



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:

Tree Plantings Underway at Ellwood Mesa Monarch Butterfly Grove

Habitat restoration work is moving into the implementation phase, delivering over 800 eucalyptus trees and 6,500 native plants to the site. Two temporary nurseries are established near the parking lot and the Ellwood Main butterfly area to support planting efforts. The butterfly science team, led by consultants Althouse & Meade and Creekside Science, completed two days of fieldwork to map new tree planting locations and new trees are being planted several days per week. University of California Santa Barbara's Cheadle Center staff is leading the replanting effort. Community volunteers are invited to join in the replanting effort at several upcoming events. Over 300 trees have been planted by volunteers as of late November. Interested individuals and groups can learn more about the volunteer events and sign up here: <https://www.cityofgoleta.org/play/parks-recreation-open-spaces/ellwood-mesa-and-monarch-butterfly-habitat/ellwood-now-work-in-progress>

The City Council approved the award of a construction contract to install a new 3-inch irrigation mainline into the Butterfly Grove. The project will supply irrigation water for new plantings and provide critical infrastructure to support existing trees. Construction began in early October and is scheduled to be completed before Christmas. Biological monitors will ensure impacts on migratory monarch butterflies are minimized. A contract-certified arborist advises the contractor on reducing the impact on existing trees. Where trenching is required near existing trees, the contractor must hand-dig rather than use a

machine trencher. See below for more information on the City Council-approved construction contract.

Tree Maintenance Projects

Several tree maintenance projects were completed or are underway in City parks and open space:

- Evergreen Park – Removal of 29 dead and/or downed trees; Pruning of 11 trees of various species.
- Bella Vista Open Space – Removal of three dead pine trees.
- Oro Verde Open Space – Removal of two dead pine trees.
- Lake Los Carneros – Removal of one dead and one partially fallen cypress tree.
- South Coast Railroad Museum – Pruning of various trees.
- Stow Grove – Pruning of various trees.

Recent City Council Items Related to Parks and Open Spaces

On August 20, City Council approved a \$150,000 professional services agreement amendment with Rincon Consultants for contract City Arborist services. The contract City Arborist is certified by the International Society of Arboriculture and provides the City with tree risk assessments, professional advice on tree maintenance, grant support, and related urban forest management services. Over 6,500 trees are in City parks and open spaces.

On September 17, City Council approved a \$464,160 construction contract with Schock Contracting Corporation for the Ellwood Mesa Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan Phase I Implementation – Irrigation Mainline Project. The new irrigation system will help establish new trees and native plants in the Butterfly Grove. The irrigation system will also supplement watering for existing trees in butterfly aggregation sites within the grove.