

Capitola *Currents*

SUMMER/FALL 2023

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Capitola Wharf Enhancement Fundraising

The Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project (CWEP), brings together a team of volunteer community members and the City to enhance our City's beloved landmark. There's much to be done to repair the damage from the 2023 winter storms, but rest assured – plans are in place to not only rebuild but make Capitola Wharf better than ever.

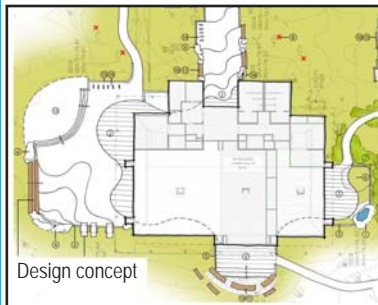
While the City's independent Wharf Resiliency Project will repair necessary storm damages, install long-planned improvements, and make the Wharf more resistant to future storms, CWEP has come together to add upgraded amenities for the community to enjoy. These features include updating the look and feel of the Wharf while maintaining its historic charm and iconic character, and adding an improved fish cleaning station, opportunities for more public artwork, and educational kiosks. These plans will make for an even greater attraction in the City, but we need your help!

Now, the CWEP team of community volunteers are leading a campaign to raise funds towards these enhancements. Thanks to a partnership with Wharf to Wharf Race, some money has already been raised, but more public support means even more enhancements for all to enjoy. Donations are accepted online or via check, and more info can be found online at <https://capitolavillage.com/wharf/>. Together, we can breathe new life into the Capitola Wharf!



CWEP preliminary design concept

Jade Street Community Center Renovation



The Capitola Community Center at Jade Street Park is getting a make-over! In November 2022, the City entered into an agreement with Soquel Union Elementary School District and committed to completing certain infrastructure improvements to the Community Center within the next four years. Several exterior and interior renovations will be made, including many ADA-related updates, new plumbing fixtures, and HVAC replacement. These system upgrades are necessary in updating outdated infrastructure and represent the bulk of the project budget.

Plus, the Public Works department plans to make some ancillary improvements to the offices, kitchen, restrooms, and landscaping, among other things. The offices and meeting rooms, frequently used for a variety of community programs, will see new and improved custom acoustic dividers, which will make for a quieter and more enjoyable class experience. In addition, the conceptual design proposes modifications to the entryway and outdoor patio space. While primarily focused on accessibility, the improvements to these spaces will also provide sheltered and functional spaces for outdoor meetings and classes.

City Staff expects to accept bids and award a contract by November 2023, start construction by December 2023, and have everything completed by August 2024. Stay tuned to your local City Council and Planning Commission meetings for updates on this Community Center Renovation project!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Twilight Concerts

August 16, 19, 30
Esplanade Park 5:30pm

Food Truck Events

August 18 & Sept. 15
Monterey Ave Park
4:30-7:30pm

Movies at the Beach

Aug. 25 & Sept. 1
Esplanade Park, dusk

Ukrainian Art in the Park

Saturday, August 26
Esplanade Park 12:00pm

Art & Wine Festival

Saturday, Sept. 9 &
Sunday, Sept. 10

Capitola Beach Festival

Saturday, Sept. 23* &
Sunday, Sept. 24

*Coastal Clean-Up Day.

Plein Air Art Festival

Oct 30—Nov 5
Jade St Community
Center

*Not all events are City

Universally Accessible Playground Project

The City of Capitola is pleased to announce that the Universally Accessible (UA) Playground at Jade Street Park Project continues to move forward. This project will replace the dated existing playground at Jade Street Park; the approved design will provide recreation features and elements that appeal to individuals of all abilities, including those with mobility, cognitive, developmental, and sight and hearing impairments. UA Playgrounds are specially designed to be inclusive and welcoming to all children, with and without disabilities, fostering an environment where children can play together with compassion, acceptance, and joy.

Several public workshops were held this past spring by the City's contracted designer, Verde Design, to seek input from the local community on wants and needs for the finished playground. The final design concept includes a "Marine and Shoreline" theme suited to coastal Capitola, with seating throughout and shade provided by existing and additional trees. The conceptual design includes five zones, each designed to allow children of all ages and physical and cognitive abilities to engage and play: Climb and Slide Zone, Swing and Sway Zone, Tot Zone, Sensory Zone, and Game Zone. A variety of play structures and universally accessible equipment, such as a wheelchair-accessible merry-go-round, and a cozy dome are also included in the playground plan.

While the estimated project costs are \$1.8 million, the City's current project funding is \$475,000. To bridge this funding gap, the City is thrilled to be partnered with the Friends of County Parks for a fundraising campaign. The Friends have pledged a \$1 million fundraising goal in private gifts from the community. For more information on the campaign, and to donate, please visit <https://www.countyparkfriends.org/jadestpark>. Fundraising efforts are expected to run through January 2025. City staff plans to seek Council approval of project plans, specifications, and the final cost estimate when the fundraising campaign has met 75% of the \$1 million target goal.



Jade Street Park Universal Playground Design Concept

Learn More About the Capitola Housing Element Update

Every jurisdiction has a General Plan that serves as the local government's "blueprint" for the future, with defined policy goals and objectives to guide the physical development of the local jurisdiction. The state requires every General Plan to include seven mandatory elements (chapters): land use, transportation, conservation, noise, open space, safety, and housing.

Every eight years, every city and county must update their Housing Element and have it certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Capitola's current Housing Element expires at the end of 2023, and we have been working on the updated Housing Element with the community, our consulting team, and HCD; and are on schedule for adoption and certification by the end of the year. This Housing Element Update will be for the 2023-2031 planning period.

The first draft of the Capitola Housing Element Update was published on May 10, 2023, for the 30-day public review and comment period. During the public review and comment period, the draft was presented within a virtual community meeting on May 16, a Planning Commission meeting on June 1, and a City Council meeting on June 8. The public comment received on the document was then incorporated into the draft and submitted to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). HCD has 90-days to review and provide comments on the draft. Staff expects comments in early October. Final steps will be to edit the document following HCD's comments and final review by the Planning Commission and adoption by the City Council in Fall.

For more information, please see the City's Housing Element Update webpage at: <https://www.cityofcapitola.org/communitydevelopment/page/2023-2031-housing-element-update>

Capitola Historical Museum Exhibit—Signs of the Times

The current exhibition at the Capitola Historical Museum, “Capitola—Signs of the Times”, will run through the end of December. The signs in this exhibition help tell the story of Capitola from its pioneer and resort beginnings to its character today as a popular beach town, artists’ colony, and desirable coastal community.

Signs reflect the era in which they were produced. With the advent of motorized travel in the early twentieth century, a new requirement for signs was that they be easily visible from passing electric street cars and later, automobiles. One result... signs grew bigger, with larger, easier to see lettering.

The first advertising billboards appeared along American roadway in the 1830s on the sides of barns and fences. With the increase in automobiles in the 1920’s, the placement of stand-alone billboards along highways gained in popularity because they could capture the attention of passing motorists. To be effective, billboard ads had to be brief and highly graphic. A favorite image in our current exhibition is the Hotel Capitola sign placed under the nose of the competition at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. Some billboards were truly works of art. In the 1920s, local sign maker Leo Sievert made many large-scale advertising signs for the Capitola nightclub the Hawaiian Gardens. Many of these appeared on the side of downtown Soquel buildings, directing visitors to Capitola. Stop by our current exhibition to see several of Sievert’s colorful prototypes of these larger advertising signs. The admission free Capitola Historical Museum, 410 Capitola Ave, is open Fri-Sun from noon until 4:00pm.



A sign advertising Hotel Capitola near Santa Cruz Casino and Pleasure Pier, 1907



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Wharf Update

The Capitola Wharf project continues to push forward! After the devastating storms in winter 2023, repair work was tacked on to the already-planned Wharf Resiliency and Public Access Improvement Project, and we’re now into Phase 2.

Bids were accepted and the contract was awarded to Cushman Contracting Corp. This contractor has extensive experience in marine construction, and most recently completed a full rebuild of the City of Pismo Beach Municipal Fishing Pier. Construction and repair activities are expected from Fall 2023 through Summer 2024. Areas in and around the wharf will be closed during construction and we ask the community for their cooperation in keeping the site safe for all. Please stay aware of all signage; thank you in advance for your patience as we embark on this exciting project. We anticipate having a refined schedule of construction after our August project kick off meeting and will update the City website as more information is available.

Help Keep Our Bay Healthy



Storm Drains are for storm water only– anything on the ground will eventually be washed into our storm drains and into the Monterey Bay without any cleaning or filtering. Help keep our creeks, rivers, and ocean healthy by taking the following actions:

- Pick up litter**—participate in local clean up events, or pick up trash on your next neighborhood/beach walk
- Pick up after pets**—Put pet waste in the trash to keep harmful bacteria from contaminating our waterways
- Pack your trash**—If a public trash can is full, pack your trash and dispose at home
- Use less-toxic pest control**—Find poison spray alternatives at ourwateroutworld.org
- Maintain your vehicle**—clean up drips and fix leaks properly. Remember that car wash rinse can also pollute

Participate in local clean-ups! Join Save Our Shores and the City on **Aug. 19th (2-4pm)** and **Nov. 12th (9-11am)**.
Registration required: saveourshores.org/events

California Coastal Cleanup Day takes place on **Sept. 23rd!** Visit coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html to find an organized clean up near you!

Report any spills or dumping incidents, accidental or intentional, to the Department of Public Works at (831) 475-7300. To report illegal dumping during non-business hours, call 911.

City of Capitola

420 Capitola Ave.
Capitola, CA 95010

831-475-7300
www.cityofcapitola.org



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New Police Captain Introduction

The City of Capitola is proud to introduce our newly promoted Police Captain, Mike Kilroy. Captain Kilroy was promoted on July 10, 2023 after serving over 4 years with the City and 20 years in law enforcement before joining the Capitola Police Department. His experience shows in his ability to seamlessly collaborate with the community and City Staff to improve the trust and legitimacy of law enforcement today.

Captain Kilroy is a Santa Cruz County native who attended Watsonville High School and later moved to Arizona to pursue a career in law enforcement. His 20 year career at the City of Phoenix focused on several disciplines including Proactive Directed Patrol, Background Investigation, and Detective work. Captain Kilroy then retired, spent several years traveling with his family living aboard a sailing catamaran and documenting their adventures.



Police Captain, Mike Kilroy

After returning to the Santa Cruz area and deciding to restart his career in law enforcement, Captain Kilroy chose to join the City of Capitola as a Police Office in 2019. Now in his 5th year serving the City, we're excited about Captain Kilroy's promotion and look forward to what he will bring to this position, and to our community. Congratulations, Captain Kilroy, and thank you for serving the City of Capitola!