 to better manage resources and equipment, and to track repairs and deferred maintenance.

In partnership with the Workforce Development Board, Parks will implement the National Dislocated Worker Grant for Fire Recovery, offering employment for those impacted by the CZU Fire disaster. At this time, the Human Services Department has not allocated funding to continue the CalWORKs partnership to provide outreach, learning and enrichment services to targeted low-income families in 2021-22.

The Live Oak Library Annex at Simpkins Swim Center will be under construction in 2021-22, and deferred maintenance for the swimming pools and pool infrastructure will be completed in coordination with the Library Annex project.

#### **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

#### 2021-22 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The 2021-22 recommended budget provides for a decrease of \$1,329,949 in expenditures, a decrease of \$766,043 in revenues, and a decrease of \$563,906 in Other Funds, which results in no change in General Fund contribution.

#### **EXPENDITURES**

The decrease in expenditures of \$1,329,949 is primarily due to the \$1,363,192 decrease in Coronavirus Relief Funding (CRF) expenditures, offset by 50% furlough elimination, increased Extra-Help costs post-COVID-19, and funding 1.0 full time equivalent (FTE) Recreation Supervisor for a net decrease of \$168,025 in Salaries and Benefits, and offset by the \$845,437 increase in services for the National Dislocated Worker Grant partnership for a net increase of \$304,902 in Services and Supplies.

#### FIXED ASSETS

Fixed Assets in the amount of \$13,500 in Public Art improvements.

#### REVENUES

The decrease in revenues of \$766,043 is primarily related to the \$1,363,192 decrease in Intergovernmental Revenues from CRF funds, offset by \$332,297 increase in Use of Money from increased Rents and Concessions, and \$277,574 increase in Charges for Services, as services and programming are progressively restored as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted

#### **STAFFING**

Staffing changes include eliminating 3.0 limitedterms FTE Recreational Program Specialist positions previously funded by the CalWORKs partnership in FY 2020-21, and funding a previously unfunded 1.0 FTE Recreation Supervisor with restored facilities reservation revenues. BUDGET DETAIL Budget Unit: 49

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	Actual	Adopted	Estimated	Recommended	Change from	
All Funds	2019-20	2020-21	2020-21	2021-22	Adopted	
Revenues						
Taxes	1,871,045	1,946,012	1,940,871	1,994,199	48,187	2.5%
Fines & Assessments	123	0	98	0	0	0.0%
Use of Money	615,154	279,403	387,258	611,700	332,297	118.9%
Intergovernmental	642,124	1,370,725	1,385,052	4,590	(1,366,135)	-99.7%
Charges for Services	3,014,261	3,453,647	3,418,061	3,731,221	277,574	8.0%
Miscellaneous	69,792	54,090	34,666	62,090	8,000	14.8%
Other Financing	130,584	65,966	65,966	0	(65,966)	-100.0%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	6,343,083	7,169,843	7,231,972	6,403,800	(766,043)	-10.7%
General Fund	4,340,469	4,230,667	4,230,667	4,230,667	0	0.0%
Other Funds	145,249	808,961	677,414	245,055	(563,906)	-10.1%
Total Financing	10,828,801	12,209,471	12,140,053	10,879,522	(1,329,949)	-10.9%
Expenditures						
Salaries & Benefits	6,247,768	6,414,010	6,784,755	6,245,985	(168,025)	-2.6%
Services & Supplies	4,488,979	5,621,770	5,981,607	5,926,672	304,902	5.4%
Other Charges	4,985	5,175	5,175	5,598	423	8.2%
Fixed Assets	220,595	568,800	568,800	13,500	(555,300)	-97.6%
Other Financing	416,046	131,932	131,932	65,420	(66,512)	-50.4%
Subtotal	11,378,373	12,741,687	13,472,269	12,257,175	(484,512)	-3.8%
IntraFund Transfers	(549,572)	(532,216)	(1,332,216)	(1,377,653)	(845,437)	158.9%
Total Expenditures	10,828,801	12,209,471	12,140,053	10,879,522	(1,329,949)	-10.9%
Total Staffing		48.00	51.00	48.00	0.00	0.0%
Unfunded Staffing		(5.00)	(5.00)		(1.00)	-20.0%
Funded Staffing		43.00	46.00	44.00	1.00	2.3%

# 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 Todd Marco, dated July 21, 2021, requesting a land survey for APN 04101136
- 2. Email and letter from Jean Brocklebank, dated September 30, 2021 stating concern about signage regarding dogs at Scott Creek beach