

Ellwood Trails and Habitat Restoration Design Project

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Coastal Trail?

The California Coastal Trail (CCT) is a continuous public right-of-way along the entire California coastline designed to foster appreciation and stewardship of the diverse scenic and natural resources of the California coast through a hiking, biking and equestrian trail system. The CCT's projected length of 1,300 miles will be comprised of many different segments over varied terrain reflecting the great diversity of California's coastal communities and providing opportunities for public access to beaches, scenic vistas, wildlife viewing areas, recreational or interpretive facilities, and other points of interest.

The portion of the California Coastal Trail that runs through Ellwood Mesa Open Space/Sperling Preserve is part of a larger trail system that spans the entire California coastline, including other trails in Santa Barbara County.

What is the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail?

The Juan Bautista de Anza Trail extends from the Mexican border at Nogales, Arizona through California to the San Francisco Bay Area. The trail recognizes the route of Juan Bautista de Anza's 1775-76 expedition to bring more than 240 settlers from Mexico through little-known territory to Alta California. The expedition, an integral part of Spanish foreign and colonial policy to extend its hold upon territories in the New World, brought the influence of the language, customs, traditions, and general expressions of Hispanic culture on the early development of California.

What is the goal of the project?

The Ellwood Mesa Coastal Trails and Habitat Restoration Project provides funding for trail design, engineering, environmental review and habitat restoration planning at Ellwood Mesa Open Space/Sperling Preserve to improve accessibility and public safety, and to protect and enhance biological resources.

How is the project funded?

The Santa Barbara Trails Council has obtained two grants for the project: a \$50,000 grant from the Goleta Valley Land Trust and a \$100,000 grant from the CA Coastal Conservancy for engineering, trail and beach access design and habitat restoration planning at Ellwood Mesa.

Are these trails reflected in the City of Goleta General Plan?

Yes. Restoration and improvement of the California Coastal Trail and Juan Bautista de Anza Trail are addressed in *General Plan Policy OS 4: Trails and Bikeways*.

Why is the City doing this now?

The conceptual improvements to these trails are in the City of Goleta’s General Plan (2006) and Open Space Management Plan. The City is now moving forward with design and environmental review because of grant monies made available by the California Coastal Conservancy and Land Trust for Santa Barbara County.

When will construction begin?

Construction will start after design and environmental review are completed and funding is secured. Funding will most likely come from grants.

Who would be able to access the trails?

This project aims to make these trails more accessible for people with disabilities.

How will this project affect the other trails on the Ellwood Mesa?

Other trails – including parallel trails – will not be altered. All designated trails in Sperling Preserve at Ellwood Mesa Open Space will remain open.

How will this project affect Ellwood Main (Goleta Butterfly Grove)?

Because neither of these trails runs through the Ellwood Main Monarch Grove, none of the work for this project will take place in Ellwood Main.

Does the project address parking?

No. This process focuses on the trails, and does not address signs for visitor parking.

What are invasive species?

Invasive species are plants and animals that are not native to the area. Non-native species, such as fennel and mustard, will likely be removed as part of this project to improve habitat and coastal views on the mesa.

How do I submit a comment?

Comments can be sent by email to Marysol Smith at msmith@cityofgoleta.org or mailed to:

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