

# 2014 PARKS UPDATE • WE LOVE OUR PARKS!



**Friends**  
— OF —  
**SantaCruz**  
STATE PARKS  
[THATSMYPARK.ORG](http://THATSMYPARK.ORG)





## Dear Park Supporter,

Our local state parks, from the redwoods to the sea, connect us to the natural environment and local cultural history – and to each other. Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks exists to sustain the legacy of our state parks and beaches.

**Friends proudly supports operations at 32 state parks and beaches** in Santa Cruz County and along the San Mateo County coast **through “The Friends Model.”** The Friends Model extends what California State Parks can do for visitors, funding education and interpretation programs as well as capital improvement projects.

The model works. Among 85 similar nonprofits in California, Friends continues to be #1 in contributing funds to support state parks and beaches. **And it works because of people like you.**

**The magic in the model is the community support** provided by Friends memberships, direct donations, purchases made in our five ParkStores locations as well as our ParkStore Online, tributes to friends and loved ones, planned giving, and community partnerships.

As we look ahead to 2015, there are many key projects and initiatives to be excited about including opening the Castro Adobe to school field trips, painting the Victorian at Wilder Ranch, expanding Friends’ operations at Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks and enhancing the visitor experience by offering credit card processing at numerous park and beach entrances.

As always, whether you hike, bike, swim, run, walk or simply love local state parks and beaches, Friends is here to protect them. Thank you so much for your generosity and support!

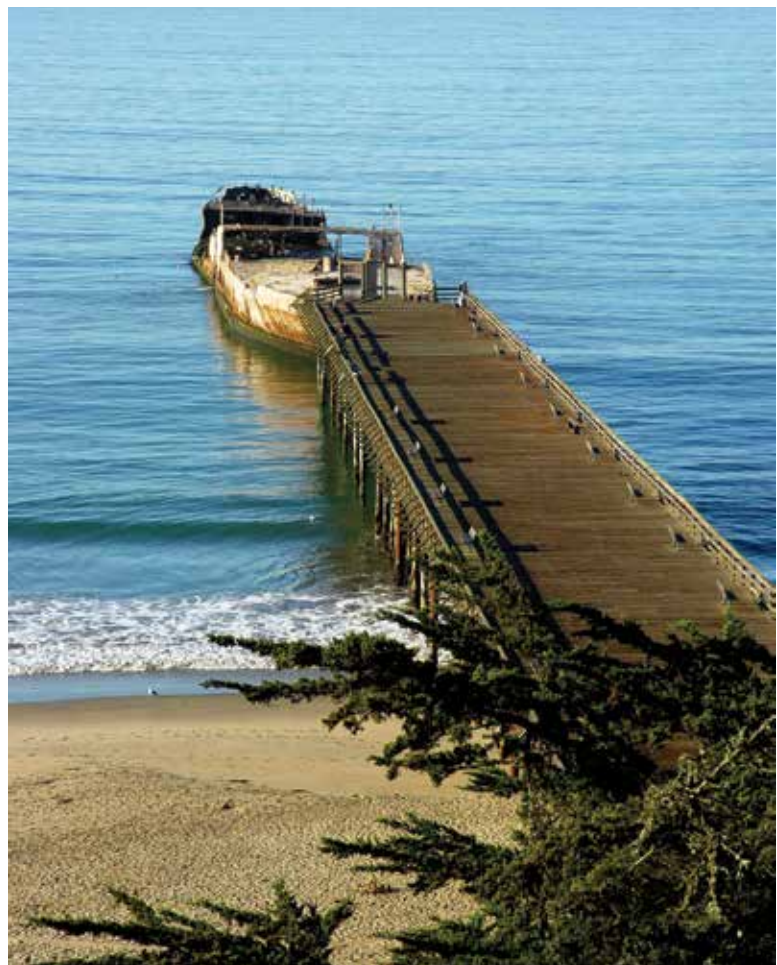
Sincerely,

Bonny Hawley, Executive Director



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## 2014 was a great year! Thanks to supporters like you, we:

- Funded all education and interpretive services provided by state employees in Santa Cruz County and coastal San Mateo County
- Funded operations to keep Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park open and funded an additional day per week the park is open
- Funded the renovation of the patio at the Mission Adobe
- Provided more than 100 local jobs at peak season and funded the second largest state parks volunteer program in California
- Funded key projects on behalf of State Parks, such as restoration of the Castro Adobe and installation of interpretive signage at Big Basin, Henry Cowell and Natural Bridges
- Served 6,313 students through the Friends-funded "PORTS" program, which provides ranger-led live-stream video to classrooms in 18 counties in California, as well as in six other states
- Received two major awards including the Dewitt Award for partnership from California State Parks and the Landmark Award for preservation work at the Castro Adobe from the Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission
- Helped fund restoration of the Wilder Ranch horse barn, as well as a community event to mark the park's 40th anniversary and recognize those who made the park what it is today
- Purchased over nine acres adjacent to the Castro Adobe, including the Kimbro and McClune properties, to add to the future state park
- Funded restoration and improvements to the Castro Adobe, including preservation of the historic cocina, restoration of the Potter-Church Garden and the addition of ADA-accessible parking and pathway improvements
- Commissioned two new illustrations – depicting the Castro Adobe and the Mission Adobe – in artist Michael Schwab's series of That's My Park artwork







# In 2014, our community came together for beloved state parks and beaches through an impressive array of local events and partnerships.

## Friends-Hosted Events

- Summer Series @ the Mission Adobe, including outdoor movie screenings and First Fridays art and music events
- 4th of July Feed the Force
- Mole & Mariachi Festival @ the Mission Adobe
- Holiday Sale and Ugly Sweater Contest @ the Mission Adobe
- Open house event and first annual stewardship dinner @ the Castro Adobe

## Friends Partner Events & Programs

- Kitayama Brothers Gerbera Festival
- Hilltromper.com
- SausageFest
- Girls Gone Wilder @ Wilder Ranch
- Food What?! fundraising dinner @ the Mission Adobe
- New Leaf Envirotokens
- ParkStore wholesale partners: Bookshop Santa Cruz, Epicenter Cycling, Outdoor World and Santa Cruz Bicycles

## Friends-Funded State Park Events

- Welcome Back Monarchs and Migration Festival @ Natural Bridges
- Spring Planting Day, Heritage Harvest Festival, Old-Fashioned 4th of July and Holidays at the Ranch @ Wilder Ranch

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## Your support makes everything possible.

**To help Friends continue to make a difference for our local state parks and beaches, please consider a contribution.**

As always, your donation will be tax-deductible and all donated funds stay local.

- Online at [www.ThatsMyPark.com/donate/membership](http://www.ThatsMyPark.com/donate/membership) (donate \$25 or more and become a member)
- Mail a donation to 144 School Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**In addition to a donation, there are several other ways you can support Friends!**

- Shop at our ParkStores: Natural Bridges State Beach, Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park, Seacliff State Beach, Wilder Ranch State Park and online
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest
- Volunteer with Friends
- Visit our parks (Please remember to pay your entrance fee!)
- Attend local events hosted by Friends



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