



**Agenda Item A.3**  
**CONSENT CALENDAR**  
**Meeting Date: September 10, 2025**

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**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 and Wildfire Risk Reduction at Ellwood Mesa

The community is invited to plant trees and native plants, and provide important plant care including installing irrigation, clearing planting sites, spreading mulch and monitoring tree health at the Goleta Butterfly Grove during multiple volunteer days through December 6. 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>

Santa Barbara County Fire crews are continuing to reduce the risk of wildfire at Ellwood Mesa by removing dead trees throughout the grove and trimming overgrown shrubs near private properties. The work is funded by a \$1.7M CalFire grant the City received. A team of biologists is coordinating protection of nesting birds and other sensitive wildlife. 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>

Creek Week and Coastal Clean Up Day 2025

Creek Week, kicking off on September 20, is an annual celebration of our creeks, watersheds, and the ocean, with many local organizations hosting events to help build awareness and stewardship of the natural treasures of Santa Barbara, Goleta, and

Carpinteria. The community is invited to sign up for tours, volunteer opportunities, and more at <https://sb creekweek.com/>.

Coastal Cleanup Day is on Saturday, September 20, 2025. The largest volunteer effort in California, Coastal Cleanup Day is our day to give back to the ocean, beaches, and creeks that make Santa Barbara County such a wonderful place to live. In Goleta, beach clean ups will be hosted at Haskell's Beach and Ellwood Beach, and nearby opportunities will also be available at the UC Santa Barbara North Campus Open Space and Campus Point, Isla Vista, and Goleta Beach. <https://exploreecology.org/coastal-cleanup-day/>

### Dam Dinner

Another successful Goleta Dam Dinner was hosted by the Goleta Valley Historical Society and the City at Lake Los Carneros on August 16. The free annual event features live music, fun activities, and a long communal table that encourages neighbors to gather, share a meal, and enjoy the beautiful scenery of the lake and mountain views. A recap video of the event can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29oBuiNUkrw>

### Beautify Goleta

Close to 30 volunteers spent their Saturday morning, July 19, 2025, giving back to the community by participating in a community cleanup. Together, they cleaned up 175 pounds of trash from the Ellwood and Marketplace neighborhoods, including the Sperling Preserve at Ellwood Mesa. Also 64 vehicles dropped off a combined total of 12,000 pounds of unwanted items in a free bulky item drop-off nearby on Phelps Road. Save the date for our next Beautify Goleta event – Saturday, September 20, as part of Creek Week and Coastal Cleanup Day. For more information on Beautify Goleta, go to [www.CityofGoleta.org/BeautifyGoleta](http://www.CityofGoleta.org/BeautifyGoleta).

### Lemon Run

The Goleta Education Foundation (GEF) is hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Lemon Run at Lake Los Carneros on Sunday September 21. Competitive 5K (Jr. Grand Prix) and 10K (Grand Prix) races, and a 1K Family Fun Run will take place. Proceeds from the Lemon Run directly fund GEF's Educator Grants for Innovation and Professional Development, benefiting Goleta Union School District's nine elementary schools. More information about the event can be found at the GEF's website: <https://goletaeducationfoundation.org/goleta-lemon-run/>

### Staffing and Recruitments

The Parks and Open Space Division recently welcomed Alexander Rosario and Pablo Macias to the team. Alexander most recently served as a maintenance assistant for the City of Santa Barbara, where he assisted the Streets Division. At the City of Goleta,

Alexander is working for both the Parks and Open Space Division and the Street Maintenance Division as a Maintenance Assistant helping with a variety of improvement projects and daily tasks. Pablo Macias, Maintenance Worker I, joined the Parks and Open Space team in July after successful stints at Jordano's Foodservice and a local landscape maintenance company. Pablo is responsible for the safety and maintenance of playgrounds, parks, and open spaces. Welcome to the team Alexander and Pablo!

Approved By:



JoAnne Plummer,  
Neighborhood Services Director