

PARKS UPDATE ❤️ YOUR PARKS!



Friends of Santa Cruz
State Parks
That'sMyPark.org
f t y p i g



Parks & Beaches Supported

- Año Nuevo State Park
- Bean Hollow State Beach
- Big Basin Redwoods State Park
- Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park
- Butano State Park
- Castle Rock State Park
- Castro Adobe State Historic Park
- Coast Dairies State Park
- Fall Creek State Park
- Gazos Creek State Beach
- Half Moon Bay State Beach
- Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
- Lighthouse Field State Beach
- Manresa State Beach
- Manresa Uplands State Beach
- Montara State Beach
- Natural Bridges State Beach
- New Brighton State Beach
- Palm State Beach
- Pebble State Beach
- Pescadero State Beach
- Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park
- Pomponio State Beach
- Portola Redwoods State Park
- Rancho del Oso
- Rio Del Mar State Beach
- San Gregorio State Beach
- Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park
- Seabright State Beach
- Seacliff State Beach
- Sunset State Beach
- The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park
- Twin Lakes State Beach
- Wilder Ranch State Park



DEAR PARK LOVER,



Thanks to your support, it's been another great year at our local state parks and beaches!

Despite sometimes daunting challenges, the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) and the State Parks team made tremendous progress in 2022.

As an official operating partner, Friends plays a key role in the day-to-day operations of 34 beautiful state parks and beaches in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties. We bring our creativity and entrepreneurial spirit to work every day, creating and managing new programs, and planning and completing projects. We bring the community's love for our parks to the table, all of which makes it possible for us to care for the people and the places that make our area so special.

We were proud to be an integral part of the team that reopened Big Basin Redwoods State Park to the public less than two years after the devastating CZU Fire, creating and operating a Day Use Reservation System from scratch in less than six months.

We also celebrated a longer-term accomplishment this fall, restoration of the Castro Adobe — a community dream 20 years in the making.

As daily life in 2022 moved to more in-person interactions, we were proud to support a tremendous expansion of the popular Kids2Parks field trip equity program and creation of a new Equity Interpretive Fellowship Program.

And some of the pre-pandemic pleasures are back, like the Welcome Back Monarchs Day Festival at Natural Bridges State Beach. The monarchs are having a great year, so please make time to pay them a visit soon. If you're lucky, you'll also catch sight of the resident great horned owls!

The love and support you show for our parks by visiting (and paying your entry fees), volunteering, donating, becoming a Friends member and shopping in our ParkStores, helps us ensure our parks and beaches are thriving and available to all.

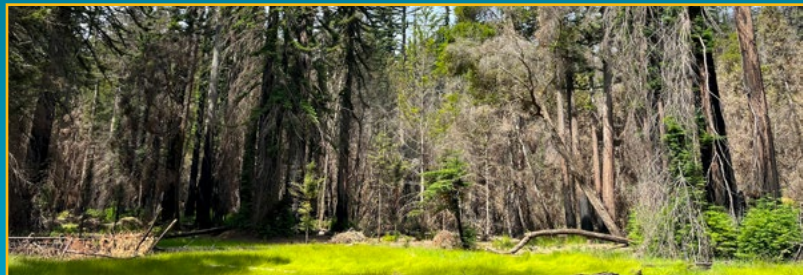
Thank you – and see you in the parks!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonny Hawley".

Bonny Hawley, Executive Director
Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks



WELCOME #BACKTOBIGBASIN!



In July 2022, less than two years after the CZU Fire tore through Big Basin Redwoods State Park, the park partially re-opened to the public.

We at Friends were honored to be an integral part of an unprecedented campaign to reopen the park. The massive project was driven by State Parks professionals, working together with Friends, as well as other nonprofits such as Mountain Parks Foundation, Parks California, the Sempervirens Fund, Save the Redwoods League; the volunteer trail crew and docents; local contractors; myriad allied agencies such as the California Conservation Corps; and many others.

At State Parks' request, Friends created and operates the Day Use Reservation System that provides public access to the park, while also ensuring the safety of both visitors and park staff. Our friendly Friends field staff greet visitors checking in with their reservations at the entrance kiosk.





Behind the scenes, Friends has assisted with the park's recovery in many ways. In the spring, Friends helped organize a volunteer workday. Thirty-three volunteers stacked burn piles, milled split rails, installed fencing, and cleaned up in preparation for the park's opening. This summer, Friends supported basic chainsaw training for the Big Basin Volunteer Trail Crew.

Thanks to donations to the Friends Fire Fund, we helped save 15 old-growth redwoods, made safety upgrades to the entrance kiosk, and provided educational materials. The Fire Fund continues to be supported by donations large and small and creative.



Friends actively supported the Reimagining Big Basin community collaborative effort to create a vision to guide the reestablishment of the park. We continue to collaborate closely with State Parks on operations and communications as the team works to make improvements and further expand public access.

There is still much to do to restore Big Basin and we encourage you to get involved. Volunteer, donate and come visit often. Make a reservation today at ThatsMyPark.org/BigBasin or by phone (831) 338-8867.

CASTRO ADOBE RESTORED

The restoration of the Castro Adobe is complete! Twenty years after California State Parks took ownership of the historic property and began a collaborative effort with Friends to preserve and restore the historic adobe, our community has preserved history and made history!

A new video celebrates the tremendous accomplishment, highlighting the work of scores of preservation professionals, volunteers and donors.



The Castro Adobe was constructed between 1849 and 1850 by native servants for Juan Jose Castro and Rita Pinto Castro on the 8,800-acre Rancho San Andrés. It is one of just four adobe buildings left in Santa Cruz County, and the only two-story adobe remaining. It was the home of the prosperous and prominent Castro family for many years. After the Castro family lost their land, the adobe was stewarded by a series of families over the next century. In 1988, Edna and Joe Kimbro purchased the property as their home, but the building was badly damaged the following year in the Loma Prieta Earthquake.

The Castro Adobe was wrapped in tarps and uninhabitable. Edna Kimbro, whose legendary career included advocating for the preservation and conservation of adobe structures, led a community effort to have the State of California acquire the



property. Assembly Member Fred Keeley sponsored legislation passed in 1999 for the acquisition of the Castro Adobe. California State Parks took ownership from the Kimbros in 2002, launching a 20-year community effort to repair and restore the adobe.

In 2007, two years after Edna Kimbro's passing, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks began to carry on her work in collaboration with State Parks. Over the next 15 years, the community came together to repair and restore the historic adobe inside and out. Work has included earthquake repairs using handmade 85-pound adobe bricks; seismic stabilization and a new roof; strengthening the second story with an innovative steel beam; installation of a lift to guarantee universal access to the second floor; the addition of electrical and fire suppression systems; restoration of the historic cocina (kitchen) and Potter-Church garden; procurement of historic furnishings; and completion of interpretive planning.



Along with the video, a new 3-D virtual tour of the Castro Adobe is now available. The self-directed tour explores the interior and exterior of the building including historic furnishings. View the tour here: ThatsMyPark.org/visit/castro-adobe-project.

Now that the adobe is restored, Friends is launching the next phase of creating California's newest State Historic Park, which includes: installing educational exhibits; establishing the Kimbro House Visitor Center & Archives; restoring the habitat lands leading to the nearby stream; creating accessible paths; installing parking and restrooms; and making the park a leader in sustainability.



We are deeply thankful to the community of dreamers and doers who made the restoration of this critical part of our history possible! We hope you will join us so we can realize the dream of the first state historic park in the Pajaro Valley: ThatsMyPark.org/donate-castro-adobe.



2022 Castro Adobe projects included:

- New roof, using Proposition 68 funds granted to Friends
- Interior crack repair and whitewashing completed, including in the cocina (kitchen)
- Installation of historically accurate lighting and sconces
- Coordination with Statewide Museum Collections Center and crowdsourcing of historic furnishings
- Progress on adobe interpretation plans including exhibit text, graphic design, furnishings and interactive features to create an engaging experience for visitors
- ADA review of the grounds and planned trails, including an interpretive path for future visitor center
- Initiation of the Governing Board for the Edna Kimbro Archives-Center for Early California History
- Acquisition of Branciforte collections from the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History and a private donor
- Continued care of the Potter-Church Garden, Joe's Garden, and Kimbro House grounds by a dedicated corps of volunteers
- Adoption of Kimbro Safety and Stewardship Plan, completion of an emergency plan, removal of flammable trees near the Kimbro House, completion of annual defensible space work, and start of first phase of habitat restoration

EQUITY AND ACCESS



Equity Fellowship Program

Friends added three new positions to the staff team who serve as interpretive fellows, working with State Parks at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Castle Rock State Park and the Castro Adobe State Historic Park. The fellows assist with facilitation and coordination of interpretive programming including the Kids2Parks program, guided hikes, educational events and outreach, as well as host visitor centers and assist with special events. The fellows receive mentorship and provide diverse perspectives for existing staff and volunteers. The program is in collaboration with State Parks, Mountain Parks Foundation, and the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation.



Kids2Parks

The popular Kids2Parks equity field trip program has greatly expanded. During the school year that ended in June, 2,146 students attended 34 in-person and 10 virtual field trips. In the current school year, we're poised to welcome 4,700 students. Kids2Parks provides children from schools serving low-income families the opportunity to experience an interpreter-led field trip at a local state park or beach. Learn more: ThatsMyPark.org/donate-k2p.





Field Trip Access

Friends provided resources to State Parks for the PORTS virtual education program and funded a brand-new online field trip scheduling feature, significantly increasing accessibility for schools.

Park Passes

Friends helped publicize new programs that provide park access to youth and low-income Californians. The California State Park Adventure Pass provides free entry for fourth graders and their families at 19 state parks throughout the state, including Seacliff State Beach. The free Golden Bear Pass allows CalWORKs families to receive entry to 200+ state parks and beaches.



Beach Wheelchairs

The Beach Wheelchair program is more popular than ever. This year Friends assisted State Parks in streamlining procedures and increasing signage for the program. Friends also proudly supported Shared Adventures' Annual Day on the Beach event.

EQUITY AND ACCESS

Native Peoples

Friends received a Dolkas-Mertz grant from the Santa Cruz History Forum on behalf of State Parks to create a **Mission Virtual Bell Exhibit** at Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park. The exhibit is designed to address the controversy of California's Mission Bells and promote a greater understanding of the bell as a contested symbol. Part of the exhibit was built using reclaimed redwood from downed trees at Big Basin.

Friends hosted a part of the **Downtown Santa Cruz Story Walk**. Organized by the Santa Cruz Public Library, the Story Walk focused on the children's book, [When the Mission Bells Rang](#). The book helps to educate readers about the Mission experience through the eyes and ears of the Amah Mutsun people and the animals who lived here. The walk ended at Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park.

Friends also sponsored a **book talk** at Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park with Stan Rushworth, co-author of [We Are the Middle of Forever](#), and State Parks Historian and Tribal Liaison Martin Rizzo-Martinez, author of [We Are Not Animals: Indigenous Politics of Survival, Rebellion and Reconstitution in Nineteenth-Century California](#).

Additionally, Friends has been working with the State Parks Tribal Liaison to incorporate **land acknowledgments** on the Friends website and in other public materials to recognize indigenous peoples who were the original stewards of our local state parks.

Public Outreach

As in-person events returned, Friends expanded community outreach. This year Friends supported County Park Friends' Youth Outdoor Leader Program, participated in a Youth Action Network event, and hosted a table at the Friday Farmers' Market in Watsonville. Friends also led an activity at the Monterey Bay Bird Festival, presented at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, and invited applicants to both Friends and State Parks career paths at outreach events throughout the county. Friends provides ongoing support to events at the Castro Adobe State Historic Park.





2022 PARK SUPPORT SUCCESSES

Staff

- Employed up to 94 Friends field staff, who are vital members of the park operations team
- Funded 33 State Parks interpreters to provide field trips and other educational programs
- Provided 16 Friends program staff to support education, equity and inclusion, conservation, facilities improvements, historic preservation and public events
- Funded two State Parks facilities maintenance staff at Castle Rock State Park
- Funded volunteer and staff training, supplies and support services



Projects & Programs

- **The Horse Barn doors** at Wilder Ranch have been repaired and restored. Generous donors helped Friends fund the skilled craftwork by State Parks employees, who used reclaimed lumber from downed trees at Big Basin. Friends also continues to support the Wilder Ranch Farm Animal Program.





- Friends marked the **10-year anniversary of the community campaign to save Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park** from closure due to state budget cuts. Projects and programs to support this park continue. In the summer, artist Kathleen Crocetti and team completed repairs on the Mission mural, visible from Mission Street – a community project completed five years ago to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the park opening.
- Friends funded operational upgrades at parks, including a **new power equipment shed at Henry Cowell, a firewood shed at Sunset State Beach campground and repairs at Castle Rock.**
- In appreciation of our State Parks partners and other allied agencies, Friends hosted the annual **Fourth of July Feed the Force event.**
- Momentum is building for the **Castle Beach Project.** In partnership with the Seabright Neighbors Association, California State Parks and generous donors, Friends is working to tell the story of this beloved beach's history through the placement of beautiful, informative, bilingual signs, as well as replacing the unique castle-shaped gate at the beach's entrance.
- Friends supported event logistics as the **Santa Cruz Rotary celebrated their 100-year anniversary** with a re-enactment of the club's role in creation of what would become Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park.



In 2022 family and friends honored Arda Akman, Jeff Berman, Diane Evans, Steve Fritschudser and Meredith McPherson, and honored the memories of Don Alves, John Anzaldo Sr., Judith Areida-Becker, Chris Arnold, Dr. Thomas Barker, Steve Barrell, Tony Belmonte, John Patrick Beran, Joan Brohmer, David Brown, Beau Butler, Jean Caddell, Ronald Charters, Darryl and Nick Dezur, Marcus Hal, Gary Johnson, Jackie Wan-Ching Ku, Nicole Lindeman, Elvira Brand Lorenz, Carol McGuire, Don and Jan Moss, Caroline Murphy, Gloria Nieto, Eric Olof, Forrest Pascal-List, Georgie Purtscher, Desmond Quilici, Peter Halliday Rushton, Rick Sutherland, and Dr. Randall Todd.

Friends was honored by generous bequests from the estates of Thomas Sourisseau and Steven J. Mahoney.



ThatsMyPark.org/tribute-tables

YOUR SUPPORT MADE THE DIFFERENCE IN 2022

Shop

In 2022, your shopping for a cause helped us raise more money than ever for our local state parks and beaches. Shop for iconic Michael Schwab park illustrations on apparel and more, plus jewelry made by local artists, maps, nature guides, local history books, educational toys and other gifts at Friends' ParkStores at Seacliff, Natural Bridges, Wilder Ranch, New Brighton, Santa Cruz Mission and the ParkStore Online: ThatsMyPark.org/collections.

Donate

- Memberships are a great way to support our parks and beaches. Join us - become a Friend!
- Support a special project or program such as Kids2Parks, the Wilder Ranch Farm Animal Program, the Castro Adobe, Big Basin Fire Recovery, the Castle Beach Project and more!
- The CARS Donate Your Vehicle Program raised thousands of dollars from generous donations by community members. Consider donating your unwanted car, truck, boat, RV or even an airplane!
- Tribute Tables are a great way to honor or memorialize loved ones with a new park picnic table, while financially supporting the parks you love!

- Planned giving supports Friends. Name Friends as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance account or other accounts or policies.
- Shop at Wild Roots Market in Felton and Boulder Creek. Their Community Roots Program supports Friends.
- Great community supporters have donated their time and money through their special talents:
 - » The Kitayama Brothers KB Farms hosted another wildly successful Gerbera-N-Go Festival.
 - » Santa Cruz Heart Sangha meditation group held an event at the Santa Cruz Mission and made a group donation.
 - » Greater South Bay Region Vintage Chevrolet Club of America visited Wilder Ranch and donated as a group.
 - » Sherman Street Neighbors made donations from their neighborhood get-together.
 - » Local artist John Flores donated 40% of the sale of select art pieces to Big Basin recovery during the 2022 Open Studios Art Tour.

To give today, visit us online at ThatsMyPark.org/donate, scan the QR code, mail to 1543 Pacific Ave, Suite 206, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, or call 831-429-1840.

All donated funds stay local and are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Tax ID# 51-0183410.





Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is a vital partner with California State Parks, creatively working to ensure our cherished local parks and beaches are thriving and available to all.

ThatsMyPark.org
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Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

1543 Pacific Avenue, Suite 206
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 429-1840

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