



Agenda Item A.4
CONSENT CALENDAR
Meeting Date: November 8, 2023

TO: Chair and Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Jaime A. Valdez, 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:

Ellwood Monarch Butterfly Management Plan Phase 1 Implementation and Coastal Development Permit

On October 17, 2023, the City Council approved the Development Plan and In-Concept Coastal Development Permit for the Phase I Implementation Plan of the Ellwood Mesa Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan. The Implementation Plan includes habitat enhancements, butterfly viewing area improvements, culvert and drainage repairs, installation of a boardwalk, emergency/maintenance vehicular access way repairs, trail improvements, and a new signage program. The next step for the project is submittal of the Coastal Development Permit application to the California Coastal Commission. Pending Coastal Commission approval of the project, which is anticipated to be next spring, the project will begin construction during summer 2024. The City Council meeting video and accompanying documents can be found here:

City Council Meeting Recording:

https://goleta.granicus.com/player/clip/1910?view_id=5&redirect=true&h=81ebf90537c4be9fb63859b6c4e758de

Staff Report, Coastal Development Permit Application, and Supporting Technical Studies:

<https://goleta.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6371109&GUID=E0F2CB3A-612E-46D6-A94A-C12B5FE3BB6F>

Stow Grove Tree Planting

One hundred new trees are in the ground at Stow Grove Park thanks to a great community effort. Approximately 90 volunteers turned out on September 16, 2023, for a community tree planting event. Of the 100 trees that were planted, 75 were coast redwoods and 25 incense cedars. Parks and Open Space Division staff are ensuring the new trees are well maintained.



USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant

The City of Goleta was selected to receive a \$1 million grant to fund a variety of urban forest improvement initiatives. The proposed work plan under the \$2.9 million grant application included a park tree inventory, removal of trees killed by drought, the first ever city-wide canopy and plantable space analysis, community engagement through creation of an interactive canopy-mapping and prioritization tool, expanding the annual Arbor Day event, updating the Urban Forest Management Plan, clarification of roles in tree management decisions, development of tree planting plans for all developed parks, planting of 1,000 new trees, and development of a young tree care program. Over the next six months, the grant contract and scope of work will be finalized. Since only a portion of the work was funded, City staff are evaluating which components should be prioritized to yield the most benefit for our urban forest and community. City staff will take the grant contract to City Council for acceptance of the funds in Spring 2024.

Approved By:

Handwritten signature of Jaime A. Valdez in blue ink. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Jaime A. Valdez
Neighborhood Services Director