

2018

# AMERICA IN BLOOM

COMMUNITY PROFILE

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ARROYO GRANDE  
CALIFORNIA

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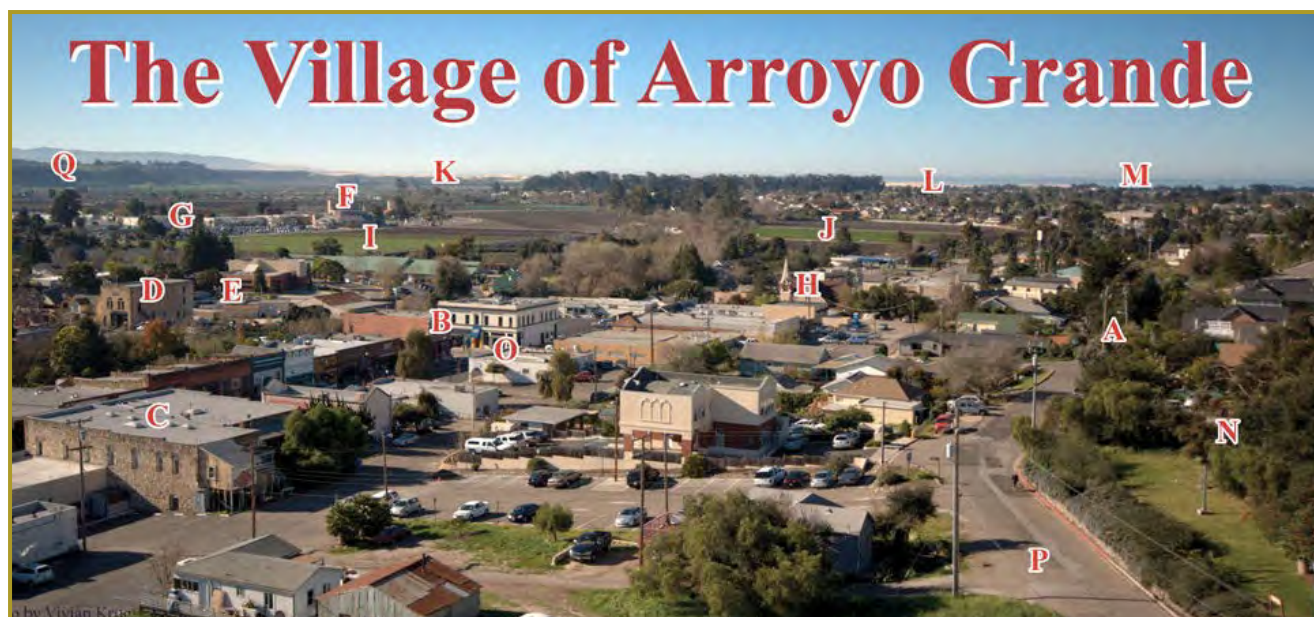
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Points of Interest .....	1
2018 Municipal Information .....	2
History and Heritage of Arroyo Grande.....	2
AIB Participation History.....	4
Evaluation Categories:	
• Floral Displays.....	5
• Landscaping .....	9
• Urban Forestry .....	14
• Environmental Effort .....	16
• Heritage.....	21
• Community Vitality.....	28
• Overall Impression .....	33
• Best Idea .....	40
Contact Information & Internet Links .....	41
Judges' Itinerary & Map.....	42

## POINTS OF INTEREST



**A** - House of Another Tyme Bed & Breakfast, **B** - Historic Bldg, built in 1905 Formerly Bank of Arroyo Grande, now Lightning Joe's, **C** - Historic Bldg., built in 1904, served as Brisco Old Hotel and now is Cafe and office, **D** - Historic CA Landmark, IOOF Hall, built in 1902 built as hall for IOOF Members, then served as furniture store, Dance Studio and now is home to the South County Historical Society as one of their 6 museums, **E** - Fire Resistive Demonstration Garden in front of the Arroyo Grande Fire Department, **F** - Clark Center, home of fine music productions, plays and other events, **G** - Arroyo Grande High School, **H** - Harvest Church, built in 1887 to house the Methodist Episcopal Church. Later it was home to an interior design business until 2005 when it was returned to its original use as a church, **I** - Farm Fields owned by a founding Japanese family the Sarawatari's, **J** - Farm Fields, **K** - Guadalupe Dunes, a wildlife preserve and site of the epic movie by Cecil B. DeMille, the Ten Commandments where he built the largest set in movie history, **L** - Oceano Dunes, home to wildlife and off-road dune recreation and camping, **M** - Pacific Ocean, **N** - Hoosegow in Hoosegow Park, **O** - Olohan Building, Corner of Branch Street and Bridge Street, built in 1907, **P** - Talley Ho Road, **Q** - Nipomo Mesa.

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# MUNICIPAL INFORMATION

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**Population:** ..... 17,300

**Website:** ..... [www.arroyogrande.org](http://www.arroyogrande.org)

**City Contact:** ..... Jim Bergman (City Manager)

**AIB Committee Chair:** ..... Bob Lund

**Square Miles:** ..... 5.45

**Acres/Active Recreation:** ..... 82.7 acres (Developed)

**Acres/Passive Recreation:** ..... 85.7 acres (Undeveloped)  
(biking, hiking, equestrian)

**Volunteer Coordinator:** ..... Bob Lund

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## HISTORY OF ARROYO GRANDE

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Arroyo Grande has a unique history. Initially it was the home of the Yak Tityu Tityu Chumash Indian Tribe, primarily a nomadic tribe that lived and thrived along the west coast. Intrigued by stories of riches and empires, the conquering Spaniards soon had a presence. In an effort to establish legitimacy in the area, Spanish priests and contingents of soldiers claimed the coastal area by building a series of missions from the Mexican border to Monterey. Two of those missions are in San Luis Obispo County.



However, maintaining the missions became a daunting task for the Spanish. As a result, Mexico moved aggressively to claim the land. To guarantee settlements in the name of Mexico, the Mexican governor offered land grants to a number of Mexican families as well as non-Mexican settlers who represented a variety of skills from ranching and farming to pelt hunters, ship owners, merchants and seamen. A surprising number were Yankee traders from New England.

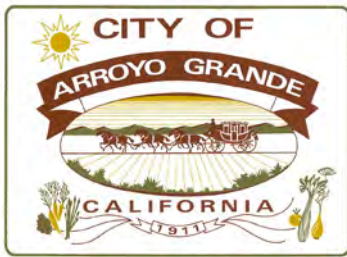


Arroyo Grande is part of a grant issued to Francis Zeba Branch in 1837. Descendants of the Branch family still reside in Arroyo Grande.



The climate was perfect for ranching and farming with ample water, along with a small shipping port in Avila for merchant ships that brought household goods to the area. Services grew as the population grew. Arroyo Grande had a hotel, livery stables, butcher shop, saloon, and mercantile. Other services such as a doctor, churches, schools, home builders, banks and a newspaper soon followed. Gold and silver miners, along with Japanese farmers, and Portuguese fishermen came to the area. There was an influx of easterners coming to Arroyo Grande.

A narrow gauge railway that began at the Harford Pier in Avila, went north to San Luis Obispo and south to Arroyo Grande, and ended about 40 miles south in Los Alamos. Arroyo Grande farmers had ready markets for produce. Agriculture continued to be the primary economy. Beans, sweet peas and flower seeds found major markets and became big business for the area. Before 1900, there were wine grapes



being harvested, cattle sales continued to grow. Settlers purchased acreage from the land grant recipients and established their own farms and ranches. Schools were built to serve the children, as the rural areas of Arroyo Grande were settled bringing even more families to the community. The town became an incorporated city on July 10, 1911.

Over the years, Arroyo Grande has experienced many events of historical significance. In 1942, at the beginning of WWII, Japanese farm families were moved into camps. Other farmers stayed in touch with the Japanese families and, at the end of the war, those who returned to Arroyo Grande had intact homes and cultivated farms.

Arroyo Grande has 5 museums; Santa Manuela School, IOOF Building, Paulding History House, Heritage House, Ruby's House, and The Barn. Many of the homes and businesses are located in historical buildings and the Village (Branch Street) is lined with buildings that look very much as they did many years ago.



# AIB PARTICIPATION HISTORY

Year	Bloom Rating	Special Mention	Criteria or Other Award
2007	3	Community Involvement	
2008	3	Community Involvement	
2009	4	Heritage Preservation	Tidiness Criteria Award
2010	4	Tidiness	Population Category Winner ----- Community Involvement Criteria Award ----- John R. Holmes III Community Champion Award: Awarded to Bob Lund ----- First AIB You Tube Award
2011	4	Heritage Preservation	Population Category Award Winner
2012	5	Floral Displays	Population Category Winner ----- <b>Circle of Champions Award</b>
2013	5	Overall Impression	Best Historic Restoration Project
2014	5	Community Involvement	Outstanding Achievement Award in Landscaped Areas
2015	5		Public Art that Celebrates the Heritage of the Community. ----- John R. Holmes III Community Champion Award: Awarded to Mary Hertel
2016	5		Landscaped Areas ----- Noteworthy Project The Paulding Wall
2017		Did not participate	

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## FLORAL DISPLAYS LAURIE WALLER

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Arroyo Grande in Bloom's Spring 2018 planting is themed, "Form and Function". Within the city of Arroyo Grande, cohesive and water thrifty annual and perennial color, suited to the Mediterranean climate, abound. Ten pots with 'Little Ollie' Olive shrub paired with purple alyssum create the "Form" portion of the theme. Their easy care, low water, and happiness in containers, made this selection an easy one. Juxtaposing the 'Little Ollie' olive shrubs are 'Belleza' Guara light pink, 'Voltage' Osteospermum yellow, Asparagus Fern, and Alyssum Clear Crystal Mix in the remaining 25 pots. On the historic Bridge Street bridge, Bloom Master pots have been modified to hang and host Clear Crystal Alyssum, Spider plant, and Asparagus fern. The baskets on top of the bridge are filled with 'Voltage' Osteospermum yellow. Pairing airy Guara with the structured shrub are the form portion of the planting, while the water thriftiness is the functional part of the planting.



AGIB floral chairperson also serves on the board of the Arroyo Grande Village Improvement Association, a small chamber of commerce type organization, that financially contributes to the maintenance of the floral containers in the village. Through this relationship, merchants are informed about the beautification efforts and are given opportunities to participate in and benefit from beautification. AGIB has adopted a new merchant pot rental program for merchants within the historic village. Merchants may choose one of three types of plantings (all water thrifty) for varying fees. Options include a 'Little Ollie' shrub, a succulent pot, or for a greater fee, a floral pot changed out three times a year and matching the floral in the municipal pots. All IPM for the merchant program pots are taken care of by AGIB volunteers. Merchants sign a rental agreement requiring their participation in watering and daily care of the containers. AGIB has temporarily discontinued their hanging basket program due to the current and ongoing water situation.

Arroyo Grande suffered from an extensive drought until the winter of 2017. While we are no longer in a drought, our rainfall for the 2018 season is below normal.

For this reason, plants used in the ornamental program are water thrifty. Plant selections are made and ordered a year in advance. Pan American Seed Company, a subsidiary company in the Ball Horticultural family of businesses, donates 98% of the plant material used in the the ornamental flower program. Decisions on plant selections are made with input from the grower, board members that include an ornamental horticulturist and a master gardener, and volunteers.

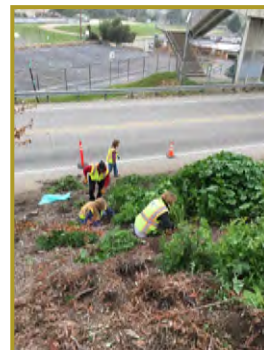
Flowers in landscape and containers are changed three times a year. While many AIB cities have predictable seasons, Arroyo Grande's is not. In any given seven day period throughout the entire year, residents can experience high temperatures in the 50s and fog changing to temperatures of 80-100 degrees with drying winds 30-50mph. The erratic weather is challenging to respond to and plan for and creates challenges for IPM. City of Arroyo Grande and California State law restricts application of pesticides with an EPA number to licensed city staff. For this reason, the majority of IPM is non chemically based. Rather, plants are chosen for appropriateness as well as vigor for the climate.

Arroyo Grande In Bloom maintains containers and baskets year round, changing the plant material three times a year. During the cooler times of the year, fertilization is provided once every two or three weeks. From April to mid September, fertilization is increased to half strength once a week to encourage blooms and growth. Container maintenance takes place on 1) AGIB work days, 2) as needed, and 3) with our watering staff member. For most of the year, containers are watered by hand twice a week with additional days added with

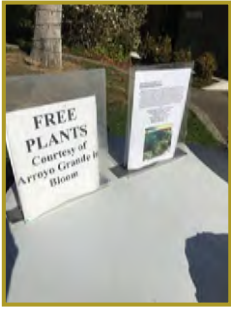


extreme temperatures and Santa Lucia winds. During the spring/summer planting, watering is increased to three times a week. The fertilization schedule is developed in the same fashion. In an effort to reduce water usage and consumption and maximize plant growth and health, a rubberized coconut coir (QPlug shredded material) is mixed with Organics Alive Compost, and potting mix in a 1/3 ratio and extended release fertilizer. Soil is completely removed and replaced on a three year rotation.

Arroyo Grande In Bloom is fortunate to have the support and assistance of multiple community groups throughout the year. We have a dedicated group of volunteers that volunteer their time for weekly work parties. For our larger projects, we have assistance from church groups and adult and youth service organizations. Each April, AGIB volunteers staff the Central Coast Greenhouse







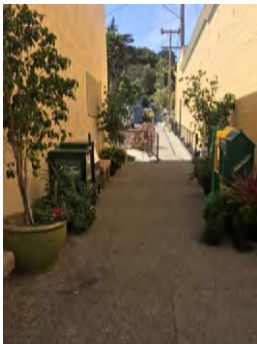
Growers Association Annual Scholarship fundraiser plant sale. At our Fourth of July Concert in the Park, AGIB is the featured non profit allowing us to provide raffle items for the concert in addition to hosting a plant sale benefiting beautification. AGIB also hosts a fireworks booth on a rotating basis, every three to four years with proceeds funding AGIB projects. On the last Saturday of September, AGIB sponsors a plant sale as well as a fruit/flower/vegetable home

grown contest during our annual Harvest Festival. As a reward to our faithful volunteers, plants removed from containers in the village are free to take home. If plant material remains after volunteers have taken their fill, AGIB donates to the public. The City of Arroyo Grande has also benefitted from our plant donations, repurposing plants from containers in other parts of the city.



### Ongoing Projects:

Ruby's House, owned by the South County Historical Society, has hosted a Physick Demonstration Garden designed and installed by AGIB three years ago. Ruby's House was once a doctor's home making a Physick Garden an appropriate addition. Lavender, rosemary, salvia, lemon verbena, digitalis, and aloe create a calm location for reflection.



Paseo Nuevo, an alley way between buildings that leads to the largest parking area, was reimagined in 2016 with large ceramic pots planted with ficus trees, containers of succulents and annual flowers, and hosts benches, and newspaper and real estate information boxes. On busy Saturdays and during the week people can be seen enjoying the area.

The QPlug Succulent Wall, designed and installed by corporate partner, iHort, hosts a variety of succulents in a pleasing display that inspires merchants and homeowners to rethink botanical beauty.

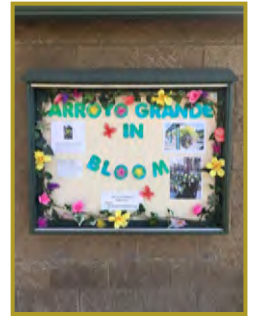
### New Projects:

The Merchant Pot Program is new to Arroyo Grande. In past years, AGIB has offered to plant and maintain pots for merchants with a one time fee. In an effort to make the merchant pot program more fiscally viable, ceramic containers were purchased and a contract and letter was crafted to invite merchants to participate in the program. Offered through the Village Merchants' Association, merchants will pay an annual fee, as mentioned before, for one of three levels of floral display. Merchants may choose one of three types of plantings (all water thrifty) for varying fees. Options in-



clude a 'Little Ollie' shrub, a succulent pot, or for a greater fee, a floral pot changed out three times a year and matching the floral in the municipal pots. All IPM for the merchant program pots are taken care of by AGIB volunteers. Merchants sign a rental agreement requiring their participation in watering and daily care of the containers. AGIB plans to expand the rental program to citizens and merchants not in the historic village. Signs in the containers will inform the passerby who sponsored the container and promote AGIB.

The AGIB Bulletin Board is a new addition in the heart of the village. Located on the wall along a walkway near Centennial Square, is the protected bulletin board display area. The board features our Volunteer of the Year, weekly work schedule, and information on what's planted in the containers in the village. To foster interest, the display is changed out every 45-60 days reflecting seasons and holidays.



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# LANDSCAPING

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MARY HERTEL

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The landscapes at our residences, businesses and municipal areas have changed greatly over the last five years or so. Lush water intensive plantings have been replaced with more drought resistant plants, less turf, hardscaping, boulders and other inert components. Many commercial and residential driveways, entry areas, walkways are now also installed with permeable paver and water capturing systems. Residential and commercial



projects that are brought to the City for review must conform with the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance which is a water use calculation table which insures landscapes meet certain criterion. The Architectural Review Committee also reviews landscapes for new commercial projects and some residential projects for appropriate plant material for the setting.

With all that in mind Arroyo Grande in Bloom continues to make the same changes to new and existing landscaped areas. You will see pots in beds, more boulders and plants used a bit more sparingly. Still though designs and plantings are to create tidy, colorful, pleasant places to be and see. We have created a couple of new installations and continue to maintain and refresh our existing landscaped areas. Fortunately we have been water wise for several years as the City this year reduced the landscape water by 50%. This was due to a change in the way City use water is budgeted.



We continue to work on most Saturdays and many Wednesdays. The Saturday projects are generally more involved as we tend to have a larger group show up. Wednesdays work well to get in and tidy up smaller areas. We schedule out our larger projects about six months to a year at a time, inserting floral, landscaped areas and time helping other organizations such as the Central Coast Greenhouse Grow-

ers Association with their spring sale to fund scholarships. The other Saturdays and Wednesdays are filled with ongoing maintenance and new smaller projects as we work back from the arrival of the AIB judges.

Our focus the last couple of years has been to maintain to a high degree, projects that AGIB initiated as opposed to more outward maintenance of the City. The number of people who come out and work has remained close to the same as past years. Therefore, with the numerous projects we have and the few new ones we can't help but add, we have had to back off aiding the City in their work. To bring attention to our projects and possibly spark some interest we have posted this year at various sites, with the City's approval, a small 6"x6" sign with our logo to denote our work.



One interesting problem that we have this year is the number of roosters in the Village. Up until April 25th there were forty seven. Twenty were taken away. The public works director has promised to have all but 10 removed. This allowed us to repair damage in the raised planted beds at Centennial Square.

Again lack of a normal rainfall this year is first and foremost on our minds. We are up to about 50% of normal. Fortunately, we had one good storm in March that pulled us out of the severe drought stage we were entering and several light showers in April. That first storm helped with getting enough rain to soak in and rejuvenate the trees and shrubs. We also had a huge odd storm event in 2017 that blew down hundreds of trees and knocked out power to some areas for up to a week.

### **New projects since last judging:**

Flag pole planting at Centennial Square using blue pots and blue and white flowers.

Signs with logos at our projects – should have about 12 signs installed by AIB judges' visit.

New bathroom at Heritage Park landscape - design and assisted installation with City staff.

The Paulding curve – instigated and managed (Bob Lund) a major cleanup of brush, weeds, old trees, new tree planting, irrigation and mulch. Arroyo Grande in Bloom, Tree Guild, Lucia Mar School District, 5-Cities Men's Club and the City were involved in different portions of this project. This project is towards the end of a five-year project that included rebuilding a portion of the historical rock wall.



Camp Arroyo Grande Entry – created and helped to install at the entry plants and boulders.

Fire Station – coordinated with Ball Flora Plant employees to do major cleanup of leaf litter, weeds and pruning.



### **Ongoing projects and any new changes to these:**

West end of Paulding curve – continued to control weeds, volunteer brush and litter.

Monarch Waystations – there are four we maintain and replant when needed, Strother Park entry, Firemen's Park, Paulding House and Rancho Grande Park Entry.

Fire Resistive Garden – major rehab this year to the perennial beds and we removed the turf and replaced it with a low growing ground cover, along with continued maintenance.

Branch Street bulb outs, associated planters and tree wells – continued maintenance, pruning, grooming, weeding, litter removal, tree well maintenance; sucker removal and the new addition to some with river rock cobbles as an attempt to keep the tree suckers from sprouting.

Centennial Square planters – weeding and maintenance and plant replacement when needed, rooster damage this year.

Walk of History - ditto.

Ash and Elm Streetscape – weeding, pruning, grooming and plant replacement as needed, mulching.

City Hall along sidewalk – rehab of landscape, rearrangement and addition of plants.



Railroad Kiosk – occasional weeding, pruning.

Rotary bandstand and area nearby – regular weeding, pruning, grooming, litter removal.

Grand Avenue Entry sign – changes this year, addition of boulders, lavenders and red drift roses, weeding, mulching, pruning.

Traffic Way Entry sign - grooming.

Welcome to the village entry at Traffic and Branch Street – addition of new 'Voltage' Osteospermums, Gaura, Convolvulus and ongoing maintenance.

Paseos – grooming, weeding, pruning.



Heritage House – planted some annual flowers at key points, helped when asked in the gardens.

Saint Patrick's Cemetery – ongoing weeding, mulching and shaping of olive trees planted several years ago.

Hoosegow Park- ongoing maintenance, plant replacement when needed and additional signage this year.

**Groups that we work with:**

Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association.

South County Historical Society.

Kiwanis.

Arroyo Grande Tree Guild.

Ball Flora employees-they volunteered to help with a large cleanup at the fire station.

Church groups – “Make a Difference Day”.

**Businesses that support us:**

SiteOne Landscape Supply – irrigation supplies, fertilizers, tools, burlaps and soil amendments.

Native Sons and West Covina Wholesale Nurseries – landscape plants.

Mier Brothers Landscape Products.



**Additional information City of Arroyo Grande public works department:**

The City had several capital improvement projects completed over the last two years. These include a new public restroom at Heritage Park, which is a great convenience to the public during events in the park. The bathroom is automated in that the doors can be remotely locked and unlocked and the doors are on timers to automatically lock at 8p.m. and unlock at 7a.m. A new bioswale was built at Strother Park to help clean storm water flowing from the parking lot towards Arroyo Grande Creek, there was some grant funding for this. Strother Park playground equipment was replaced with a large structure designed for 5 – 12 year olds. The City was able to save about \$10,000 because they joined the NJPA (National Joint Powers Alliance) which allowed the City to use nationally leveraged and competitively solicited purchasing contracts under the guidance of the Uniform Municipal Contracting Law.

Another project the City expedited was an Eagle Scout, farm themed, playground



structure installed at Heritage Park. The City's Capital Improvement Manager helped with the organization of the design, the public works staff also did a lot of the site work prior to the contractor installers.

City Parks staff consists of one full time lead person, who is a licensed landscape contractor and certified arborist, one additional full time arborist, and three part time staff who care for about 160 acres. At the Soto Sports Complex there are two full time staff who care for 7 multi-sport fields, 4 tennis courts and 4 pickle ball courts.

As to pest control, IPM is done as needed, gopher control is done both in house and by a hired contractor and the City has an annual weed spraying and weed abatement program.

The City also maintains the James Way Oak Habitat with the help of many volunteers. The CCCMB (Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers group) are the principal volunteers. Over 150 hours of volunteer time has been put towards projects this year alone. Projects over the last two years include an additional  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to create a nice loop to the trail and removal of all smooth wire fencing that was not needed or may have been damaged during the removal of the understory for fuel modification. The old peeler core fencing posts were reused to reinforce trail edges. Also new bypass trail sections were built on badly eroding trail sections.



Volunteer work days are planned for fence building, trash removal or trail maintenance. A volunteer built the informational board. In addition, there is an exotic thistle that is removed when spotted.



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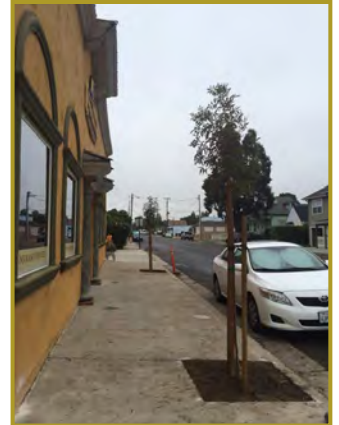
# URBAN FORESTRY

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KRISTEN BARNEICH

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The City of Arroyo Grande takes a proactive approach to maintain, preserve, and enhance its urban forest. Regulations and guidelines governing street trees, trees within street tree easements, and trees in public parks and open space can be found in the City's Municipal Code Section 12.6, entitled "Community Tree Program". The Director of Public Works must approve the removal and planting of new trees within areas regulated by the City. All new development must include landscape plans noting existing trees selected for preservation or removal, and new trees to be planted. Plans are reviewed by the Planning Commission, Architectural Review Committee, and Director of Public Works, ensuring that tree species selected are suitable to the site.



The City of Arroyo Grande has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for thirty-six consecutive years. The City's recommended tree list includes fifty-eight trees of various species that are known to perform in the numerous microclimates and varied soil conditions within the City. The City's tree inventory is maintained utilizing the Davey Tree Keeper program.



The Tree Guild of Arroyo Grande is a registered 501C-3 nonprofit organization with over 100 friends and works with the City's Public Works staff on tree planting and maintenance projects. Tree planting projects are scheduled 3 to 4 times a year and are guided by a "right tree, right place" approach. In addition, the Tree Guild provides coast live oak seedlings to be given away to school age children at the City's Annual Arbor Day tree planting ceremony. The Tree Guild membership includes Vice President Scott Dowlan, a licensed Landscape Architect employed with the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and Treasurer Chuck Fellows who holds three degrees in Botany.

The City of Arroyo Grande Public Works Department makes itself available to the general public, developers, and tree care professionals regarding any and all tree related issues within City boundaries. Public Works Manager, Ron Simpson, has a degree in Ornamental Horticulture from California Polytechnic State University, maintains a Qualified Applicator License from the State of California, and is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist. Designated City Arborist,

Peter McClure, is also an ISA certified arborist and maintains a State of California Pesticide Applicator Certificate. No pesticides are applied by City personnel for tree related pests, but weed control products are used in sidewalk tree wells and traffic islands.



During the wind/rain storm events of February 2017, ninety City maintained trees were lost due to windthrow or breakage. Public Works/volunteer partnership projects have replanted approximately one third of the trees lost. It is estimated that the remaining tree locations will be replanted by the end of 2019.

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# ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORT

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David & Judy Hirsch

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## Leadership and Policy

As discussed in this section, Arroyo Grande has extensive environmentally related programs that highlight a commitment to creating a sustainable community. This commitment is further demonstrated by the leadership of City Manager Jim Bergman, who sets the tone for community involvement by regularly going out and personally picking up trash and litter around town. Jim had previously worked for the City as the Planning Manager and was involved with Arroyo Grande in Bloom as the Tidiness Chair. He rejoined the City in 2017, becoming its City Manager.

Like other areas in California, Arroyo Grande has been significantly impacted by ongoing drought conditions. During the most severe periods of the drought it activated a “Drought Team” consisting of City staff from several departments. The Drought Team was responsible for implementing a program of mandatory reductions in water usage by water system customers, communicating with citizens about conservation practices and otherwise helping to educate the community about what could be done to save water through water audits, use of water saving devices, and water efficient landscaping. The Drought Team also regularly reported on water conditions to the City Council, and made recommendations related to dealing with drought conditions and reduced water supplies available to the City.

Arroyo Grande City Council Members also serve as the City’s representatives to several agencies, boards and committees that provide the community with environmentally related services and programs.. These include wastewater (South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District), solid waste (San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority), water (Zone 3 Water Advisory Board and County Water Resources Advisory Committee), and air quality (Air Pollution Control District).



The City provides pet waste bags in City Parks. The Arroyo Grande Municipal Code (AGMC) has a provision that requires that persons owning, possessing, in control of, or otherwise responsible for an animal, must promptly collect, pick up and remove all fecal matter left by the animal on public or private lands (AGMC 6.12.060).



Local transit services are provided through a joint powers agency called South County Area Transit. Public buses use natural gas for fuel. The City of Arroyo Grande has two alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet, the most recent acquired for the Public Works Department in 2017.

In 2018, in compliance with new State laws, the City adopted a new ordinance adding provisions to the City Code that will provide an expedited and streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging stations (AGMC 15.04.032)



The City has adopted a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) in order to reduce or eliminate pollutants in storm water runoff and minimize illicit discharges. The Plan includes Best Management Practices, measurable goals, and timelines for: Public Education and Outreach; Public Participation & Involvement; Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination; Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control; Post-Construction Storm Water Management; Pollution Prevention; and Good Housekeeping. Illustrating its commitment to using new and innovative approaches, a recently remodeled major shopping center located at the intersection of Grand and Elm in the City uses underground storage tanks to handle its storm water. There are six of these tanks/chambers in three locations at the shopping center, and they function similarly to an infiltration basin, where the water slowly percolates into the ground. They also have a safe overflow route if a large event causes them to reach capacity.

The City has also received a grant award through the Proposition 1 Storm Water Grant Program administered by the State Water Resource Control Board to develop a Storm Water Resource Plan for the Arroyo Grande Creek and Pismo Creek watersheds.

In 2018 the City celebrated the approval of the placement of a Conservation Easement on a 12.5-acre piece of property in Arroyo Grande, known as the Clark property. The City contributed funds and worked with the Resource Conservation District to secure the easement with a grant through the California Coastal Conservancy. The purpose of the easement is to facilitate storm water control projects

### **Resource Conservation, including Water Conservation Policies and Programs**

Although the City of Arroyo Grande currently does not have any green building programs, the City was the first in the county to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with SLO Green Build. SLO Green Build is a local non-profit group consisting of planners, architects, builders and concerned citizens whose mission includes promoting sustainable building techniques that minimize construction waste, build

healthier indoor environments, and reduce energy use while conserving natural resources. SLO Green Build offers a free of charge peer-review meeting once a month where members of the public can have their plans reviewed by professionals with green building experience to identify ways in which the project can implement green building practices..

In 2016 the City adopted by reference the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (AGMC 16.84.010), which will save water for new developments in the form of irrigation efficiencies and planting requirements. The Arroyo Grande Municipal Code also has mandatory water conservation measures (AGMC Chapter 13.05), which includes limiting landscape watering to specified days and hours (AGMC Section 13.05.030). Additionally, the City web site and newsletters give tips on water conservation. The City also maintains water retention basins and a bio-swale, and has a state-of-the-art computer water monitoring system for its irrigation systems.

In 2008, the City Council initiated a water conservation rebate program for turf removal, high efficiency washing machines and smart irrigation controllers. Demonstrating this commitment to water conservation, in recent years the City Budget has included funding for: turf removal programs (“Cash for Grass”); low-water washing machine rebates; a smart irrigation controller program; landscape irrigation retrofits; a plumbing retrofit program; a public education campaign; a school education program; and water conservation workshops . The City’s landscape irrigation retrofit program for large area irrigation has provided retrofits for commercial, institutional and homeowner association (HOA) water users, and has resulting in retrofitting properties throughout the City.

During the recent drought a Stage 1 Water Shortage Emergency was declared in May, 2015 under procedures contained in Chapter 13.07 of the City’s Municipal Code. This resulted in implementing temporary water use limitations for all residential customers. This Stage 1 Emergency was lifted in 2017; however, the City still has in place a comprehensive approach to meeting projected water demand and water conservation goals. In May 2003, the City Council had adopted a Water Conservation Program. Phase I of the Program began in April 2004 and the total cost to date has been \$1,408,471. Over the last 14 years 2150 single family homes, 547 apartment units, 246 mobile homes, 260 motel units, 10 church facilities, 165 commercial establishments and 7 public facilities have ben retrofitted.

The City is also a participant in Central Coast Blue, a regional recycled water project that will create a new, high quality and reliable water supply for the Five Cities communities, including Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Oceano. Agencies representing the Five Cities communities are designing and building a new

advanced water purification facility to create a high-quality water source to supplement local supplies.



### **Trash, Recycling, and Reuse Management**

The City contracts for solid waste services through a franchise with South County Sanitary. Under the franchise and the City's Solid Waste Ordinance (AGMC Chapter 8.32), recycling is mandatory for residents and businesses. Residents receive three receptacles as part of the standard curbside service, one for recyclables, one for non-recyclables and one for green waste.

In 2016, the City, along with other entities in the County, amended the franchise agreement with South County Sanitary to provide for the implementation of a new State-wide requirement to divert organic waste from landfills to an authorized composting facility. Under this new program, residents are given free food-scrap pails so they can turn their banana peels, cornhusks, apple cores and other organics into compost, reducing the load on local landfills. South County Sanitary's parent company, Waste Connections, is currently constructing an indoor composting facility for an anaerobic digestion plant, which will process the collected food waste and green waste and then use the methane that is emitted to produce energy. This new facility is scheduled for completion in mid-2018.



The City is also a member of the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA), along with other communities in the region. IWMA's purpose is to plan and implement regional solid waste and hazardous waste programs. These programs have helped its member jurisdictions in achieving a state mandated goal of a 50% reduction in solid waste being deposited in landfills..



Through IWMA, the City also participates in programs to provide for the disposal through area pharmacies of used needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects, which are illegal to dispose of in garbage and drains. The Arroyo Grande Police Department website also provides information to residents about another IWMA program for residents to safely dispose of unwanted household medications through two local pharmacies. Other pharmacies in the City offer free prepaid, pre-addressed envelopes for safely disposing of unwanted medications.

Another IWMA program that Arroyo Grande participates in is the Take Back Program. Through this program every retailer that sells household batteries, compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and fluorescent tubes, mercury-added thermostats, paints, sharps and medication, are required to take those items back from the public for free. In addition, electronic and household hazardous waste can be disposed of free of charge at the Cold Canyon Landfill, which is located a few miles north of the City.

On February 9, 2016, the Arroyo Grande City Council adopted an ordinance regulating the use and sale of expanded polystyrene foam (also known as EPS, white plastic foam, or commonly referred to as Styrofoam) food containers and products in the City (AGMC Chapter 8. 34). The ordinance will help to protect the City's natural environment and decrease the amount of waste sent to landfills.



### **Community Involvement**

Earth Day 2018 marked the inaugural We Heart AG Earth Day event. This first annual event is a partnership of ten community organizations, including Arroyo Grande in Bloom, and invited people to come out on Earth Day, to donate a few hours to the non-profits and organizations that serve the Arroyo Grande community. The event was comprised of 15 separate projects

that were designed to only take 3 hours to complete. Each job had a team leader heading the project. There was also a signup sheet to give blood for those who are unable to dedicate a full 3 hours. The majority of the jobs listed were also teen and child friendly.

The University of California Cooperative Extension maintains an office in Arroyo Grande that houses, part-time Master Gardeners who offer citizens advice on science-based, sustainable gardening and environmentally friendly integrated pest management practices. Two Master Gardeners are active with Arroyo Grande in Bloom.

Arroyo Grande is part of the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District. As noted on the District's website, Arroyo Grande residents are eligible to participate in a rebate program to encourage implementation of water conservation and storm water projects. This program supports landowners in implementing Best Management Practices like rain gardens, rain barrels, planter boxes, porous pavers and other storm water practices



## **Additional Environmental related Programs and information**

In November 2013 the City Council approved the City of Arroyo Grande Climate Action Plan (CAP), which is a long-range plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from City government operations and community activities within Arroyo Grande, and prepare for the anticipated effects of climate change. The CAP will also help achieve multiple community goals such as lowering energy costs, reducing air pollution, supporting local economic development, and improving public health and quality of life.

In March, 2017, the City Council adopted a resolution directing the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) over the non-adjudicated portion of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin within the Arroyo Grande City limits pursuant to new State laws for management of medium and high priority groundwater basins.

The City of Arroyo Grande website offers information on: barn owl nest boxes; creek care; drip irrigation; drought tolerant roses; garden pest management; irrigation schedules; lawn substitute; outdoor water leaks; plants that attract beneficial insects; public garden examples (such as the fire resistive garden at the fire station); smart irrigation program; and storm water management. The City also composts and re-uses trimmed plant materials from City property.

The local waste-water treatment plant that serves the City is powered by gas produced from the waste stream. The South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District uses a heated anaerobic digestion process to handle solid waste at the treatment plant. Methane gas is a byproduct of that process. The plant operates an engine-generator cogeneration system that treats and then burns methane gas in a clean-burning internal combustion engine linked to a 150 kilowatt synchronous generator.

In 2012 the City adopted a Bicycle and Trails Master Plan. The purpose of the Bicycle & Trails Master Plan is to improve and encourage bicycle and off-street pedestrian transportation within the City of Arroyo Grande. As City streets are improved, well-delineated lanes are added for bicyclists. The City also provides for ornate and useful bicycle racks for the many bicyclists in the area.



Lucia Mar Unified School District, the largest in the county and the one serving Arroyo Grande, has installed solar photo-voltaic panels in parking lots of all schools.



Arroyo Grande High School's panels, which are already in place, are providing electricity to the entire school plant. The panels also serve as shade roofs in the parking lot.

Arroyo Grande also has an exciting program to help save the Monarch butterfly population: Given the alarming population decrease of Monarch butterflies that traditionally over-winter in our area, Arroyo Grande in Bloom has partnered with California State Parks Monarch Preserve volunteers and Eco-Rotary to create small gardens throughout the city that will create nurseries and Waystations for the Monarch butterflies. The Waystations have all been successful with increasing signs of butterfly activity and hatching eggs in all locations. The first projects were in Strother Park and Paulding Historic House, in which three varieties of milkweed (their food) and support shrubs was planted. In 2015 a larger garden at Rancho Grande Park was completed. Private residents are encouraged to plant their own gardens.



The Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee gives consideration for residences and businesses that have renovated their outdoor areas with low water-need in Arroyo Grande and neighboring Grover Beach with monthly recognition. Arroyo Grande in Bloom is a member of the Chamber, and AGIB volunteers are on the committee.



Hoosegow Park, developed in late 2014 was a collaborative effort among Arroyo Grande in Bloom, Rotary of Pismo Beach/Five Cities, and the city of Arroyo Grande. Invasive, overgrown plants are kept out and colorful drought-tolerant plant material and mulch are continuously replenished.

People-friendly hardscape and seating attract people and their dogs where few traversed before.

The park is now an attractive handicap-accessible visiting area that serves as a lesson in how beautiful landscapes need not require excessive water. It also has a sweeping view of the city

City pots and baskets are retrofitted with 97% organic soil-sponge called QPlug, designed to hold water better than other water-retaining materials, but also make it more available to plant roots. iHort of Hollister, California donated the initial truck-load and continues to support AGIB.

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# HERITAGE PRESERVATION

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JAN SCOTT

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The City of Arroyo Grande located in San Luis Obispo County distinguishes itself as both a modern community and as a historic resource offering glimpses into a rich agricultural and ranching past. In a 1998 survey, over 90% of citizens wanted to maintain and protect the character of the Village, as the core section of the City is known. In the 2000's the City successfully fought off chain stores in the Village and, realizing the ongoing need for oversight and protection, created the Historical Resources Committee (HRC).

Section 16.16.135 of the Arroyo Grande Municipal Code (AGMC) outlines the process for historic resource designation by the HRC, including the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use that reflect the special elements the city wants to preserve. This includes permitting requirements for altering or demolition of a historic resource.

Subsection G allows property owners to apply for Mills Act Historical Property Contracts with the City, which provide tax incentives for property owners to maintain their historical resources.

The City maintains website resources to communicate information about these ordinances, policies, and rehabilitation methods, as well providing professional staff to help communicate this information to the public. There are currently no land trusts or conservation easements available for historic resources.

The HRC meets monthly to examine and designate historic resources. It makes recommendations to the Architectural Review Committee (ARC), Planning Commission, and/or Community Development Director for consideration.

The South County Historical Society (SCHS) formed in 1976 to collect, preserve, and interpret the personal histories, archives, artifacts, and historical sites depicting the rich heritage of the area for the educational and cultural benefit of the community and visiting public. Forty-two years later, SCHS has grown in ways the charter members could not have imagined.



Paired with the City, SCHS now provides experiences for visitors and residents, both old and young, including special festivals, museums, local history plays.

SCHS works with the Village Improvement Association (VIA) to provide a map of the Village containing the locations of the historic buildings, and provides guided Village walking tours.

SCHS continues to expand its educational resources, and has built collaborative relationships with other historical organizations in the area, establishing the Society as an integral part of community life. The partnership of history within a modern city has proven to be a boon to everyone concerned.

From a startup of eleven founders holding no historic property, artifacts, or museums, SCHS today has over 400 members, many of whom are active volunteers. It operates seven properties, six of them over 100 years old with a goal to keep local history available to all, and presented in varied ways.

Santa Manuela Schoolhouse, originally built in 1901 about nine miles East of town, would have been lost under Lake Lopez when Lopez Dam was built. SCHS saved it, moving it four times, ultimately to its final home in Heritage Square Park in 2001. A hands-on museum for exploration by children and adults, the one-room school is restored to its original state with books, maps, blackboards and desks.

The Barn, completed in 2004, was built to house agricultural, ranch, and mercantile artifacts, as well as vintage carriages and vehicles. SCHS worked with the City to guarantee The Barn would look as if it had been standing in Heritage Square for 100 years.

Between the Santa Manuela Schoolhouse and The Barn, the Branch Millstone exhibit displays the history of one of the oldest artifacts of the area, a millstone ordered by founder Francis Ziba Branch in 1844.

Heritage House is a cultural museum, housed in an 1890's Victorian cottage, depicting elements of home life and period dress spanning over a hundred years in permanent and changing exhibits. The creation of a formal garden with a gazebo as its focus in the late 1990's transformed the side lot into a backdrop for weddings and social events.

Paulding History House, built in 1889, has been inhabited by only two families. Its contents left largely intact, a state the Smithsonian calls "rare," it was the home of Arroyo Grande's first permanent medical doctor, Edward Paulding. His missionary parents and his daughter, Ruth, filled the house with artifacts from around the world. His wife, Clara, was instrumental in establishing Arroyo Grande's school system. In



2009 it was granted status as a registered California Historic Resource.

The Hoosgow, located in Hoosgow Park overlooking the Village, is owned by the City, sharing management with SCHS. A single-cell jail, considered escape proof, it replaced a wooden building near the AG Creek that couldn't contain anyone with a little determination to get out. The city facilitated a major facelift for Hoosgow Park in 2016, working with SCHS and AG in Bloom.



IOOF Historic Hall is the former meeting hall for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is on the National Register of Historic Places, commemorated by a bronze plaque on the front of the building. The first floor is largely a multi-purpose area used as a venue for meetings, exhibits, and special events, as well as a summer theatre for historic programs exploring stories from local history. The back section provides space for a workroom and office for the curatorial volunteers, and is used for processing items into the collection. The old IOOF meeting room on the second floor now houses much of the SCHS collection, while the third floor remains decked out as the IOOF members party room, complete with original poker tables, lights, and the billiard table that was hauled up the side of the building to be assembled in place.



Patricia Loomis History Library & Resource Center (aka Ruby's House) is a renovated turn-of-the-century Victorian cottage, serving as the office headquarters of SCHS. It also houses the SCHS library, providing access to books, pamphlets, photos, and digital resources on local area history.

The largest segment of the collection is stored on the second floor of the IOOF Historic Hall, as is the inventory for over 40 book titles on local history that are sold by SCHS. A storage container behind the Hall holds artifacts (glass/pottery/china/metal) that are unaffected by temperature/humidity changes. Other artifacts and archives are kept in the workroom in files, including oral histories and media. SCHS was advised by a preservation specialist from Cal Poly University on proper storage techniques, and has been complimented on its rigorous care of artifacts. The main database at the Hall is digitally linked to the Library computers at Ruby's House, and volunteers can even log in from home to work on the collection. PastPerfect Museum Software restricts access to what can be done on the database according to security ratings assigned to users.

A bi-monthly newsletter is mailed and is soon to be emailed to those who prefer digital communications. A Facebook page and website are maintained. There is also a geocaching page for those who want to play. All of the SCHS properties have Q-Code plaques that allow visitors to use their phones to access the SCHS website or find more detailed information on each building. All museums have large, permanently mounted signs of consistent style.

While the historic cemeteries in Arroyo Grande are not under SCHS purview, the Society has consistently worked, when possible, to safeguard them. The oldest cemetery belonged to the city founder, Francis Ziba Branch, and remains on the private property of a long-time Japanese farming family. SCHS rescued vandalized wooden headstones there that are now on display at The Barn museum. When possible SCHS has worked with the Catholic church on its historic cemetery on West Branch Street.

There are events both large and small throughout the year. In February the Antique Show is the largest fundraiser for SCHS. The annual Harvest Festival, held in late September, honors the agricultural heritage of Arroyo Grande and is considered the home-town festival of the year. SCHS opens its museums for extended hours during the weekend, which it also does for the Strawberry Festival on Memorial Day weekend. The city has witnessed a re-enactment of the midnight vigilante raid that ended with the only lynching South San Luis Obispo County ever experienced, thanks to the Bennett-Loomis Archives which has also presented summer programs of largely unknown photographs from the town's early years along with stories to bring them to life. Book signings and programs are scheduled whenever a new book on local history is released. Summer Historic Theatre is ongoing.



SCHS is a volunteer organization, self-supporting through memberships, donations, and fundraising efforts. A bookkeeper and office manager are the only paid employees. School tours of the museums are given throughout the year and free programs and exhibits are presented to the community on an ongoing basis because of the efforts of volunteers. SCHS has a 5th generation Branch family descendant who is a minimally paid office manager, but also gives 24/7 service to the Society when needed to oversee all special events and parties for the society. One of the most special qualities of Arroyo Grande is that when a call goes out, people show up. Docents and tour guides are willing to go through training to help.



Curatorial volunteers learn the complicated PastPerfect program to work with the collection. Whether it's a dig to save artifacts the City uncovered at the Hoosgow renovation, or Summer Historic Theatre looking for actors and greeters, volunteers keep SCHS and the City going.

In the same way, neither the City nor SCHS could afford to pay for all the maintenance required on six vintage structures. There is Fred, a local who is our go-to handyman, who stops by the Hall when the Collections Committee meets, just to see if there is something that needs doing and there always is. The contractor who performed the 2017 renovation and repair of the Schoolhouse donated the \$7000 final bill because he knew SCHS was over budget and wanted to help. The back porch at Ruby's House was just rebuilt by a contractor who charged half his normal hourly rate and happily worked with SCHS volunteer assistants. Other local service organizations assist whenever requested.

The City is graced with people who care. Whenever it feels impossible, this town provides miracles.



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# COMMUNITY VITALITY

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SHERIDAN BOHLKEN

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**C**ommunity Vitality can be conveyed simply as a shared sense of place. This vitality is tangible through a community's ability to plan, make decisions, and act together to realize positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes. The community of Arroyo Grande strives to provide and maintain a welcoming and healthy environment for all persons living and recreating within. Through the many municipal parks, recreational facilities and programs, opportunities enable people to engage in a vibrant, safe, and active community. The community's vitality is shown through the care of these facilities and programs through public policy and community involvement.

## Leadership and Policy

- **Clean Air Policies** - The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) works with local jurisdictions and businesses to implement State mandated regulations to reduce air pollution and meet specific air quality standards. The APCD Strategic Action Plan is key for prioritizing programs to reach goals, but this document hasn't recently been updated and the last update was in 2012. However, in 2017, the APCD published a Clarification Memorandum for their 2012 CEQA Air Quality Handbook to simplify the process of evaluating and mitigating potential air quality impacts from new development. The other recent update regarding air quality is the State's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan for creating a strategy for achieving California's 2030 greenhouse gas target ([https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scoping\\_plan\\_2017\\_es.pdf](https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scoping_plan_2017_es.pdf)). The City will amend its Climate Action Plan prior to 2020 to reflect the 2030 target.

- **ADA Accessibility** - Per the City's ordinance specified in the Arroyo Grande Municipal Code (AGMC), 16.60.030, portable signs cannot block doorways or access. In addition to policy, City staff have coordinated multiple Capital Improvement Projects to improve ADA access throughout the community. Most recently, the Woman's Club Community Center is currently finishing construction on an ADA accessible ramp which will allow direct access to the parking





lot. In addition, an ADA accessible ramp project was completed in March 2018 at Soto Sports Complex, municipal sports fields. This project gave access to a baseball field named Santos Field from the parking lot with an ADA accessible ramp.

A street project completed at the end of 2016 improved ADA access to streetways, sidewalks and municipal parks across from Soto Sports Complex. And lastly, at the end of 2016 an ADA access project resulted in improvements and updates to the City's Council Chambers.



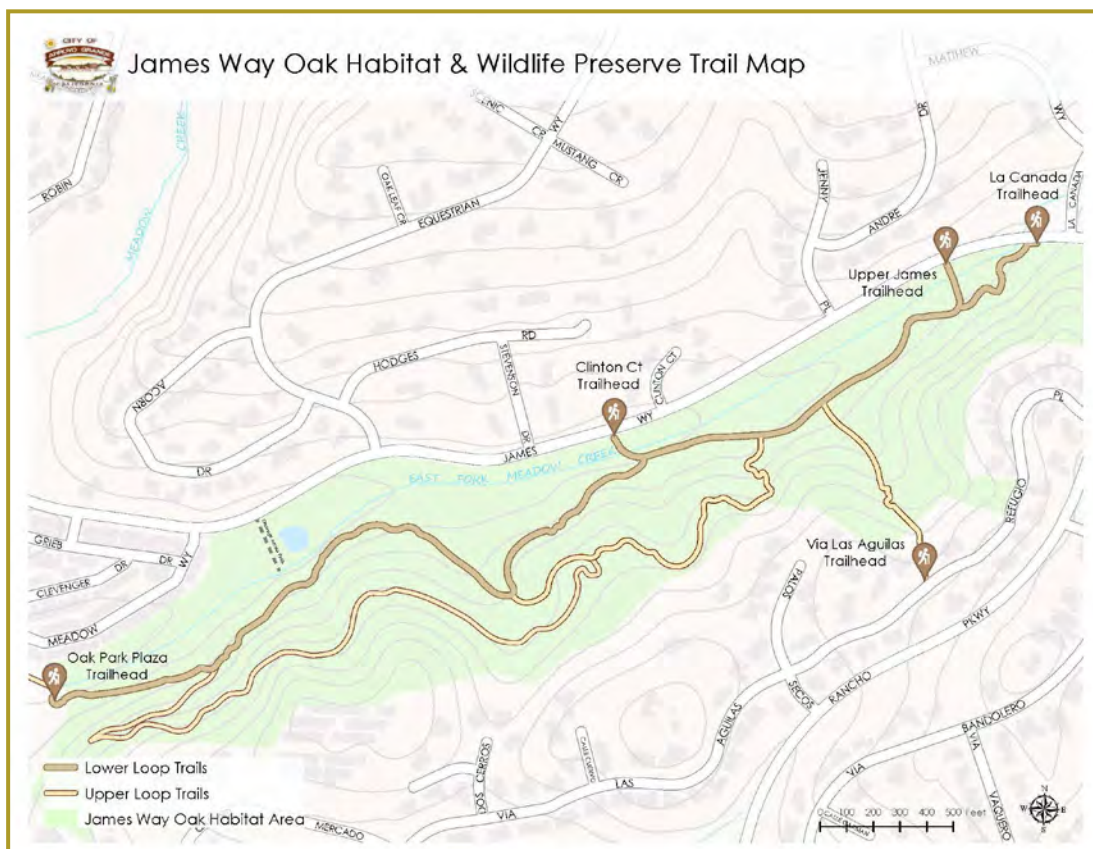
## Outdoor Facilities and Events

- **Outdoor facilities meet the public needs** – The City of Arroyo Grande has 16 parks and over 185 acres of open space and park land.

Table PR-2 Arroyo Grande Public Parks																
Facility Name	Acres	Ball Fields	Basketball Courts	Play Area	BBQ Area	Picnic Area	Restrooms	Tennis / Pickleball Courts	Volleyball	Dog Park	Horseshoe Pits	Trails/Walking Paths	Large Open Grass Area	Bandstand/Pavilion	Fitness Equipment	Historic Structures
James Way Oak Habitat & Wildlife Preserve	73.2											X				
Soto Sports Complex	18.0	X					X	X								
Rancho Grande Park	8.4	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X			
Strother Park	6.7	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X			
Terra De Oro Park	3.4			X					X							
Elm Street Park	3.2			X	X	X				X			X	X		
Heritage Square Park	0.8			X			X						X	X		X
Health Fitness Park	0.8											X			X	
Kingo Park	0.7			X	X	X										
Kiwanis Park	0.4				X	X										
Parque Pequeno	0.4												X			
Parkside Park	0.3		X	X		X										
Hoosegow Park	0.3					X										X
Hart-Collett Firefighters Memorial Park	0.2					X										
Centennial Park & Gazebo	0.2					X	X							X		X
Dower Way Side Park	0.1					X										

In 2017, a survey was conducted in the Arroyo Grande community to update the Recreation Element of the City's General Plan. Opinions were sought on many different topics including the frequency of use of parks, which parks are being utilized, and what recreation needs exist within the community. The most frequent outdoor facility, park or program utilized by the community on a daily, weekly and monthly basis was stated as neighborhood or community parks. The next most frequently used amenity is the Daycare and Preschool programs at the Elm Street Recreation Community Center. When inquired if community members felt the current City's recreation programs, events and facilities meet the needs of their family, 54% of the respondents answered 'yes'. The survey also inquired as to what the desired additional recreational facilities or services are that the City of Arroyo Grande does not offer, and a word map was created with the responses (below). With this information, the City of Arroyo Grande can now do further exploration to provide 'more' recreational opportunities in line with the wants of the community such as trails, biking opportunities, courts for play, etc.

- **Trails, paths, bike lanes/paths are available** – The City of Arroyo Grande provides and maintains over two miles of loop trails and 73 acres open space at James Way Oak Habitat & Wildlife Preserve. In 2017, an additional loop was approved by City Council, which was flagged and dug by volunteers.



The City of Arroyo Grande has bike lanes on numerous roadways and on all trails in James Way Oak Habitat & Wildlife preserve. Walkways and corridors are available for access in the Village for pedestrians and bicyclists as well. Since 2012, many updates have been made on roadways in accordance with the Bicycle & Trails Master Plan. An infamous hanging bridge allows for pedestrians to cross in the Village of Arroyo Grande, and the Bridge Street Bridge in the Village also provides pedestrian access.



- **Trees and/or shade provided for outdoor enjoyment** – At Rancho Grande Park, two shade structures were donated by a private citizen to provide shade over picnic tables. This park also received a donation of 20 trees in March of 2018. The Rotary of Arroyo Grande planted the trees along its perimeter. Numerous parks have trees that provide shade and add to the overall aesthetic and natural appeal of the park (i.e. Strother Park, Elm Street Park, Kiwanis Park, James Way Oak Habitat & Preserve).

- **Playground equipment exists and is age appropriate** – The City of Arroyo Grande has seven parks with play structures. At Strother Park, there are two sets of play structures, one for preschool aged children and one for elementary school aged children. The structure for the older children was worn and outdated, and was replaced in February, 2018. At Heritage Park, play equipment for preschool aged children, initiated by an Eagle Scout and partnered with the City of Arroyo Grande, was approved by City Council in 2016 and installed in 2017 with a tractor theme.



- **Community Involvement** – The City of Arroyo Grande initiated an Adopt-A-Park program in 2016. This program has allowed individuals, Girl Scout Troups, as well as Rotary Clubs to participate in the care of local parks and open space. In addition to routine park clean-up days organized by the City's Volunteer Coordinator, a recent We Heart AG event helped remove over 900 pounds of trash from a creek bed, trash was picked-up along road-ways, and many other com-



munity projects were accomplished. Many non-profit organizations such as the Arroyo Grande Kiwanis Club, Arroyo Grande In Bloom, the Lion's Club, the Five Cities Elks Lodge, the Woman's Club, the Five Cities Men's Club, the Five Cities Community Services Foundation, the many commissions and board members that serve them, contribute to the enhancement and quality of life here in Arroyo Grande. Many organizations also provide funding for special events, such as the Lions Club, the Five Cities Elks Lodge, the Five Cities Men's Club and more. In 2016, the Five Cities Men's Club helped plan, construct and fund the installation of 4 pickleball courts. The Lion's Club annually helps plan, fund and operate the Turkey Trot (a fun run for kids), as well as the Father Daughter Dance. The Five Cities Elks Lodge applies for an annual grant so that they can provide a free BBQ at the Egg Hunt Festival. City-wide events such as the Strawberry Festival and the Harvest Festival are organized by volunteers and contribute their time, fund-raising skills and more for the benefit of the community. Our town is unique due to these committed individuals and groups who give back for the good of all. They say it takes a village to raise a family, and that's what we've got!





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## OVERALL IMPRESSION Bob Lund

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Overall impression isn't a specific, clearly defined category. It is more of a "feeling" or a "sense" that you have when you walk into and through a town like Arroyo Grande. A friend of mine once told me that walking through the Village of Arroyo Grande and encountering the people and business owners was like, "someone just rolling out the welcome mat and saying; 'we're glad you're here!' It was like rolling back the pages of time and feeling good about the experience of being alive." Those of us, who are fortunate enough to live and work here, never take our environment for granted. We work hard to ensure that people who visit us will want to come back. For AGIB, we routinely think of ways to roll out the "visual welcome mat." Our relationship with America in Bloom for the past 12 years has given us a framework to do just that; and we are very grateful for this incredible experience.

### **Leadership and Policy**

- **Signage ordinances enacted and enforced** - Signage ordinances are specified both in the Arroyo Grande Municipal Code (AGMC) (16.60.020 - Administration. Unless expressly exempted in this chapter, no sign may be erected, displayed, reconstructed or altered until a permit is approved as set forth in Sections 16.16.170, 16.16.180, 16.16.190 and 16.16.200 of this title and a building permit has been issued or building department clearance has been received.) and in the Design Guidelines and Standards for the Historic Character Overlay District. The City does not want to detract from the visual appearance of business districts and other areas by allowing a proliferation of commercial signs and banners. Homemade signs are generally not permitted, nor are "sandwich signs" in the public right of way, wing signs, and signs held by employees who stand on street corners and in the public right of way, vocally and visually encouraging customers to visit their businesses.
- **Ordinances addressing overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles, unscreened dumpster, public nuisances, etc.** - In the AGMC there are 61 ordinances addressing public nuisances, 10 addressing abandoned vehicles. Chapter 8.44 of the AGMC addresses Weeds, grass and rubbish.
- **Code enforcement officer on municipal staff and making a difference** - There are two part time enforcement officers on staff with the police department. They are referred to as Neighborhood Services Technicians. Their position is a hybrid of parking enforcement and code enforcement for the City of Arroyo Grande. The parking enforcement component entails observing and/or mark-

ing vehicles and determining conformity with applicable parking regulations. The Code enforcement aspect includes the enforcement of regulations related to temporary signs and banners; abandoned, junk or inoperable vehicles; unauthorized living in recreational vehicles; grossly unreasonable accumulations of garbage, trash, or any other material that create an unsafe or unhealthy condition for the neighborhood or the public in general.

### Amenities

- **Site furnishings in place: water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, containers, planters and cigarette receptacles** – The Village of Arroyo Grande is the area in the city with the most restaurants and retail businesses in a contained area. The Village also has three water fountains. There is a significant number of lamp posts that were donated by private citizens. The Village has many benches,



bicycle racks, trash and recycling receptacles, containers and planters. Local restaurants have discouraged the use of cigarette receptacles since that would attract smokers. They prefer to clean up any cigarette butts on a daily basis. It is worthy to note that California state law prohibits smoking in restaurants.

- **Crosswalks well marked** – Crosswalks throughout the city are well marked and maintained. Crosswalks on Branch Street in the Village have pedestrian activated street flashers for safer street crossing.



- **Public restrooms available** – All major parks in the city have adequate restroom facilities. In addition there are two restroom buildings in the Village of Arroyo Grande with hand washing facilities and both are handicap accessible.



- **Effective community gateway entry features** – There are two major entry gateway points to the City of Arroyo Grande. Both of these are planted and maintained by AGIB. Also, both of these entry sign areas feature signage from various non-profit organizations. There are two other minor entry areas maintained by the City staff.



- **Effective use of banners, murals and/or public art** – Banners are mostly displayed in the Village of Arroyo Grande. The Arroyo Grande Village Improvement Association sponsors a program where the association has about 40 banners each for Spring, Strawberry Festival, American Flag (summer) Fall and Christmas. Also, the Harvest Festival Committee has about 50 banners that are placed during September each year. These banners are placed on light poles by city staff. In 2013 Arroyo Grande in Bloom created the Arroyo Grande Public Art Program. As of April, 2018, there are five completed art projects and there are four more in process. There is a large mural depicting the agricultural history of the area (on the east wall of Mason Kitchen & Bar in the Village), a 6 foot lantern replica representing the Japanese families who farmed the area (on Courtland St. south of Grand Ave.), a bench with a bas relief of the profile of Harriet Quimby, AG resident and the first licensed American female pilot (located next to the historical schoolhouse on Short St. in the Village) a metal art work reflecting the diversity of our area (located at the Arroyo Grande High School) and a large fountain (that is at the entrance to the new shopping center at Grand Ave. and Elm St.). Near term projects include an art project on the east side of the City Council Chambers that will have the City flower with hand prints of local school children with their names and an eagle scout project that will commemorate 9/11 with a display area at the Fire Department on Station Way.



- **Effective way finding signage** – Signage for off main street businesses, for alternate parking areas and for main attractions are in place and well maintained.

- **Effective use of non-plant seasonal decorations (i.e. lights and ornaments)** – Besides businesses decorating for Halloween, many of the shopping centers now include LED light decorations on their buildings. The Village of Arroyo Grande is especially well decorated during the Christmas holidays. Over a mile

of lights illuminate the tops of all of the buildings in the Village core. All of the trees on Branch Street in the Village are lit up with LED lights and most all of the business merchants decorate their windows with lights.



The City puts up American flags on street poles throughout the city during Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July and Veterans' Day.

### **Condition and Maintenances**

- **Condition of structures, buildings, decks, patios related to lack of vandalism, graffiti, peeling or faded paint and rust** – There is a significant lack of vandalism and graffiti in the City due to the vigilance of community members, enforcement by police and removal by Public Works Department. Any public notice of vandalism or graffiti is reported to the police department and they immediately address the issue. There is little or no evidence of peeling or faded paint and rust throughout the city.

- **Condition of infrastructure: roadways, road shoulders, curbs, medians, sidewalks, crosswalks/pavement markings, transformers and utility poles related to lack of weeds, vandalism, litter, graffiti, peeling or faded paint and rust** – Vandalism and graffiti are handled here the same way as structures. Litter is virtually no longer a problem in the city due to the vigilance of AGIB, EcoRotary and the general public. Weed abatement is handled effectively by the city Public Works Department on city property and by the Lucia Mar School District on school property. Citizens of Arroyo Grande evidently have a high sense of pride in their community since there is little evidence of degradation of appearance in the entire city. The city has a plan in place for the ongoing road surface maintenance of streets throughout the city. All roadways are resurfaced at least once every seven years and, as a result, the condition of the City's roads is very good. The streets that have the heaviest use often have interim plans for repairing "trouble" spots between the paving schedule dates.

- **Condition of signs and site furnishings: water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, con-**



tainers, planters and cigarette receptacles – All items as listed are maintained in the best condition.



- **Condition of vacant lots, storm water retention ponds and swales** – Vacant lots are looked after by code enforcement officers for trash, abandoned autos, etc. The Fire Department is responsible for weed abatement notices and enforcement to vacant lot owners. Storm water retention ponds and swales are the responsibility of the Public Works Department and they maintain them in a responsible manner.
- **Lack of snipe/stake signs, billboards and posted flyers** – Stake signs are vigorously controlled by the city and have not presented a problem. The same is true of posted flyers. Billboards are prohibited in the City.
- **Regularly scheduled street sweeping** – The City hires a street sweeping company to do weekly street sweeping along the main roads in the City and monthly street sweeping in local neighborhoods and all City owned parking lots.

## Community Involvement

- **Volunteer funding and participation in community revitalization and improvement programs, such as river sweep, home repair programs (CHIP), disaster relief, clean-up days, etc.** – The Parks Department sponsors park and creek clean-up days. A special new project, “We Heart Arroyo Grande”, was created with 14 projects throughout the City of Arroyo Grande. Over 100 volunteers turned out to complete the tasks. This “Earth Day” project is intended to take place each year.

Arroyo Grande in Bloom, the Arroyo Grande Tree Guild, Lucia Mar School District and the City of Arroyo Grande assisted in the planting of 34 trees on the Paulding Curve embankment on Earth Day, 2018. Arroyo Grande in Bloom and staff from the Lucia Mar School District cleared all of the weeds and debris from the hillside; the staff



from Lucia Mar then installed water access that allowed Arroyo Grande in Bloom to put in the drip system for the trees. The City of Arroyo Grande provided two truckloads of bark that was spread by Arroyo Grande in Bloom volunteers on the embankment. The Tree Guild and Arroyo Grande in Bloom donated the trees and drip system to this effort.

- **Programs are available for residents to fund public amenities such as memorial benches, brick pathways, etc. - See attached Exhibit**
- **Volunteer involvement in Adopt-A-Spot Programs, Habitat for Humanity Projects, River Sweep, etc. –** The City has an Adopt-A-Park program operated through the Recreation Services Department. A new program this year is headed up by the 5 Cities Men's Community Service Foundation which is the fund raising arm of the 5 Cities Men's Club. The Men's Club members, AGIB volunteers and many other groups have come together to clean up, renovate and beautify Camp Arroyo Grande under the guidance of the Men's Club. This camp was originally owned by the Methodist Church and when they decided to sell it, it was purchased by the foundation with the intent to preserve the camp for the benefit of the city.
- **Recognition programs for volunteers –** The City Parks Department puts on an annual volunteer banquet, sends out thank you letters to volunteers and there is public recognition by the Mayor and City Council. Arroyo Grande in Bloom, in its weekly notification of events, thanks volunteers for their most recent participation. During the AIB judges visit AGIB arranges for a volunteer recognition luncheon where City Public Works staff and department heads are invited. AGIB recognizes a "Volunteer of the Year" with a photo and write up posted on the AGIB bulletin board in the Village (this is a new project this year). Also, AGIB provides two annual socials where volunteers get together for a pot luck dinner. AGIB also sponsors an outstanding volunteer each year to have them attend the national symposium. The South County Historical Society honors its docents and volunteers with a spring party.
- **Volunteer hours recorded –** The AGIB coordinator records the names and hours of all volunteer efforts. The City Parks Department also records volunteer hours by participant as does the Police Department.

# Donation and Sponsorship Opportunities

Placing a plaque on a street lamp, bench, tree, or bike rack, or inscribing a brick at Centennial Park is a fantastic way to memorialize a loved one or honor someone as a gift.

There are multiple different items to sponsor, each holding a unique significance and presence within our city.

The City welcomes your support and participation in the Donation and Sponsorship Program.

City staff and/or officials may sometimes be available for dedication ceremonies at request. Please contact City Hall at 473-5400 or access [www.arroyogrande.org](http://www.arroyogrande.org) for more information.



**Centennial Park Brick**  
Provides for inscribing and laying a brick in the Centennial Park.

5 1/2" x 5 1/2": **\$500**  
8 1/4" x 5 1/2": **\$1,000**  
8 1/8" x 10 7/8": **\$1,000**

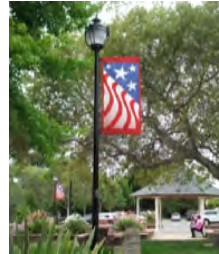


**Bike Rack** **\$900**  
Provides for a bike rack, plaque, and installation within the City.



**Trees**  
Provides for a tree, plaque, planting, and installation at a City park or along a City street.

Park Tree **\$500**  
E. Branch Pistachio/Pear **\$750**  
E. Branch Sycamore **\$1,000**



**Village Street Lamps** **\$3,500**  
Provides for a decorative street lamp, plaque, and installation within the Village.



**Village and/or park benches**  
Provides for a bench, plaque and installation within the City.

E. Branch Bench **\$1,500**  
Centennial Bench **\$1,800**  
Recycled Plastic Bench **\$2,100**



**Adopt-a-Street**  
Adopt a half-mile or more section of a major City street in return for conducting at least four clean-ups per year. Sponsors will be recognized with a sign located at the beginning and end of their designated section. Activities may include litter pick-up, weed removal, etc.



**Naming Rights to City Facilities**  
Such naming rights would be subject to established City policies and City Council approval. Please contact the City for detailed information.

## CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE

City Hall  
300 East Branch Street  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

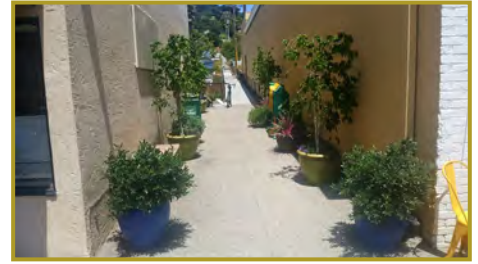
Phone: (805) 473-5400  
Fax: (805) 473-0386  
[www.arroyogrande.org](http://www.arroyogrande.org)

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## BEST IDEA ARROYO GRANDE IN BLOOM

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Starting in 2017, Arroyo Grande in Bloom desired to have a greater presence of planters in the Village of Arroyo Grande. With that in mind, they created an assortment of planters with a diverse planting of Ficus trees, flowers and succulents in a major paseo (walk-way) where previously there was nothing of beauty. AGIB maintains this area.



A second program involved AGIB offering the members of the Arroyo Grande Village Improvement Association the annual rental of planters with a choice of a planter with succulents, dwarf olive bush or perennials. The merchants will be responsible for watering the planters and, when the rental is renewed, AGIB will redo the planting as necessary. Rental costs vary according to type of planting.

The third program was to replace a bed of flowers at the flag pole in Centennial Square with six planters of assorted sizes. These are irrigated by a controlled drip system. This area will be maintained by AGIB.





# CONTACT INFORMATION

Name/Address	Affiliation/title	Email	Phone *
Bob Lund	Chair/ Community Dev.	bob@lundsgift.com	710-4049
Karen Franck	Events	karenfranck@att.net	748-0855
Laurie Waller	Floral Displays	laffwall@yahoo.com	709-5355
Judy Hirsch	Environmental Resources	coxsey7@hotmail.com	202-8236
David Hirsch	Environmental Resources	coxsey7@hotmail.com	202-8236
Mary Hertel	Landscaping	tommers@sbcglobal.net	481-7657
Jan Scott	Heritage	jans194@gmail.com	710-1560
Kristen Barneich	Urban Forestry	kbarneich@gmail.com	474-8836
Peter McClure	Urban Forestry	pmcclure@arroyogrande.org	780-1751
Vivian Krug	Publicity	vivkrug@gmail.com	458-3321
Tom Goss	Marketing/Graphics/Website	tom@tomgoss.com	710-3780
Jocelyn Brennan	AG/GB Chamber of Commerce	jocelyn@aggbchamber.org	748-7630
Bill Robeson	City Liaison – Public Works	brobeson@arroyogrande.org	473-5466
Jim Bergman	City Liaison – City Manager	jbergman@arroyogrande.org	709-1354
Trudy Jarratt	Public Art	ftjarratt@charter.net	709-6005
Teresa McClish	City Liaison - Development	tmcclish@arroyogrande.org	473-5422
Sheridan Bohlken	Recreation Services Director	sbohlken@arroyogrande.org	473-5478

★All phone numbers are area code (805)

# INTERNET LINKS

[www.arroyograndeinbloom.org](http://www.arroyograndeinbloom.org)

[www.arroyogrande.org](http://www.arroyogrande.org)

[www.arroyograndevillage.org](http://www.arroyograndevillage.org)

[www.southcountyhistory.org](http://www.southcountyhistory.org)

[www.aggbchamber.com](http://www.aggbchamber.com)

[www.agpd.org](http://www.agpd.org)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOHep1jqm3k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOHep1jqm3k)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NX64waPRaM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NX64waPRaM)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mSHKDE1xUI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mSHKDE1xUI)

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# JUDGES' ITINERARY & MAP

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## **6/17 – Sunday**

Bruce Riggs and Laurie Potier-Brown arrive.

(A) 4:45 – 5:00 – Tour of the Mason Mural

(B) 5:00 – 6:00 - The judges will be brought to the City Council Chambers to meet the members of the Arroyo Grande in Bloom steering committee. There will be a brief introduction by each of the members of the steering committee. We will review the plans for the tour and the Arroyo Grande Public Art Program.

6:00 – Light dinner at the Rooster Creek Tavern in the Village with members of the steering committee.

7:15 – Judges escorted back to the Hertel air B & B.

## **6/18 - Monday**

8:00 am – The judges will be picked up and taken to the Bank of America where they will meet the other AGIB members who will accompany them on the trolley tour. We will have the Beach Trolley bus for the Monday tour. We will meet the Trolley bus at the Bank of America at 8:00 am.

(1) 8:00 – 8:30 – Camp Arroyo Grande tour. (Vard Ikeda from the 5 Cities Mens' Club Foundation to meet us)

(2) 8:30 – 9:00 - Bus tour of the Village residential area

(3) 9:05 – 9:15 - Paulding Curve new wall and embankment improvements.

(4) 9:15 – 10:00 - Monarch Butterfly Haven at Strother Park. Point out our new signs. Ron Simpson from Public Works to talk about park amenities, bioswale, water issues and playground.

(5) 10:00 - 10:25 - Planned Development neighborhood – Equestrian Way neighborhood (Bus to take La Cresta to Stagecoach Rd. to Gularte Rd. and then 227 to Tally Ho and James Way then to La Canada to Vista Dr. to Equestrian and then to James Way Oak Habitat.

(6) 10:25 – 10:45 - James Way Oak Habitat and Wildlife Preserve (Curtis Johnson from Public Works to talk about the habitat)

(7) 10:45 – 10:55 – Drive through Rancho Grande Park & Monarch Butterfly Hav-

en (Tour bus to go by way of Grace Lane and Rodeo Dr. to West Branch St.)

(8) 10:55 – 11:00 – Drive by St. Patrick's Cemetery (tour bus to go across 101 at Oak Park to El Camino Real and then to Halcyon)

(9) 11:10 – 11:20 – Drive by public cemetery and new Police Station on Halcyon

(10) 11:20 – 11:30 - Turn on Dodson Way to do a brief tour of Maple St, Walnut St, Ash St. and the up Alder St. to Grand to 101 South to Laetitia.

(11) 11:00 – 1:00 - Lunch with the judges will be catered and held at Laetitia Winery. AGIB Steering Committee members are invited.

(12) 1:10 – 1:40 - Grand Avenue (Tour bus to use Grand Ave. exit). Meet Teresa McClish, City Development Director, at the newly redeveloped shopping center to have her speak about the Grand Avenue Street Plan, the Halcyon complete corridor plan and the development of the shopping center's onsite storm water project, also to touch on how that is done on many new developments.

(13) 1:50 – 2:10 - Neo-traditional Neighborhood – and Berry Gardens (Self Help Housing development and Japanese art piece). Frank Schiro, Planning Committee member, to give talk on city planning and affordable housing. Note City's new public works building in passing to the park.

(14) 2:15 – 2:30 - Elm St/Ash St. /Retention Basin/Dog Park/Soto Field/Community Garden. Park by the community garden and note features of the park from there.

(15) 2:35 – 2:45 – Drive by High School and Clark Center.

(16) 2:50 – Judges will be driven to the Bank of America for the end of the trolley tour. The judges will be driven to the B & B to work on their reports.

(17) 6:00 – Judges will be escorted to the Tom Goss' house for dinner. AGIB Steering Committee members and mates are invited to join for the dinner.

(18) 7:30 – Judges will be escorted back to the B & B.

## **6/19 - Tuesday**

8 am to 12:30 - Judges will be met at the B & B for an escorted walking tour of the Village of Arroyo Grande.

- Hoosegow tour
- Walk down steps to Branch St. by way of Paseo Nuevo (by Arani Spa)

- North side of Branch
- Note succulent wall
- Traffic Way/Branch St. island
- Fire Resistive Garden
- Site One landscaping
- Firemen's Park – point out butterfly waystations
- Bridge St. trees/planters
- IOOF Building – Talk from Jan Scott, South County Historic Society, regarding IOOF building. (bathroom and water break)
- Bridge floral baskets
- Kiwanis Park
- Olohan Alley
- AGIB bulletin board – bathroom stop
- New planting at the flag pole
- Centennial Park
- Bioswale
- Swinging Bridge
- Santa Manuela Schoolhouse
- Barn Museum
- Past new bathrooms and fountain
- Rotary Bandstand
- New playground equipment
- Ruby House/Physics Garden
- Heritage House

12:30 – A luncheon in honor of the judges and the America in Bloom program will be held at the Heritage House Gazebo and will be sponsored by Arroyo Grande in Bloom with assistance from the South County Historical Society.



AGIB volunteers, City Department heads, Parks & Public Works Department staff, members of the Board for the South County Historical Society and for the Arroyo Grande Village Improvement Association, members of the media and representatives from the business community will be invited.

1:30 – Judges will decide what additional areas of the city they wish to visit and will be returned to the B & B to work on their reports.

5:00 - Judges will be escorted to Ventana Grill for dinner. AGIB Steering Committee members and mates are invited to join. Limit of 20 participants.

7:30 – Judges will be escorted back to the B & B.

### **6/20 – Wednesday**

Judges will depart.



# Arroyo Grande in Bloom

## Judges Tour 2018



### Sunday, June 17

- (A) Mural at Mason Bar
- (B) City Council Chambers

### Monday, June 18

- (1) Walking Tour of Hoosegow Park
- (2) Trolley Tour of Village Residential Area
- (3) Paulding Curve - New Wall
- (4) Strother Park
- (5) Planned Development Neighborhood
- (6) James Way Oak Habitat
- (7) Rancho Grande Park
- (8) St. Patrick's Cemetery
- (9) Public Cemetery & Police Station
- (10) Older Neighborhood
- (11) Laetitia Winery
- (12) Grand Avenue Beautification
- (13) Neo-Traditional Neighborhood
- (14) Elm/Ash Soto Field Area, Community Garden and Dog Park
- (15) High School and Clark Center

### Tuesday, June 19

- Historic Village

