



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, October 2, 2017
7:00 pm
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS

III. CONSENT AGENDA (Action)

- A. Approve minutes from August 7, 2017Page 1-2
- B. Consider Reports:
 - 1. Maintenance Section – Status ReportPage 3-5
 - 2. Facilities Section – Status Report.....Page 6-7
 - 4. Planning Section – Status Report.....Page 8-9
 - 5. Aquatics Section – Status Report.....Pages 10-13
 - 6. Recreation Section – Status Report.....Pages 14-17
 - 7. Volunteer Program – Status Report.....Pages 18-19

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission but not on today's agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications.

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items (none)

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items (none)

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (none)

X. ADJOURNEMENT



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DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of August 7, 2017, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Bennett, Kate Minott, Jim Rapoza, Mariah Roberts, Alex Sibille
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Jennifer Mead, Will Fourt, Jessica Wolf

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:

Motion to move item 5 to after Oral Communications. (Roberts/ Bennett 5/0)

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approved minutes from April 3, 2017 and accept and file items and reports. (Minott/
Bennett 3/0)

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Becky Steinbruner has been working on efforts to rebuild the Aptos Bike Jumps and have been working with Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz. The parcel that is designated for a bike-jump area in Aptos does not seem suitable because it is on a hillside. I also want to encourage the County Parks Department to listen to the neighbors of the Farm Park and consider putting the proposed bridge in another location.
- Jean Brocklebank requested that the Parks Department website list information about the Parks Director. Public Works has a bio and picture for their director; it would be great if Parks had one too. Additionally, it would be nice to have other staff with contact information on the website if they were comfortable with that.
- Kari Olsen is frustrated with the proposed bridge at the Farm Park. The bridge is too large and is off-scale for the park space. No one understands why this bridge was selected and the designer has even stated that the bridge is off scale. I've been in contact with Sheryl and have asked for a meeting. The bridge is overkill and is falling into disrepair.

Regular Agenda – Information Item 5.

5. Jessica Wolf and Will Fourt presented on preliminary findings of the Strategic Plan

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Jeff Gaffney gave his report to the Commission.

- The Board declared July Parks & Recreation Month, we have the proclamation.
- There was some damage from the 4th of July holiday – Highlands Port-a-potty, Pinto bathroom, and usual graffiti at Pinto.
- We hired a new Parks Superintendent!

- We divided parks between the two Superintendents
 - Gretchen taking North & South County parks
 - Eric taking Mid-County, Simpkins and Special projects team
-
- We had an All-staff meeting July 27th – went really well – met at Sheriff HQ then walked to Chanticleer. Tricia Potts, Lauren, Evelyn and Oliver Potts met us too.
 - Brommer sports court Ribbon Cutting on Aug 4th was a success.
 - Third annual Parks & Rex coming up Aug 26th! Please support if you can.
 - Eric worked with staff to develop the Quagga mussel flyer and distributed to flyer.
 - Went to 180/2020 event – we all have a stake in the homelessness issue in Santa Cruz.
 - We have Budget and CIP printouts to share. We asked for another Parks Maintenance III worker and were so grateful to get it. Feel free to ask me any questions about it.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

1. The Commission directed Staff to report back on solutions for public safety concerns that have been regularly expressed throughout the community and to the Commission about County Parks. (Roberts/ Bennett 5/0)
2. The Commission approved the revisions to the Commission's by-laws (Roberts/ Sibille 5/0)
3. The Commission approved the Quail Hollow Master Plan Addendum (Minott/ Sibille 5/0)

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

4. Jeff Gaffney gave an update on the Storm Damage and Safety Committee.
5. (item was moved to after Oral communications)
6. Will Fourt gave an update on the Felton Library project.

VIII. ADJOURNEMNT – Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: Sept - Oct 2017
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Eric Sturm, Park Superintendent
Subject: Maintenance Section Status Report

OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE

- Recruitment for the North County Maintenance Supervisor continues; staff should have an eligibility list by the end of October.
- Selected staff attended a full Safety Training Day with public works. Topics included: Texting and driving, Swift water rescue, Trenching and shoring awareness, and PG&E Gas and Electrical Safety.
- We are implementing a once a month TEAM (Team Effort And Motivation) day, where maintenance employees from all areas come together to complete a project. The projects will rotate throughout the County (north, mid, south).

NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Greyhound Rock, Davenport Landing, Bonny Doon, Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow, Scott Creek Beach)

- Met with Friends of Quail Hollow to discuss prioritizing and delegating projects at QH. Some things they can do, some we can do, some the CCC can do, and other projects (even if needed) simply won't get done due to lack of resources.
- Staff received numerous complaints about dogs off-leash at Quail Hollow; more signs will be posted to remind users of the park rules.
- A large and venerable oak tree next to the Quail Hollow Ranch house needs to come out. It has rot and other issues that could cause it to fall on QH house.
- We are getting bids to fumigate a couple buildings at Highlands and Quail for termites.

- Highlands staff have been chasing a troubling irrigation leak. While digging up pipes, they found more old control valves, apparently forgotten from a long time ago.
- The Senior Center is getting a much needed paint job; seniors will pick the color.
- The Ben Lomond Park restroom roof repair will start in October.
- A public notice was posted at Greyhound Rock, informing the public of intent to install Marine Protected Area educational sign.

MID-COUNTY PARKS (Government Center, Anna Jean, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, SC Gardens, Heart of Soquel Plaza, The Farm, and Mid-County beach access areas)

- Met with arborist and butterfly habitat experts at Moran Lake Park and identified emergency tree work to reduce suspect trees that could significantly harm people or property.
- A car drove over the cliff at Soquel Lions Park and damaged the fence.
- A very old motorcycle was removed from Sunny Cove beach.
- Several Fire Departments are doing training at AJC park.
- The steps at 701 were power washed. For years staff held off due to the ongoing drought.
- *“Operation Whale Bones!”* Moved fossilized whale bones out of the basement of 701 building. The bones were stored there for many years collecting dust. We will slowly resuscitate a plan to get them displayed for public wonderment and education.
- Sept 14th had second maintenance TEAM clean-up day at Chanticleer park. Weed whipped 4+ acres and did general cleanup.

SOUTH COUNTY PARKS (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Freedom Government Annex, Seacliff Village Park, and South-County Beach access areas)

- More vandalism was done to the public art mosaics at Seacliff Village Park. The nearby drainage rocks at the park are being used to smash the artwork.
- Interpretative signage titled “Changing the Course of Water” was installed at Seacliff Village Park.

- The main water line at Polo Grounds broke; this was a huge project to fix. Our amazing team got it taken care of in two days!
- We did a significant TEAM cleanup at the Watsonville, Freedom Annex property on Aug 24th. The cleanup day started with a safety meeting and then we got to work planting 73 plants in wire cages with fertilizer tabs and weed fabric. Later drip irrigation with topping material was installed.
- A grass fire occurred behind the Watsonville Freedom Annex. The fire was extinguished with no problems and the property has since been re-mowed to reduce fire hazard.
- Pinto Lake got a new entrance sign and it looks awesome! (Photo)
- We are making progress on Virgin Tree road repair at Pinto.
- Seascape Park got a much needed clean-up of poison ivy.

SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER

- The day before Labor Day weekend, the chlorine generator broke. Staff performed manual chlorine adjustments until the machine was fixed. Luckily, the pool didn't have to close and was open for the Labor Day holiday!
- Trees were cut down in the Swim Center parking lot in preparation for in-coming solar panels.
- Three employees went to "Pool School" to be trained in chemical testing and maintaining pool water.





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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: Sept - Oct 2017
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Mary Chavez, Program Coordinator
Subject: Facilities Section Status Report

Summary for reservations in the Parks, (excluding SFSC):

Attendance at Reserved Facilities

2017 has proven to be another full year of reservations and events in County Parks. Reservations have included hundreds of rentals for picnics, meetings, weddings, special events, athletic field and fitness programs scheduled in parks countywide. Staff estimates that over 120,000 park visitors attended events in reserved facilities during the months of September and October.

Center and Meeting Room Rentals in September and October 2017

During these two months there were 37 weddings, receptions and events held at our various Park Centers with rental revenues totaling \$41,500. There were also 44 meeting room rentals totaling \$1,500.

Picnic Rentals in September and October 2017

There were 60 picnics in the reservable picnic areas with rental revenues totaling \$8,750. Non-profit organizations and some local businesses scheduled approximately 14 of these picnics rentals (about 25%).

Athletic Fields

The fall sports season has been in full swing and baseball, soccer and volleyball programs have continued to grow, filling the 18 athletic fields with these sports activities. There have been 670 individual bookings with rental revenues totaling \$40,750 during these two months. Another successful Santa Cruz Classic Tournament took place in September with the Polo Grounds and Anna Jean Cummings Park hosting this annual countywide tournament run through the Santa Cruz County Youth Soccer League, which boasts over 5,600 players between the ages of 6 and 18, who also play their fall seasons in all four parks with soccer fields.

Special Events and ongoing programs

The special event season has included a wide variety of festivals, 5k fun runs, and non-profit community events and fundraisers.

September hosted **SLV Fellowship Picnic** at Felton Covered Bridge Park, **I/You Venture Picnic** (Family Services Association) at Aptos Park, and the 33rd annual **Coastal Clean Up Day** (CA Coastal Commission/ Save Our Shores) in countywide beaches and rivers, with 7,611 pounds of pollution collected by 1,789 volunteers. **Walk for Water 5k** (Christ Lutheran Church) took place at Pinto Lake County Park. Seascapes Park hosted the annual **Walk to End Alzheimer's**. October events hosted the delectable **Grazing on the Green** (Santa Cruz Cancer Benefit Group) and **Wings Advocacy Fundraiser** (Wings Homeless Advocacy) at Aptos Park, **Pinot Paradise** (Santa Cruz Mountain Winegrowers Association) at Quail Hollow Ranch, **SLV Environmental Project** at Ben Lomond Park, and the **Breast Health Walk** (Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Sutter Health). Additional events are noted in the Special Events/Administration section.

Cross country season is taking place at Pinto Lake County Park, with 6 middle school and high school meets in September and October. **Surf season** has also resumed and October hosted 2 surf contests at Pleasure Point, 1 contest at 41st Avenue (the Hook) and the annual two-day Skimboard contest at Moran Lake Beach.

County Parks Special Events

Parks staff has coordinated several events in the months of September and October.

- On October 6th, Santa Cruz County Parks presents Friday Night Recess, in collaboration with First Friday at the MAH. Cooper Street in Santa Cruz will be closed for an all-ages playground, featuring dodgeball, giant volleyball, badminton, cornhole and a pop-up playground with huge building blocks and activity tables for kids. As darkness falls, activities are illuminated with LED and glow elements. A live DJ, best light-up outfit contest and more will add to this great community event. Participating agencies include the Santa Cruz Children's Discovery Museum and City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation. Come out and play!
- On October 21st, the Founding Families Fundraiser will be at the Bear Creek Recreation and Community Center, presented by 5th District Supervisor Bruce McPherson, Boulder Creek Recreation & Park District and Santa Cruz County Parks. A family style picnic and pool party event will be enjoyed by the community in this ongoing fundraising effort.

Parks has sponsored a number of events, some through partial or full fee waivers:

- **I Am More Than What You See** (Mini Mermaid Running Club) at Quail Hollow Ranch on September 9th
- **Day in the Park** (Ben Lomond Firefighters Auxiliary) at Ben Lomond Park on September 16th
- **Santa Cruz Air Cooled VW Car Show Fundraiser** at Live Oak Elementary on September 24th (Parks provided supply and publicity support for sponsorship recognition)
- **Halloween Foam Ball Surf Contest Fundraiser** at Pleasure Point on October 28th (County Parks is one of the title sponsors)

Administration

The Department has completed the RFP process for the Class registration software replacement and has offered a tentative award to Active Network, Inc., a leading provider of application and marketing services for the participatory activities and non-profit sectors and parent company of recreation management software provider. Contract negotiations will culminate in a contract that will be submitted for Board approval in October. The plan is for full development and implementation of the new system before Spring 2018 registration.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: Sept - Oct 2017
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Sheryl Bailey & Will Fourt, Planning Section
Subject: Planning Section Status Report

COUNTY-WIDE PROJECTS

County Parks Strategic Plan: Staff has continued progress on the development of a Strategic Plan for the County Parks Department. Staff has presented summaries from all public meetings, a needs statement, a draft vision statement and draft values to the Parks Commission and posted on the strategic plan website. Staff is working with management to refine draft goals and actions for the plan.

Park Score: Staff is working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) who is completing a ParkScore analysis of the parks in Santa Cruz County. County Parks staff has helped compile data from agencies in the County and has reviewed a first draft summary of the data analysis from TPL. The independent assessment will provide information on the accessibility of parks and related facilities on a countywide basis and a complete draft will be available within the next three months.

NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

Quail Hollow/Pace Property Trail Planning: Staff has prepared a draft addendum to the Quail Hollow Ranch County Park Master Plan to include trails and restoration activities on the Pace Property. Staff has prepared an initial study and is working with County Planning Department to complete CEQA review for the proposed addendum. Staff is compiling a grant application for the Habitat Conservation Fund grant program for the project.

Felton Library: Parks staff continues to work with County Public Works and Santa Cruz Public Libraries to develop the site plan for the new Felton Library grounds, which includes an outdoor discovery park area. Parks staff submitted a grant proposal to the Outdoor Environmental Education grant program for design and construction.

MID-COUNTY PARKS (AJC, Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Heart of Soquel Plaza, The Farm, Mid-County beach access areas)

Chanticleer Park: Parks has continued to work with project engineers on the feasibility for injection wells for groundwater recharge at the park. The Santa Cruz Playground Project has continued their fundraising efforts.

Heart of Soquel Park Plaza: Storm Drain Repair and Replacement Project- The project plans and specifications were approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 8, 2017, Earthworks was awarded the contract and work is underway. The bulk of the work is anticipated to be completed before Oct. 15th and the native plantings will follow.

Heart of Soquel Phase 2 & 3: The Parks Department was awarded a grant from the State Parks Department in the amount of \$243,608 for riparian habitat acquisition along Soquel Creek. Parks is continuing to work with the prospective sellers and the Planning Department to obtain permits, including CEQA approvals to complete the trail from the Heart of Soquel Park Plaza to the pedestrian bridge on Main Street. Parks is in the process of working on two grants that are due on Oct. 2nd and will be applying for other grants as the project progresses. Additionally, Parks staff, including our Volunteer Program Coordinator, has been working on a survey mailer and website update to inform and recruit volunteers for this project's upcoming riparian restoration and trail needs. The mailer will go out to the community in the next week or two.

Farm Phase 2: The Board recently approved a contract amendment with the design firm Waterways to have them develop the pedestrian bridge plans from the conceptual stage to construction documents. Geotechnical and other consultants have begun work necessary to develop schematic plans. The design team recently submitted 65% complete plans and reports for Parks staff's review, prior to submitting to outside Environmental Agencies and the Planning Department for approval/permits. Parks is also working with the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz to develop plans for a bike pump track for the Planning Department's approval.

Simpkins Library Annex: Parks staff has begun working with the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Director from the Department of Public Works and the Santa Cruz Public Library Director on planning a Simpkins Library Annex. Parks has developed two committees to solicit and review parks staff's input on all aspects of the Annex, including Planning, the Swim Center, Arts and programming, reservations and building operations and maintenance. It is anticipated that the Parks Director and the CIP Director will be submitting a Program Statement to the Board of Supervisors in October.

SOUTH COUNTY PARKS (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Seacliff Village Park, Freedom Government Annex)

Pinto Lake: Staff is working with the Resource Conservation District and Parks maintenance staff on adaptive management of the CCC sediment catchment basin, on establishment of mitigation plantings for the project in partnership with Watsonville Wetlands Watch and the California Conservation Corps, and on a project to add rolling dips on the road near where the virgin tree used to be located for sediment and erosion control. Construction on the road will be underway the week of September 25th.



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Jeff Gaffney
Director

Date: Sept - Oct 2017
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Rebecca Hurley, Aquatics Supervisor
Subject: Aquatics Section Status Report

Fall Session August 21- November 26, 2017

Lap Pool hours:

Mondays through Friday from 6:00 am to 7:30 pm.
Saturdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sundays from 9:00 am to 12:30pm

Warm-Water Pool:

The warm-water pool is available for general use on:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday	6:00—10:30am 3:00—5:00pm (Rec Swim) 6:00—7:30pm
Tuesday/Thursday	6:00am—3:00pm 3:00—5:00pm (Rec Swim) 5:00—7:30pm
Saturdays	9:00 am - 10:30 am (adults only) 10:30 am – 12:30 pm (adults & kids 6 years and younger) 12:30 – 4:00 pm (Rec Swim ~ all ages)
Sundays	9:00am—12:30pm (all ages)

Recreation Swim – During the fall season recreation swim includes the warm water pool and shallow area of the 50M pool. This year we continued to operate the water slide on Saturdays and Sundays through Labor Day. As well, facility hours were extended on Sunday, September 3 to add a recreation swim time from 12:30-4pm. Attendance was very high during regular open hours over Labor Day weekend, most likely due to the unseasonal heat wave experienced throughout the region.

Special Events at the Pool

Parks and Rex— On August 26th the Parks Department held the third annual Parks and Rex Event! This year's event had 482 people in attendance (compared to 334 last year), and a total of \$9000 was raised for youth programs and Animal Services (compared to \$6500 last year). Dogs were thrilled to be able to swim in the warm water pool this year! Human attendees additionally enjoyed good food, beer and wine, music, paddle boarding and kayaking on the pool, floating hamster wheels, a children's bounce house, several raffle options for prizes, and a beautiful, fun day at the pool!

On **Labor Day** the Parks Department held another **Annual FREE SWIM** from 12:30-4:00pm co-sponsored by the Simpkins Family. Despite rain showers on Labor Day this year, over 300 people attended this free event. Families enjoyed the pools, slide, climbing walls, music and a BBQ sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club.

On September 23rd, we co-sponsored the second annual **ROMP** (Roy Orbison Memorial Water Polo) Tournament. Over 50 players participated! The ROMP tournament was sanctioned by USA Water Polo.

On Sunday, October 22nd from 1:00 – 4:00pm we will be holding our second annual **FLOATING PUMPKIN PATCH!** Thanks to Uesugi Farms' donation of the pumpkins, we are putting a fun spin on the time-honored tradition of pumpkin picking by creating a floating patch in the pool! In addition to searching for your perfect pumpkin in the pool we've got plenty of other fun activities planned for the day, including food, games, and prizes!

Aquatics Programs

Fall and Winter Swim lessons – Are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30am – 12:30pm and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.

Private Swim lessons are also available with either our aquatics staff or one of our four private contractors.

Adult Fitness Swimming – Adult Fitness Swimming remains a very popular program at the Simpkins Family Swim Center. 90-minute coached swim workouts are offered Monday through Friday at 6:00am and 12:00pm, and weekends at 9:00am. A variety of coaches offer swimmers multiple workout choices.

In addition to the regular Adult Fitness program, we continue to offer an **Introduction to Lap Swimming and Adult Fitness** class on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am – 11:30am, and Saturdays from 10:30-11:30.

Water Aerobics & Exercise – The water exercise classes this year continue to reach their highest capacity to date. Water exercise is an excellent way for people to meet their fitness goals without impact on the joints. Classes are designed to appeal to all levels of ability, including healthy, cross training fitness enthusiasts, pre-natal, seniors, and those rehabilitating. A monthly calendar is available with dates, times, and instructors names. Previous swimming or water-exercise experience is not required for participation in any of the water exercise classes.

Child Care – The drop in child care program has now been open for over a year. Over the summer this program was being offered five days a week, Tuesday thru Thursday and Saturday and Sundays. This program is open to children 6 months and up and costs \$5 per child for up to two hours. It is currently staffed by both aquatics and recreation staff members.

Current Fall hours are:

9:00 AM – 1:30 PM Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Saturday

Drop-in Water Polo – Sundays from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Participants must sign a waiver and be a member of USAWPA to participate in the program.

Lifeguard Training Exercises – The aquatics staff September in-service training focused on emergency oxygen administration, integrating emergency O2 into CPR care, and customer service skills. During the October in-service lifeguard staff practiced making rescues while wearing winter weather gear. The upcoming November in-service will cover weather-related closures and emergencies.

American Red Cross Lifeguarding Instructor Update—On September 16th, the swim center hosted an American Red Cross Instructor/Trainer skills review and practice session for regional American Red Cross lifeguarding instructors. Four American Red Cross trainers from the Parks Department participated along with four other regional instructor/trainers.

Pool Rentals

Swim Teams – Currently three swim teams: Aptos Cabrillo Swim Club, Santa Cruz County Aquatics, and Quicksilver Swimming rent lanes in the 50-meter pool. The swim teams offer school-age competitive swimming programs Monday through Friday from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Private Pool Parties – Available on Saturdays and Sundays spring through fall, a variety of aspects of the facility may be rented after hours for Private Pool Parties, from just the warm water pool to the entire facility. This year, Gateway Elementary School rented the entire aquatics complex for their back to school carnival, with over 200

attendees. Private Pool Parties are scheduled on weekends during the spring, summer and fall, after the facility has closed to the public.

Other activities

Preventative Lifeguarding, Rescues and First Aid— With over 150,000 visits annually at the Simpkins Family Swim Center, on a busy day there can be well over 100+ preventative interactions between lifeguards and patrons. Some of the preventative measures lifeguards are responsible for are: recognizing non-swimmers before they get into the deep end, stopping patrons from diving, stopping children from rough housing, running etc... However, even with the best prevention, rescues and first aid responses are also a part of the daily responsibilities of the lifeguards. So far this year the lifeguard staff have rescued 12 children in distress, and provided first aid care for 34 patrons.

Swim Scholarships – Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks gave over **75 Learn to Swim scholarships** this past summer season. Scholarships cover half the cost of a session of swim lessons, and are available to families in financial need with a limit of three scholarships per family.

Pool Closures

The Warm Water Pool was closed for scheduled maintenance on August 27th, this was done in order to thoroughly clean the pool and renew the water following the Parks and Rex event.

All pools are scheduled be closed to the public on Sunday Oct. 15th for the **21st Annual Super Kid Triathlon**.

The pool will also be closed on Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 23rd.

On Sept. 11 the pools were closed intermittently for the safety of patrons and staff due to thunderstorms. Following the recommendations of the Lightning Safety Institute, our procedure is to clear all pools and deck areas and remain closed until 30 minutes after the last occurrence of thunder or lightning. There were 4 temporary closures on 9/11 this year, the longest of which lasted approximately one hour. In the event of unscheduled pool closures, the public are notified by email, social media updates, and by automated phone message.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: Sept - Oct 2017
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator
Subject: Recreation & Cultural Services Section Status Report

ARTS AND CULTURAL

Art Exhibitions

Melissa West's linoleum cuts are on exhibition at the Simpkins Family Swim Center / Parks office through mid-October. The week of October 30, Melissa's prints will come down and Samuel Torres Jr. will install his photographs.

The County Employee exhibition is on the first floor of the County Government Center through October 16 – don't miss this annual exhibition which features a variety of artwork created by current and retired County Employees!

Felton Library

The "Call to Artists" for the Felton Library public art project was released June 23, with an application deadline of July 28. Fourteen artists and artist-teams submitted proposals for the project. The selection panel for the Felton Library public art project met on August 16 to review artists' proposals and select artists to move forward in the process. Two artists were selected to continue in the selection process, and will be interviewed by the panel on August 27. The panel's recommendation of public artist for the project will go to the Arts Commission for approval at their meeting on October 2, and finally to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration in November.

Farm Park

The public artist for the Farm Park continues to refine his concept plans for artwork on the bridge and bridge landing.

Seacliff Village Park

Kathleen Crocetti repaired several of the mosaics at the park, which were damaged by vandalism.

ADULT AND SENIOR PROGRAMS

On August 9, Senior Mall Walk program participants had their hard work acknowledged at the Mall Walkers 28th annual awards ceremony. Many walkers earned awards for attaining their goals and reaching new mileage categories. Volunteers for the program were honored and recognized for their hard work and dedication. Lastly, great prizes donated by generous area merchants were raffled off. Later in August, a busload of participants traveled to North Beach to watch Steve Silver's *Beach Blanket Babylon*. This trip was revived after a 5-year hiatus and, after upgrading to the largest available bus to accommodate more, there were still people on the waitlist!

September featured a narrated cruise around Alameda Island and the Oakland Estuary aboard the River Dolphin. It was a gorgeous day for it!

YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS

Mar Vista ACE

August began with Getting To Know You Week, during which participants decorated their moola buck envelopes that hold moola bucks awarded for excellent behavior, such as doing kind things for fellow participants. Three moola bucks earns a prize. We also played several icebreaker and active games. Next was Space Week, featuring games of Space Race, Meteorite Ball, Aurora Borealis Tag, Alien Nation, Protect the Planet and more! Activities also included space slime, food constellations, hovercrafts and solar system hats. During Friendship Week, participants made friendship bracelets, friend collages, CD crafts and mini pizzas. The highlight of the week was a potluck party.

The first week of September was Laborers Week, including activities such as Medic, X-ray Q-Tip art, EMS Ball, Dig the Dirt and Beckon. During Ocean Week participants enjoyed watercolor and "Squidward" art, and games of Sharks and Minnows, Capture the Squid and Shark in the Waves. Insects Week was lots of fun with activities such as Dead Ant Tag, Bug Wars, Save the Bee, a group insect sculpture project, dirt cups and insect window hangings. The highlight was a field trip to bowl and play miniature golf. We will welcome the change of seasons with Fall Into Fall Week with festive activities such as Protect the Tree, a fall scavenger hunt, Rice Krispies leaves and leaf rubbings. We will also take advantage of the warm weather with a Water Day, complete with slip-n-slides and water balloon fun!

October will feature Wheels, Native American, Pumpkins and Pals, and Friendly Ghosts and Ghouls themes. Highlights will include a field trip to the pumpkin patch, a costume carnival, and Wheels Day, when participants will be allowed to bring non-motorized bikes and scooters (with their helmets) and participate in fun activities such as an obstacle course on their "wheels."

Girls Paving the Way

Coastal Conservancy staff recommended the GIRLS Explore the Coast Project grant to their board, which will meet on September 28 and make final approvals. If accepted, the grant will supplement activities offered by Parks to GIRLS Paving the Way program participants by offering coastal access, exposure, education, recreation and stewardship.

La Selva Beach ACE Program

The La Selva Beach ACE program is off to a fabulous start of the school year, with lots of fun special events including Manresa Beach field trip days, potluck parties, and a field trip to the Simpkins Swim Center. Recent weekly themes included a Back to School Celebration with interesting activities such as a marshmallow tower contest, a water balloon toss, a game of aliens, a paper plate dragon craft, team relays, an egg drop project, belly bumpers, clay creations and more! The highlight for Back to School Celebration week was a Back to School Celebration Potluck Party which included pizza, food, drinks, a dance competition, music, prizes and lots of dance fun! Another recent weekly theme included Fabulous Fall week which included activities such as a dotted fall tree craft, a game of flag football, a diet coke & mentos science experiment, a game of scavenger hunt, a game of blob tag, a game of bullseye and a new fall Popcorn Tree Craft! Four students from the local Aptos Junior High School come to the program 1-3 times each week after school to assist staff with the program. Soon, the children are going to start going to the local La Selva Beach Library each Thursday for Lego Class.

Kinder Enrichment at Mar Vista

The young children at Kinder Enrichment are just now just beginning to understand the flow of the day, with the guidance of Heather Heider, Oscar Arroyo, and Maddy Young, as well as Carly Chavez, Kevin Keelan, Rich Chavez, and Alison Tiran all adding their special talents to the team. Staff have kept up communications with parents whose children are having a difficult time with behavior issues. Each week of the month has a different theme. The first theme of September was Farm Life: the cotton sheep art project had the children learning how to pull cotton with their pincher grips. Also, the children learned about what products come from which animal, and farm stencil scenes brought out colorful and unique pictures of farm life from the little artists' imaginations. The Shapes theme included the tangram puzzles, and coloring project that had the children recognize shapes they find in everyday life, such as a rectangular front door. The All About Apples theme really had all the five senses going -- the children got to have a taste test of different apples and voted Red Delicious the winner. Additional themes included Back to the Future and Autumn.

QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Interviews for the Recreation Specialist position at Quail Hollow Ranch have concluded, and a job offer will soon be made.

Recent Interpretive Programs and Activities:

- ***A Stellar Experience - Star Gazing at Quail Hollow Ranch*** was offered by the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club on August 11, from 8PM-12AM – it was very well attended.
- ***Ghosts of Quail Hollow Ranch – A Ranch House Tour***, was be offered by Park Docent Richard James on August 20.

Upcoming Interpretive Programs and Activities:

- ***A Stellar Experience - Star Gazing at Quail Hollow Ranch*** will again be offered by the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club on October 13, from 7:30PM-12AM.

- ***Ghosts of Quail Hollow Ranch – A Ranch House Tour***, will be offered by Park Docent Richard James on October 29 from 1-3PM.
- ***In Seach of Herps*** will be offered by Park Interpreter Jeremy Lin on October 29 from 1-3PM.

An Open House & Fundraiser at the Quail Hollow Quarry will be held on October 14 from 10AM-1PM at the Quail Hollow Quarry in Felton. Graniterock representatives will be in attendance to answer neighbors' questions about ongoing operations, conservation, and reclamation efforts in the quarry. The **Taco Lunch costs \$10.00, and all proceeds will benefit Quail Hollow Ranch County Park.** Come for the Open House, stay for the delicious taco lunch. For more information about this event, call 831-471-3480.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: Sept - Oct 2017
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Subject: Volunteer Program Status Report

Volunteers will host an informational table at the Quail Hollow fundraiser which will be held on Saturday Oct. 14th from 10-1 at the Granite Rock Felton Quarry. Participants can participate in a Quarry tour and enjoy a taco lunch for \$10. Granite Rock hosts this event annually and all proceeds benefit Quail Hollow Ranch.

October 28th is National Make a Difference Day - the Parks Department has nominated four dedicated volunteers for the 'Make a Difference' awards. The four nominees are: Alex Fowler, Dave Sunoo, Richard James, and Kathy James.

Alex Fowler has volunteered for the Santa Cruz County Parks Department for 11 years.

Alex is a bike pump track builder by trade and has volunteered his expertise to build, fix, and re-build the bike pump track at the Polo Grounds Park, in Aptos.

Most recently he is volunteering his time again to re-build the track and include some jumps for younger riders.

Dave Sunoo has volunteered at the Pinto Lake County Park and Disc Golf Course in Watsonville since 2011. Dave helps to maintain the Disc Golf Course and works to keep the park free of graffiti. Dave works independently and has an excellent relationship with all the maintenance staff at Pinto Lake as well as the many users that enjoy the park.

Richard and Kathy James have been volunteering at Quail Hollow Ranch since 2015.

Richard volunteers for several different groups at Quail Hollow. He volunteers in the Visitor Center, on the Trail Maintenance Crew, for all the group volunteer days, and as the Parks Historian.

Both Richard and Kathy spend many hours at Quail Hollow Ranch keeping it clean and organized as well as holding the Visitor Center open for the public.

North County

Our north coast volunteer, Jay Todd, continues to walk the parking lots, railroad tracks, and highway in the Davenport area picking up trash. He typically gathers 3-4 large bags of garbage during his outings.

Quail Hollow Ranch

On July 18th a group of 90 children ages 10 – 12 volunteered at Quail Hollow Ranch and painted a 200 foot fence line. The children arrived in two shifts; the first group of children painted for 2 hours and then had lunch and explored the park. The second group picked up where the first group left off and finished the fence line, then cleaned up. It was the 4th in a series of paint days at Quail Hollow Ranch and the efforts have helped to keep the fences and barns looking fresh.

The Trail Crew volunteers at Quail meet weekly to maintain the trails. They have a dedicated group and at least 4 volunteers go out once a week for approximately 4 hours to work on the trails.

Mid County

Planning has begun with the Monterey Bay Center for Environmental Literacy (MBCEL) to host volunteer days at Moran Lake Park and Sunny Cove. The MBCEL has received a grant to work with school children to participate in removing invasive species from coastal areas and our two Parks will receive the benefit of the program.

South County

Thanks to volunteers, the bike pump track at **Polo Grounds Park** has been re-built and enhanced with jumps for younger children. The three main volunteers working many hours and offering their expertise were Alex Fowler, Kyle Josephson, and Matt De Young.

We have a new volunteer at the Polo Grounds Park dog park! He will be heading up efforts to assist maintenance staff in reducing the foxtails within the dog park.

Pinto Lake Park

Our Pinto Lake volunteer has been battling poison oak around some of the disc golf holes; keeping the weeds down; and regularly paints over graffiti.