



**Agenda Item A.3**  
**CONSENT CALENDAR**  
**Meeting Date: May 14, 2025**

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**TO:** Chair and Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** JoAnne Plummer, Neighborhood Services Director

**CONTACT:** George Thomson, Parks and Open Space Manager

**SUBJECT:** Parks and Open Space Division Report

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and file a report regarding recent activities and initiatives in the Parks and Open Space Division.

**DISCUSSION:**

Parking Changes at Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park

Changes to the parking lot at Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park are going into effect this month, including no overnight parking and a maximum four-hour limit on parking. These changes were approved by the City Council in 2024. Temporary informational onsite signage and outreach will accompany the approved changes in an effort to keep park patrons aware of the updated regulations.

Wildfire Risk Reduction at Ellwood Mesa

Santa Barbara County Fire crews are continuing to reduce the risk of wildfire at Ellwood Mesa by removing dead trees throughout the grove and trimming overgrown shrubs near private properties. The work is funded by a \$1.7 CalFire grant the City previously received. A team of biologists is coordinating protection of nesting birds and other sensitive wildlife. Upcoming work and more information about the project is available at this site: <https://www.cityofgoleta.org/play/parks-recreation-open-spaces/ellwood-mesa-and-monarch-butterfly-habitat/ellwood-now-work-in-progress>.

### Goleta Butterfly Grove at Ellwood Mesa

Saturday morning volunteer events are continuing at the Butterfly Grove, with a variety of activities scheduled through the end of the month. The Bucket Brigade is leading the Saturday morning volunteer events and interested community members can RSVP at: <https://bucketbrigade.volunteerhub.com/vv2/>.

More volunteer events will be hosted throughout 2025 and you can stay up-to-date on all the various activities at Ellwood Mesa by visiting this site: <https://www.cityofgoleta.org/play/parks-recreation-open-spaces/ellwood-mesa-and-monarch-butterfly-habitat/ellwood-now-work-in-progress>.

### Ellwood Mesa's 20th Anniversary Celebration!

Twenty years ago, Ellwood Mesa was saved from development thanks to the passionate efforts and generosity of community members, organizations, and partners who safeguarded this treasured open space. On Saturday May 17, 2025 from 11 AM - 4 PM the community will come together once again to celebrate the Sperling Preserve/Ellwood Mesa, honor those involved in saving this incredible open space, and look forward to the next 20 years. The day will feature an honoring ceremony from 11 AM to noon at Ellwood Elementary, then fun and informative guided activities at Ellwood Mesa in the afternoon, including nature journaling, bird watching, tours, and more. There is also a fun run and bike ride organized for the morning. More information, RSVPs, and volunteer opportunities can be found here: <https://ellwoodfriends.org/anniversary>.

### Staffing and Recruitments

The Parks and Open Space Division is thrilled to welcome Diego Camacho to our maintenance team. Diego most recently served as a Park Ranger Trainee for Santa Barbara County Parks at Jalama Beach, where he worked on various maintenance projects and assisted with customer service at the popular beach campground. At Goleta, Diego is working on a variety of park maintenance activities, including landscape care, wildfire risk reduction, and replacement of park infrastructure.

Approved By:



JoAnne Plummer,  
Neighborhood Services Director