

# Friends of Ensen Community Park

Big Sur Land Trust and Center for Community Advocacy

Library and Community Services Commission

December 10, 2025

# Ensen Community Park

## Big Sur Land Trust

- Acquired 73-acres at Carr Lake in 2017
  - Worked with City of Salinas, residents, and community groups to advocate and co-create a multi-benefit central park that reflects the spirit of Salinas
- **Phase 1: Neighborhood Park**
  - Completed and transferred 6-acre neighborhood park to City of Salinas on August 15, 2025
- **Phase 2: Floodplain Restoration**
  - Anticipated to be completed and transferred in summer 2026

## Center for Community Advocacy

- Partnered with Big Sur Land Trust in 2018 to lead efforts and directly engage residents through:
  - Door-to-door campaigns and educating local families
  - Community presentations
  - Leadership development
  - Site tours, community planting and volunteer days
- Continues partnership to form “Friends of Ensen Community Park”

# Ensen Community Park

## Phase 1: Neighborhood Park

- Grand Opening – August 17, 2025
  - 6-acres of park amenities
  - 1,500 visitors joined the celebration
- Popular use of:
  - Playground
  - Skate park
  - Picnic areas
- Park visitors:
  - Families
  - Youth
  - Seniors
  - Special needs and walking groups



# Ensen Community Park

## Phase 2: Floodplain Restoration Area

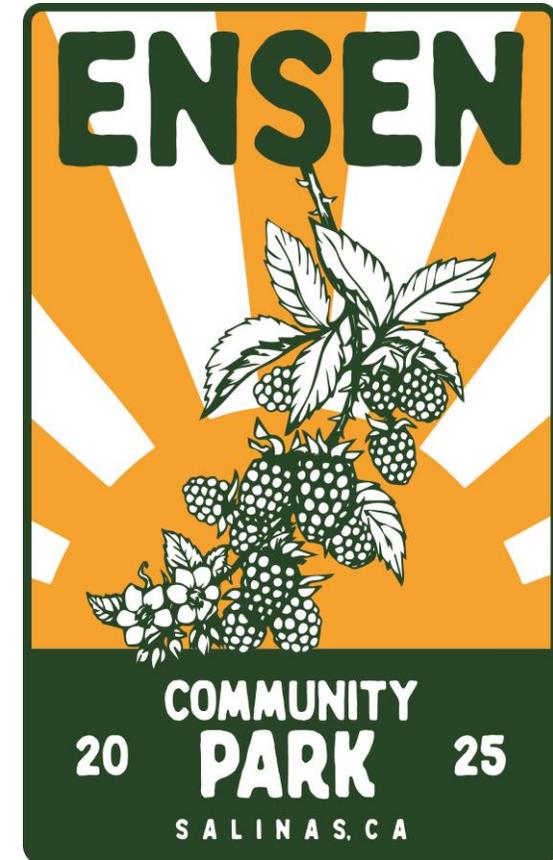
- **67-acres that will feature:**
  - Seasonal wetlands
  - Habitat for wildlife
  - 1.7 miles of recreational trails
- **Construction is underway and is expected to be completed by summer 2026**
  - Upon completion the property will be transferred to the City of Salinas and opened to the public
  - Second and final part of Ensen Community Park



# Why Friends of Ensen Community Park?

## Vision: Community-based Volunteer Group

- **Park Activation:**
  - Collaborate in planning and delivering recreational and educational activities at the park
- **Park Care:**
  - Support park clean-up and care for the native plant demonstration garden (currently part of restoration project)
- **Docent Program:**
  - In the future, could play a role in stewarding the land and educating the community about the 67-acre restoration area that is currently under construction



# Volunteer Overview

## Who Should Join?

- Salinas residents and community members
- Regular park visitors
- Youth seeking community service hours
- Anyone interested in:
  - Leadership opportunities
  - Helping care for the park in partnership with city staff
  - Connecting with community through activities at the park



# Current Efforts

## Friends of Ensen Community Park

- Early Coordination with City of Salinas and Director of Libraries & Community Services
- Hold Meetings at Ensen Community Park and CCA offices
- Support Community Events
  - Create flyers & promotional materials
  - Assist with outreach and volunteer recruitment
  - Provide programmatic support for events and activities

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Co-creating Community Events with BSLT and CCA
- Monthly Park Clean-ups
- Engaging the Public
- Native Plant Demonstration Garden Stewardship



# Friends of Ensen Community Park



# Next Steps

## Immediate Priorities

- Host Monthly Park Clean-ups
- Develop a “Friends of” Presence and Identity at the Park
- Grow Volunteer Base
- Community Partnerships and Collaborations
  - Local businesses and non-profits
  - Schools (fieldtrips, afterschool programs)
  - Other community-led volunteer efforts



The flyer features a header image of a landscape with a sun, hills, and a river. The text is centered and includes the event title, date, time, and contact information. A QR code is provided for sign-up, and logos for Big Sur Land Trust and Friends of Ensen Community Park are at the bottom.

**Monthly Park Clean-up**

**3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**ENSEN COMMUNITY PARK**  
**10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

All supplies will be provided, and everyone is welcome—bring your family, friends, and neighbors!

Join us if you're interested in:

- Community Service Hours
- Meeting Local Community
- Learning about the adjacent Restoration Project
- Hearing about Friends of Ensen Community Park & how to get involved

Join Big Sur Land Trust and Friends of Ensen Community Park Volunteers for our Monthly Park Clean-up at Ensen Community Park!

**Questions?**  
Call (831) 625-5523 ext. 120

Scan the QR code to sign up!



# How the Commission Can Support

## Help Promote Park Activities

- **Monthly Park Clean-up**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Every Month, 10:30 am – 11:30 am
  - Next Date: December 20, 2025
- **Free Community Art Time**
  - Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5 pm
- **Restoration Project Learning Opportunities**
  - Saturday, December 13, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

## Help Us Connect With:

- **Interested Volunteers (Individuals or Groups)**
- **Local Businesses**
- **Other Non-profits or Community Volunteer Efforts**



**Monthly Park Clean-up**  
Sat, Dec 20 • 10:30 AM + 6 more  
Ensen Community Park  
Free



**Holiday Crafts & Community Connections at Ensen Park**  
Saturday • 12:00 PM  
Ensen Community Park  
Free



**The Story of Water at Ensen Community Park & Holiday Crafts**  
Sat, Dec 13 • 11:30 AM  
Ensen Community Park  
Free



**Free Community Art Time at Ensen Community Park**  
Tuesday • 3:30 PM + 9 more  
Ensen Community Park  
Free

# Questions?



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## Friends of Ensen Community Park

Visit our website to learn how you can get involved at Ensen Community Park.

<https://bigsurlandtrust.org/>

You can volunteer to care for the park or join meetings to establish this new group!

Scan the QR code to sign up:

