

EDUCATION & RESEARCH



Mark Bright

Monarchs burst into flight with the sun's warmth



Joan Bernett

First grader cradles a Monarch

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Under City of Goleta ownership and management, educational programs will continue to be developed and expanded. Currently, area schoolchildren have field trips to the Monarch groves to observe overwintering butterflies and learn about environmental stewardship. More interpretive signs are planned at the City's coastal access parking lot and other areas within the Preserve.

RESEARCH

The Sperling Preserve is contiguous to the University of California at Santa Barbara open space areas including Coal Oil Point Natural Reserve. University and other researchers regularly conduct field studies on the population and behavior of variety of species in these coastal open space areas. The Ellwood Mesa's natural habitats, Monarch Butterflies, Snowy Plovers, White-tailed Kites, and numerous other raptors provide research opportunities for professional biologists, naturalists and students.



Photo courtesy of Ellwood School

Fifth graders visit a Monarch wintering site



Monarch interpretive sign



Margaret Duncan

Raptor field study



Margaret Duncan

Councilmember Cynthia Brock and City staff tour Monarch roosting site

PRESERVATION, RECREATION & ACCESS



Mark Bright

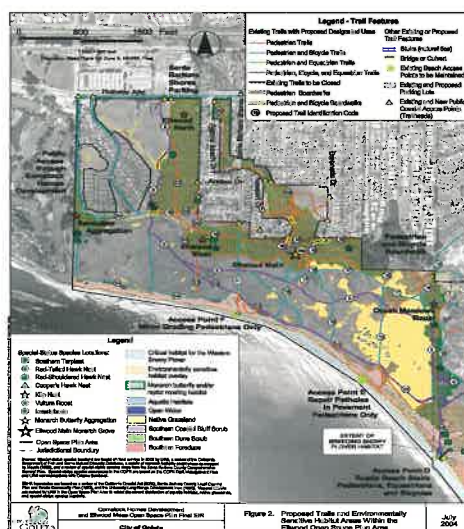
Model gliders ride the bluff thermals

PRESERVATION & RECREATION

The City's ownership of the 137-acre Sperling Preserve permits people of all ages and income groups to enjoy recreational pursuits of many forms. Local residents and visitors alike can enjoy hiking, jogging, bicycling, horseback riding, swimming, surfing, birdwatching, painting, photography, and picnicking year round.

COASTAL ACCESS

The City's construction of a new 45-space coastal access parking lot will replace a 15-space lot being displaced by the Comstock Homes Project. The City's new lot will provide enhanced public access to the open space. Trails will be maintained to ensure safe access to the Preserve's coastal resources.



Proposed trails & coastal access map



Mark Bright

Ellwood paths are used at all times of the day



Margaret Duncan

Late afternoon family walk



Mark Bright

Ellwood Mesa is bordered by nearly a mile of beach

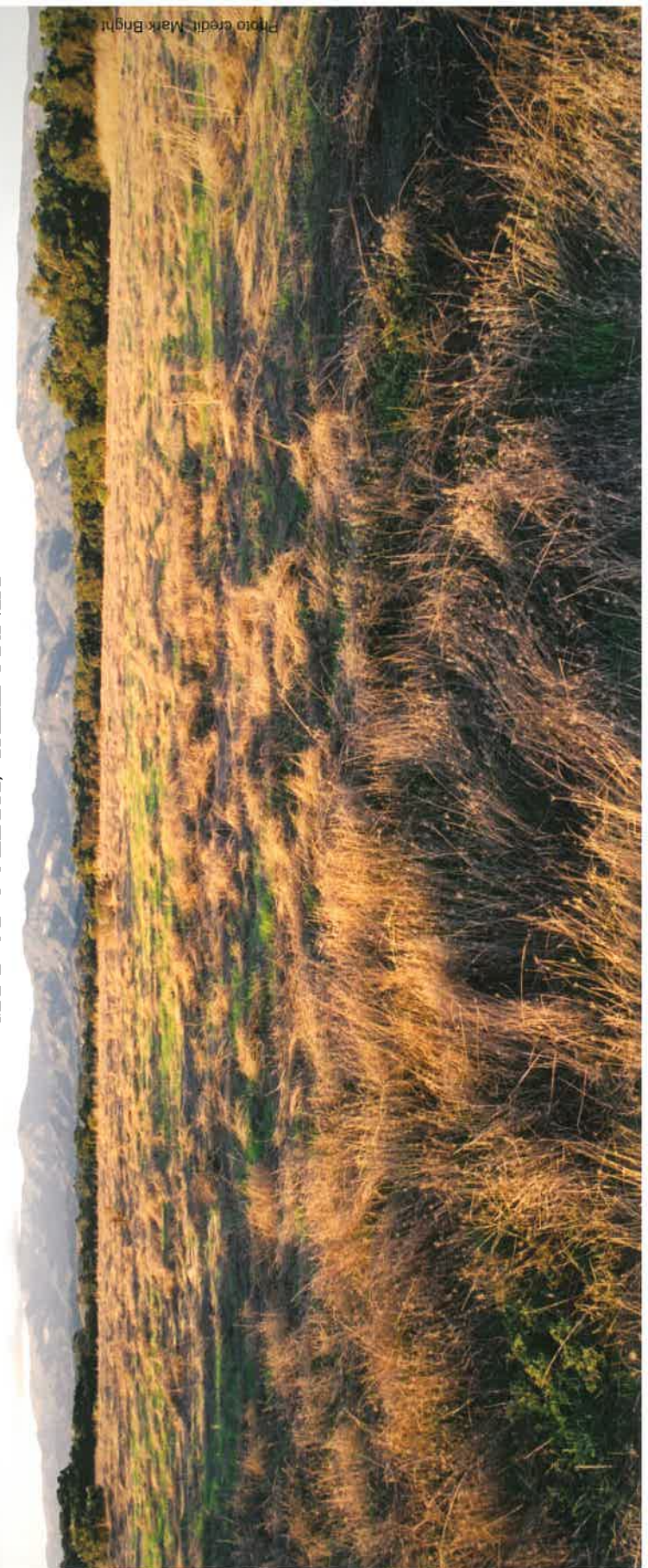


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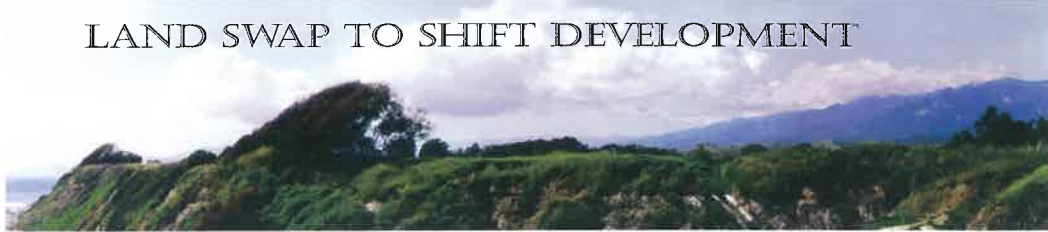
Artists capture the landscape

THE ELLWOOD MESA LAND SWAP

CITY OF GOLETA, CALIFORNIA



LAND SWAP TO SHIFT DEVELOPMENT



SENSITIVE HABITAT AREA

Located in Goleta, California, the Ellwood Mesa is a magnificent 137-acre coastal property offering habitat for numerous species as well as an array of educational and recreational opportunities.

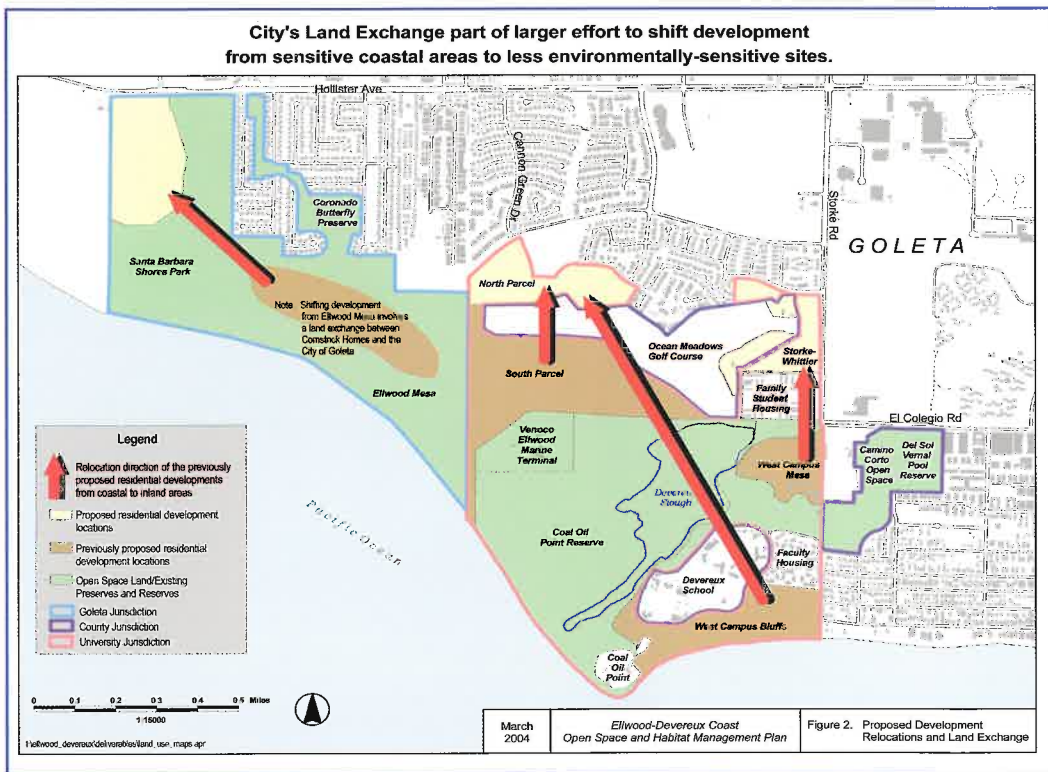
INNOVATIVE SOLUTION

While the use of the Ellwood Mesa property had been the subject of dispute for years, the City of Goleta, with the assistance of several partners, orchestrated a resolution to the competing needs. An innovative land swap, made possible through the fund-raising work of the Trust for Public Land and Friends of the Ellwood Coast, resulted in the shifting of the proposed residential development to adjacent property further back from the coastal bluffs and the preservation of the Ellwood Mesa. The Ellwood Mesa property was then named the *Sperling Preserve* in recognition of the generous contribution of Peter and Stephanie Sperling.

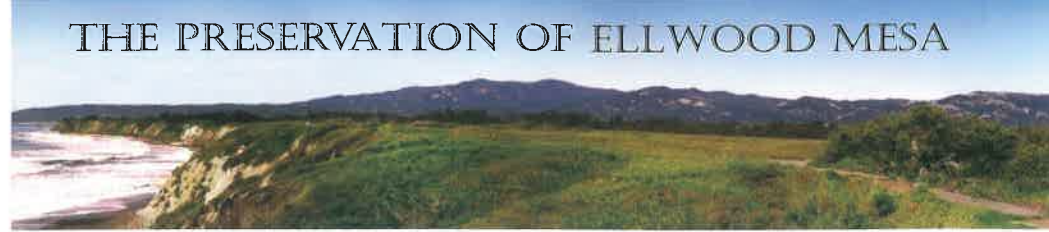
The land swap involved the transfer of development from the environmentally-sensitive coastal bluff to land close to existing development.



Ellwood Mesa



THE PRESERVATION OF ELLWOOD MESA



Critical steps in the City's preservation effort:

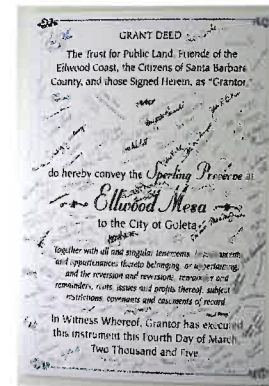
- February 2002 – City of Goleta incorporates
- January to March 2003 – Memorandum of Understanding executed between the City of Goleta, UCSB, and the County of Santa Barbara to jointly pursue the Ellwood-Devereux Coast Open Space Plan
- January 2003 – Trust for Public Land along with Friends of Ellwood Coast initiates fundraising for the land swap
- January to August 2003 – Ellwood-Devereux Coast Open Space & Habitat Management Plan drafted
- March 2004 – Draft EIR released for Comstock Homes & Ellwood Mesa Open Space Plan
- April to July 2004 – City Council reviews the Comstock Homes Project, Ellwood Mesa Open Space Plan, and EIR
- June to July 2004 – City Council certifies the Final EIR & Addendum, adopts the Ellwood Mesa Open Space & Habitat Management Plan, and approves the Comstock Homes Project
- July 2004 – City Council adopts resolution naming Ellwood Mesa property the *Sperling Preserve*, in honor of a generous donation from Peter and Stephanie Sperling
- August 2004 – Application to California Coastal Commission submitted for Comstock Homes and City coastal access parking lot
- December 2004 – Trust for Public Land achieves \$20.4 million fund-raising goal
 - Major Private Donors: Sperling Family, Wendy McCaw, and the Goleta Valley Land Trust
 - Major Public Donors: California Coastal Conservancy, California Wildlife Conservation Board, Caltrans, NOAA, and the County of Santa Barbara
- January 2005 – California Coastal Commission approves Comstock Homes & City parking lot
- February 2005 – Close of Escrow securing City ownership of the Ellwood Mesa



March 2004



June 2004



Ceremonial Grant Deed for Ellwood Mesa

ELLWOOD LAND SWAP | SAVING AND SHARING THE COAST

ELLWOOD MESA HABITATS

ENVIRONMENTALLY-SENSITIVE HABITATS

Ellwood Mesa's floral and faunal diversity is supported by the wide range of habitats found in the 137-acre property, which includes riparian woodland, eucalyptus woodland, coastal scrub, native and introduced grasses, recovering grasslands, creek beds, vernal pools, sand dunes, beach, bluffs, tide pools, and open ocean. The preservation of the Ellwood Mesa ensures that the nesting, hunting, and foraging habitats for a wide variety of species will be maintained.



Monarchs in Ellwood Main grove

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

The Monarch butterfly migration is an international phenomenon, followed by schoolchildren and naturalists throughout North America. Monarchs who spend the summer east of the Rockies fly to wintering sites in Mexico, while western Monarchs spend the winter at various sites on the California coast. The Ellwood Main Monarch aggregation site is one of the largest roosting areas in California with close to 100,000 Monarch butterflies in some years.



White-tailed Kite fledglings

BIRDS OF ELLWOOD MESA

The Ellwood Mesa, now known as the *Sperling Preserve*, is one of the richest sites in the Goleta area in terms of both numbers of species and numbers of birds. Approximately 200 species, including some that are endangered, threatened, or regionally significant, frequent the Ellwood Mesa area. Additionally, large numbers of migrating birds, pass through the area in the spring and fall, while many winter here.



Western Snowy Plovers nest in the nearby dune habitat



Grassland habitat



Vernal pool habitat