

Morro Bay

CALIFORNIA



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& GENERAL ENGINEERING

PLEASE RESPECT AND HONOR THE
FISHERMEN'S FAMILY SCULPTURE.
MANY FAMILIES HAVE GOOD IN
THIS VERY SPOT. DO NOT
AND IN BAY. WITH THEIR
FAMILY MEMBERS OUT
AND RETURN TO THE SEA.
EACH SCULPTURE HAS BEEN
NAMED IN HONOR OF SOME
VERY SPECIAL FAMILIES.
MOTHER - JOSEPHINE
SON - JOSEPH
DAUGHTER - DAVID

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
COMMUNITY WITHOUT WHOSE
GENEROUS SUPPORT THIS
PROJECT WOULD NOT
BE POSSIBLE.
YOUR MONETARY DONATIONS
AND DONATIONS OF
MATERIALS

THE FISHERMEN'S FAMILY SCULPTURE
DEDICATED TO
"THOSE WHO NAVY"

CITY OF MORRO BAY
MARINE CENTER



Maps & Demographics

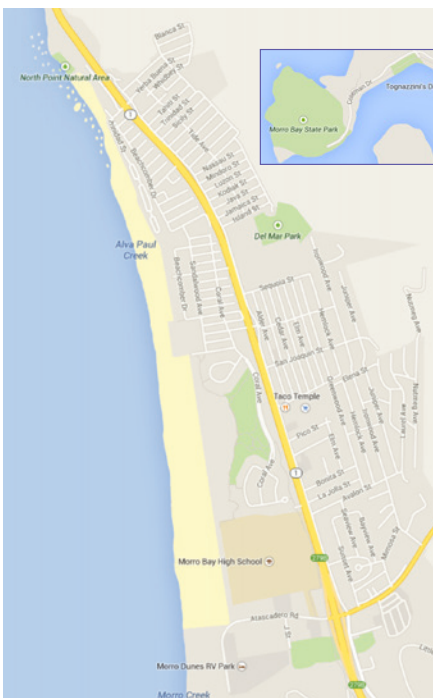
Morro Bay Overview

Morro Bay is located along Highway 1, halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.



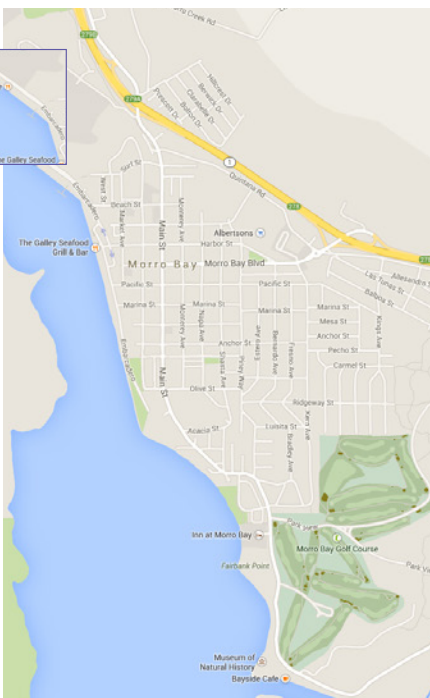
North Morro Bay

Offering full ocean views capped with North Point, a park with a beach access stairway to great tide pooling.



South Morro Bay

The heart of the city and home to the Embarcadero, which boasts great dining, shopping and activities.



GOOGLEMAPS.COM/DATA CSUMB SFML, CA OPC, DIGITALGLOBE, LANDSAT, USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY

History & Demographics

- California's scenic Highway 1 runs through the city.
- The modern history of Morro Bay as a town began in 1864 when Franklin Riley built a home on land in the current downtown. Morro Bay incorporated as a city in 1964, mostly as a result of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's construction of a power plant in 1955.
- The power plant, which closed in 2014, is situated on 100 acres of prime coastal land.
- Morro Bay's annual general fund budget is approximately \$12 million. Transient occupancy taxes (a lodging tax paid by visitors) accounts for 20% of revenue.
- Morro Bay's economy has become more dependent on tourism since the closing of the power plant. Hospitality and retail sector employment comprises approximately 35% of total local employment. Morro Bay is one of 15 working fishing ports in California. The commercial-fishing industry based in Morro Bay is a significant part of the local economy. The 70 working vessels comprising Morro Bay's commercial fishing fleet are 70 small businesses in a city that also has fish-processing operations and vessel services. The total amount of fish caught commercially, and its cash value, has increased over the past seven years after years of decline.

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On the Cover: Installed in 2016, the fishermen's family sculpture dedicated to "Those Who Wait" the families of all mariners was gifted to the City of Morro Bay by the Central Coast Women for Fisheries, Inc. The sculpture was created by artist Elizabeth MacQueen.

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Morro Bay is a coastal city in San Luis Obispo County, California.

- **Population** 10,234; The population estimate for the city in 2015 was 10,639, an increase of 4.0% from the 2010 census.
- **Morro Bay in Bloom Website:**
www.MorroBayInBloom.org
- **Morro Bay Website:**
www.morrobayca.gov
- **City Staff Contact:** David Buckingham, City Manager, 805-772-6205, dbuckingham@morrobayca.gov
- **Mayor:** Jamie Irons, 805-550-6595, jirons@morrobayca.gov
- **City Area in Square Miles:** 5.3
- **Acres of Active Recreation:** 50.9
- **Acres of Passive Recreation:** 10.9
- **Volunteer Coordinator:**
Walter Heath, 805-550-4492



Welcome!



CITY OF MORRO BAY

CITY HALL
595 Harbor Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442

April 6, 2017

Dear Judges,

On behalf of the City and our community I would like to welcome the judges from America in Bloom to the City of Morro Bay. This year we have been blessed with an abundance of water that California hasn't seen in over a decade. Our beautiful natural setting here on the Central Coast of California is now blanketed with a green coastal mountain range. We are expecting a spectacular season of wild flowers which we hope you will experience while you are visiting.

While this years rain fall is welcomed, the real nourishment comes from our community of volunteers that work throughout the year to help build a beautiful community. An attractive community draws visitors, and is a source of pride for local businesses and residents.

However, Morro Bay in Bloom is much more than just planting flowers to beautify our neighborhoods and business districts. It offers order and visual appeal, focusing on the environment and sustainability of those neighborhoods, preserving culture and heritage in our community. Along with the visual beautification that Morro Bay in Bloom promotes, appropriate plant selection for our climate and best practices for conserving our water provide critically important benefits for our future.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Morro Bay in Bloom and all of our dedicated community beautification volunteers and organizations who tirelessly continue to build pride in our community. Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Jamie Irons
Mayor

www.morrobayca.gov | (805) 772-6201 | www.facebook.com/CityofMorroBay

President's Message

Welcome to Morro Bay in Bloom!

Morro Bay in Bloom experienced a year of considerable growth since the publication of our 2016 *Community Profile*. **Morro Bay in Bloom volunteers**, admirably referred to as **Bloomies** throughout this *Community Profile*, engaged their interests and made progress with projects that are significantly improving our community. The following 2016 project outcomes exemplify the breadth of interests of our volunteers and the merits of the America in Bloom program:

- One **Bloomie** suggested that a rainwater-harvesting system at Morro Bay's busiest plaza, Centennial Parkway, would show thousands of passersby that rainwater can be collected and distributed through a drip-irrigation system. *Read our "best idea" on page 22!*
- Interest by Morro Bay residents in a grove of eucalyptus trees where Monarch butterflies overwinter at the Morro Bay Park Golf Course has increased since **volunteers** planted 50 Monterey Cypress trees there in November, 2014 (*more on page 13*). The introduction of monthly tours at the site in 2016 and the formation of a "Friends of the Monarchs" group are positive signs for greater community participation in the effort to educate the public about the importance of the Monarch butterfly and its life cycle.
- Twenty-eight new street trees, planted by volunteers, are irrigated weekly by two enterprising **Bloomies** who use a 200-gallon water tank that fits in the bed of a pick-up truck.
- **Bloomies** regularly care for the areas we planted beneath two welcome signs at gateways to the city, as well as plantings at Centennial Parkway, three locations along the Harbor Walk, Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Center, library, police department and new bike park.
- A group of Morro Bay residents who are leaders of volunteer groups specializing in civic beautification, historical preservation or art, fueled by their aspirations and the America in Bloom judges' evaluation, formed the Citizens Beautification and Heritage Committee (CBHC). The CBHC recently submitted its second list of recommendations to the annual citywide objectives-setting process.
- The Morro Bay Surfboard Art Festival, produced by **Morro Bay in Bloom**, is entering its fourth year. The exhibit of art that is created on surfboards no longer in regular use will take place October 7 thru December 2, 2017. The presence of art in ordinary places retained its appeal as an estimated 10,000 visitors saw 29 pieces exhibited in 2016.

The premise behind **Morro Bay in Bloom** is simple. Our organization is a vehicle for people who want to improve their community. It's a premise that is shared by many community organizations in Morro Bay. You can read about other projects, large and small, in this *Community Profile*. I feel privileged to be the one who gets to brag about what Morro Bay volunteers do.



BEAUTIFYING MORRO BAY

2 Hours at a Time!

The premise behind Morro Bay in Bloom is simple and shared by many organizations in our city. Our organization is a vehicle for people who want to improve their community.

WALTER HEATH

Morro Bay in Bloom President

Floral Displays

Municipal Partnerships

- The Public Works Department has 11 volunteer groups active in its Adopt-A-Park program.
- **Bloomies** partnered with the City of Morro Bay to create a demonstration garden that shows the variety of colors provided by succulents. These succulents provide abundant cuttings to the public for propagation.
- **MBIB volunteers** planted and maintain drought-tolerant color beneath welcome signs at two gateways to the city.
- The Morro Bay Boulevard roundabout, located at a major gateway to the city, incorporates drought-tolerant color from bougainvillea and other plants. The roundabout is maintained by the Rotary Club.

Commercial

- Local businesses support **Morro Bay in Bloom's** efforts by sponsoring pieces of surfboard art that are then exhibited at their places of business.
- Local businesses distribute **Morro Bay in Bloom's** "You've Done an Awesome Job!" door hangers.
- Several businesses maintain public spaces as participants in the Adopt-A-Park program. (see page 9)
- Coalesce Bookstore maintains a delightful courtyard where floral displays and bromeliads are mixed in

a calming landscape design.

- Examples of colorful floral displays featuring drought-tolerant plantings and/or drip irrigation in commercial settings include:
 - Full Moon Pottery Studio & Gallery, 345 Harbor Street
 - Dorn's Original Breakers Café, 801 Market Street
 - Garden Gallery, 680 Embarcadero
 - The plaza outside Dolphin Shirt Company, 715 Embarcadero
 - Pleasant Inn, 235 Harbor Street
 - Sea Air Inn, 845 Morro Avenue
 - Beach House Bungalow Inn & Suites, 1050 Morro Avenue

Residential

Residents reduced water usage 20 percent from 2013 levels but create colorful displays featuring drought-tolerant plantings and drip irrigation. Some examples include:

- The residence at 448 Estero Avenue exhibits a wide selection of Mediterranean plants and flowers.
- At 708 Cabrillo Place, a mature low water-impact garden is in place, showing the brilliance of succulents

and drought-tolerant grasses.

- 3030 Beachcomber Drive features another collection of various succulent species.
- The garden at 751 Cabrillo Place consists almost entirely of native plants with seasonal floral displays.
- The garden at 305 Bernardo Avenue features drought-tolerant and flowering native plants.

Community Involvement

- The site of a bronzed truck bench-seat memorial of a beloved Morro Bay resident was renewed by **Bloomies** to introduce impact color at a popular location..
- **Morro Bay in Bloom volunteers**, in partnership with the Teen Action Group, are rehabilitating the landscaping at the Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center, including the addition of floral displays.
- A community effort to plant flowering plants along the Morro Bay section of the Amgen Tour of California bike race route, led by **Morro Bay in Bloom**, resulted in the planting 337 *Osteospermum*. 🌻

The earth laughs in flowers.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

BIKE PARK INSTALLATION



HARBOR WALK



Floral Displays

Enjoying Our New Bike and Pedestrian Bridge

A picturesque four-mile bike route, completed in July 2015, connects northern Morro Bay to the waterfront (Embarcadero) and downtown. The new route features a bike/pedestrian bridge at the mouth of Morro Creek, greatly facilitating passage for bicyclists, pedestrians and emergency vehicles.

The Harbor Walk, which lies within nine acres of Coleman Park, and the recently-completed boardwalk to the bike/pedestrian bridge are part of the California Coastal Trail and the Pacific Bicycle Trail networks.



Landscaped Areas

Municipal

- The Public Works Department management discontinued irrigation of ornamental turf due to the ongoing six-year drought while maintaining electronically-controlled irrigation of approximately two acres of turf playing fields using six CalSense irrigation controllers with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system controls and weather station feedback.
- The Public Works Department is an ongoing partner of **Morro Bay in Bloom** at Centennial Parkway, installing a rainwater-harvesting system there that collects runoff from the roof of the restroom building. Two rainwater tanks have 795 gallons of holding capacity and are connected to a pump that feeds the drip irrigation system.
- The Public Works Department enlarges street-tree wells and digs planting holes whenever community street-tree planting occurs.
- The Public Works Department staff maintains 62 acres of parks within the city limits, including the following:
 - The Harbor Walk lies within nine acres of Coleman Park, which is dedicated to the man who is credited with advocating for the groundwork of the post-World War II conversion

from naval base to modern waterfront. The Harbor Walk and the recently-completed boardwalk to the bike/pedestrian bridge are part of the California Coastal Trail and the Pacific Bicycle Trail networks. The Harbor Walk that stretches from a small park adjacent to the power-plant outfall to Morro Rock provides stunning views of the harbor to the south and of the native dunes and Morro Strand State Beach to the north.

- Morro Rock Beach lies immediately adjacent to Morro Rock, a registered state historic landmark and a designated bird sanctuary for the Peregrine Falcon and other bird species. The Harbor Department staffs two lifeguard stations towers from Memorial Day until Labor Day on this beach, which is known for the rough ocean environment and sandy dunes that are characteristic of Northern California beaches.
- Located in a densely-populated residential area, Monte Young Park features a children's play area, picnic areas, open space, a public restroom, and a unique set of tennis courts facing east/west.
- Del Mar Park is a nine-acre park in northern Morro Bay that has a panoramic view of Estero Bay. Del Mar Park features dog parks for large

and small dogs, outdoor courts for basketball, tennis, and pickle ball, a small amphitheater, children's play area, barbecue pits, picnic tables, a large meadow, and horseshoe pits.

- Lila Keiser Park is a 10-acre park named for the city councilmember who helped secure the land lease from Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Lila Keiser Park is home to many of the playing fields in Morro Bay, a covered picnic area, and children's play area.
- Other waterfront parks include Anchor Memorial Park and Mariner Memorial Park, dedicated to those who lost their lives at sea.
- Centennial Parkway features one of two permanent, large-scale, outdoor chessboards in the U.S. The original set of chess pieces and Centennial Stairway are made of redwood salvaged from two dismantled city water tanks. Thousands pass through this vital link between the dockside commercial/retail area (Embarcadero) and Market Street hotels.
- Tidelands Park, at the southern end of the waterfront, is a picturesque picnic location with a nautical-themed play area that is popular with families. The park's location, amenities, and area (two acres) has made it the traditional community gathering place for Fourth of July



Landscaped Areas

Adopt-A-Park: The Groups & Organizations Contributing

The City of Morro Bay Public Works Department has 11 groups or organizations involved in their Adopt-A-Park program, which helps get the community involved with the maintenance and upkeep of the parks throughout the city.

Volunteer Group Name	Adopted Park
Morro Bay in Bloom	Centennial Parkway, Harbor Walk Entrance
Morro Bay Guerrilla Gardening Club	Shasta Pocket Park
Rotary Club of Morro Bay	Morro Bay Boulevard Roundabout
Eco Rotary Club of Morro Bay	Bayshore Bluffs
Embarcadero Inn Staff	Mariner Park
Morro Bay Yacht Club	Tidelands Park
Teen Action Club	Lila Keiser Park
Morro Cove Homeowners Association	Morro Cove
Morro Bay Beautiful	Anchor Memorial Park
Morro Bay Pups	Jody Gianinni Family Dog Park

activities.

- North Point Park consists of 1.3 acres perched on a bluff that overlooks tide pools. A stairway connects the two areas, making North Point a popular destination at low tides. Wild flowers bloom each spring in the non-irrigated meadow.
- Cloisters Park, on the former site of a historic hotel, features a preserved wetland and nature reserve.

A boardwalk runs adjacent to wild dune habitat.

- Bayshore Bluffs Park consists of 3.2 acres of natural meadow and maintained park space and features a pollinator garden planted by Girl Scouts.
- City Park hosts Art in the Park, a showcase for hand-crafted arts and jewelry that is sponsored by the Morro Bay Art Association on Me-

morial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day weekends.

Commercial

- Morro Bay's Library, operated by the San Luis Obispo County Library System, is partnering with **Morro Bay in Bloom** by paying for renovation of the drip-irrigation system and for plants that **Morro bay in Bloom** will install according to the design



Landscaped Areas

of a local professional. **Morro Bay in Bloom volunteers** have rehabilitated the landscaping on the eastern side of the building.

- Examples of well-landscaped areas featuring drought-tolerant plantings and/or drip irrigation in commercial settings include:
 - Lemos Pet Supply, 1320 Main Street, is a new building with limited but appropriate landscaping that is drought tolerant.
 - The garden behind Top Dog Coffee, 857 Main Street, uses container plantings to define seating areas.
 - La Serena Inn, 990 Morro Avenue.
 - Lolo's Mexican Restaurant, 2848 Main Street.

Residential

- The Morro Bay Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) presents an annual Garden Tour that showcases local residential gardens.
- Examples of well-landscaped areas featuring drought-tolerant plantings and/or drip irrigation in residential settings include:
 - The residence at 448 Estero Avenue exhibits a wide selection of Mediterranean plants and flowers.
 - At 708 Cabrillo Place, a mature low water-impact garden is in place, showing the brilliance of succulents



- and drought-tolerant grasses.
- 3030 Beachcomber Drive features another collection of various succulent species.
- The garden at 751 Cabrillo Place consists almost entirely of native plants with seasonal floral displays.
- The garden at 305 Bernardo Avenue features drought-tolerant and flowering native plants.

Community Involvement

- "Flash" street-tree planting: 24 volunteers, including a large contingent of **Bloomies**, properly planted 18 street trees in two hours throughout the downtown core in October 2015. The trees are being watered by two **Morro Bay in Bloom volunteers**.
- During 2016, **Bloomies** were assisted in their efforts by AmeriCorps cadets, Girl Scouts Juniors, members

of the Morro Bay Teen Action Group, and local families.

- Bonnie Johnson recognized the need for an active bicycle sports venue in Morro Bay and acted on her vision. Bonnie partnered with City of Morro Bay staff to locate an unused parcel of city-owned property upon which the ramps and banked curves of a dirt-track bicycle course could be constructed. Bonnie and her husband Brandon Kato then partnered with Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers and other Morro Bay bike enthusiasts in order to build an organization that fund-raised, organized volunteers, and publicized the project. An impressive community effort enabled the first sanctioned bicycle park in San Luis Obispo County to be built in a very short time. 🌱



CENTENNIAL PARKWAY



HARBOR WALK



Morro Bay Opens SLO County's Only Official Bike Park

Kids and adults in Morro Bay can now “charge” dirt hills to their heart’s content thanks to the recent opening of the new Morro Bay Bike Park. Morro Bay’s BMX-style bike park opened Dec. 26, covering about a half-acre of city-owned property at Main Street and Radcliff Avenue. The park is visible from Highway 1 near the Main Street exit.

The free facility, the only official course of its kind in San Luis Obispo County, fills a void of activities for youngsters, project coordinator Bonnie Johnson said. Her group spent three years planning and implementing the project.

“There really wasn’t enough to do for kids in this area, especially if they aren’t involved in youth sports,” Johnson said. “This adds a positive activity that they can do for hours. I personally believe that kids with hobbies are more confident and more successful.”

On New Year’s Day, about 30 kids and a few adults cruised around the park’s pathways and jumps. Connor Perez, 8, wearing a yellow helmet and sporting a bright blue Dodgers shirt, said that the most fun is doing “huge jumps.” “This park is so much fun,”

Perez said. “I can do huge jumps, but only if I go fast.”

Seventeen-year-old Emily Gacad and 13-year-old Orion Solu shared their knowledge of bike-park lingo: “charging” means pedaling hard into a jump; “hucking” means navigating a large drop off from higher to flatter ground; and “boosting” means flying high in the air off a dirt hill.

The park is open from sunrise to sunset to riders of all ages. “Some of us stay here pretty much all day,” Gacad said. Johnson formed her Morro Bay Bike Park group as a branch of the nonprofit Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers, through which funding is handled. They’ve raised about \$27,000 of the \$35,000 cost to complete the project. “We’re still seeking donations,” Johnson said.

The park was constructed by Santa Cruz-based Action Sports Construction, which builds bike parks around the country.

Johnson said she met with neighbors to work through concerns they had with how much space on the city property the park would take up (only a portion and not directly adjacent to housing) and to

let them know it wouldn’t be lit.

The city paid for a fence and waived permitting costs. Because it’s a city park, Morro Bay isn’t charging rent for the land. PG&E, which owns property nearby, is charging the bike park group \$500 per year for parking lot space.

Morro Bay Bike Park riders must wear helmets, and the city’s insurance covers liability. A sign warns riders that they’re engaging in a potentially hazardous sport and Morro Bay won’t be held liable for any damages.

The facility replaces an old bike park, established in the early 2000s, in Morro Bay near the former Flippo’s skating rink. But that park was taken out when the private property on which it was situated was sold.

The new park’s grand opening was held December 26, 2015. Bikers have come from as far away as Santa Maria and Atascadero to enjoy the park, organizers said. “We pushed to have it open for the Christmas break,” Johnson said. “It has been a big hit with kids.”

— The Tribune Story by Nick Wilson.

CENTENNIAL PARKWAY



STREET TREE PLANTING



Urban Forestry

Municipal

- Morro Bay's urban forest consists of 1,500 trees, 675 of which are in public right-of-way. Each tree that is in the public right-of-way has its GPS coordinates recorded in an inventory, and trees in non-residential areas are marked with an identifying medallion.
- A Landmark Tree list is available at www.morrobay.ca.gov/797/Trees and a mobile device application map has been created.
- Public Works Department staff published an update of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) in mid-2014. The UFMP includes descriptions of environmental conditions in different locations within the City and identifies appropriate tree species for those locations. See www.morro-bay.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/7702
- The Fire Department is coordinating with State Park biologists in a project to remove dead Monterey pines on a heavily-forested hill and replace them with a native species, Monterey cypress.
- The County of San Luis Obispo recently reallocated an additional \$250,000 to the City to improve sidewalk accessibility for disabled residents because of the City's well-established track-record for



successfully meeting federal funding obligations. This will also allow the City to improve the "walkability" throughout our urban forest along our Landmark Tree route.

Commercial

- Wood chips from commercial

tree-pruning operations are available to the public at no charge from piles situated at a highly-visible location across from the new bike park.

- Local businesses are encouraged to adopt street trees outside their businesses and to plant beneath them.

Residential

- Residents are encouraged to select trees from a list of recommended native trees that was developed by local arborists and members of the Morro Bay Volunteer Tree Committee (MBVTC). See www.morrobayca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7702 (pages 15-16).

Community Involvement

- The Morro Bay Volunteer Tree Committee (MBVTC) worked with city staff to draft a "Landmark Tree" ordinance that was included in the City's first Urban Forest Management Program. "Flash" street-tree planting: 24 volunteers, including a large contingent of **Bloomies** and Guerilla Gardeners, properly planted 18 street trees in two hours throughout the downtown core in October 2015.
- **Bloomies** hand-irrigate 28 recently-planted street trees weekly from a 200-gallon tank that's mounted in the bed of a pick-up truck. 🌱

STREET TREE PLANTING



STREET TREE PLANTING



Urban Forestry



Volunteers Plant 50 Monterey Cypress Trees to Provide Windbreak for Monarch Grove

More than 50 volunteers showed up on November 1, 2014, to celebrate Morro Bay's 50th anniversary of incorporation as a city by planting 50 Monterey cypress trees at Morro Bay Golf Course. As the trees grow, they will provide windbreak for a grove of Eucalyptus trees where Monarch butterflies overwinter. Monarchs require still air in order to cluster for warmth. Planting holes were pre-dug by County parks staff under the watchful eye of an archaeologist and a Chumash tribe shaman. Volunteers were trained on proper tree-planting technique. The event concluded with a social mixer and Monarch butterfly education by a

retired California Polytechnic State University biology professor and Monarch expert, Kingston Leong.

Who	More than 50 Volunteers
What	Planted 50 Monterey cypress trees
When	November 1, 2014
Where	Morro Bay Golf Course
Why	To provide windbreak for a grove of Eucalyptus trees where Monarch butterflies overwinter
How	Holes were pre-dug by County parks staff and volunteers were trained on proper tree-planting technique

Points of Interest

Beaches

- Coleman Beach, Coleman Park, 101 Coleman Drive
- Morro Beach, 200 Coleman Drive (northwest of Morro Rock)
- Morro Strand State Beach, Highway 1 & Yerba Buena Street
- No Name Beach, 200 Coleman Drive (south of Morro Rock)
- North Point Beach (pet-friendly), Highway 1 (North Morro Bay)
- Sandspit Beach, South of Morro Rock, across the bay

Museums

- Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street
- Morro Bay Estuary Center, 601 Embarcadero (2nd floor)
- Morro Bay Skateboard Museum, 601 Embarcadero
- Museum of Natural History (kids 16 & younger), 20 State Park Road

Trails

- Black Hill (3-mile trail), Morro Bay State Park, 201 State Park Road
- Cerro Cabrillo Peak (2.5-mile trail), Morro Bay State Park
- Cloister Walk (2-mile trail), Cloister Park, Highway 1 & San Jacinto
- Harbor Walk (0.5-mile trail), Morro Bay Harbor, 200 Coleman Drive

— Discover Morro Bay | MorroBay.org



Environmental Efforts

Municipal

Water Conservation

- Morro Bay continued to conserve water throughout 2016. Water consumption has exceeded the once mandatory 12 percent reduction and has consistently conserved an average of 20 percent compared to 2013 water usage. The City's rain-barrel rebate program issued 55 rebates so far, making over 5,000 gallons of rain water storage available.
- Currently 30 "cash for grass" rebates have been applied for, equaling over 16,000 square feet of irrigated turf removed.
- The design of a new water-reclamation facility will be at least capable of adaptation to tertiary treatment sometime, making the treated water available for irrigation.
- The Fire Department has a pervious concrete pad for washing equipment and testing pumps that filters water and returns it to a 15,000-gallon cistern. Water from the cistern is used to irrigate site landscaping.
- The Public Works Department has installed six CalSense irrigation controllers with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system controls and weather station feedback that regulate irrigation of (among other areas) turf playing fields.

- Low-flow Sloan valves have been installed at every toilet and urinal where possible in city-owned buildings.
- All city-owned hand wash sinks have been retrofitted with touchless, 0.5 GPM flow faucets.
- Commercial kitchen water heaters at the Morro Bay Community Center have been replaced with tankless water heaters.
- Water heaters at all three public shower facilities have been replaced with tankless water heaters.
- The first rainwater-catchment system at a city park (Centennial Parkway), a partnership between Public Works and **Morro Bay in Bloom**, became operational in 2017.

Transportation

- A picturesque 4-mile bike route, completed in July 2015, connects northern Morro Bay to the waterfront (Embarcadero) and downtown. The new route features a bike/pedestrian bridge at the mouth of Morro Creek, greatly facilitating passage for bicyclists, pedestrians and emergency vehicles.
- Morro Bay was named a Bicycle Friendly City by the League of American Bicyclists in November 2014.
- The City of Morro Bay is cooperating with San Luis Obispo County officials

to designate and properly mark city streets in northern Morro Bay as bike routes to provide the critical segment of a continuous bicycle-friendly trail between Morro Bay and Cayucos, the next town north of Morro Bay.

- In order to provide safe bicycle crossing of Atascadero Road in front of the high school, a grant was obtained to provide an additional crosswalk, green painted bike lanes, and user-activated flashing crosswalk lights.
- Local fixed route/Call-A-Ride bus service is provided throughout the city. Buses "flex" off route within a quarter of a mile to pick up or drop off prearranged Call-A-Ride trips for riders needing curb to curb service.
- K-12 students ride Morro Bay Transit free during summer months as part of a countywide promotion.
- Seasonal trolley service provides residents and visitors three fixed routes linking the North Main Street and Downtown Business Districts, Embarcadero, and State Parks.
- The Police Department has a Bicycle Patrol Unit and added two electric motorcycles in early 2017.

Energy Conservation

- The City completed installation of photo-voltaic systems on the roofs



Environmental Efforts

of six City owned buildings. These systems have the potential to offset 226,000 kWh of energy each year throughout their useful lives. These systems are enrolled in the Renewable Energy Self-Generation Bill Credit Transfer program, which allows the City to directly apply over-generation credits to buildings that do not generate energy. After re-payment of a 1 percent California Energy Commission (CEC) loan, the City will begin to realize a cost savings of just over \$400,000 annually in today's dollars.

- The Public Works Department has retrofitted 110 path fixtures, parking lot fixtures, building wall packs, flagpole lights, and restroom fixtures with 13-watt and 20-watt LED fixtures. The replaced fixtures were 70-, 100-, 150- and 400-watt metal halide and high pressure sodium fixtures. All of the old fixtures were sent to recycling for proper disposal.
- A 5.98 kW photovoltaic system was installed in 2014 at Rockies Teen Center.
- Greater than 1,200 34-watt fluorescent tube lamps in City buildings were changed to 28-watt fluorescent tube lamps.
- All work-station surge protectors at City offices have been replaced with motion sensitive surge protectors

that turn off electronics when not in use.

- Several fully programmable, internet-accessible thermostats have been installed in City offices.
- Thirty-five incandescent and fluorescent exit signs in City-owned facilities have been replaced with LED fixtures.
- Energy-efficient upgrades were made to the HVAC systems at the Harbor Patrol, Recreation Department, Police Department, City Hall, and other Morro Bay office buildings through a low interest California Energy Commission loan program. City energy conservation measures include solar-energy trash compactors in public places, solar panels, and LED lighting.

Solid Waste Disposal

- Every address receives weekly curbside pickup of recyclables, compostable waste, and garbage. Free hazardous waste and electronics disposal is available every Saturday at a recycling facility on the waste-water treatment plant property.
- The City chips pruning waste and makes the chips available free-of-charge to the public.
- City staff cleaned debris from Morro Creek in 2016 before the winter rainstorms began.

- The City Council passed an ordinance in May 2016 to ban the use of food and drink containers made from expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) and prohibits the retail sale of most styrofoam products.

Harbor

- The Harbor Department received Clean Marina certification in 2006, was re-certified for five years in 2011, and applied for another five-year re-certification in 2016.
- The Harbor Department's public showers and boat-rinse stations are metered with coin-operated systems. The free outdoor rinse showers at Morro Rock restroom were shut off.
- All Harbor Department personnel are trained hazardous-material first responders. The Harbor Department has the oil-containment capability to contain the largest expected spill from Morro Bay vessels.
- A new state-of-the-art Harbor Department oil collection center (*photo below*) was built for the purpose of collection and recycling of used oil and filters, oil absorbent pads, used engine coolant, and batteries.

Commercial

- The rainwater catchment system at Estero Community Garden was



Environmental Efforts

installed at cost by local contractors.

- Local stores have not provided plastic shopping bags since 2012. Paper bags cost \$0.10.
- Shine Café sends its food waste to a local pig farm.
- Spencer's Market granted permission for the use of the lot adjacent to their store to be developed by a volunteer group as a pocket park. The pocket park is irrigated by a City-permitted greywater system that is fed by the store's produce-wash station.

Residential

- Already one of the lower water-use communities in the county, Morro Bay citizens reduced their water use below the state-mandated reduction of 12 percent.
- The City's first permitted residential greywater system at 570 Olive Street uses shower, laundry, and dish water to irrigate non-edible plants in the garden.
- Rainwater catchment systems at 55 residences and businesses supplement potable water for irrigation.

Community Involvement

- The Public Works Department, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, and California State Parks partner with volunteers to replenish the supply of mutt mitts at 27 locations.

Greater than 358,000 mutt mitts were made available to the public during 2016.

- The ongoing general plan and local coastal plan update processes engage hundreds of residents on environmental, land use, housing, open space, conservation, noise, safety, and transportation issues.
- **Morro Bay in Bloom volunteers** managed the installation of an 800-gallon rainwater harvesting system at Centennial Parkway. This project is a cooperative community involvement effort funded by a grant from the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP), led by **MBIB**, in partnership with the City of Morro Bay. This project emphasizes education and includes an interpretive panel explaining how small-scale rainwater harvesting works with QR codes to link smartphone users to more complete information.
- **Morro Bay in Bloom volunteers** conducted a hands-on, water-wise gardening curriculum during Discovery Days at the elementary school.
- Formed in 2015 by interested residents, Morro Bay Open Space Alliance (MBOSA) is identifying opportunities to expand Morro Bay's greenbelt.
- The Citizens' Bicycle Committee annually submits a list of bicycle riders'

and pedestrians' needs. The entire 2016 list was approved for funding in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

- The annual Winter Bird Festival, produced entirely by volunteers, raises awareness of the area's unique ecosystem. The Winter Bird Festival celebrated its 20th anniversary and created 13 new events to educate participants about the natural environment. The festival had record attendance with over 580 participants and remains one of the most popular bird festivals on the west coast of North America.
- The Estero Bay Community Garden enables residents to grow their own produce. The community garden is proud of its rainwater-harvesting system that was completed with in-kind contributions from local contractors.
- The Marine Mammal Center and Pacific Wildlife Care, staffed mostly by volunteers, have extensive wildlife rehabilitation facilities on the power-plant property.
- Dune restoration with native plants continues with community-volunteer assistance at Morro Strand State Beach, which lies within the City limits.
- Door-to-door transportation by appointment for senior residents was established by a group of volunteers

CENTENNIAL PARKWAY



BIKE PARK



Environmental Efforts

Project Helps Bring Monarchs to MB

In 2016, 10,000 Monarch butterflies overwintered in a Eucalyptus grove on the Morro Bay Golf Course that, in previous years, hosted as many as 60,000 butterflies. The habitat suffers from a loss of wind-sheltering trees that died from pine pitch canker.

Morro Bay in Bloom volunteers initiated a cooperative project with a retired California Polytechnic State University biologist, the golf course superintendent, and a local civil engineer to restore the habitat and also to provide monthly tours.

This cooperative community project began with the planting of 50 Monterey Cypress trees in 2014 and will eventually include an interpretive area near the grove, a sheltered path across the golf course for visitors, and signage. A local civil engineer performed a complete analysis for the sheltered walkway on a pro bono basis, a prerequisite for seeking grant funding.

in partnership with the Morro Bay Senior Center. A van was purchased through Morro Bay Senior Citizens, Inc. and volunteer drivers began staffing the new service during February 2016.

- Dune restoration with native plants

continues with community-volunteer assistance at Morro Strand State Beach, a state park located within City limits.

- A group of concerned residents formed in 2016 and, working with County of San Luis Obispo County

Public Health Department and City of Morro Bay Public Works, developed a walking-safety audit evaluation form and will recruit volunteers to conduct a walking-safety audit of selected high-traffic areas of Morro Bay after a pilot test. 🌱



In October 2016, Central Coast Maritime Museum Association (CCM-MA) and the City of Morro Bay hosted the Maritime Museum of San Diego's replica 16th century Spanish galleon *San Salvador*. Two hundred volunteers welcomed over 10,000 visitors and school children onboard, recalling the year 1542 when Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo sailed the Pacific coastline of California. With funds raised from admission tickets plus a successful Maritime Museum charter membership campaign, there are sufficient funds to construct a first structure for the Maritime Museum of Morro Bay.

PHOTO BY MARLIN HARMS



RAINWATER TANK AT CENTENNIAL PARKWAY



MORRO BAY BOULEVARD

Heritage Preservation

Municipal

- The City of Morro Bay, as a partner with volunteers of the Central Coast Maritime Museum Association to develop a Morro Bay Maritime Museum, and Interpretive Center, provided \$70,000 in improvements at the future site of the museum, including an engineered foundation pad for the building and paving improvements.
- The City of Morro Bay granted office space to the Historical Society of Morro Bay.
- In 2015, the City Council approved naming the unnamed park on Morro Avenue between Olive and South streets to honor Morro Bay's founder Franklin Riley.

Commercial

- The Siren, 900 Main Street. The Siren is Morro Bay's oldest business in continuous operation.
- Ramos Gallery, 407 Morro Bay Boulevard. This building was built by George and Lillie Anderson in 1927 or 1928 and the second story was added a year later.
- The building behind Ramos Gallery, with a Spanish Colonial front and stained-glass windows, was the original Presbyterian Church built in 1902.
- Bayshore Realty, 560 Morro Bay Boulevard. This building was original-

ly built as a home for the parents of Edward Caccia, who purchased the entire block of Morro Bay Boulevard from Shasta to Napa Streets in 1917 for \$2,500.

- Ocean View Garage, 936 Main Street. This garage was restored by Ron McIntosh, founder of the Cruisin' Morro Bay Car Show.
- Central Coast Music, 365 Morro Bay Boulevard. This store was, at one time, a theater, dance hall, and the first movie house in Morro Bay. Elements of the theater, including the stage and the projection booth, have been preserved.

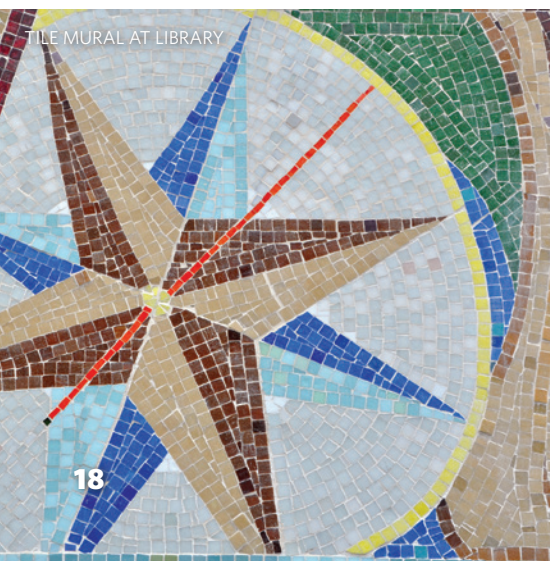
Residential

- Criddle House, 2738 Main Street. A house built in the 1940s by a quarry worker, Art Criddle, from stones quarried from Morro Rock. (*pictured below*)
- Castle Adobe, 1600 Preston Lane. An adobe house that was built in 1930 by Miles Castle using a pressed-earth process. The home is still owned and occupied by the Castle family.
- Kilpatrick House, 340 Olive Street. Built in 1929 by plein air artist Aaron Kilpatrick.
- Stirling House, 370 Olive Street. Originally, this house was a hunting lodge.
- 900 Ridgeway. Purchased in 1928 by

artist A. Harold Knott and his wife Rachel. The home is still owned by the Knott family.

Community Involvement

- Morro Bay Library Mural, 625 Harbor Street. Installed in 1985 by dozens of volunteers under the direction of mural designer and tile artist Peter Ladochy, missing tiles have been replaced on several occasions by volunteer crews. (*see page 20 for a first-hand account of the installation*)
- Central Coast Women for Fisheries raised the necessary funds to commission a sculpture in tribute to the families of those who work at sea, entitled "Those Who Wait." The sculpture was installed at Target Rock in 2016 (*pictured on the cover*).
- The Morro Bay Hidden History Project is a volunteer effort to research, summarize, and display significant and pivotal episodes of Morro Bay's history in public places. Volunteers are working on the content for the first eight topics from which interpretive panels and web pages will be produced. The project is a joint venture of the Historical Society of Morro Bay and **Morro Bay in Bloom**.
- Volunteers with the Central Coast Maritime Museum Association restored an historic local tugboat, the



Heritage Preservation

Alma, that is eligible for listing on the U.S. Department of Interior's National Register of Historic Places.

- **Morro Bay in Bloom** and Morro Bay Historical Society donated time and effort to provide location and physical condition information with photos to City of Morro Bay staff, who compiled a complete inventory with photos and descriptions of every public sign and piece of public art.
- A self-guided mural-walk tour map was developed by a **Morro Bay in Bloom volunteer** and includes information about each mural. The mural-walk tour map is downloadable at www.morrobay.org.
- Morro Bay's community leadership and multiple civic organizations partnered with the Central Coast Maritime Museum Association (CCMMA) and the Maritime Museum of San Diego on the occasion of the maiden voyage of a replica of Juan Cabrillo's ship *San Salvador*. The reproduction of the 16th century Spanish galleon of the first European explorer of the California coastline was available for public touring and a maritime celebration in Morro Bay during ten days in October 2016.
- Historical Society and Veterans Helping Veterans in Need volunteers prepare a free Veterans' Day luncheon at which veterans' oral histories are recorded.
- The Estero Bay Community Foundation produces the Dixon Spaghetti Feed Dinner with Senior Citizens, Inc. as a springtime fundraiser for scholarships for the City's recreational programs. The Estero Bay Community Foundation also produces a soup dinner and auction in the fall for the same purpose.
- The Cruisin' Morro Bay Car Show, produced by a volunteer steering group and the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, is a free classic and rare car show that spans several blocks of Morro Bay Boulevard every May.
- The Lighted Boat Parade is a winter-season fixture every December drawing thousands of residents and visitors. This event is produced by volunteers.
- The Kite Festival is a colorful, volunteer-produced spectacle featuring amateur and professional kite flyers on the beach in spring. Morro Bay's spring wind is ideal for kite-flying. The 2015 event featured carnival rides. www.morrobaykitefestival.org
- Bands on the Run is a novel community fundraiser for Morro Bay High School music programs that features a half-marathon, 5K, and 10K runs with musical entertainment.
- The "Stranded in Morro Bay" vin-

tage trailer rally is in its fifth year as an event of the Central Coast State Parks Association, a volunteer fundraising organization for programs and amenities for local state parks, including the only natural history museum in the state-park system. The event features wine and food tasting, a craft show, and concert.

- The Avocado and Margarita Festival is a popular event produced by the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce. The proceeds from food sold by Morro Bay non-profit organizations at this event provides operating funds for an entire year for some local non-profits.
- The Harbor Festival celebrates our City's fishing industry on the first Saturday in October.
- The Brian Waterbury Memorial Fun Run is a 6-mile run on the beach from Morro Rock to Cayucos Pier and is open to participants of all ages and abilities. Proceeds from the run benefit Morro Bay Recreation Department Youth Sports programs.
- Two weekly farmers' markets, on Thursday and Saturday afternoons all year long, feature local produce, local-made food products, and crafts.
- The fifth annual Dog Fest, a fun and educational event for dogs and their owners, will take place May 20, 2017, from 11 am to 2 pm at City Park. 🌿



Overall Impression



Morro Bay Library Mural Installation - A First Hand Account

We started in July 1985, meeting at the Veterans Hall and the Recreation Building, whichever we could get, three times a week. [Mural designer] Peter Ladochy had received a gift of glass tiles from a Los Angeles firm, which were enough to do the whole wall ... Setting tile became a way of life for many of us, all summer and fall.

There were 16 to 24 people helping with this project, and we could refer to an approximately two-foot long miniature of the design. The pattern in full size was drawn on brown paper laid out on the floor, and then cut into pieces like jigsaw puzzle pieces which Peter then distributed to the workers ...

As more joined the workshops, a large percentage of the people of Morro Bay

participated. Some helped to make paste, cooking it at home: Rabbitskin glue, a white glue made with water and wheat flour.

In the Community Room of the Library (the library was not open yet), the pieces were laid out on the floor as they were completed. Everyone was amazed as the pattern grew. It could be seen in its true colors in reverse, as the tile was glass.

In late fall, the scaffolding was in place and the mural started to go up on the west wall, while people were still working on the pieces for the other end. We were heading for the opening date of the library, December 21.

— By Margaret Foster.

Municipal

- Staff installed 30 new concrete benches at key viewing locations along the waterfront at Morro Rock. At four locations, benches have been grouped in threes and a fire pit added for night time warming with friends and family.
- Significant progress has been made to develop concept plans for a Complete Street Design Standard, which will provide improved multimodal access for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists on the primary residential collector streets leading to Del Mar Elementary School.
- The Fire Department enforces weed suppression measures enacted by City ordinance.
- The Police Department actively implements Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies. For example, police officers encourage building owners to plant shrubs in front of blank walls to discourage graffiti.
- The Police Department implemented a mobile-device application in April 2015, enabling citizens to notify police of crime tips, including photos. The Police Department receives location information with a photo and the sender's phone number.
- Police officers carry graffiti wipes that remove marks made by spray



Overall Impression

paint, permanent-marker ink, crayon, ballpoint-pen ink, etc.

- An active partnership exists among City departments, Morro Bay National Estuary Program staff and volunteers to restock 27 mutt-mitt dispensers with greater than 358,600 mutt mitts in 2016 for removal of dog waste by their owners.
- All new waterfront (Embarcadero) development must include coastal access for the public, including locations for viewing, public walkways, and at least one public boat dock. Permitted developments frequently include public restrooms, recycling containers, interpretive signage, and public art.
- The Harbor Department installed a "pelican proof" dumpster at the fish-cleaning station with signage addressing why pelicans should not be fed, greatly reducing litter.
- A part-time Harbor Department employee tends to waterfront trash receptacles, keeping them neat, clean, and emptied between scheduled trash pick-ups.

Commercial

- Red-flowering Eucalyptus trees in the downtown business district will have lights installed in their canopies in 2017!
- The annual city-wide yard sale, spon-

Where flowers bloom, so does hope.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

sored by Morro Bay Beautiful and the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, attracts bargain hunters from hundreds of miles away.

- The Guerrilla Gardening Club has a commercial business that provides zero-waste support to large events to reduce the amount of trash that goes to the landfill, to ensure recycling, and to reduce water and energy use.

Residential

- Spring and fall clean-ups, held in April and September 2016, allowed residents to dispose of up to two cubic yards of nonhazardous material at the curb for free pickup. Every address receives weekly curbside pickup of recyclables, compostable waste, and garbage.
- Neighborhood Watch Groups meet monthly with the police chief.

Community Involvement

- Groups of volunteers prepare and serve dinner on Monday nights to anyone who is hungry. The first dinner was January 6, 2014, and as of March 2017, almost 9,000 dinners

have been prepared and served.

- Representatives of Morro Bay's civic beautification, historical preservation, and visual art organizations formed the Citizens' Beautification and Heritage Committee (CBHC) in 2015. The CBHC meets for the purpose of identifying unmet beautification needs for submission to the City's annual fundable objectives hearings. The CBHC also identifies projects that are within the scope of volunteers' direct action. Two significant accomplishments of the CBHC to date are funding for the Hidden History Project and a commitment to light the canopies of downtown trees!
- At the 32nd Annual Coastal Cleanup Day, 56 miles of county coastline and creeks were cleaned up, including approximately 4 miles of the City's coastline. Greater than 1,000 volunteers participated countywide and nearly two tons of trash was picked up. The event's organizers encouraged participants to bring their own reusable containers, so that the event will eventually become zero-waste. 🌱

BIKE PARK INSTALLATION



CITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Best Idea

The partnership between **Morro Bay in Bloom (MBIB)**, Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) and City of Morro Bay (CMB) which resulted in the first fully-functional irrigation system at a public park in San Luis Obispo County supplied by rainwater harvested on site is our best idea for 2015-16. Thousands of people annually will stop by the interpretive panel that's mounted in front of one of the rainwater-storage tanks affixed near the entrance to the restroom building at Centennial Parkway.

This project began as one **Bloomie's** idea. Validation of the idea by CMB and MBNEP staff was all the inspiration other **Morro Bay in Bloom volunteers** needed to research the feasibility and cost of the project. A civil engineer based in Morro Bay generously evaluated the proposed site and designed an elegant earthquake-restraint system that could be fabricated locally. The engineer and fabricator would be available to consult with CMB staff regarding preparation of the installation sites and the installation, too. MBNEP awarded a \$5,000 grant that would completely pay for the project.

Morro Bay in Bloom volunteers sourced the tanks, pumps, and necessary fittings that would provide a func-

MORRO BAY CAN FURNISH MUCH OF ITS IRRIGATION WATER WITH RAINFALL, EVEN IN DROUGHT.

Morro Bay Watershed

Morro Bay is an estuary, a tidal basin where fresh water streams mix with ocean water. Estuaries are amazingly productive incubators of many kinds of life, but they are vulnerable to pollution and other disturbances.

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program brings together citizens, local governments, non-profits, government agencies, and landowners to protect and restore Morro Bay. They complete projects throughout the watershed that flows into the estuary because what happens upstream influences the bay. Rainwater harvesting and other low-impact uses of property can help preserve the estuary for all of us to enjoy.

This educational project was produced by Morro Bay in Bloom, a group of volunteers who work with the City of Morro Bay and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program to protect and restore Morro Bay.

Morro Bay National Estuary Program

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is a partnership between the City of Morro Bay, the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program.

City of Morro Bay

The City of Morro Bay is a city in San Luis Obispo County, California. It is located on the central coast of California, about 100 miles north of San Francisco and 100 miles south of Los Angeles.

MANAGE RAINWATER BETTER

See the SLO County Homeowner's Guide to Rainwater Management at www.slo.org

DID YOU KNOW? A 1,000-square-foot roof can capture nearly 600 gallons of water per inch of rain!

RAINWATER HARVESTING CAN reduce water bills, help irrigate parks and gardens, reduce runoff pollution in streams, lakes and oceans, and help people cope with drought.

Rainwater Collection Tank

Installed in 2015, this 200-gallon water tank is one of two located on the premises. A second 200-gallon tank is located at the rear of the building. Installed properly, the tanks can last 20 to 30 years.

Capturing the Rain

A 1,000-square-foot roof atop this building, ensuring 700+ gallons of water per 1 inch of rain can now be collected. Water runs off the roof, trickles down the gutters, then into the storage tank.

In Times of Drought

San Luis Obispo County, even with normal annual rainfall, is always on the verge of drought. Even in times of drought, this system can collect water from dew and fog.

Using the Water

Connected to the drip irrigation, a one-horsepower-rated pump moves the water from the tank to the plants. Filling both tanks once provides one month's irrigation to the landscaping at Centennial Parkway.

tional and attractive system for the location. A local vendor, Farm Supply, was selected and provided the tanks and pumps at a discounted price. The process of determining the content and graphics of the interpretive panel was a collaborative effort between **MBIB volunteers** and MBNEP staff. The design concept was articulated by a Morro Bay graphic designer.

The prospective educational and policy benefits of this project were realized quickly and will continue to pay dividends. Morro Bay is in its fifth year of drought. An incentive to encourage in-

stallation of rainwater-harvesting barrels at residences and businesses was added in mid-2015 to a new suite of water-conservation incentives. Forty residents have installed rainwater-harvesting barrels or tanks since the announcement of the incentive, adding 4,336 gallons of storm water storage capacity.

One-inch of rainwater collected from 1,000 square feet of roof will yield 600 gallons of stored water. Imagine if all 4,200 homes in Morro Bay could collect and store 600 gallons of water for irrigation during dry periods (that sometimes begin in April)! 🌱

CENTENNIAL PARKWAY





Morro Bay Surfboard Art Festival: By the People, for the People

The call went out as it does when a good swell is up. Mayor Jamie Irons chatted up **Morro Bay in Bloom** the idea of an exhibition of surfboard art comprised of pieces from individual private collections.

The event morphed from that first swell, cascading into a celebration of original expressions by artists of all ages and influences, including students of Del Mar Elementary School and Los Osos Middle School. A Surfboard Art Festival by and for the people!

The Morro Bay Surfboard Art Festival has become our community's passion. Old, used surfboards are gathered and presented to artists who then create amazing works of art on them.

There is a vision. A free, public art

exhibit of pieces that are discovered where people move about in their daily lives. Instantaneous inspiration placed in everyday places.

Treasured moment by treasured moment, the Morro Bay Surfboard Art Festival provides beneficial interludes that are experienced much as Morro Bay is experienced as a place.

Morro Bay's Tourism Business Improvement District Board awards a grant for publicity. Local businesses sponsor boards to support Morro Bay in Bloom.

The unveiling event at Forever Stoked Gallery is magical. The exhibit is received enthusiastically by sponsors and viewers. It is a labor of love even while it is a lot of work to produce. We feel it's all worth doing again in 2017.



SURFBOARD ART FESTIVAL





MorroBayInBloom.org

P.O. BOX 782, MORRO BAY, CA 93443 | MORROBAYINBLOOM@GMAIL.COM



Beautifying Morro Bay 2 Hours at a Time!



Photos contributed by: Katie Finley, Joe Birney, Heather Barbis, Neil Farrell, Walter Heath, Chuck Stoll, John Weiss and the City of Morro Bay.