



Agenda Item A.3
CONSENT CALENDAR
Meeting Date: November 12, 2025

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:

Habitat Stewardship at the Goleta Butterfly Grove at Ellwood Mesa

There are two remaining community volunteer days in 2025 on November 15 and December 6 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

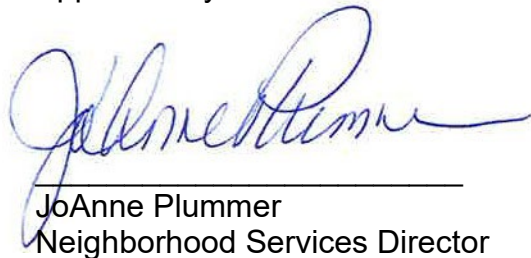
Santa Barbara County Fire Department crews recently wrapped up seven months of work to reduce the risk of wildfire at Ellwood Mesa. The landscape is noticeably different, with large swaths of highly flammable downed, dead eucalyptus trees removed, accumulated piles of bark and branches pulled back from the bases of live trees, and standing dead trees cut down and processed. This work followed the City's permit requirements and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan. Although the County Fire crews are not expected to return until next year at the earliest, additional tree work requiring specialized equipment and tree climbers is anticipated to occur by the end of the year. 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>

Staffing and Recruitments

The Parks and Open Space Division recently welcomed Emily Brawley to the team. Emily most recently served as a Gardener, Human Resources Coordinator, and Guest Services Associate at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, participated in the Master Gardener certification training, and recently received her Certified Pool Operator credential. Emily was hired as the City's first Lead Maintenance Worker, an important role that helps oversee our maintenance operations, provides quality control over our many contractors, and helps scope and implement many special projects in the City's parks and open spaces. Welcome to the team Emily!

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JoAnne Plummer", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the name and title are printed.

JoAnne Plummer
Neighborhood Services Director