



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA, 95062

PHONE: (831) 454-7901 – FAX: (831) 454-7940

SCPARKS.COM

NEWS RELEASE

Date: October 21, 2026

Contact: Tiffany Martinez

Tiffany.Martinez@santacruzcountyca.gov

GRAND OPENING CEREMONY FOR PACE FAMILY WILDERNESS TRAILS AT QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH COUNTY PARK IN FELTON

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, along with District 5 Supervisor Monica Martinez, will celebrate the opening ceremony of the Pace Wilderness Trails at Quail Hollow County Park, providing public access to nearly 80 acres of previously inaccessible open space and approximately 6 miles of new hiking trails.

WHAT: Quail Hollow County Park Pace Wilderness Trails grand opening Ceremony

WHERE: 800 Quail Hollow Road, Felton, CA 95018

WHEN: Monday, Oct. 26 at 1 p.m.

The trail system includes a roughly half mile trail connecting the existing Sunset Trail at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park to the Pace Family Wilderness property. Trail alignments were designed to minimize impacts to sensitive vegetation and natural drainage features, allowing visitors to experience the landscape while protecting its ecological character.

“The opening of the Pace Family Wilderness Trails represents an important new access to what was previously an unreachable island of public open space. This greatly expands opportunities for people to experience one of Santa Cruz County’s most unique natural landscapes,” County Parks Director Jeff Gaffney said. “This project reflects years of planning, collaboration and stewardship by the County, our partners and the community. We are excited to welcome visitors to these trails and provide a new way to explore and appreciate the remarkable Santa Cruz Sandhills.”

This project also features *Sandhills Sentinels*, a public art installation consisting of four steel sculptures highlighting species found only in the Sandhills habitat. Each bilingual sculpture identifies its featured species: Ben Lomond Spineflower, Ben

Lomond Wallflower, Mount Hermon June Beetle, and Zayante Band-Winged Grasshopper.

“Many local residents have been visiting Quail Hollow Ranch for decades, and while there is always something new and wonderful blooming or hatching there, being able to open these new trails to visitors to explore is really special,” Supervisor Monica Martinez said. “Creating access to the Pace Family Wilderness will allow the public to truly experience this unique landscape while also preserving the character and ecological value of the property for future generations.”

The Pace trail project was developed through collaboration among Santa Cruz County Parks, community partners, park volunteers, AmeriCorps and was funded with a matching grant of \$200,000 from the State’s Habitat Conservation Fund.

###