

Attachment 3

Guiding Policies from the Goleta General Plan / Coastal Land Use Plan

The General Plan is available online at:

<https://www.cityofgoleta.org/city-hall/planning-and-environmental-review/general-plan>

Ellwood Mesa/Sperling Preserve Open Space Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan: Related Policies

Policy OS 5: Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area [GP/CP]

Objective: *The portion of the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area within Goleta, which includes the City-owned Sperling Preserve and Santa Barbara Shores Park units, shall be managed to provide coastal access and passive, coastal-dependent recreational opportunities consistent with protection and enhancement of the site's environmentally sensitive habitat areas and other environmental and scenic resources.*

OS 5.3 Public Access and Recreation. [GP/CP] The Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area shall be managed to maintain the site's historical public access and recreation uses while managing accessways to protect natural resources such as the monarch butterfly groves, vernal pools, native grasslands, beaches, coastal bluffs, and other environmentally sensitive habitat areas. The planned trail and beach access system, shown on the map in Figure 3-3, is based on the locations of existing informal trails created by repeated public use, with some trail segments being closed to avoid impacts to environmentally sensitive areas, to eliminate hazardous segments, and/or to eliminate parallel redundant trail segments. Although some trail closures are proposed, the planned trail system will not reduce overall access or trail experiences in the public open space area, but will redirect users to alternate routes located in close proximity. The following standards shall apply to public access and recreation in the open space area:

- a. The Anza Trail is one of two major planned east-west trails across the Ellwood Mesa. This trail extends from the eastern boundary with UCSB to the public access parking lot at Santa Barbara Shores Park adjacent to Hollister Avenue (see related OS 4.4).
- b. The California Coastal Trail segment within the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area, the other major east-west trail, is planned to have a bluff-top alignment (see related OS 4.3).
- c. The locations of additional planned trails are also shown on Figure 3-3. Although the trail system shall be planned primarily as footpaths for pedestrians, bicyclists and/or equestrians may also be accommodated on certain trail segments as shown in Figure 3-3. At least one trail from the Hollister parking lot to the bluff-top shall be designated for exclusive use by pedestrians.
- d. Except for the Anza Trail, trails shall generally be designed to utilize native soil materials with appropriate grooming and maintenance to provide for slightly crowned cross sections, defined trail edges, and proper drainage. Trail improvements shall be designed to maintain natural drainage patterns in order to avoid potential impacts to Devereux Creek and the associated eucalyptus groves that comprise the monarch butterfly aggregation sites. Trail improvements may include boardwalks and/or bridges across Devereux Creek in wet or eroded areas in the vicinity of the Ellwood Main grove
- e. Two accessways from the bluff top to Ellwood Beach (identified as accessways E and F) are planned, as shown on Figure 3-3. These beach accessways shall be planned to accommodate pedestrians only.
 - 1) Improvements to accessway E, which is a steeply sloped former roadway with a badly eroded asphalt surface, are limited to repairs to improve the surface for the safety of users and to reduce further erosion of the bluff face and pathway.
 - 2) Improvements to accessway F, which is a steep pathway down the face of the bluff, shall be designed to smooth the surface, improve drainage, and reduce erosion of the path and bluff face and are generally limited to minor grading and placement of landscape ties or a similar material to stabilize the pathway.
- f. A public access parking lot consisting of not less than 40 parking spaces shall be provided adjacent to Hollister Avenue, as shown in Figure 3-3. The following standards shall apply to public parking serving the open space area:

- 1) The Hollister Avenue lot shall be paved with permeable materials to reduce stormwater runoff and prevent pollution of surface waters.
 - 2) Landscaping of the parking lot and Hollister Avenue street frontage shall maintain a natural appearance and shall be limited to drought-tolerant species. Landscaping shall not impair views of the coastal bluff-top, ocean, and Channel Islands from Hollister Avenue.
 - 3) Onstreet parking on streets within the Ellwood neighborhood shall be available as needed for public coastal access, subject to appropriate restrictions on the hours of availability and duration of such parking.
- g. A limited amount of facilities or amenities may be provided within the open space area to better accommodate users and manage accessways to protect natural resources. These may include the following:
- 1) A potential public restroom facility to be located between the public parking lot and Hollister Avenue, which shall be designed to avoid impairing views of the ocean and the Channel Islands from Hollister Avenue.
 - 2) Low-profile signs to identify permitted uses, guide pedestrians, interpret resources, and advise users on resource protection regulations.
 - 3) Temporary or permanent barriers to establish protection for sensitive plants and animals and habitat restoration areas that are compatible with the natural appearance of the surroundings.
 - 4) Benches at a limited number of selected scenic locations.
 - 5) Trash receptacles, mutt-mitt dispensers, and other similar low-impact facilities.
- h. A signage program shall be prepared for the open space area. The overall intent or purposes of the sign program shall be to assist and inform visitors as to open space regulations, directions, and information. Signs shall be designed and located in a manner that is protective of environmental and visual resources and may include the following:
- 1) A donor recognition sign.
 - 2) Trail markers identifying names, directions, and distances.
 - 3) Trail head signs.
 - 4) Interpretative signs.
 - 5) Regulatory signs, including trail and open space rules, closures, and hazardous areas.
 - 6) Habitat protection signs.

OS 5.4 Protection and Enhancement of Habitat Areas. [GP/CP] Within its boundaries, the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area encompasses a diverse array of sensitive aquatic and upland habitats, as shown on Figure 3-3. These habitats include beach and shoreline areas, dunes, rocky intertidal areas, coastal bluffs, monarch butterfly aggregation sites and associated eucalyptus groves, vernal pools, riparian areas along Devereux Creek and its tributaries, coastal sage and scrub areas, native grasslands, and raptor nesting and roosting areas. All environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be managed and protected consistent with the policies and standards described in the Conservation Element of this plan. In addition, the following criteria and standards shall apply to the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area:

- a. Habitat management on City owned lands shall be implemented within a broad ecosystem context in which habitat management priorities will consider the role of the targeted habitats and the interrelationships with other habitats in the open space area. In addition to protection of existing habitats, management actions may include interventions to enhance or restore degraded habitat conditions. All management activities shall use an

adaptive approach that includes monitoring and adjustments to ensure that self-sustaining habitats will be created that are not reliant on long-term human intervention.

- b. Priority habitat management activities include ensuring the long-term vitality of the eucalyptus groves and stability in the monarch butterfly population; restoration of native grasslands; enhancement of vernal pools and riparian habitats; and protection of special status species, including various raptors and the western snowy plover. Some examples of habitat management action areas are shown on Figure 3-4.
- c. Habitat management activities shall be designed to accommodate public access and use in or adjacent to habitat areas, where practicable, in a manner consistent with protection of the resource.
- d. In all habitat enhancement or restoration projects, genetic stock for seeds and plants from the Devereux Creek watershed shall be used, unless such use has been determined to be infeasible.

OS 5.5 Use and Management of the Open Space Area. [GP/CP] The following management policies shall apply to lands owned by the City within the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space area:

- a. An advisory committee may be established to provide advice and recommendations to the City regarding management of access, recreation uses, and habitat within the area. The committee may include residents of the adjacent neighborhoods as well as technical experts.
- b. Permitted uses include, but are not limited to, the following compatible passive and coastal-dependent recreation activities: hiking, bicycling on designated trails, horseback riding on designated trails, bird-watching, surfing, sunbathing and beach play, surf fishing as allowed by law, swimming, scuba diving and snorkeling, kayaking, picnicking, playing of nonamplified musical instruments, kite flying, small educational tours, habitat restoration, scientific studies, and other uses as deemed appropriate by the City. Particular uses may require advance approval of a permit by the City.
- c. Prohibited uses include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: fireworks; camping; plant or wildlife collecting unless approved by the City; amplified music; radio-controlled motorized equipment such as model airplanes and cars; organized competitive sporting events such as track and field and bicycle races; large-scale special events and public gatherings; model rockets; fires of any kind, including in pits or in camp stoves; and archery, BB guns, pellet guns, paint guns, and firearms of all types.
- d. All private for-profit commercial uses of the City-owned portion of the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area shall be prohibited, including but not limited to commercial equestrian operations.
- e. Beach grooming using mechanical equipment shall be prohibited.
- f. Any group activity that causes damage to vegetation or soil outside of designated trails shall be prohibited.
- g. Use of herbicides, insecticides, and similar toxic substances shall not be permitted unless other nonchemical methods of pest control have been attempted or determined to be infeasible.

Policy CE 4: Protection of Monarch Butterfly Habitat Areas [GP/CP]

Objective: *To preserve, protect, and enhance habitats for monarch butterflies in Goleta, including existing and historical autumnal and winter roost or aggregation sites, and promote the long-term stability of over-wintering butterfly populations.*

CE 4.1 Definition of Habitat Area. [GP/CP] The monarch butterfly is recognized as a California and Goleta special resource. Although the species is not threatened with extinction, its autumnal and winter aggregation sites, or roosts, are especially vulnerable to disturbance. Sites that provide the key elements essential for successful monarch butterfly aggregation areas and

are locations where monarchs have been historically present shall be considered ESHAs. These elements include stands of eucalyptus or other suitable trees that offer shelter from strong winds and storms, provide a microclimate with adequate sunlight, are situated near a source of water or moisture, and that provide a source of nectar to nourish the butterflies.

- CE 4.2 Designation of Monarch Butterfly ESHAs. [GP/CP]** Existing and known historical monarch roost sites, as shown on Figure 4-1, are hereby designated as ESHAs. These include about 20 known roosts, eight of which comprise the Ellwood Complex, a series of sites within a network consisting of eucalyptus groves and windrows interspersed by open fields and crossed by small creeks. This network includes several separate but interconnected autumnal and winter roost sites. The Ellwood Main site, the largest roost in Santa Barbara County and one of the largest in the state, occupies a site along Devereux Creek in the Sperling Preserve, a City-owned tract situated near the coastal bluffs in western Goleta.
- CE 4.3 Site-Specific Studies and Unmapped Monarch ESHAs. [GP/CP]** Any area not designated on Figure 4-1 that is determined by a site-specific study to contain monarch habitats, including autumnal and winter roost sites, shall be granted the same protections as if the area was shown on the figure. Proposals for development on sites shown on this figure or where there is probable cause to believe that monarch habitats may exist shall be required to provide a site-specific study.
- CE 4.4 Protection of Monarch Butterfly ESHAs. [GP/CP]** Monarch butterfly ESHAs shall be protected against significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses or development dependent on and compatible with maintaining such resources shall be allowed within these ESHAs or their buffer areas. The following standards shall apply:
- a. No development, except as otherwise allowed by this policy, shall be allowed within monarch butterfly ESHAs or ESHA buffers.
 - b. Since the specific locations of aggregation sites may vary from one year to the next, the focus of protection shall be the entire grove of trees rather than individual trees that are the location of the roost.
 - c. Removal of vegetation within monarch ESHAs shall be prohibited, except for minor pruning of trees or removal of dead trees and debris that are a threat to public safety.
 - d. Public accessways are considered resource-dependent uses and may be located within a monarch ESHA or its buffer; however, such accessways shall be sited to avoid or minimize impacts to aggregation sites.
 - e. Interpretative signage is allowed within a monarch ESHA or its buffer, but shall be designed to be visually unobtrusive.
 - f. Butterfly research, including tree disturbance or other invasive methods, may be allowed subject to City approval of a permit.
- CE 4.5 Buffers Adjacent to Monarch Butterfly ESHAs. [GP/CP]** A buffer of a sufficient size to ensure the biological integrity and preservation of the monarch butterfly habitat, including aggregation sites and the surrounding grove of trees, shall be required. Buffers shall not be less than 100 feet around existing and historic roost sites as measured from the outer extent of the tree canopy. The buffer area shall serve as transitional habitat with native vegetation and shall provide physical barriers to human intrusion. The buffer may be reduced to 50 feet in circumstances where the trees contribute to the habitat but are not considered likely to function as an aggregation site, such as along narrow windrows. Grading and other activities that could alter the surface hydrology that sustains the groves of trees are prohibited within or adjacent to the buffer area.
- CE 4.6 Standards Applicable to New Development Adjacent to Monarch ESHAs. [GP/CP]** The following standards shall apply to consideration of proposals for new development adjacent to monarch ESHAs or ESHA buffers:

- a. A site-specific biological study, prepared by an expert approved by the City who is qualified by virtue of education and experience in the study of monarch butterflies, shall be required to be submitted by the project proponent.
- b. The study shall include preparation of a Monarch Butterfly Habitat Protection Plan, which at a minimum shall include: 1) the mapped location of the cluster of trees where monarchs are known, or have been known, to roost in both autumnal and over-wintering aggregations; 2) an estimate of the size of the population within the colony; 3) the mapped extent of the entire habitat area; and 4) the boundaries of the buffer zone around the habitat area.
- c. A temporary fence shall be installed along the outer boundary of the buffer zone prior to and during any grading and construction activities on the site.
- d. If an active roost or aggregation is present on the project site, any construction grading, or other development within 200 feet of the active roost, shall be prohibited between October 1 and March 1.

