



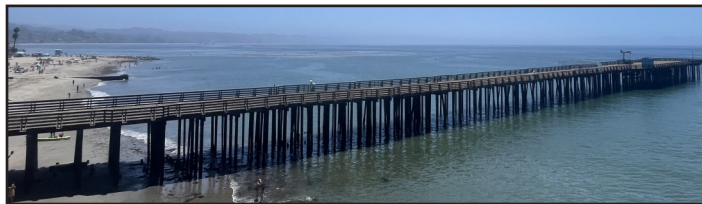
## Capitola Wharf: Revitalizing Our Iconic Landmark

Capitola's iconic wharf, a cherished symbol of our community, is in the final stages of a major renovation effort. The Wharf Resiliency and Public Access Project, which began in September 2023, aims to improve the structural integrity of the wharf while also enhancing public amenities. As the project nears completion, anticipation builds for the grand opening set to take place on September 25th at 2:30 PM.

Once finished, the wharf may look a little different than what you're used to. Following significant storm damage in January 2023, the structures housing the Wharf House Restaurant and Capitola Boat and Bait were unsafe and had to be demolished. While this marks a significant change in the wharf's landscape, it also presents an opportunity to reimagine the wharf's future. In preparation for the wharf's reopening, the City conducted a public survey and held town hall meetings to gauge public preferences for temporary uses starting this Fall 2024 through the end of 2025. These efforts aimed to ensure that interim activities align with community interests while the City finalizes its long-term plans.

As a result of these town hall meetings, the City entered an agreement with Boat and Bait to operate their traditional business services during this summer and next. The community's input was vital in coming to this agreement and we thank everyone who helped ensure that the wharf remains a vibrant hub of community activity.

Later this fall, the City plans to kick-off a planning process to determine what kinds of long-term uses and structures the City should have on the wharf. If you want to keep up to date on that effort, please be sure to visit [www.cityofcapitola.org/newsletter/subscriptions](http://www.cityofcapitola.org/newsletter/subscriptions) and sign up for notifications about future survey's and meetings.



The newly reconstructed Capitola Wharf (left) and temporary structures (right).

## Capitola's 75th Anniversary!



2024 marks the City of Capitola's 75th anniversary! Capitola began as the homeland of the Aptos and Cajastaca people who lived on this land for more than a thousand years. In 1857, the Soquel Landing Wharf was built and soon, people started flocking to the vacation resort of Camp Capitola. On Jan. 11, 1949, after a close vote of 297 to 243, we proudly became the City of Capitola. The inaugural City Council meeting, attended by 120 inquisitive Capitolans, marked the dawn of our municipal story. Today, 75 years later, Capitola remains the vibrant and welcoming community envisioned by its original founders.

SUMMER 2024

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Twilight Concerts

Wednesdays, Jun-Aug  
Esplanade Park 6-8pm

#### Food Truck Friday

Aug 16, Sep 13  
Monterey Ave Park  
4:30-7:30pm

#### Art & Music at the Beach

Aug 4  
Esplanade Park, 11am

#### Movies at the Beach

Aug 30, Sep 20,  
Esplanade Park 7:30pm

#### Art & Wine Festival

Sep 14 & 15

#### Wharf Grand Opening

Sep 25, 2:30pm

#### Capitola Beach Festival

September 28 & 29

#### Monte Fireworks

October 13

#### Capitola Plein Air

Oct 21- 27

*\*Not all events are City sponsored*

## Treasure Cove at Jade Street Park

Treasure Cove at Jade Street Park, the City of Capitola's universally accessible (UA) playground project, is one step closer to becoming a reality! The project's final plans and specifications were approved by the City Council in April, and in even more exciting news, the project's fundraising campaign, led by the County Park Friends, has successfully reached 50% of its \$1 million target goal. Project groundbreaking is dependent on funding goals, but based on currently available information, City staff estimates site preparation and construction could begin as soon as Spring/Summer 2025.

UA Playgrounds are specifically 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. Treasure Cove Playground at Jade Street Park will replace the dated existing playground. 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. 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 playground plan 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.

The City partnered with County Park Friends in July 2023 for a \$1 million fundraising campaign to help make this dream project a reality for the community. Now, the Friends have surpassed the halfway point in their campaign and are on track to reach the million-dollar goal by the end of the year. To join in this amazing effort, get more information on the playground and the campaign, and to donate, please visit <https://www.countyparkfriends.org/jadestpark>.



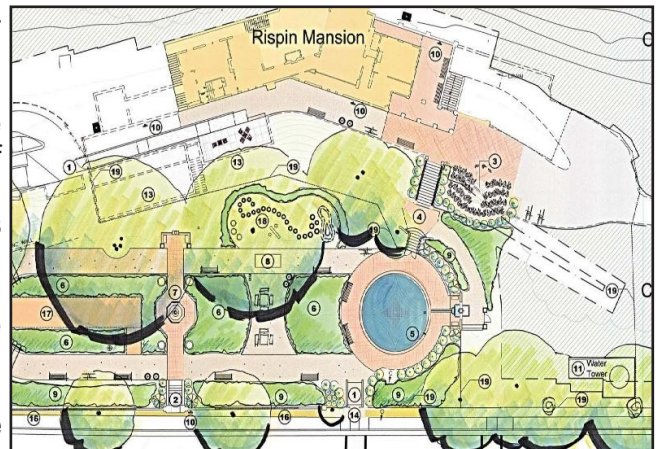
Treasure Cove at Jade Street Park design concept.

## Highlighting History: The Park at Rispin Mansion

In the heart of Capitola lies a hidden gem, nestled along the bank of Soquel Creek—the historic Rispin Mansion property that includes more than 5 acres of land. Built in 1921 and briefly the home of the Rispin family, the property has since served as a real estate showroom, a convent, a police training area, and a proposed hotel. City-owned since 1985, the mansion tragically burned in 2009, marking a turning point in its story. Since then, the City took decisive action to "entomb" the remaining structure in the hopes of using the five acres of land as a public park.

Despite setbacks, the vision for the Park at Rispin Mansion endured, fueled by the community's desire to reclaim this historic site. The journey towards transformation began in 2014 when the City received a grant from the State Housing and Community Development Agency for park development.

Now, the project's scope aims to not only restore the grounds' natural beauty, but also honor the site's rich heritage. Accessible pathways, ADA ramps to the mansion level, and the restoration of historical elements such as the fountain and stairway are among the key features planned. Furthermore, the addition of amenities like an amphitheater, seating areas, picnic tables, and a drinking fountain will enhance the park's appeal. Public workshops and presentations to the Planning Commission and City Council have ensured community input plays a role in the park's revitalization. As this phase of the project unfolds, this landmark now stands on the edge of a new chapter in its history—one that celebrates the resilience of its community and our important open spaces.



The Park at Rispin Mansion plans.

## A New Blue Plaque Award in Capitola Village

When you walk around Capitola Village, you may notice historic buildings proudly displaying blue plaques. Though the plaques do not come with any legal ramifications, they do help raise the visibility of our county's historic buildings and encourage their preservation. The program, administered by the Historic Landmark Committee of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (MAH), has awarded over 150 blue plaques since 1973. At the MAH's 2024 Blue Plaque Awards ceremony, a blue plaque was awarded for the c. 1930 Bathhouse, one of three historic structures which make up the admission free Capitola Historical Museum at 410 Capitola Avenue.



The 3 doors of the c. 1930 Bathhouse are open during business hours.

Former curator Carolyn Swift reminisced, "I was walking along [the 200 block of] San Jose Avenue and saw the bathhouse behind one of the surviving old cottages ... and got excited." After the Hotel Capitola and its bathhouses burned in 1929, some cottage owners built their own makeshift bathhouses which included space for at least a changing room and a shower. In the mid-1960s many of these foundation-less buildings were considered fire hazards and were demolished.

In 2007 the Bathhouse on San Jose Avenue was in danger of demolition. Carolyn Swift "... pleaded to save the structure. Finally, a worker for the homeowner put the whole thing on [a] ... wagon, carted it through the village, and plunked it down in front of the museum." Museum Volunteers put in over 150 hours and plenty of sweat to renovate it.

The Bathhouse doors are opened for viewing every Friday through Sunday from noon until 4:00 p.m. Sixteen of the Capitola blue plaque awardees are listed on the Self-Guided Walking Tour of Capitola, available at the Capitola Historical Museum for a suggested \$2 donation. Soon the new blue plaque and new exhibit panels will be installed to tell the Bathhouse's full story.

## 2024 Election

2024 is a Presidential Election year, and while this is always a big event for our Federal government, it's also an important day for City, County, and State governments. The City of Capitola will be consolidating its local election with Santa Cruz County and will have two City Council seats and one local sales tax measure on the ballot.

Municipal elections are administered by the City Clerk and County Elections Department, who complete a list of tasks at regular deadlines based on the California Elections Code. Persons interested in running for local office should contact the City Clerk to learn more about deadlines and requirements. If you'd like to learn more, visit: [cityofcapitola.org/cityadministration/page/current-elections](http://cityofcapitola.org/cityadministration/page/current-elections)

The City of Capitola has also placed a ballot measure before the voters in November, requesting voter approval to repeal an existing quarter-cent sales tax and replace it with a half-cent (0.50) percent sales tax, with all funds generated staying in Capitola. For more information about the City's budget and the ballot measure, please refer to the City Council agenda packet from June 27, 2024: <https://www.cityofcapitola.org/citycouncil/page/city-council-meeting-52>

## 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!

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.

## Join Resilient Capitola!

Join us in taking action for the climate! Capitola is proud to be a part of the Resilient Central Coast Campaign, a 6-County collaborative effort from Santa Cruz to Ventura with the goal to activate 500,000 residents on the central coast by 2030 to take climate action and prepare for climate change impacts. Find us at <https://resilientsantacruzcounty.org/capitola> and join the thousands of residents that have already signed on to the community action challenge. Our website features: 100 climate action prompts, a robust carbon calculator, and local programs, resources and incentives. Join Resilient Capitola today, and together, we can make a world of difference!

**City of Capitola**  
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## City Council

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Kristen Brown

**VICE MAYOR**

Yvette Brooks

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Joe Clarke

Margaux Morgan

Alexander Pedersen

**EMAIL CITY COUNCIL:**

citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us

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## 2023 Police Department Awards

The Capitola Police Department presented two distinguished awards for the 2023 calendar year. Officer Noah Sherin was awarded the Officer of the Year and Detective Zack Currier was awarded a Chief's Commendation.

The Officer of the Year recipient is nominated by our Sergeants and selected by Command Staff. Officer Sherin had a very busy year, writing 238 reports, investigating 19 traffic collisions, issuing 289 traffic citations, and making 95 arrests. Of the arrests, 17 were for felony charges and 17 were related to drug crimes. He also serves in ancillary duties as a Motor Officer, Drone Operator, CPR Instructor, and is an integral part of our social media team.

Officer Sherin stayed involved with the community, partnering with New Brighton Middle School as the lead presenter on e-bike and traffic safety, and social media safety. He also presented in front of the City Council, discussing e-bike and traffic safety. Officer Sherin has proven himself as a tenacious and motivated officer who cares deeply for the Capitola community. The Chief's Commendation was awarded by Chief Dally and is only given when an employee goes well above and beyond expectations. Detective Currier was the lead investigator on several significant criminal cases during 2023. These cases included a stabbing on Wharf Rd, a sexual assault of a minor by a child predator, an attempted sexual assault, a fraud of over \$150,000, an armed robbery of an armored truck, a bank robbery, vehicular manslaughter, and a homicide. Except for the armed robbery, all suspects were identified and arrested. The robbery suspect has been identified and is currently in custody on charges in another jurisdiction.

Detective Currier also has several special assignments. These include Defensive Tactics Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Stop Sticks Instructor, Field Training Officer, Peer Support, and our Social Media team. Detective Currier is a true asset to our department and community with his passion for public service and skills in solving complex crimes.

Congratulations, Officer Sherin and Detective Currier!