

Welcome to Arana Gulch



Arana Gulch is a 63-acre green belt land feature valuable habitats, including wetlands, central coast riparian scrub, central coast live oak riparian forest, and coastal terrace prairie. Approximately one-third of Arana Gulch features wetlands. The Arana Creek floodplain, located along the eastern boundary of the property, comprises most of the wetland acreage. There are also seasonal freshwater wetlands scattered throughout the upper grassland area.

TRAILS

The primary trail route in Arana Gulch provides a connection from Agnes Street to the upper harbor (less than one-half mile). Hiking and bicycling are allowed on this primary route. A footpath also encircles the southern meadow area. Please stay on trails. Arana Gulch features sensitive habitat areas that can be damaged by off-trail use.

BIKING

- Bike riders be mindful of others on the path.
- No riding on dirt trails.

DOG REGULATIONS STRICTLY ENFORCED

Dogs must be on leash at all times. Keep dogs on trails. Arana Gulch features sensitive habitat areas that can be damaged by dogs. Please be courteous and clean up after your pet.



PARKING

- No on-site parking
- Agnes Street – On-street parking
- Upper Harbor – Trail entrance to Arana Gulch located along the western boundary of the harbor storage yard.

ENTRANCES

- Frederick Street at Broadway
- Agnes Street at Mentel Avenue
- 7th Avenue at Brommer Street

VISITOR HOURS

Summer (April – October) Sunrise to 7 p.m.

Winter (November – March) Sunrise to 4 p.m.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

(831) 420-5270

santacruzparksandrec.com

ARANA GULCH



CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
PARKS & RECREATION

SANTA CRUZ TARPLANT

Historically, Santa Cruz tarplant was found in coastal prairies between Marin and Monterey Counties. As a result of development and habitat destruction, Santa Cruz tarplant is now found in fewer than 20 locations. Arana Gulch has the potential to be one of the largest of these remaining



Santa Cruz tarplant

populations. In the late 1980's there were more than 100,000 plants here. Since grazing was removed from Arana Gulch in 1988, the Santa Cruz tarplant population has declined sharply and recently there have been fewer than 100 plants here. The City of Santa Cruz has been actively trying to restore the Santa Cruz tarplant since it purchased the property in 1994.

Healthy California coastal prairies are considered the most species-rich grasslands on the continent. Before European settlement more than 200 years ago, native wildflowers, such as tarplants, were maintained by disturbance processes such as fire and grazing. The new use of land introduced non-native plant species and displaced many native plants over time. Experience gained from other tarplant areas suggest that cattle grazing may improve the coastal prairie and return many native wildflowers.



CATTLE GRAZING

Cattle grazing is an important resource management practice at Arana Gulch to help restore the coastal prairie habitat of the Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*), which is vulnerable to extinction. Visitors may see cattle grazing in the fenced areas at Arana Gulch from October to June each year.

GRAZING AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Properly managed cattle grazing has improved coastal prairies in central California. In the City of Santa Cruz, grazing at the Moore Creek Open Space Preserve has improved and continues to maintain habitat for the federally endangered Ohlone tiger beetle. Livestock grazing is used by the East Bay and South Bay park districts, water districts, and landowners to reduce wildfire threat and maintain habitat for many of California's threatened and endangered plants and animals. The grazing operation at Arana Gulch is strictly monitored and based upon accepted principles of range management.

For more information about habitat management at Arana Gulch, please visit: cityofsantacruz.com/habitatmanagementataranagulch.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The cattle grazing at Arana Gulch have been selected based on their gentle temperament. However, cattle may act aggressively if they perceive a threat and can harm themselves and others. Please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Keep dogs on leash and under control. Cattle perceive dogs as predators.
- Do not allow your dog to chase or harass the cattle. They can hurt or kill dogs, charge through fences, or injure themselves or you.
- Never enter the fenced grazing area.
- Mother cows may be extra protective of their calves. Do not get between a mother and her calf.
- If you see cattle outside the fences, keep your distance and call 911. The rancher will be contacted immediately.
- Report any incidences or aggressive, injured, or sick cattle to the Parks and Recreation Department at (831) 420-5270

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911

