



GRANADA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT Granada Gazette – Issue #2

Get to Know Us – Get Involved!

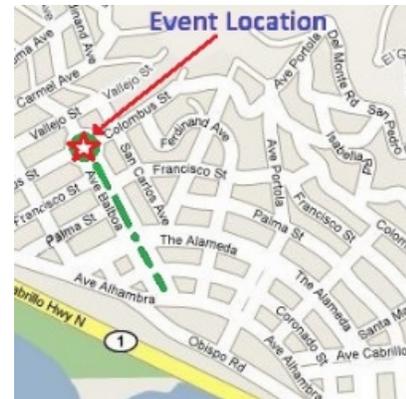
HOLD THE DATE! Saturday, October 20, 9:00 - Noon

Community Outreach on Play Area Concepts for Ave Balboa Median

A Community Outreach event will be held on Saturday, October 20 on the Avenue Balboa median between Columbus and Francisco Streets. Drop in any time between 9:00 and noon.



Members of the Granada Community Services District (GCSD) Board, Parks Advisory Committee members, and Landscape Architects from Kikuchi + Kankel will display concepts for small neighborhood play areas on the Avenue Balboa Circle and the adjacent median. Community members are invited to review these concepts and provide feedback on whether such small neighborhood play areas are desired and if so, what amenities would be recommended. Examples of replacement picnic tables for the Balboa Medians will also be on display.



GCSD Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) Updates

The PAC met on September 11, 7:00pm at the GCSD Office. The agenda and discussion included:

- Reviewed conceptual designs for **small neighborhood playgrounds** on the El Granada medians at the northwest end of Avenue Balboa. Next steps include a wider community outreach effort to collect feedback on the notion of adding play areas to these medians and input on possible amenities.
- Reviewed options for replacement and placement of the aged **picnic tables** on the Avenue Balboa medians.
- Reviewed and updated the PAC **action plan** for the coming year, following GCSD Board feedback at their August 30 Special Parks Meeting.
- Reviewed key learnings from the Summer 2018 **Connection to Recreation** programs (see more information below) and initial discussion of recreation programs for Summer 2019.
- Discussed PAC involvement in next steps for developing the proposed **Burnham Park** on Obispo Road (see more information below).

Check the Parks & Recreation page on www.granada.ca.gov for ongoing updates on PAC activities.

Long Time Member Dale Ross Steps Down from PAC



For the last seven years El Granada resident Dale Ross has worked to improve parks and recreation opportunities for kids and adults in our community. He was there at the beginning of discussions about reorganizing the Granada Sanitary District into the Granada Community Services District to add parks and recreation powers. Dale was always one of the first to offer to help on Park Advisory Committee (PAC) projects. He led the very first district-sponsored recreation event, the well-organized and popular walking tour along Deer Creek. Dale rallied neighbor support for a playground along Balboa Avenue and his creative detailed designs have given us a clear vision of what could be placed there to benefit local children. The PAC will miss you and we wish you happy times ahead with your family.

Recap: 2018 Summer *Connection to Recreation* Events

As we move into autumn we are looking back on the first GCSD *Connection to Recreation* activities offered during the summer of 2018. All of the events were free and led by PAC members and other members of our local community. The PAC is now moving into planning mode for more activities to come next summer. Here are some memories of the Summer 2018 events:

Explorer Walk Along Deer Creek, El Granada on June 30



PAC Member Dale Ross led a walk along Deer Creek through the fields, streets and yards of El Granada. Community members were treated to an enthusiastic tour of the creek's meanderings and the creative and beautiful ways in which residents have incorporated the creek into their landscaping. A lovely sunny morning walk through the neighborhood, marveling at the coexistence of creek, wildlife habitat and local residences!



Walk Through History: Ocean Shore Railroad & El Granada Medians on July 21



GCSD Board Vice President Barbara Dye recounted the history of our area, from the time of the Coastanoa Indians through development of the Ocean Shore Railroad (“Reaches the

Beaches!”) and the Daniel Burnham-designed Granada development, including wide streets, spacious plazas and forested medians. She also shared information about efforts by the Granada Community Services

District to protect our open spaces while creating more parks for the community.



El Granada resident Mark Welch commented: *“Last Saturday we met to take a two hour tour of El Granada. I recommend to anyone that when this comes up again to take it. 1) You get to get out and walk a few miles and 2) you get to hear about the history of our town from the Indian garbage dump in the pillar point marsh to the 600,000 eucalyptus trees planted at the turn of the century because they were the “in” tree at the time. (that number is NOT a typo) :) ... and lots more. Barbara did a great job!! I encourage anyone that has an interest to attend the next one ... keep an eye out on Nextdoor for the date and time.”*

With this encouragement, the PAC will explore adding more history walks in the future.

Explorer Walk: Trees of El Granada, Legacy and Modern-Day on July 28



Community residents were treated to an education session with local Certified Arborist Kevin Patchett, and then a walk through the medians and streets of El Granada with PAC member Dal Ross, identifying the many species of native and non-native trees in our midst, from legacy trees planted in the earliest years of El Granada’s development (1907 – 1916) to modern day street trees. Along the way participants discussed ideas for the next generation of median trees, as the legacy Blue Gum Eucalyptus, Monterrey Cypress and Pines approach the end of their natural life.



Medians Clean-Up, El Granada on August 4



Two community members joined PAC member Nancy Marsh to collect debris and trash along the Ave Balboa, Alameda and Ave Cabrillo medians. Two bags of bottles, cans, trash and pet waste were collected while discussing the history of the medians and ideas for the future for maintaining beautiful and functional medians for our community. The medians were intended to be parklands – let’s keep them clean!

Edible and Medicinal Plants Walk along the El Granada Medians on August 11



Several members of the community joined El Granada herbalist Suzanne Elliot for a leisurely walk on The Alameda between Isabella Ave and Ave Portola. This particular median has few trees, and features many wild medicinal and edible plants as well as a few “volunteer” garden vegetables. Suzanne generously shared her expertise about the medicinal and nutritive benefits of common weeds and native

plants and how to use them in healthy meals and teas as well as helpful poultices and salves. Participants took notes, tastes, photos and samples!



Mountain Biking Local Trails for Adults on August 12



PAC member Susannah Cantrell offered a ride with local mountain bikers on the amazing trails in Quarry Park. They experienced smooth roads and narrower single track trails, and explored areas of the park that some had not seen before.

Gentle Introduction to Yoga on September 8

El Granada yoga instructor Shannon Welch Moore donated her time and expertise to host a gentle class designed for all levels. Community members enjoyed a lovely class. Namaste!



Quarry Park Clean-Up on September 9



PAC member Fran Pollard organized a clean-up of Quarry Park, joined by members of the community as well as an SMC Parks Ranger. They cleared tree debris as well as trash so that the park will be beautifully green once the rains come. The volunteers filled *ten* large compost bins with debris, then used that material to mulch eroded areas and paths.

Burnham Park Community Outreach Event, June 16, 2018

On June 16, 2018 members of the Communications Committee of the Board of Granada Community Services District as well as several PAC members worked with Kikuchi + Kankel Design Group (K+K) to present K+K’s three conceptual designs for a potential Burnham Park to the public for comment. The informal community outreach event was noticed on the District’s Facebook page and on social media; posters were displayed at the District Office and El Granada Post Office for about 10 days before the event. The event was held under shade tents on the Burnham Strip at the base of Avenue Portola, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A “constraints map” for the parcel and three park concepts were displayed on large posters. In addition, the Midcoast Parklands group provided an overview of the history of preserving the Burnham Strip and their

initial park concept for this parcel. There was a constant flow of people at the event from the set up at 9:00 to well after the scheduled breakdown at 1:00; people expressed a great deal of curiosity as well as enthusiasm for a potential project.

Seventy people provided written comments at the outreach event, with 90% expressing enthusiasm for developing a community park on the site, and most providing comments on the amenities they would most like to see, or not see, developed. All comments were recorded and the number of “mentions” for each type of passive or active amenity were tabulated. The GCSD Board reviewed this information at a special Parks meeting on August 30. The Board agreed to continue evolving park concepts with K+K, and to provide additional opportunities for robust community outreach. The Board agreed to consider including these potential amenities, subject to further rounds of community feedback:

Passive Amenities	Active Amenities
Picnic Tables Benches Barbecues Interpretive Signs Natural Landscape Native Plants Trails, including perimeter trail Parking Restroom/Outdoor showers	Playgrounds for younger & older children Horseshoes Bocce Fitness Circuit Multi-use lawn Skate Ramp or Park

Next Steps: A group including GCSD Directors, PAC Members and Kikuchi+Kankel will meet in late September to develop next steps for park design and community outreach.

Stay Informed

Want to find out what was discussed at past PAC and Board meetings? Go to www.granada.ca.gov to see all past meeting agendas and minutes.