



TO: Chair and Members of the Public Tree Advisory Commission
FROM: Luz "Nina" Buelna, Public Works 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:

Park Tree Maintenance

On December 2, 2025, City Council approved a \$1,190,500 contract with West Coast Arborists (WCA) to perform annual tree maintenance in City parks and open spaces. The contract runs through June 30, 2028, with an option to renew for two additional years. WCA will provide a variety of services, including tree pruning, removals, tree inventory, and new tree plantings. WCA is anticipated to begin work later this month under the direction of City staff and the contract City arborist. This contract with WCA represents a new, programmatic maintenance program for our city park trees, with most trees expected to receive pruning within the next three years and on a regular cycle thereafter. The tree care program focuses on improving tree health and structure and provides essential urban forest management tools through digital inventory and administration software.

Tree Planting at the Goleta Butterfly Grove

Over 500 trees have been planted during the past 18 months at the Goleta Butterfly Grove at Ellwood Mesa. The majority of these trees are eucalyptus species planted to replace trees lost during the historic drought of the last decade. Over the next six months, another 200 trees are planned for installation at the Butterfly Grove, with local native species comprising approximately 80 percent of the upcoming plantings. Oaks, sycamores, cottonwoods, and other native species will be planted along the banks of Devereux Creek to improve wildlife habitat, provide shade for the creek, and protect

monarch butterfly aggregation sites from wind. The city, in partnership with the Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade, is hosting four community volunteer planting events at Ellwood. Details on the events can be found here:

<https://bucketbrigade.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/ellwoodmesa>

Approved By:



Luz "Nina" Buelna
Public Works Director