

Park: Pillar Point Bluff

Project Name: Removal of Invasive Species Along Park Boundary with Pillar Ridge

Rank ID #: 22

Size: 18 acres

New or Existing: New

Implementation Status: Planning 2021, permitting 2022, implementation 2023

Project Description and Parameters: Mitigate the threat of wildfire to the Pillar Ridge community by removing the 18-acre grove located between the Jean Lauer Trail and the park's eastern boundary. Due to the unhealthy Monterey Pine and non-native species present in the grove, it presents a direct threat to local residents.

Location Specifics: The 18-acre grove to be removed is located between Jean Lauer Trail and the Pillar Ridge Manufactured Home Community. Please see the map depicting the project boundaries below.

Treatment Types: Removal of Monterey pine and other non-native trees and invasive vegetation.

Treatment Methods: Parks Department field staff and contractors will utilize manual and mechanical treatment methods to remove all trees, invasive species, and woody vegetation from along the park's border with the Pillar Ridge community. Felled trees and other vegetation will be processed using a chipper, and wood chips will be retained on site to assist with erosion control and weed suppression. Trees too large to be processed by the chipper will be processed using a horizontal grinder. Chemical treatment will likely be required to control the regrowth of non-native species. All appropriate protocols will be implemented to protect and avoid rare, threatened, endangered, and/or sensitive species. Appropriate erosion control measures will be put in place to avoid sedimentation of nearby waterways.

Project Benefits: Completion of this project will improve public safety by: mitigating the threat of wildfire to nearby residents by removing dead, dying, and hazardous trees, and breaking the continuity of vertical and horizontal fuels; and preserving emergency responders' ability to access a fire and conduct fire containment and suppression activities. This project will also provide ecological benefits by serving as a step toward converting the stand to native coastal prairie.

Implementation & Maintenance Interval: Initial treatment is estimated to take two to three years to complete. Maintenance should occur every three years thereafter, depending on observations made during monitoring.

Cost and Budget: Estimated 5-year cost to complete treatment and retreatment activities is \$1,476,000. Initial treatment is estimated to cost \$1,107,000, and retreatment activities are estimated to cost \$369,000.

Responsible Parties: Parks Department's Natural Resource Management Division will manage project planning, permitting, and implementation. The division will also be responsible for environmental avoidance and minimization measures, flagging sensitive resources, and monitoring project areas. Parks Department field staff will be responsible for on-site coordination with contractors, enforcing any trail closures, and maintaining treated areas.

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