



MINUTES

In-Person Only

Thursday, September 3, 2026

3:30 PM

***** IN-PERSON ONLY*****

This meeting of the San Mateo County Parks Commission will be held at **Don Horsley Park at Tunitas Creek Beach, 20775 Cabrillo Hwy S, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019**. Members of the public will be able to participate in the meeting in person at Don Horsley Park.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Rodriguez Mitton, Vice-Chair Esser, Commissioner Manneh, Commissioner Faklis
Absent: Commissioner ter Schure

3. Public Comment

4. Action to Set the Agenda and approve the August 6, 2026 meeting minutes

Motion to approve August 6, 2026 meeting minutes passes.

5. Reports and Presentations

5.1 Parks Department Report - Assistant Parks Director Hannah Ormshaw

Highlights include:

- Review of visitor data from January to June 2026. The next Department Report in December will include visitor data trends over the past 3 years.
- Summerfest: A Community Celebration took place at Coyote Point Recreation Area on August 15. Over 3000 people attended this free festival which included giant kites, train rides, community resource booths, performances, and arts and crafts.
- Fallfest will take place at Flood Park on September 19 from 11am to 2pm.
- Revitalize Coyote Point – Magic Mountain Playground: the playground will close on September 14, 2026 to begin demolition and construction. It is scheduled to be completed by February/March 2027. Inclement weather and/or equipment delivery delays could impact the schedule. Funding for this project has been allocated from Measure K and a federal grant.
- Realize Flood Park: Custom shade sails have been ordered for the playground, and will take approximately 4 months to manufacture, with an anticipated installation date of December 2026.
- Parkwide Paving Program: Starting September 15, the main access roads and parking lots will be paved (resurfaced) at Junipero Serra Park. Work is expected to be completed in November 2026. The Park will remain open, but with limited capacity.
- The Forest Health and Fuel Reduction project at Pescadero Creek Park will continue for another 2 years. Approximately 60 acres have been treated so far, with the contractor completing about one acre per day; the full project comprises 541 acres. Work cannot occur during inclement weather. Trail closures are posted on the website.
- Wildfire mitigation: A goat grazing program was used at San Pedro Valley Park, Quarry Park,

and Edgewood Park this summer for fuel reduction.

Questions:

- Chair Rodriguez Mitton – inquiring about Park preparation for inclement weather. Rangers inspect culverts, trails, and roads prior to winter. Hazard tree inspections are also done.
- Commissioner Faklis – inquired if applying for FEMA Disaster Relief Funding was an option if extensive weather damage occurs. Parks has applied for this in the past, particularly following the 2022/23 winter storms.

6. Regular Agenda

6.1 Final approval of 2026-2027 Parks Commission Workplan (ACTION)

Motion to approve the final workplan with additions made at the August 6 Commission meeting passes.

6.2 Tour of Don Horsley Park at Tunitas Creek Beach

The tour started and ended at the overlooks adjacent to the parking lot. Highlights include:

- Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail: A State historic landmark and two interpretive panels highlight the role of the Ramaytush Ohlone in guiding the 1769 expedition led by Gaspar de Portolá.
- Schilling Trail: This trail located at the top of the parking lot is one of two ways to access the beach.
- Throughout the parking lot, all utility wires have been relocated underground to maximize the views.
- This park includes a section of the CA Coastal Trail.
- Bike repair station located at the top of the parking lot, where many bikers enter from the highway.
- A meandering ADA accessible path takes you from the parking lot to the mid-bluff area.
- Amenities at the mid-bluff include restrooms, Ranger Station, amphitheater, picnic area, and interpretive panels.
- All sites are drop-in, not reservable.
- Inquiries about events at this site need to go through the Parks Special Events process.
- The beach includes snowy plover habitat. The ideal nesting habitat has been roped off for protection, since this species nests on top of the exposed sand. Parks has not observed breeding or nesting pairs since monitoring started around 2017. However, snowy plovers are frequently seen at the beach.

7. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner reports on information items, subcommittee, or project updates

- Commissioner Esser: Attended North Fair Oaks Community Council Meeting and plugged the opening of Don Horsley County Park; plans on attending Fallfest.
- Commissioner Faklis: Received a Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification as an Arborist. Recommends it to Parks personnel.
- Commissioner Manneh: Attended Summerfest and was excited by the community turnout.
- Chair Rodriguez Mitton: Attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Don Horsley Park, and signed up for the Memorial Park Forest Bathing program to be hosted by SMC Parks Foundation.

8. Items for a Future Agenda

- Impacts of VLF Funding Shortfall - Commission support of County efforts

9. Adjournment

Adjourned at 5:10pm.

County of San Mateo Parks and Recreation Commission

**Paul Faklis, District 1 | Arnout ter Schure, District 2 | Irma Rodriguez Mitton, District 3 (Chair) |
Brooks Esser (Vice-Chair), District 4 | Basem Manneh, District 5**

County of San Mateo Parks Department

Emma Gonzalez, Interim Parks Director

Hannah Ormshaw, Assistant Parks Director

Scott Lombardi, Parks Superintendent

Tracy Nappi, Administrative Assistant I

