Friends of Ensen Community Park

Big Sur Land Trust and Center for Community Advocacy
Library and Community Services Commission
November 12, 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 cocreate 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





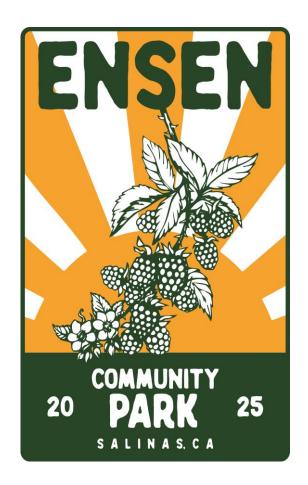
Current Efforts

Friends of Ensen Community Park

- Early Coordination with City of Salinas and Director of Libraries & Community Services
- Multi-age Group
- Hold Meetings at Ensen Community Park
- 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 (to kick-off November 15)
- Engaging the Public
- Native Plant Demonstration Garden Stewardship





Friends of Ensen Community Park











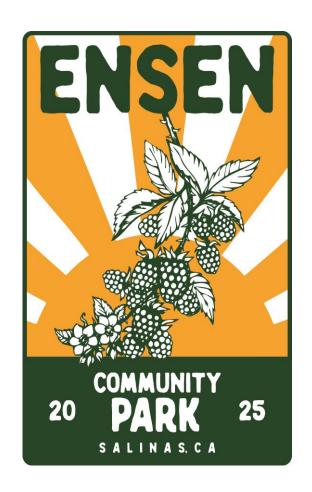




Next Steps

Immediate Priorities

- Launch Volunteer Recruitment
- Host Monthly Park Clean-ups
- Develop a "Friends of" Presence and Identity at the Park
- Identify Community Partnerships
 - Local businesses and non-profits
 - School fieldtrips
 - Afterschool Programs





How the Commission Can Support

Help Promote Monthly Park Clean-ups

- 3rd Saturday of Every Month, 10:30 am 11:30 am
 - First Date: November 15, 2025

Help Us Connect With:

- Interested Volunteers (Individuals or Groups)
- Local Businesses
- Other Non-profits
- Additional Groups to Collaborate With



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



Scan the QR code to sign up!

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







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:

