



TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Charles W. Ebeling, Public Works Director

CONTACT: Melissa Nelson, Environmental Services Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Creek and Watershed Management Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the Creek and Watershed Management Program.

BACKGROUND

The Creek and Watershed Management Plan/Program (CWMP) was adopted November 17, 2020, having been initially identified in the General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan (General Plan, adopted November 2, 2006) as Conservation Element Implementation Action CE-IA-3. The General Plan provides context for the protection of creeks and associated riparian habitats and watersheds. Borrowing from the General Plan, the vision that the City has for the CWMP is as follows: Goleta's creeks and riparian areas should serve as important natural features of Goleta's landscape. These areas should be protected to provide clean and safe water, habitat for fish and wildlife, accommodate wildlife movement corridors, convey stormwater runoff and floodwaters, provide water resources and beneficial use, and furnish open space and passive recreational areas for City residents. The City should seek to enhance, maintain, and restore these areas and associated watersheds that impact them.

An essential aspect of Goleta's community character and livability is derived from the diverse open space, natural resources, and open lands within and surrounding the community. These assets include: approximately two miles of Pacific shoreline, beaches, and coastal bluffs; open coastal mesas; the Goleta and Devereaux Sloughs; active agricultural lands, including citrus groves, vegetable crops, and fallow lands; and vibrant creeks, riparian areas, ponds, wetlands, and woodlands. Therefore, the CWMP focuses on the processes and functions of the twelve creeks traversing the City and City watersheds. This plan also provides detailed standards of acceptable practices for protecting the ecological function, water quality, and water resiliency. The CWMP identifies priority areas within the City for implementation of the plan.

To implement General Plan Conservation Element Implementation Action CE-IA-3, the CWMP was developed over a 12-month period and the final CWMP was adopted on November 17, 2020. Throughout the development of the CWMP, the City of Goleta and consultants solicited input from the public and stakeholder groups for feedback on the City's creeks and watersheds. The project team developed an outreach plan early in the CWMP project to engage with the public, agencies and organizations that could support the development of the CWMP. The City held public workshops on November 6, 2019, February 26, 2020 and November 2, 2020.

The project team also established a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of representatives from federal, state, and local agencies and interested non-profit organizations. The TAC held three meetings over the course of the CWMP development on November 13, 2019, March 11, 2020, and September 30, 2020. In addition to the public workshops and TAC, the project team also hosted an information table at the Lemon Festival on September 28–29, 2019 to interact with members of the public and inform them of the CWMP project. An information table was also provided at the ribbon cutting for the new field at the Boys and Girls Club in Old Town on October 2, 2019.

As mentioned above, the City recognizes the multijurisdictional nature of local creeks and watersheds to the greater watershed area and the jurisdictions that are responsible for those areas; therefore, the CWMP acknowledges the need to collaborate with all federal, state, and local agencies and other interested parties within the entire watersheds containing City creeks. The City has continued to coordinate internally within the City and with other jurisdictions to implement the CWMP.

DISCUSSION

The CWMP did not initially include funding or resources for implementation. Since adoption, Public Works staff have been focusing on securing additional resources, and project implementation to the extent that budget and resources allowed.

Specifically, the Public Works Department procured the following resources to begin initial phases of scoping and implementation:

- Several new staff members, including an Environmental Services Specialist, have been hired to assist with CWMP-related projects.
- The Solid Waste and Environmental Services Division accepted an AmeriCorps/CivicSpark Fellow last year, and another fellow may be welcomed this coming year to assist with cleanup efforts, surveying, and community outreach.
- The Parks and Open Space Division secured a \$1.7MM grant from CalFire to reduce the risk of wildfire at Ellwood Mesa and Devereux Creek.
- Solid Waste and Environmental Services staff secured two grants to help with pollution reduction and cleanup efforts, including approximately \$30,000 from Caltrans and approximately \$8,000 annually from the CalRecycle.

The funding staff has secured totals roughly \$1.74MM. Staff have also been focusing on setting up tools and technology needed to collect and efficiently analyze information, evaluate program effectiveness, and engage with the community (Attachment 1). It was

important to begin this process in the early phases of CWMP planning to guide and assist implementation and outreach. Additionally, staff have been focusing on numerous education and outreach programs for new and upcoming projects.

New and Upcoming Projects

While the vast majority of the CWMP is still unfunded, staff have worked with the initial resources available to begin implementation or scoping of many CWMP projects. Attachment 1 describes many of the new and upcoming projects which include, among others:

- Public Works staff completed an Environmental Impact Report for the San Jose Creek Bike Path middle extent, which was approved October 4, 2022. This project will include habitat restoration and increase beneficial use of the creek.
- Identification and prioritization for removal of all high priority invasive plant species.
- Identification of tree planting locations, including public engagement events.
- Habitat restoration in other City open spaces and along riparian corridors.
- Completion of the Ellwood Trails project, including restoration along Devereux Creek.
- Water pollution forensics: scientific analysis of water quality over time to pinpoint sources throughout the City.
- Launched a Volunteer Cleanup Program as part of Beautify Goleta to reduce trash pollution in creeks and waterways.
- Launched a new street sweeping program that includes manual litter removal around obstructions and extra sweeps in hot spot areas.
- City-wide surveys of Goleta's streets and creeks for trash pollution using multiple methods.
- Full trash capture: planning for installation of full trash capture devices, or equivalent measures, to achieve full trash capture in all storm drains throughout the City, with conceptual design and installation of several devices in 2023.
- Creek surveys, with expanded surveys to tentatively begin in 2023.
- Scoping of an expanded pesticide and green agricultural outreach program to tentatively begin implementation in 2023.
- Scoping of drainage improvement projects along City right-of-way in order to improve water quality in San Jose Creek and Evergreen Park
- Scoping of recycled water projects to Bella Vista and Evergreen Park
- Collaboration with partners to support the indirect potable water reuse project.

Next Steps

Building on the success of the previous two years, the City now needs to focus on planning the next phases for CWMP implementation, including: 1) convening and partnering with the TAC; 2) communitywide outreach; 3) scoping and financial analysis of tasks and projects in the CWMP; 4) funding analysis and pursuit; and 5) refining CWMP priorities, schedule, and project needs in the CWMP. Several key focus areas will include expanding bilingual community outreach, prioritizing the removal of all high-priority invasive plant species, habitat restoration, water quality improvement, and water

resources resiliency, with a focus on benefitting underserved populations within our community.

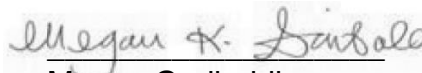
FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact of complete CWMP implementation is unknown at this phase, and one of the primary goals in the coming fiscal year is to better scope projects within the CWMP. Most new and upcoming projects in this fiscal year in the Parks and Open Spaces division have received grant funding. Approximately \$200,000 of the Solid Waste and Environmental Services division budget in Fiscal Year 2022/2023 will be dedicated to CWMP programs. It is anticipated that upwards of \$50,000 of this will be covered by grants and other funding sources.

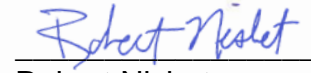
Reviewed By:


Kristine Schmidt
Assistant City Manager

Legal Review By:


Megan Garibaldi
City Attorney

Approved By:

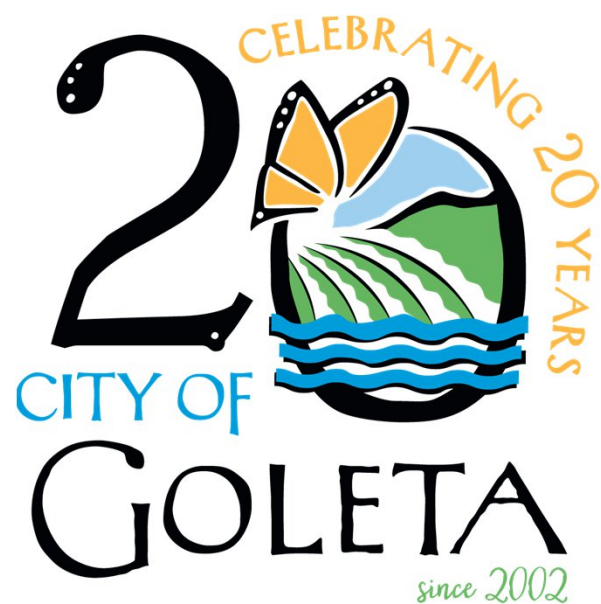

Robert Nisbet
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Creeks and Watershed Program Updates Presentation

ATTACHMENT 1

Creeks and Watershed Program Updates Presentation



Creeks and Watershed Program Updates

CWMP Action 1.2.2

Water Resiliency and Creek Stewardship

December 6, 2022

Creek and Watershed Management Plan and Programs (CWMP)

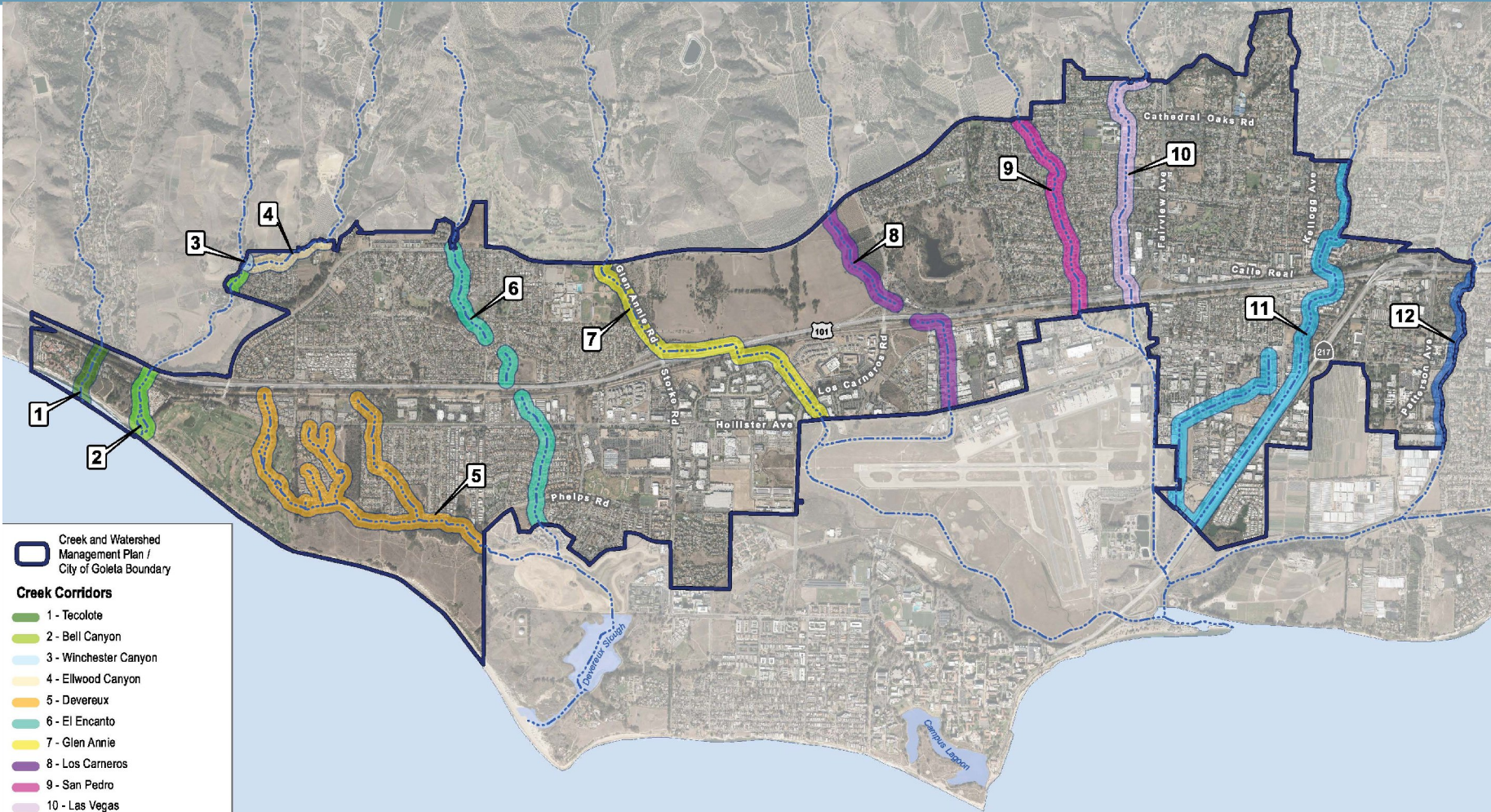
Introduction

Recent
Accomplishments

New and Upcoming
Projects

Next Steps





-  Creek and Watershed Management Plan / City of Goleta Boundary
- Creek Corridors**
-  1 - Tecolote
-  2 - Bell Canyon
-  3 - Winchester Canyon
-  4 - Ellwood Canyon
-  5 - Devereux
-  6 - El Encanto
-  7 - Glen Annie
-  8 - Los Carneros
-  9 - San Pedro
-  10 - Las Vegas
-  11 - Old San Jose and San Jose
-  12 - Maria Ygnacio

December 6, 2022, City Council Meeting



Introduction: Creek and Watershed Management Plan (CWMP)

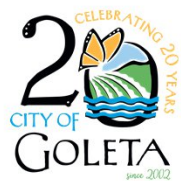
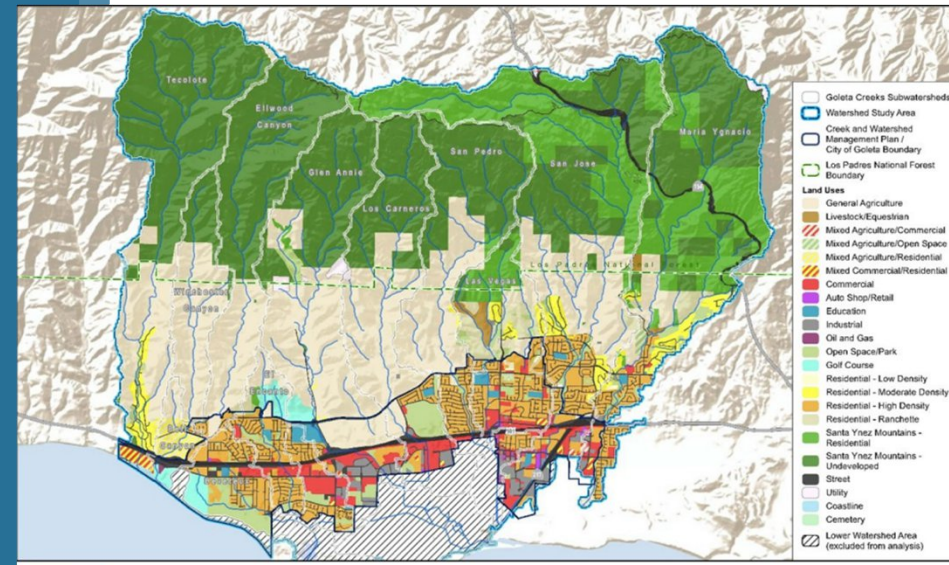
Creek and Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) was identified in the General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan (General Plan) as Conservation Element Implementation Action CE-IA-3.

-CWMP was prompted by a desire to protect our natural resources here in Goleta

-Adopted on November 17, 2020

-CWMP describes the existing conditions of all 12 creeks that run to the City; identifies impairments to creeks and risks to water quality

-CWMP outlines tasks, projects, and programs and to improve water quality, habitat, and all beneficial uses



Recent Accomplishments: Setting the Stage for Success

The majority of the CWMP is unfunded and the PW department was understaffed. Additional resources were required to commence scoping and implementation.

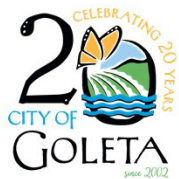
Develop tools and technology for streamlined assessments, program evaluation, data collection, communication, and outreach.

Conduct outreach, education, and community involvement.

Priority was placed on securing additional resources (Strategy 1.3 and Actions 1.31. and 1.3.2)

Goleta welcomed new Environmental Specialist staff members and a Civic Spark Fellow

Procured several new contractors to assist with implementation



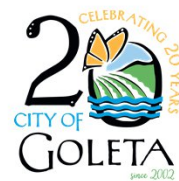
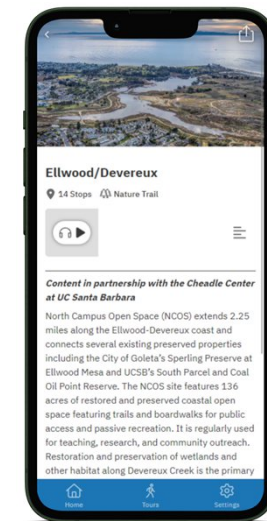
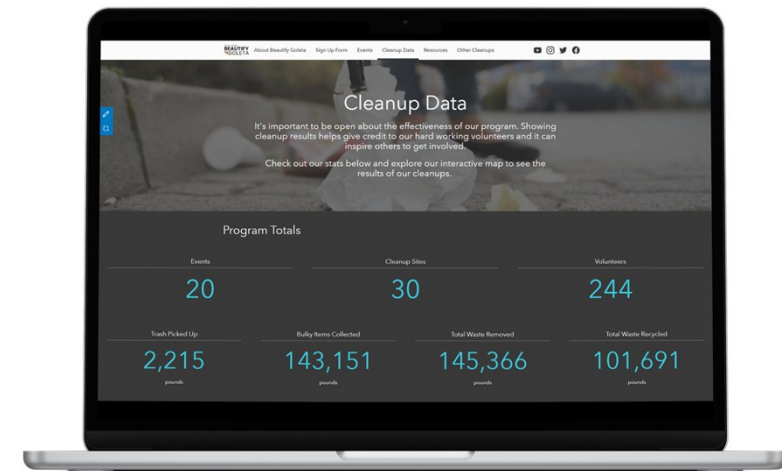
Grant Funding (Goal 2, Strategy 2.1, Action 2.1.3)

- Cal Recycle Beverage Grant = approximately \$8,000 annually to help with cleanup efforts
- Caltrans Bulky Items Collection Grant = approximately \$20,000 to help with cleanup efforts
- CalFire \$1.7 million to reduce the risk of wildfire at Ellwood Mesa
- California Coastal Conservancy Grant \$3.9 million for Ellwood Mesa Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan



Tools, Technology and Data (Goal 3, Strategies and Actions 3.1- 3.4)

- Created custom field collection App for geolocating MuttMitt pet waste locations throughout the City
- App for City-wide trash assessments, site - inspections, storm drain infrastructure and more
- Beautify Goleta dashboard using GIS
- Upcoming Creek and Watershed walking tour App



Education and Outreach (Goal 5, Strategy 5.2, Action 5.2)

-Workshops and Stakeholder Meetings: improved public access for Devereux Creek as well as enhanced trails and expanded pedestrian access

-Monarch Press Monthly Green Room

-Our Water Our World (OWOW)

-Events:

Lemon Festival

Coastal Clean Up Day

Earth Day

Creek Week

-Tailored social media post & community events



Help us kick off Creek Week!
Coastal Cleanup Day
 September 17, 2022
 9 am - 12 pm
exploreecology.org/coastal-cleanup-day



December 6, 2022, City Council Meeting

New and Upcoming Projects: 2022-2024

Key CIPs

Creek Stewardship Projects: Habitat restoration, safety, restoring beneficial use

Water Resiliency Projects: Water quality, water recharge, water supply

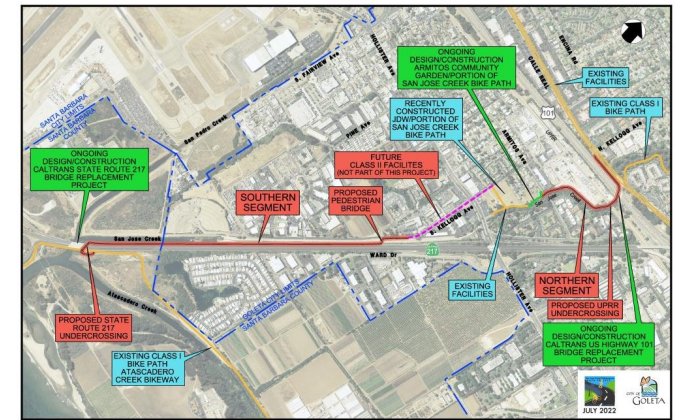
Key CIPs

(Goal 6, Strategy 6.1 , Action 6.1.9)

-San Jose Creek Bike Path scope was approved October 4, which will include habitat restoration and increase beneficial use (Action 12.2.2, CIP 9007)

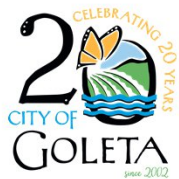
-Began initial scoping and data collection for the Old Town Trash Capture device installation (Action 14.3.2, CIP 9107)

-Began scoping of Ellwood Beach Dr. Drainage project (Action 13.3.4, CIP 9105)



Creek Stewardship in 2022-2024 (Goals 11 and 12, Various Strategies & Actions)

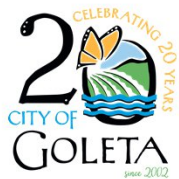
- Identification and prioritization for removal of all high priority invasive, non-native plant species
- Identify locations for community led creek stewardship projects and organization of an event
- Habitat restoration in other City open spaces and along riparian corridors
- Completion of Ellwood Mesa projects, including restoration along Devereux Creek



Creek Stewardship in 2022-2024 (Goals 11 and 12, Various Strategies & Actions)

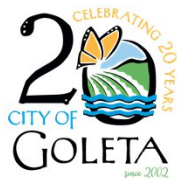
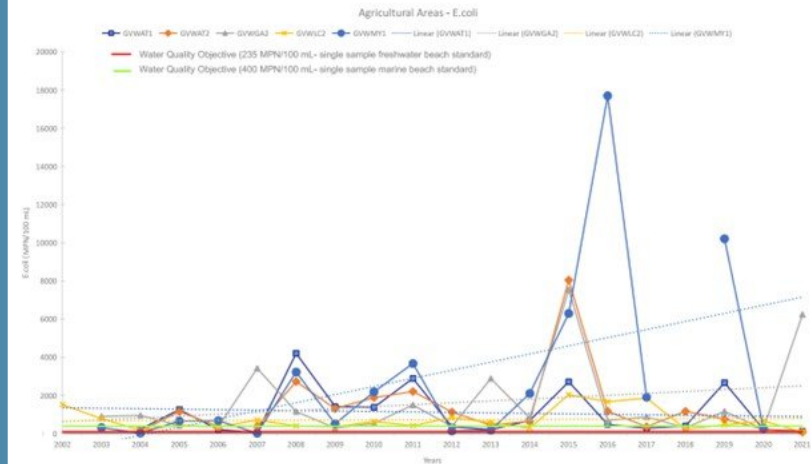
- Identify locations for interpretive signs along trails, and bike paths

- Replace outdated creek identification signage as appropriate to ensure a consistent style for City creek signage that eliminates inconsistent information



Water Resiliency: Pollutant Forensics (Goals 13 and 14, Action 3.3.3 among others)

- Water Quality Forensics : Technical evaluation of pollutant sources
- Evaluation of statistical trends over time
- Correlation with land uses, geography
- Climate Change impacts
- Trash and bacteria are our most consistent issues, but pesticides and other pollutants are also a concern. Some originate from upstream of the City.



Water Resiliency: Volunteer Cleanup Program (Actions 7.4.3, 7.8.2, 14.1.1, 14.3.2)

-Launched the Volunteer Cleanup Program as part of Beautify Goleta to reduce trash pollution in our creeks and waterways

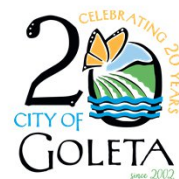
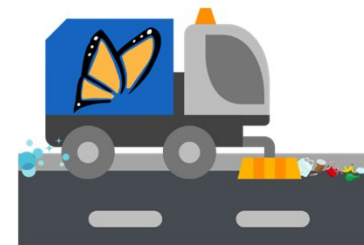
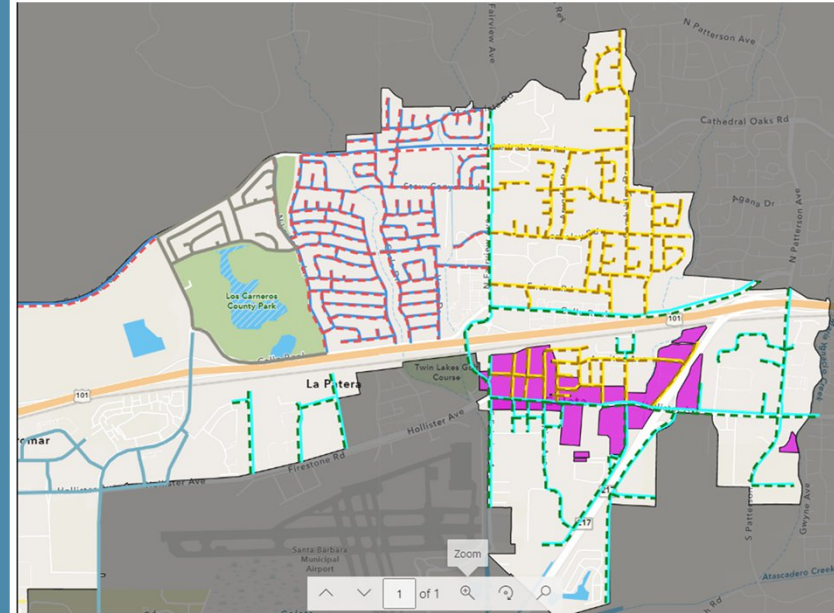
-11 successful Beautify Goleta Events in 2022 and more Beautify Goleta events in 2023

-145,366 lbs of waste removed, with roughly 100,000 lbs of that recycled



New Street Sweeping Programs to Prevent Water Pollution (Goal 14, Strategy 14.1, Action 14.1.1, 14.3.2)

- Manual cleaning around obstructions, and additional sweeping in hot spot areas
- Increased mailing and social media for parking/obstruction awareness
- Grade trash levels every sweep to assess program effectiveness



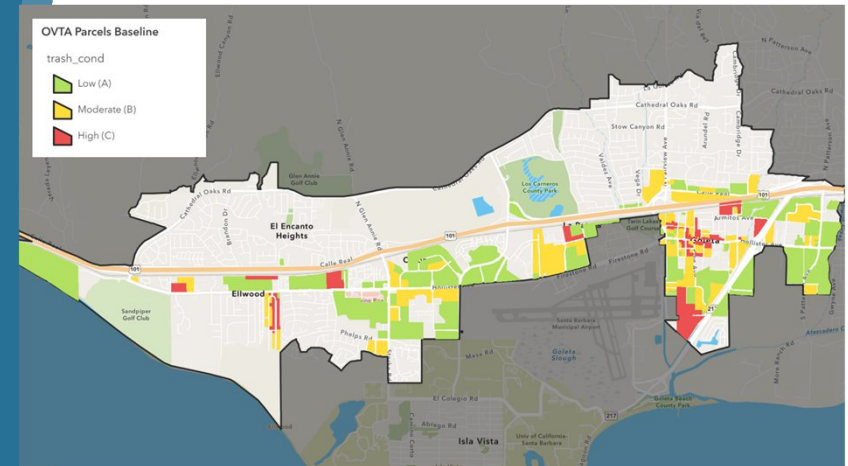
Water Resiliency: Full Trash Capture (Goal 14, Strategy 14.1, Action 14.1.1)

-Full Trash Capture by use of full trash capture devices or alternative measures

-Focus on Hot Spots

-Design/Build Maintain structural trash capture systems

-Conceptual Design and begin device installation in 2023



Water Resiliency Projects: Upcoming

- Expand Pesticide and Green Agriculture Program (Action 5.1.5)
- Support indirect potable reuse project with Project Partners (Actions 8.6.2, 5.1.5)
- Recycle water to Bella Vista and/or Evergreen Park (Actions 5.1.5)
- Infiltration projects – San Jose Creek Park and Evergreen Park (Goal 14, Strategy 14.1, Actions 14.5.1, 15.2.1,)
- Creek Baseflow evaluation (Actions 15.1.1, 15.2.1)
- Maximize infiltration and encourage water reuse for new development (Actions 5.5.1, 15.1.1, 15.2.1)

December 6, 2022, City Council Meeting



Our Water Our World: Controlling Aphids in your Garden

July 2021 Monarch Press
Related Topics: Green

Learn how to control aphids in your garden with these tips from the City of Goleta Environmental Services Division.

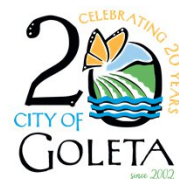
Are those aphids on your plants?

Aphids are very small insects with soft, pear-shaped bodies, often found on young buds, stems, and the underside of leaves. If you look closely you'll see that they have long legs and antennae. Some have wings. A large infestation can stunt plant growth or distort leaves and flowers.



Aphids aren't all bad

A few aphids on your plants can actually make your garden healthier because they attract beneficial insects—good bugs that eat pests and pollinate your garden. Many helpful spiders and bugs (like ladybugs, green lacewings, and tiny non-stinging parasitoid wasps) will stay in your garden if there are aphids to eat. Aphid problems often start early in the spring. As the beneficial insects arrive and reproduce in your garden, the aphid population shrinks.



19

Next Steps: 2022-2024

2022-2024 are focused on the following categories of Implementation:

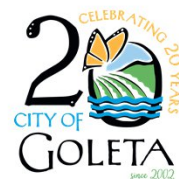
-Convening and Partnering with the Technical Advisory Committee (Goal 4, Strategy 5.2, Action 5.2.2)

-Communitywide outreach, engagement and participation (Goal 7, Various Strategies and Actions)

-Scoping and financial analysis of tasks and projects in the CWMP

-Funding analysis and pursuit

-Refining priorities within the Plan





Thank You

Questions?

December 6, 2022, City Council Meeting