



Agenda Item A.3
CONSENT CALENDAR
Meeting Date: August 2, 2022

TO: Chair and Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Jaime 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 Mesa Monarch Butterfly Community Outreach Events

Two outreach events were held on July 7 and 9 at the Ellwood Mesa Monarch Butterfly Grove to engage with neighbors and the wider community on the City's proposed Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan (MBHMP) implementation projects. Approximately 50 people attended each event to learn about upcoming vegetation management to reduce fire risk; infrastructure improvements, including upgrades to the pedestrian and authorized vehicle access entryways at the end of Santa Barbara Shores Drive; dead standing and downed tree removals; new eucalyptus, native tree, and native shrub plantings to benefit monarch butterflies; new signage and trail improvements; and creek restoration and pedestrian footbridges to access the monarch butterfly viewing areas. Another community outreach event is being planned for September, to be held indoors with the project team, that will feature more detailed project plans and breakout group activities to encourage more community feedback on the proposed activities at Ellwood. The workshop will be followed by another site walking tour. Outreach and advertisements for the two events will be released once the venue and dates are confirmed.

Parks and Open Space Division Staff Recruitment

As a result of the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget, City Council approved three new staff positions for the Parks and Open Space Division. Open recruitments for

a Parks and Open Space Division Public Works Supervisor, Parks and Open Space Division Maintenance Worker 1, and Parks and Open Space Division Administrative Assistant are currently being solicited. These new positions bring much needed staff support to address deferred maintenance and start new initiatives such as the Creek and Watershed Management Plan. Interested applicants can apply for City jobs at this website: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/goletaca>.

TREE MAINTENANCE

Several tree trimmings and dead tree removals were completed during the past two months at Brandon Open Space, La Goleta Open Space, San Jose Creek Open Space behind Somerset Drive, Andamar Park, and along Hollister Avenue, across from Ellwood Elementary. Most of the maintenance addressed dead trees that either posed an elevated fire risk or were in danger of falling on fixed assets, such as a bus stop or picnic bench. Wildlife surveys, including looking for nesting birds, were performed prior to and during the work to protect any wildlife resources. Additional tree maintenance work will be scheduled throughout the summer to address the large backlog of deferred maintenance.

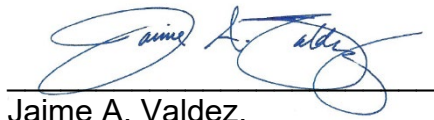
PARKS JANITORIAL AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Parks and Open Space Division has two bid opportunities to solicit third-party contractors to provide janitorial services and landscape maintenance services at all City parks. Janitorial services will include daily cleanings of all park restrooms and high-use picnic areas, including reservable sites. Trash removal, abandoned encampment clean ups, and assistance with public right of way trash is also included in the janitorial services contract. Consumable materials, such as toilet paper and doggie bags, will be provided by the contractor and they are required to use recycled-content paper and compostable bags.

The new landscape maintenance contract includes all daily activities required to ensure parks landscapes are clean, attractive, and safe for the community to use. The new solicitation requires a minimum staffing level of six maintenance staff daily, which is an increase from the 1.5 staff the current landscape contractor provides. This increase in staffing levels is necessary to address a significant backlog of deferred maintenance in City parks that has been growing since Goleta incorporated as a city in 2002. Focused efforts on increasing irrigation efficiency, revitalizing ornamental plantings with drought-tolerant species, and reducing impacts to recreational turf from gophers are incorporated into the contract specifications.

Contractors interested in these two bid opportunities can find more information on the City's website: <https://www.cityofgoleta.org/i-want-to/view/city-bid-opportunities>

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jaime A. Valdez", is written over a horizontal line.

Jaime A. Valdez,
Neighborhood Services Director