



Big Basin Briefing #12: August 2022

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MAKING BIG BASIN SAFE FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE



- ❑ On August 8, the number of day-use parking reservations available through the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks website doubled to a total of 88 available spaces for reservation. The reservation system has continued to fill quickly for weekend reservations.
- ❑ Please remember to reserve these passes in advance and keep in mind that only some of the trails will be open; the rest will be made available when they are safe. To learn more about the reservation system click [here](#).
- ❑ Park users have continued to access the park by the SC Metro bus (Saturdays and Sundays) and by bicycle, without a reservation or entrance fee.
- ❑ California Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Santa Cruz District Trail Crew are currently repairing a segment of Skyline to the Sea Trail. This 1.5 mile segment starts from Gazos Creek Road along Opal Creek to North Escape Road, opening another hiking loop in the park. Crews are clearing burned vegetation, mitigating hazard trees, and reconstructing footbridges, steps, and retainer walls destroyed in the fire. Vegetation and debris are being placed into piles and will be burned off this winter after rain, helping reduce fuel loads along the trail.
- ❑ Improvements and furniture have been added to the temporary visitor center at Big Basin at the former Headquarters. A new interior counter has been designed and is being constructed to add to the functionality of the building.
- ❑ A construction contract for additional temporary improvements at Saddle Mountain including drainage improvements, site host hookup installation and grading a small area for vehicle and staff equipment storage is out to bid to potential contractors.
- ❑ The Marsh Trail at Rancho Del Oso is temporarily closed for repairs.
- ❑ Parks staff has been working with CalFire to establish safe helicopter landing zones in backcountry for emergency response..



LEARN ABOUT BIG BASIN'S RECOVERY

- ❑ The Reimagining Big Basin website has been updated along with completion of the Vision Summary.
- ❑ Parks employees staffed an informational table at the CZU Fire Remembrance event at Brookdale Lodge on August 18, providing information about interim park access and the Reimagining Big Basin Vision.
- ❑ Parks staff led a tour of the park with City of Capitola staff to share information regionally.
- ❑ There has been additional media coverage of the park, including an interesting article about getting to Big Basin by Bus.
- ❑ An article about the Amah Mutsun Land Trust and State Parks' relationship at the coast in Quiroste Valley was published by Bank of the West.

LONG TERM PARK PLANNING

- ❑ The Reimagining Big Basin Vision Summary has been revised based on reactions and feedback to the public draft vision summary. The final version was posted in August on the reimaginingbigbasin.org website.
- ❑ Park managers are reviewing a draft Cornerstone Document for Big Basin Redwoods State Park. This foundational document describes the post fire conditions in the park and incorporates information from the Vision Summary and General Plan in a new park planning document format.
- ❑ Parks California has kicked off a preliminary park transportation study with consultants Fehr & Peers to focus on developing potential shuttle options for future park planning. Preliminary data collection began in August.
- ❑ Parks California issued a Request for Proposals for a Visitor Use Management Study for Big Basin to be completed in 2023. Six proposals were received and are under review by a panel of Parks California and State Parks staff.
- ❑ Parks staff are working with County DPW Roads to determine costs associated with improving access on Little Basin County Road to the Little Basin area in the park.
- ❑ The Northern Service Center has kicked off a feasibility study for future potential improvements to Sky Meadow Road to assess potential for improved access to the Sky Meadow area in the park.

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