



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

DISCUSSION:

Splash Pad at Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park

The City's first aquatic facility is scheduled to open this month. A community ribbon-cutting ceremony and opening celebration is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, at 3:00 PM to mark the start of the splash pad season. Following the event, the splash pad is proposed to operate six days per week through Labor Day (September 7, 2026).

Proposed daily hours of operation are 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The facility will be closed every Wednesday to allow for routine weekly maintenance and cleaning.

On May 5, City Council was provided a more detailed overview of the maintenance, operations and estimated costs for the splash pad. That staff report and presentation can be viewed here:

<https://goleta.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=15424621&GUID=4B8287D8-76F0-410D-B52C-4D27F5AD61EF>

Habitat Stewardship at the Goleta Butterfly Grove at Ellwood Mesa

A community stewardship day will be hosted on May 30 at the Goleta Butterfly Grove. Volunteers are invited to help plant trees and native plants, and provide important plant care including installing irrigation, clearing planting sites, spreading mulch and monitoring trees. These events are a fun way to help monarch butterflies, meet new people, and learn about the ecology of the Butterfly Grove. More details and sign ups are available here: <https://bucketbrigade.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/ellwoodmesa>

Wildfire Risk Reduction at the Goleta Butterfly Grove at Ellwood Mesa

Tree contractors are scheduled to remove dead and downed trees throughout the Ellwood Mesa during the month of June. This work is conducted as annual maintenance in the Butterfly Grove and follows the City's permit requirements and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan. Experienced biologists will be conducting nesting bird surveys prior to work and protective buffer zones will be established around any active nests. 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>

Public Works Department 2026-2027 Annual Work Program

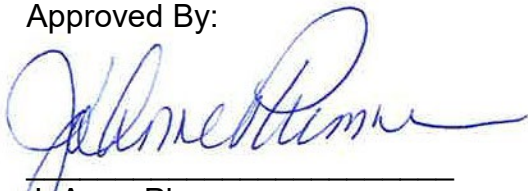
The Public Works Department's proposed 2026-2027 Annual Work Program and priority-setting workshop was presented to City Council on May 5. The Parks and Open Space Division's proposed projects and programs, in priority order as presented to City Council, include:

1. Operate and Maintain Splash Pad
2. Implement Ellwood Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan Phase 1
3. Urban Forest Canopy Mapping and Analysis
4. Park Tree Planting Master Plans
5. Park Tree Maintenance Program

These proposed projects and programs are in addition to ongoing, daily maintenance and operations at the City's 30 parks and open spaces. Long Range Projects/Programs contingent on staff capacity and budget include:

1. Lake Los Carneros Footbridge Demolition (CIP Project No. 9132)
2. City-wide Open Space Management and Maintenance Plan
3. Lake Los Carneros Master Plan Update TBD
4. Lake Los Carneros Dam Long Range Plan Phase 1 TBD
5. Ellwood Trails and Habitat Restoration Phase 1 (CIP Project No. 9118)
6. Ellwood Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan Phase 2
7. Parks and Open Space Signage Master Plan
8. Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) Update
9. Open Space Trails Maintenance Program On hold
10. Park Field Renewal and Irrigation System Renovation
11. Creek and Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) Priority Projects Implementation
12. Invasive Plant Removal Program (CWMP)

Approved By:



JoAnne Plummer
Neighborhood Services Director