



Granada Gazette

Parks & Recreation

Sewer Service, Solid Waste & Recycling


Granada Community Services District


Serving El Granada, Miramar, Princeton and Northern Half Moon Bay Since 1958


April 2022

Burnham Park Update


Although there has not been a lot of recent news about the park, behind the scenes experts are busy turning the conceptual plan for Burnham Park into detailed plans that can be reviewed by the County for permitting.

 GCSD's landscape architectural firm, Kikuchi & Kankel Design Group is working with BKF Engineers (who worked on the El Granada Fire Station and the Half Moon Bay Library projects) to develop parking, drainage, and grading plans. On an ongoing basis they work with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District on environmental issues.

 Soon, a consultant to assist with the review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will start evaluating the various impacts of the proposed project.

 GCSD hopes to have a final package ready for County review by the end of 2022, with approval shortly thereafter. Construction could start in 2023.

For those members of the community who may not be familiar with the park project, here is a summary of the park proposal:

The ADA-compliant plan is designed in three sections: a "village green" to the south, preserving the view down Avenue Portola, an active recreation area in the center across from existing buildings, and a large area to the north with small picnic and exercise areas, natural landscaping, and ocean views. A mix of wide and narrow trails run throughout the park, and at the south end a new trail would lead to the highway crossing and Coastal Trail at Coronado Street. An informative video presentation of the park master plan is available at www.granada.ca.gov/parks. 


Future GCSD Community Center

Last summer GCSD acquired the building and property that is the current home of Picasso Preschool at 480 Avenue Alhambra in El Granada, to develop in the future as a Community Center and District Office adjacent to the new park property. The site is leased to the current Picasso Preschool operator through August 2023.

Picasso Preschool has supported early childhood development for countless coastside families over its more than 25-year history. It is important to note that when the Picasso family listed the property for sale, they gave first priority to interest and offers from established preschool operators, hoping to preserve the site as an ongoing preschool. It was only after several months of trying to find a preschool buyer without success, that they considered and accepted an offer from GCSD. In 2006, the zoning on the property was changed to "El Granada Gateway" for public uses such as a community center, nature center, library, etc., which made GCSD a natural buyer if another preschool operator could not be found.


In early March, GCSD completed a Request for Qualifications process to select an architecture firm to design renovations and expansion of the existing building to include event, meeting and classroom spaces to support recreation programs and other community needs, as well as relocation of GCSD's small office from its current leased space. A final recommendation to the Board for an architectural partner is expected in late April.

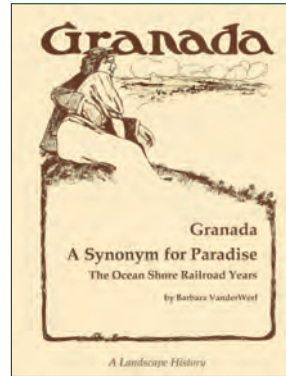
It is anticipated that the Community Center design will take advantage of the fantastic views of Half Moon Bay beaches to the south and Pillar Point to the west, and will be well integrated and cohesive with the new park.

The design process will initially be informed by community perspectives collected in GCSD's 2019 Community Survey (results report is available at www.granada.ca.gov/parks). As design options are developed, they will be shared with the community for additional feedback over the next eighteen months. 

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El Granada History Donation

GCSO was the recipient of a priceless trove of historic photos donated by Barbara Vanderwerf, the author of the wonderful book, "Granada, A Synonym for Paradise." GCSO Board president Barbara Dye reached out to Vanderwerf for information while writing about the history of the Burnham Strip for the GCSO website. Vanderwerf donated her remaining photographs and documents to the Half Moon Bay History Association, with a provision that they be available for GCSO to use in a future museum exhibit in the Community Center or elsewhere. 



Where does the Park and Community Center funding come from?

This question comes up each time GCSO asks for community feedback. GCSO's funding comes from sewer fees and a portion of property tax that is allocated to GCSO. As one might expect, the property tax allocation has increased every year as properties are sold and taxes are reassessed. At its February meeting the GCSO Board reviewed five-year financial projections for the parks and recreation plans and functions of the district. Using only the portion of its revenue that comes from property taxes, the district will have more than sufficient


funding to complete the park and community center and provide ongoing maintenance and staffing for both. This funding is not an additional tax, but returns value directly to the community from a share of what residents pay in property taxes. The dedicated use of these revenues for parks and recreation was proposed as part of Measure G, converting Granada Sanitary District to Granada Community Services District, which the community voted to approve in 2014. 

..... 2022 Summer Recreation Programs

The GCSO Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) looks forward to having the new park and community center completed so that there will finally be local district venues available for programming many more recreation activities for coastsiders of all ages.

In the meantime, GCSO will again offer community recreation activities that take advantage of our public and open spaces. Watch your mail later in the spring for a postcard outlining free summer activities, which will also be advertised on NextDoor. The planning currently in progress includes a variety of guided local history and nature walks, a bicycle program for special needs kids, and in partnership with San Mateo

County Parks, opening of the new pump track and a fall family movie night in Quarry Park.

The PAC includes seven community volunteers and advises the Board on parks and recreation ideas and activities. They have been very engaged over the past few years in soliciting and summarizing community feedback regarding the future park and community center, exploring possible locations for pocket parks, a pump track and disc golf, and they have driven all of the summer recreation activities offered since 2018. The current PAC includes Chair Ric Barker, Vice Chair Pat Tierney, Fran Pollard, Susannah Cantrell, Michelle Dragony, Lyle Coffield and Ethan Rayner. 

Garbage/Recycling News

Local Drop-Off Recycling

If you have a piece of furniture or an old appliance you need to get rid of in 2022, you'll have three more opportunities to conveniently do so here in El Granada – free of cost! From 8 am to 12 pm on the Saturdays of April 23, July 23 and Oct 22, you can bring those items and more to the Burnham Strip parking lot on Obispo Road at Ave. Portola to the Local Drop-off Recycling Event, sponsored by Recology of the Coast and GCSO.

If you miss the Drop-off Event, accepted items can be taken to the Recology of the Coast Recycle Yard located at 1046 Palmetto Ave. in Pacifica, from 8 am to 2 pm on Tuesdays and

Thursdays, and from 7 am to 12 pm on Saturdays. Please call Recology at (650) 355-9000 for more information.

The new composting program started in January 2022, provides weekly collection of combined food and green waste. Please place all food scraps, uncoated soiled paper and yard waste in your 96-gallon composting bin for collection.

Compost Giveaway


On Saturday, September 10, 2022, from 8 am to 12 pm, GCSO ratepayers can bring a 2–30 gallon can to collect compost material at the Recology Recycle Yard, 1046 Palmetto Ave., Pacifica.

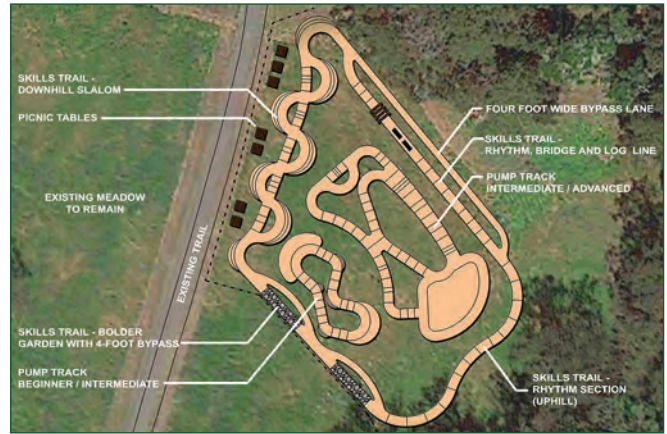
Quarry Park Pump Track

Update from Nicholas Calderon, San Mateo County Parks Director

The San Mateo County Parks Department, in partnership with the Granada Community Services District, San Mateo County Parks Foundation, and Coastside Mountain Bikers, is preparing to break ground on the long-awaited Quarry Park Pump Track. The Midcoast community has been seeking a community pump track for several years, and in 2019, the San Mateo County Parks Department committed to constructing one at Quarry Park. After conducting a detailed community engagement process in 2020 to select the preferred project concept, the Parks Department prepared the project design plans and obtained all necessary permits and approvals.


In January 2022, a Request for Proposals to construct the project was released, and bids were opened in February 2022. American Ramp Company was the lowest qualified and respon-

sible bidder, and the Board of Supervisors approved entering into an agreement with them to construct the pump track. Ground breaking is anticipated to occur in May 2022, with project completion scheduled for June/July 2022. Simultaneously, the San Mateo County Parks Department will be expanding the Quarry Park parking lot. Additional parking spaces will be added along the eastern edge of the existing parking lot. We can't wait to see you all at the ribbon cutting! 



Outdoor Education Program

GCSD has been supporting the exciting Junior Land Stewards (JLS) program run by Coastside Land Trust. Fourth graders at El Granada Elementary School have had many opportunities to spend time outdoors and learn about local wildlife and plants. The students walk to Quarry Park twice, listening to nature, doing nature journaling, drawing local plants, and learning about the history of the community. Students from the high school Agriculture Program serve as docents for the students.

In the fall the students prepared a garden spot outside the school by clearing the weeds and covering the site with cardboard and mulch. In the classroom, they started native plants from seed and watched them grow. In February they planted their seeds in the gardens and drew signs to post at the garden saying, for example “Don’t pick me – I know I am beautiful but you must resist!” GCSD is proud to be supporting this valuable program. 



A nature journal page

Sewer Service News

While the Sewer Authority Midcoast (SAM) operates and maintains the wastewater plant and the related sewer system components from Montara through Half Moon Bay, GCSD owns and maintains the public sewer collection system within the District, and budgets approximately \$300,000 annually to replace aging sewer pipes. Last year GCSD completed two major projects: 1) Phase 1 of the District’s 6-year Capital Sewer Program, which replaced 2663’ of aging sewer mains throughout El Granada, and 2) the Medio Creek Bridge crossing project, which removed a sewer main from the Medio Creek bridge where it crossed the mouth of the creek. This project included replacing 1000’ of sewer line in Mirada Road, and greatly reduced the potential for sewage spilling into the creek and ocean during heavy storms.

The District’s completion of the Medio Creek Bridge Project clears the way for the County to construct the replacement pedestrian bridge without interfering with any of GCSD’s active sewer

lines. The County plans to demolish the old bridge and construct a new one in its place sometime this year, and possibly as early as this summer.



New line of pipe being installed on Isabella.

Both of the capital improvement projects used the newest technology: HDPE (high density polyethylene) pipes, which, due to the material’s durability, are leak free, resistant to corrosion, and cost-effective over the long-term.

The design phase for Phase 2 of the 6-Year CIP is underway, beginning with surveying. It is expected that the project will go out to bid in late spring, with work starting next fall. A map of the project will be available on GCSD’s website (www.granada.ca.gov) following contract approval by the Board.

For sewer related emergencies, please call the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (24/7) at (650) 726-0124.


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It's an Election Year! Are you interested in local public service?

The Granada Community Services District is governed by a five-member board of directors, elected by the registered voters of the District. The Board serves as the District's legislative body and meets in public on the third Thursday of every month, plus occasional special meetings. Two of the Board members serve as GCSD's representatives on the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside Board, meeting twice per month alongside representatives from the City of Half Moon Bay and the Montara Water and Sewer District, and one member is the district's representative at the San Mateo County chapter of the California Special Districts Association. The Board also has ad hoc committees supporting development of the new park and community center, and an appointed liaison to the district's volunteer Parks Advisory Committee. There is a small stipend for attending monthly GCSD Board and SAM Board meetings.

The District will have three (3) board of director seats open in the November 2022 General Election. Qualified candidates must be registered to vote in San Mateo County and live within the district boundaries. Directors serve four-year terms. Members of the public are encouraged to run, and all potential candidates should contact the San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division for more information:
<https://www.smcacre.org/candidates-campaigns>.



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