



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

West Coast Arborists (WCA) completed an initial round of tree maintenance at University Village, Winchester 1 & 2, Armstrong Park, San Miguel Park, Andamar Park, Bella Vista 1 & 2, Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park, Oro Verde Open Space, Stonebridge Open Space, Berkeley Park, and Stow Grove during the past several months. WCA focused on dead wooding, structural pruning, and risk reduction. WCA also completed a major phase of eucalyptus tree maintenance at Ellwood Mesa, focused on structural pruning along the western boundary, risk reduction along the Hollister Avenue frontage, and preparing a portion of Devereux Creek for a community planting day. A multi-day work effort was also completed at the Rainbow School at the Goleta Community Center to improve safety. Chinese elms, sycamores, and eucalyptus trees were pruned to reduce the likelihood of limb failures and improve overall canopy structure.

WCA's next phase of work is underway as we head into summer with targeted structural pruning of coast live oaks in Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park and Armitos Park, risk reduction work in Evergreen Park, and continued fuel reduction work at Ellwood Mesa focused on removing downed eucalyptus.

Two other licensed tree maintenance companies, Mark Crane's Tree, Inc. and Tierra Verde Tree Care, were recently contracted to complete needed pruning around the Stow House, the front of the Goleta Community Center, and at Ellwood Mesa. This work is scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. Qualified biologists will assist the team by

conducting nesting bird surveys and ensuring that sensitive wildlife resources are avoided.

Volunteer Events at the Goleta Butterfly Grove

Community volunteer events are being hosted throughout the year at the Goleta Butterfly Grove at Ellwood Mesa. Although the focus has recently shifted from tree planting to weeding, irrigation, and mulching, participants may have the opportunity to plant smaller native trees and the occasional eucalyptus to infill areas around the Butterfly Grove. Interested members of the community can check the online calendar for upcoming events and sign up here:

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

Approved By:



Luz "Nina" Buelna
Public Works Director