

PACIFICA

Pacifica is a small coastal community of 40,000 people located 15 miles south of San Francisco. It is an area rich in open space, parklands, beach access, and hiking trails. The City has approved policies for sustainability that include alternative energy production, water recycling, and solid waste recycling.

Carbon Emissions and Water

The City has undertaken several projects to generate energy locally and to provide citizens with transportation alternatives to their automobiles.

- The construction of a photovoltaic power generation system for the wastewater treatment plant has a peak generating power capacity of 350 kilowatt.
- An innovative recycling plant generates up to three million gallons of tertiary recycled wastewater treated to near drinking water standards. The water is currently being used in wetland restoration.
- Through grant funding and collaboration with the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG), the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), and the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, Pacifica started a local 'Goldline' shuttle as a pilot program to offset congestion and to encourage local merchant patronage.

Land Use/Habitat Protection

The City adopted a no litter/smoking ordinance for City beaches in an effort to preserve sensitive ecosystems, wildlife, and reduce pollution of sands, wetlands, and water.

Since the Helen Putnam Award for the Pacifica State Beach Improvement Project was awarded in 2005, beach usage is at an all-time high, the restored wetlands are drawing more than 75 bird species, the trout are spawning in the lower streams, and the local merchants are enjoying the increased vitality of the Linda Mar Beach area.

The excavation and planting near the San Pedro Creek mouth, planting in and around Linda Mar Pump Station, and the wetland at the new Skate Park were completed. Well organized community groups sponsor ongoing beach cleanups for the community as well as native plantings.

The City has developed major links to its 'hiking and biking' trails along the Coast and Highway One corridor in an ongoing expansion project to provide opportunities for nonpolluting travel. Goals include increased tourism and community enjoyment of open space. The trails are listed in the Coastal Conservancy's 'Wheelchair Riders' guide.

Health & Safety

The City of Pacifica continues to maintain public awareness as a top priority in disaster preparedness. The emergency management staff and the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Commission recently held a disaster preparedness fair, which was attended by over 500 citizens. The City continues to hold annual disaster exercises for staff. Most recently, a pandemic flu exercise was held for City staff and department heads. During the month of November, the City also participated in the statewide Golden Guardian exercise.

The City Council approved the Public Works project for a City-wide tree survey and Citywide landscape plan. These surveys will assist staff prioritize work and identify hazardous tree situations as a part of the new tree program.

Partnership for a Safe and Healthy Pacifica, a grass-roots group, garnered a \$500,000 grant for work on alcohol awareness/prevention for teens, and in collaboration with the City, implemented a Responsible Merchant Award for the prevention of alcohol sales to underaged youth. The Partnership is working with Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Department (PB&R) to provide more activities for teens.

Pacifica has a well-developed Meals on Wheels program and an information and referral program for at-risk seniors and people with disabilities.

Civic Participation/Culture

The PB&R is committed to serving the community by providing a wide variety of recreational programs and services for all ages, utilizing facilities, parks, and beaches. A well-developed aquatics program provides a year-long indoor swim program and sponsors swim meets, bringing many people into the community.

Pacifica Center for the Arts houses artist studios, two galleries, the Performing Arts center featuring renowned artists, and a digital photography studio. Spindrift Players Theater group provides play productions and hosts a school for performing arts for youth.

The newly renovated Pacifica State Beach/Linda Mar hosts a variety of surfing events and is used all year round. Adjacent to the beach is a Class 10 Skate Park which made its debut with a grand opening this year, bringing people from all over the globe into the City.

Child Care

The City maintains a growing, grant-funded childcare program serving over 320 families, accommodating over 160 subsidized families, helping them stay in the area. In addition to these school-site programs, two state preschool programs are in operation with the opening of a new free or reduced-fee all-day preschool program at a City facility.



The City of Pacifica's Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant, a SSMC 2000 Award Winner. Photo Courtesy of the City of Pacifica.