COVID-19
Encampment Management Policy (CEMP)

AUGUST 2020
Isla Vista Recreation & Park District
961 Embarcadero Del Mar
Isla Vista CA 93117
I. INTRODUCTION

The novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) is an unprecedented public health emergency that has restricted many resources available to unsheltered homeless individuals and led to an increase in encampment activity on public property, including many Isla Vista Recreation & Park District (“IVRPD”) Parks and Open Spaces.

In order to ensure its parks are safe and welcoming for all members of the Isla Vista (“IV”) community to use, IVRPD must balance the needs of the homeless community in this challenging time with its state-mandated obligations to repair, maintain and operate public parklands and provide recreational, cultural and educational opportunities to its constituents.

On occasion, this balance may require relocating or limiting the physical space occupied by individuals within the parks and ensuring that personal belongings and sleeping quarters do not exceed a reasonable footprint.

Three encampments – located in Anisq’Oyo’ Park, Camino Corto Open Space, and Sueno Orchard – have expanded to such an extent since March 2020 that IVRPD is currently unable to fulfill its state-mandated obligations and are of particular concern to IVRPD from a Public Health, Safety and Accessibility standpoint.

IVRPD prepared this COVID-19 Encampment Management Policy (“CEMP”) to provide a framework for ensuring its parks are Safe, Healthy and Accessible for all members of the IV community to use while respecting the unique challenges facing individuals experiencing homelessness during COVID-19.

Throughout the development of this CEMP, IVRPD solicited input from the public by engaging in meetings and discussions with a diverse group of government and non-profit service organizations, stakeholders and homeless advocates while also considering applicable public health orders and guidelines.

The issue of homelessness is complex and beyond the ability of any one entity to solve by itself. IVRPD continues to look to its partners to help present solutions to the challenges facing IV’s homeless community.
II. BACKGROUND

A. Public Health Facts and Assumptions

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has issued an Interim Guidance regarding homeless encampments to assist homeless service providers and local officials in managing homelessness issues during the pandemic.

The District accepts the CDC’s description of the management of risk in homeless encampments during COVID-19:

“Lack of housing contributes to poor physical and mental health outcomes, and linkages to permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness should continue to be a priority. In the context of COVID-19 spread and transmission, the risks associated with sleeping outdoors or in an encampment setting are different than from staying indoors in a congregate setting such as an emergency shelter or other congregate living facility. Outdoor settings may allow people to increase physical distance between themselves and others. However, sleeping outdoors often does not provide protection from the environment, adequate access to hygiene and sanitation facilities, or connection to services and healthcare. The balance of risks should be considered for each individual experiencing unsheltered homelessness.”

The CDC guidance also includes the following considerations for encampments:

- “If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are.
  - Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread.
- Encourage those staying in encampments to set up their tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per individual.
  - If an encampment is not able to provide sufficient space for each person, allow people to remain where they are but help decompress the encampment by linking those at higher risk for severe illness to individual rooms or safe shelter.
- Work together with community coalition members to improve sanitation in encampments.
- Ensure nearby restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials (soap, drying materials) and bath tissue, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24 hours per day.
- If toilets or handwashing facilities are not available nearby, assist with providing access to portable latrines with handwashing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people. These facilities should be equipped with hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol).”

Please note that as mentioned above, the challenges of homelessness are beyond the ability of any one entity to solve by itself. IVRPD has neither the mandate, as described in the following section, nor the skillset, funding or staffing capacity to self-administer many of the encampment considerations outlined above without receipt of aid from its community partners, including:

Home For Good Santa Barbara County/Northern Santa Barbara County United Way, Food Not Bombs, Isla Vista Community Services District, Isla Vista Foot Patrol/Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, the office of Santa Barbara County Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann, the County’s Community Service Department’s Housing and Community Development/Homeless Team, UCSB’s Special Assistant for Isla Vista Affairs, Isla Vista Community Gardens, and the County’s Behavioral Wellness Department.

The organizations listed above, along with IVRPD, together comprise the "IV Encampment Working Group," a group of leaders and community representatives that have been meeting since May 2020 to better understand
the impacts of the growing encampment footprint in IV, and to plan solutions to address the impacts while considering CDC guidance for encampment management throughout the COVID-19 emergency.

IVRPD is committed to working with its community partners as well as any other organizations with the skillset, funding, or staffing capacity to present and realize solutions to the challenges facing IV’s homeless community.

B. IVRPD Facts and Assumptions

IVRPD is a California Special District that was formed in 1972 to provide local recreation and park services to the unincorporated community of IV. The District operates pursuant to the Recreation and Park District Act, Public Resources Code §5780 et seq. and is one of the few park districts in the country to employ a strict Organic Policy in order to develop and maintain ecologically diverse and healthy parklands.

Per this Organic Policy, IVRPD staff do not use chemical pesticides, fungicides, herbicides and fertilizers and rely instead on organic methods to amend soils, promote native flora and fauna, and manage pest populations.

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that is elected at large and employs approximately ten full-time staff along with a small number of seasonal employees. As a governmental entity, IVRPD provides essential services to the IV community and the District’s employees are thus essential employees/disaster service workers exempted from the Governor’s Stay-At-Home order enacted on March 19, 2020.

Following are brief overviews of IVRPD’s respective Parks (Grounds) and Recreation Departments, including breakdowns of staffing structure, purview and specific health, safety, and operational concerns as they relate to encampment activity on IVRPD property during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IVRPD Grounds Department

- 5 Full-Time Positions (Grounds Leads)
- Manage and conduct routine & deferred repairs and maintenance on approximately 57 Acres

IVRPD Parks and Open Spaces were not designed to be used as campgrounds: the parks lack sufficient sanitation amenities to support any, let alone continued, overnight usage. Providing sanitation accommodations to facilitate overnight camping is not within the District’s state mandate and furthermore, the District lacks the financial means and staffing capacity to realize such accommodations to the level necessary to support the extent of the ongoing encampment activity on its property.

Note: IVRPD, out of concern for the wellbeing of individuals experiencing homelessness in its parks and a desire to protect public health and safety in IV, elected to place handwashing stations and portable restroom facilities at Anisq’Oyo’ and Estero Parks in March 2020.

The District is currently unable to conduct routine maintenance and basic repairs to the level necessary to satisfy its duties as a park district, due to work delays or cancellations caused by encampment activity within its parks. Examples of maintenance duties that are currently being disrupted by encampments are as follows:

1. **Mowing & “Weed Trimming” [Daily/Weekly]** – These duties are necessary to reduce trip hazards, decrease fuel loads and community fire risk – thus reducing potential liability to the District, and reduce the proliferation of weeds and non-native plants by preventing them from going to seed and out-competing native flora.

2. **Irrigation & Associated Audits & Repairs [Daily/Weekly]** – Irrigation is essential for the health of established District turf. In keeping with water efficiency best practices, parks are generally irrigated at night to conserve water and minimize disruptions to day-time park users. Irrigation is costly to install ($15,000 at Sueno Orchard alone) and requires staff to conduct periodic audits to ensure the system is functioning efficiently and coordinate related operations, e.g. amending and remediating damaged turf.
Audits require staff to run irrigation systems during regular working hours to identify problems. Encampments delay or prevent this work by physically blocking staff’s access to this infrastructure.

3. **Trimming [Weekly/Monthly]** – further reduces accumulation of fuel loads, removes dangerous dead or detached branches, prevents obstruction of sight lines which improves public safety and access by first responders, and is essential for the long-term health of District trees. Encampments delay or prevent trimming by physically blocking staff access to worksites. In order to protect nesting birds, the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife generally does not permit this work to occur between February 1st and August 15th.

4. **Gopher control [Monthly]** – Left unmanaged, gophers cause extensive damage to turf by eating the roots of grasses and other plants. Their tunnels and mounds impede mowers, create trip hazards, and increase soil erosion by diverting irrigation water. They also have a tendency to chew through irrigation lines, requiring costly repairs and additional irrigation audits. Gopher control requires a comprehensive approach to avoid subsequent infestation, and staff needs unobstructed access to parks in order to run specialized equipment and set traps in specific locations that may be blocked by an encampment.

5. **Trash Collection [Daily]** – Regular collection of mismanaged trash reduces environmental pollution, protects soil and water quality, improves public health and safety and increases quality of life for IV residents by enhancing the community’s aesthetic and recreational value. This duty is complicated by the presence of high volumes of debris in certain encampments, making it difficult for IVRPD staff to differentiate between discarded trash and personal property which can lead to heightened tensions between staff and encampment residents.

In addition to the general challenges outlined above, three encampments – located in Anisq’Oyo’ Park, Camino Corto Open Space, and Sueno Orchard – are currently of particular concern to IVRPD for a number of additional factors including but not limited to location (proximity to local elementary school and university property and/or lack of safe paths for first responders or service provider access), inadequate sanitation, and damage or impending risk of damage to environmentally critical or sensitive habitat areas (“ESHA”) – as defined by the IVRPD Habitat Management Plan, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and/or County of Santa Barbara.

Additional detail on these specific locations may be referenced in Appendices A-C of this CEMP.

**IVRPD Recreation Department**

- 2 Full-Time Positions (Recreation Coordinator & Adopt-A-Block Supervisor)
- Administer over 6,000 hours of recreational and volunteer programming annually

In recent months, much of the District’s existing programming has been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated concerns for participant and staff safety. As authorities and health officials continue to provide guidance on reopening various industries, the District expects to imminently be in a position to reopen many of its youth programs as well as implement its planned adult programming as soon as possible.

Examples of such recreational programming, existing or planned, are as follows:

- Movies in the Parks
- Open Space Nature Walks
- Children’s Recreation Field Trips
- Adopt-A-Park component of Adopt-A-Block
- 3x3 Volleyball League
- Yoga in the Parks
- Dance Classes (Zumba, Salsa, Modern & Line Dancing)
- Disc Golf tournaments
- Shakespeare in the Park
- Passive Recreation (walking, biking, picnicking, playing, or observing wildlife)
The IV community is home to a diverse population and according to the 2010 United States Census, approximately two-thirds of this population lives below the poverty line. In light of COVID-19 closures or restrictions imposed on schools, day-cares and private recreational amenities, the ability of IVRPD to provide free or low-cost recreational programming opportunities to its constituency is of greater importance than ever.

The District recognizes that its parks can have shared uses and that the presence of encampments and recreational programming are not mutually exclusive. New social distancing considerations and requirements for preventative health measures to minimize COVID-19 risk require IVRPD staff to accurately predict park or facility capacity in order to effectively schedule activities, determine appropriate registration limits, and establish contingency plans for active recreational programming.

IVRPD is currently unable to satisfy these requirements to the extent needed to ensure staff and participant safety and thus limit its liability with respect to implementing programming in Anisq’Oyo’ Park, Camino Corto Open Space, and Sueno Orchard due to the size and scope of the encampments at these locations.

**Staff Health & Safety Considerations**

- Exposure to Hazards
  - Biological waste (e.g. blood, urine, fecal matter, needles)
  - Infectious Disease (e.g. COVID-19, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis)
  - Dangerous materials (e.g. broken glass, lithium batteries, sharp objects, heavy items)
  - Fire (e.g. improper storage of combustibles, open fires, hot coals)
  - Aggressive Behavior

**Staff Experiences & Observations**

- Violations of IVRPD Policies
  - Policy Manual Section 8000.020 – Rules and Regulations
    1. No person shall cut, injure, deface, remove or disturb any tree, shrub, building, fence, bench, table or other structure, apparatus or property; or pick, cut, or remove any shrub, bush, or flower; or mark or write upon any building, fence, bench, or other structure or erect any structure of any kind; or deposit any earth, rock, or other substance thereon.
    2. Persons shall be discouraged from walking, climbing, and standing or sitting upon any property not designated or customarily used for such purposes.
    3. No person shall dump, deposit, or leave any bottles, broken glass, ashes, paper boxes, cans, dirt rubbish, waste, garbage, refuse or other trash except that incidental to the use of the facility must be deposited in the receptacles provided.
    4. No person shall make or kindle an open fire except in picnic stoves or fire circles provided by the District for that purpose.
    5. No animals shall be let loose in the parks, except at such times and under such conditions as may be expressly permitted by the District. Dogs must be on a leash.
    6. No person shall carry or discharge firearms or air-powered weapons or throw stones or other missiles.
    7. No person shall sell, offer, or solicit for sale any goods, merchandise, or other services without a special permit from the District.

- Violations of IVRPD Ordinances
  - No. 1993-2 – “Alcohol Ordinance”
  - No. 1999-2 – “Fire Ordinance”
  - No. 2002-001 – “Smoking or Dumping Ordinance”
  - No. 2002-002 – “Camping and Sleeping Ordinance”
  - No. 2010-003 – “Smoking Ordinance”
  - No. 2012-001 – “Amplified Sound”

- Receipt of Public Complaints regarding encampment footprints and associated activities
IVRPD recognizes that the hazards identified in this CEMP are not universally attributable to individuals experiencing homelessness and similarly, that violations of its policies and ordinances are not isolated to any one group of people. The primary objective of IVRPD is to ensure that its Parks and Open Spaces remain safe and welcoming spaces for all members of the public, and to that end the District seeks to address and curtail any and all behavior that negatively impacts Public Health, Safety and Accessibility on IVRPD property.

III. Suspension of IVRPD Ordinances and Policy Enforcement

IVRPD is sympathetic to the disproportionate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on individuals experiencing homelessness and has to-date elected to voluntarily suspend enforcement of several of its Ordinances and Policies as they relate to encampments and storage or dumping of property on IVRPD properties since the Governor’s Stay-at-Home order enacted on March 19, 2020.

IVRPD has also allowed community groups to continue to distribute food on District property.

IVRPD reserves the right to enforce any and all of its ordinances and policies but will, for the duration of the health emergency, attempt to use the criteria for intervention, levels of intervention, and operational approach set forth below.

IV. Standards for Homeless Encampment Intervention

All District approaches described in this and subsequent sections of the CEMP are dependent on staffing and other resource allocations and may be adjusted by IVRPD as necessary based on the available resources and conditions of the health emergency.

All individuals have the same right to use and enjoy IVRPD Parks and Open Spaces. It is not the intent of IVRPD to prevent such use or enjoyment by individuals experiencing homelessness, nor is it to criminalize homelessness or unduly prevent individuals experiencing homelessness from sleeping in public places if individual housing options are not otherwise available to them. IVPRD does, however, require a degree of cooperation from individuals experiencing homelessness to allow its staff to complete maintenance and administer recreational programming as outlined above.

Factors IVRPD will take into consideration in deciding whether to intervene (see Section V) in an encampment are as follows:

1. Public Health, Safety and Access Factors
   a. Violation(s) of IVRPD Ordinances, Policies, Rules and/or Regulations;
   b. Damage, or impending risk of damage, to park resources or neighboring properties;
   c. Location of encampment such that District staff are unable to complete routine or deferred maintenance to the extent needed to avoid damage to park resources;
   d. Location of encampment such that the District is unable to administer planned recreational, cultural, or educational programming or the public is unable to access recreational amenities;
   e. Presence of biological hazards (e.g. blood, urine, fecal matter, needles);
   f. Excessive animal or vermin vector hazards (e.g., rats, other vector vermin);
   g. Notice of public health emergency at an encampment site declared by a county, state, or federal public health entity;
   h. Need for encampment decompression as identified by public health officials;
   i. Reported dangerous and/or serious criminal activity (e.g., assault, sexual violence, trafficking, robbery, homicide);
   j. Serious fire hazards that constitute dangerous conditions (e.g., excessive fuel load, tapping into public power lines, open fires);
   k. Major impediments to emergency response (e.g., lack of safe paths for emergency vehicles or equipment);
l. Excessive amounts of waste/garbage/debris;
m. Proximity of encampment to objective dangers (e.g., dead or dying tree or tree limbs, proximity to eroding bluff tops); and/or
n. Other vital public health, safety or access factors that may arise.

Furthermore, the District will take into consideration the following principles when deciding whether to intervene in an encampment.

1. **Harm reduction**: refers to responsive strategies directed at reducing existing harm within encampments, park resources and between encamped and non-encamped individuals. Such harms include, but are not limited to, COVID-19 transmission or exposure, dangerous conditions (e.g., fires), and crime.

2. **Harm mitigation**: refers to proactive strategies directed at reducing future harm within encampments, park resources and between encamped and non-encamped individuals. Such harms include, but are not limited to, COVID-19 transmission or exposure, dangerous conditions (e.g., fires), and crime.

3. **Stability**: refers to recognition that moving individuals or longstanding groups unnecessarily during COVID-19 should be avoided to limit COVID-19 transmission and/or exposure, and to maintain, if possible and in existence, protective factors, prosocial ties to existing communities, and connections to resources and service providers.

4. **Conservation of resources**: refers to the District’s direction of all available resources to emergency responses, and therefore its reduction in capacity to respond to ordinary, non-emergent issues in encampments as in the rest of its jurisdiction.

No single principle is controlling: The District will balance all four in making decisions. For instance, despite the value of stability, a Public Health, Safety or Access issue may require disrupting stability to reduce harm. And the District will balance the harm mitigation value of ordinary proactive interventions in encampments against the value of conserving resources for emergencies.

V. Homeless Encampments Intervention Types

Although not all of the interventions listed below specifically describe offering encamped individuals’ shelter and/or alternative housing or other services, District personnel will routinely attempt to connect individuals to such resources to the extent feasible.

As described above, IVRPD lacks the mandate, skillset, financial resources and staffing capacity to organize and self-administer these resources. IVRPD thus continues to look to its community partners – as defined in section II.A. of this CEMP – to present tangible solutions to address the IV homeless community’s needs for shelter, alternative housing, storage and/or related resources and services.

To the extent possible, IVRPD will maintain an informational brief outlining said resources and services, to be distributed by IVRPD or its partners in the context of outreach efforts and/or the Public Health Communications intervention level described below in subsection three.

With consideration to the criteria and principles outlined in the preceding section, and in the event an intervention is deemed appropriate for Public Health, Safety, and Accessibility factors, IVRPD will attempt to first use the lowest level(s) of intervention (Types 1-3 as outlined below) necessary to reduce or mitigate these factors. Any subsequent interventions deemed necessary (Types 4-6 as outlined below) would be undertaken in a sequential manner unless required otherwise by emergency circumstances (see Section VI). Barring such emergency circumstances, the intervention types outlined below are subject to the noticing procedures set forth in the following section.
In performing any intervention described below, any District personnel interacting with individuals or groups with presumptive positive and/or confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 will be provided with appropriate PPE, to the extent required by law and policy.

1. **Debris/garbage pickup.** This intervention may include removing accumulated debris and/or placing waste bags and/or receptacles at the encampment site.
   a. **When it may be used:** This intervention may be used at as many encampments as the District can reasonably serve given its resources.
      i. When possible, this intervention may be coordinated with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD), IVRPD’s “IV Encampment Working Group” partners – as defined in Section II.A., and/or any other relevant local, state, and/or federal public health departments or authorities.

2. **Public health material provisions.** This intervention may include placing handwashing stations, Porta-Potties, shower facilities, and/or other hygiene tools at the encampment site.
   a. **When it may be used:** This intervention may be used at as many encampments as the District can reasonably serve given its resources.
      i. When possible, this intervention may be coordinated with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD), IVRPD’s “IV Encampment Working Group” partners – as defined in Section II.A., and/or any other relevant local, state, and/or federal public health departments or authorities.

3. **Public health communications.** This intervention may include Outreach workers and/or other First Responders providing information about COVID-19 to homeless encampments; working with any site leadership to arrange the physical site to comply with CDC guidance; offering hotel or other alternative COVID-19-specific shelter interventions available to individuals who meet the testing, exposure, or risk criteria, set by the County of Santa Barbara or other relevant local, state, and/or federal public health departments, for such shelter; and/or brainstorming ways to institute feasible social distancing measures.
   a. **When it may be used:** This intervention may be used at as many encampments as the District can reasonably serve given its resources.
      i. When possible, this intervention may be coordinated with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD), IVRPD’s “IV Encampment Working Group” partners – as defined in Section II.A., and/or any other relevant local, state, and/or federal public health departments or authorities.

4. **Public health, safety or access clean and clear.** This intervention may include individuals encamped at a site temporarily moving to mitigate public health, safety or access risks, and then allowing individuals to return to the site.
   a. **When it may be used:** This intervention may be used at as many encampments as the District can reasonably serve given its resources.
      i. In performing this intervention, the District will provide adequate notice to those affected individuals, as provided in Section VI.
      ii. When possible, this intervention may be coordinated with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD), IVRPD’s “IV Encampment Working Group” partners – as defined in Section II.A., and/or any other relevant local, state, and/or federal public health departments or authorities.

5. **Partial closure.** This intervention may include partially moving and/or closing an encampment and offering affected encamped individuals’ relocated shelter and/or alternative housing opportunities.
   a. **When it may be used:** This intervention may be used at as many encampments as the District can reasonably serve given its resources.
      i. In performing this intervention, the District will provide adequate notice to those affected individuals, as provided in Section VI.
In performing this intervention, the District, in conjunction with the County of Santa Barbara and its other partners, will make good faith offers to all affected encamped individuals of relocated shelter and/or alternative housing opportunities. The District will make good faith efforts to provide the appropriate resources to assist individuals in assessing their options for shelter and/or alternative housing.

When possible, this intervention may be coordinated with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD), IVRPD’s “IV Encampment Working Group” partners – as defined in Section II.A., and/or any other relevant local, state, and/or federal public health departments or authorities.

6. **Closure.** This intervention may include fully closing an encampment and providing all encamped individuals relocated shelter and/or alternative housing opportunities.
   a. **When it may be used:** This intervention may be used at as many encampments as the District can reasonably serve given its resources.
      i. In performing this intervention, the District will provide adequate notice to those affected individuals, as provided in Section VI.
      ii. In performing this intervention, the District, in conjunction with the County of Santa Barbara and its other partners, will make good faith offers to all affected encamped individuals of relocated shelter and/or alternative housing opportunities. The District will make good faith efforts to provide the appropriate resources to assist individuals in assessing their options for shelter and/or alternative housing.
      iii. When possible, this intervention may be coordinated with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD), IVRPD’s “IV Encampment Working Group” partners – as defined in Section II.A., and/or any other relevant local, state, and/or federal public health departments or authorities.

VI. Notice Procedures Regarding Interventions

To the extent feasible, the District will follow the procedures stated below to provide notice prior to an encampment intervention.

1. **Non-emergency interventions**

For any non-emergency intervention, the District will provide adequate notice as follows: The District will work with those encamped to ensure the effectiveness of the intervention and for those interventions listed in Section V(1)(4)-(6) will provide at least a 72-hour notice unless there is an emergency that prevents such notice from being provided, as described in the section below. The 72-hour notice will be provided in writing, via posting around the site, and, as feasible, orally to those encamped. To avoid delays to outreach efforts or placement of sanitation amenities, the interventions listed in Section V(2)-(3) are exempt from the noticing provisions outlined in this section. For non-emergency interventions involving the temporary moving of encamped individuals or partial/full closures (only those listed in Section V(4)-(6) meet this criteria), the 72-hour notice will define the alternative shelter/housing location(s) available for encamped persons to relocate to. Any property that is removed from an encampment shall be, to the extent it is not deemed a threat to health or safety, retained by the District and made available for reclamation by the owner thereof in accordance with applicable law.

2. **Emergency interventions**

For any emergency intervention (only those listed in Section V(4)-(6) are potentially “emergencies”), the District will make a good faith effort to provide those encamped with some form of notice, such as outreach workers visiting the site and sharing information orally or in writing, if such notice is feasible. For certain public health, safety or access interventions, the District may be unable to provide prior notice due to the nature of the emergency. If feasible, any such emergency notice will define any alternative shelter/housing location(s) available for encamped individuals to relocate to.
CEMP
Appendix A
Anisq’Oyo’ Park

AUGUST 2020

Isla Vista Recreation & Park District
961 Embarcadero Del Mar
Isla Vista CA 93117
Site Summary

Anisq’Oyo (AO) Park is a 2.65-acre park located at 950 Embarcadero Del Mar, in downtown Isla Vista (IV) – see map below – that contains large open spaces, children’s playground equipment, a historic windmill, a human-made urban pond, and a sizeable outdoor amphitheater. The pond and associated wetland area provide valuable riparian habitat for a variety of native and established flora and fauna, leading to the park being identified by the County of Santa Barbara as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) – one of three in IV.¹

AO Park was the first community-instituted park in IV; its name derives from the Chumash Indian name for the IV mesa. Built originally by volunteers with federal urban renewal grant funds following the civil disturbances of 1969-70, the park has been maintained by the Isla Vista Recreation & Park District (IVRPD) since the District’s formation in 1972.²

The park’s historic amphitheater is available for rent by public members and student organizations and is ideal for large public functions and recreational programming, containing restrooms, electrical outlets and a stage.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, IVRPD staff have documented significant encampment activity in AO Park. The extent of this activity currently poses numerous public health, safety and access issues and endangers sensitive habitat.

A collection of photographs documenting the ongoing encampment activity in AO Park is included in the following pages.

Top: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Bottom: Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top & Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Bottom: Unauthorized electrical access, damage to electrical outlet covers
Top: Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Bottom: Violations of IVRDP Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Staff access to facility (AO Pump House) blocked
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Bottom: Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and Bottom: Turf Degradation from prolonged compression, Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, storage of volatile solvents (top) adjacent to AO Pond.
Top: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Bottom: Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression, uncontained chemical storage (top) adjacent to AO pond
Top: Violation of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001
Bottom: Violation of Policy Manual Section 8000.020 (“...no person shall erect any structure of any kind;”)
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRDP Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top: Makeshift sanitation amenities
Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRDP Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top: Proximity of encampments to children’s playground equipment
Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, storage of volatile solvents and misc. chemicals (bottom) near children’s playground equipment.
Top and Bottom: Proximity of encampments to children’s playground equipment
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression, portable barbeque present
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression, portable barbeque present (top)
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top: Buckeye tree (Sapindaceae sp.) dying from lack of irrigation, Turf Degradation
Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation, portable barbecue present (top), storage of volatile solvents and misc. chemicals (bottom) adjacent to AO pond
Top: Buckeye tree (Sapindaceae sp.) dying from lack of irrigation, Turf Degradation
Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top: Portable barbeque present (potential IVRPD Ordinance No. 1999-2 violation)
Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
CEMP Appendix B
Sueno Orchard

AUGUST 2020
Isla Vista Recreation & Park District
961 Embarcadero Del Mar
Isla Vista CA 93117
Site Summary

Sueno Orchard is a 0.87-acre park located at 6723 Sueno Road – see map below – that is devoted to the cultivation of various fruiting trees and shrubs.

Developed by the Isla Vista Recreation & Park District (IVRPD) in the 1980’s as a demonstration project, at one time the Orchard contained over 30 kinds of trees and shrubs, mostly fruit bearing, which were cultivated using organic methods¹ and available to the Isla Vista (IV) community for consumption.

Today, the Orchard still contains many varieties, and although some no longer produce fruit it contains a lush collection of fruits, flowers, and greenery. In recent years, IVRPD partnered with the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, UCSB Sustainability Program and UCSB Alumni volunteers to plant 18 new fruiting trees and complete a full renovation of the Orchard’s irrigation system.

The Orchard also serves as the beginning of the IV Peace Disc Golf Course – a popular recreational destination for Frisbee Golfers around the South Coast.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, IVRPD staff have documented significant encampment activity in Sueno Orchard. The extent of this activity currently poses numerous public health, safety and access issues and endangers sensitive habitat.

¹IVRPD (2010). Habitat Management Plan & Parks Maintenance Plan
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top: Burn scars from electric-bicycle lithium battery fire
Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Site Summary

Camino Corto Open Space (CCOS) is an approximately 20-acre natural preserve that borders El Colegio and Camino Corto Roads and shares boundaries with Isla Vista Elementary, UCSB Stables, Tierra de Fortuna Park and residential areas on Fortuna Road and Lane (see map below). It contains native and non-native grasslands, vernal pools, riparian and freshwater wetlands, nature trails, bridges and educational signs.

The vernal pools at CCOS are considered some of the last remnants of a much larger number that were probably abundant on the Isla Vista (IV) mesa prior to its development in the 1960’s and 1970’s.¹ The reserve also contains an intermittent creek, originating to the east in Estero Park and continuing westerly flowing into the northern finger of Devereux Slough.²

Along with Anisq’Oyo Park and the Del Sol Vernal Pool Reserve, the CCOS is designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) by the County of Santa Barbara.¹

Most recreational activities taking place in the CCOS are passive in nature, and its numerous footpaths are heavily-used by families, youth and IV residents to connect with IV Elementary, University Housing, the Orfalea Family Children’s Center, UCSB Stables, Devereux Nature Preserve and surrounding residential areas.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, IVRPD staff have documented significant encampment activity in CCOS. The extent of this activity currently poses numerous public health, safety and access issues and endangers sensitive habitat.

A collection of photographs documenting the ongoing encampment activity in the Camino Corto Open Space is included in the following pages.

²IVRPD (2010). Habitat Management Plan & Parks Maintenance Plan
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Bottom: Makeshift sanitation amenities
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top: Cannabis cultivation
Bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Top: Top and bottom: Violations of IVRPD Ordinance No. 2002-001, Policy Manual Section 8000.020, Turf Degradation from prolonged compression
Bottom: Cannabis Cultivation (right of center)