

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 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
- 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



The poster features a stylized illustration of a landscape with a sun, hills, a river, and trees. Below the illustration, the text reads: "Monthly Park Clean-up", "3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH", "ENSEN COMMUNITY PARK", "10:30 AM - 11:30 AM". It states that all supplies will be provided and everyone is welcome. A QR code is provided for sign-up, with the text "Scan the QR code to sign up!". A list of activities to join includes: "Community Service Hours", "Meeting Local Community", "Learning about the adjacent Restoration Project", and "Hearing about Friends of Ensen Community Park & how to get involved". It encourages joining Big Sur Land Trust and Friends of Ensen Community Park Volunteers. At the bottom, there is a tree icon, a "Questions?" section with a phone number, and logos for Big Sur Land Trust and the County of Santa Cruz.

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

 

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:

