



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcounty.us

BOARD APPROVES PURCHASE OF FUTURE COUNTY PARK

The Santa Cruz County board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved a purchase agreement that will lead to a new, 38.5-acre park in South County.

Located on Whiting Road adjacent to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, plans for the property include athletic fields, a demonstration farm and a nature trail, among other amenities. The initial development phase of the park is expected to take up to 18 months.

“Seeing this vision become reality is a dream come true for South County constituents and all Santa Cruz County residents,” Supervisor Felipe Hernandez said. “We are proud to have finally secured this land on behalf of the community and look forward to opening it to the public.”

The \$2.3 million purchase meets important equity goals of expanded parks and recreation spaces for South County, which is underserved when it comes to open space and recreational opportunities. This will be only the second park operated by County Parks within the 4th Supervisorial District and the first park acquired by the County in over 20 years.

A lack of physical activity is a leading risk factor for chronic health conditions, including among children. Studies show physical activity is associated with positive effects on physical and mental health, with benefits including improved focus and memory, improved sleep, and maintaining healthy weight. Physical activity can also help manage diabetes and lower an individual’s risk of heart disease.

“Opportunities to develop parks of this magnitude do not come along often,” Santa Cruz County Parks Director Jeff Gaffney said. “Once completed, this will be an oasis that draws residents from across Santa Cruz County, and we look forward to working with the community and partners such as County Parks Friends to bring this facility to life.”

To learn more about County Parks, visit scparks.com. To learn more about County Parks Friends, visit countyparkfriends.org.