

Spring 2014

# Connecting Cayucos: Visions and Actions for Public Space, Spring 2014

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# Connecting Cayucos

Visions and Actions for Public Space



CAL POLY  
SAN LUIS OBISPO





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# Connecting Cayucos: Visions and Actions for Public Space

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# *Chapter 1*

## Executive Summary



## 1.1 Ten-Week Studio Overview

This document expands upon the principles set forth in the County of San Luis Obispo's Estero Plan (2009) in the context of public space and develops site-specific recommendations to support future implementation of public space plans for Cayucos, California. This plan includes an existing conditions analysis, general goals and principles, site-specific visions and actions, as well as supporting conceptual diagrams. The main purpose of this plan is to reflect the community's desire to preserve, protect, and enhance the public spaces of Cayucos.

Created by California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo's (Cal Poly's) City and Regional Planning graduate students, this plan presents visions and actions to help guide planning efforts in Cayucos, California. Support from the County of San Luis Obispo and the Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council allowed for the development of this plan.

## 1.2 Importance of Community Outreach

Public outreach ensured the assessment and resulting proposals provided are consistent with the wants and needs of the community members who participated in the studio's outreach efforts. While the studio was limited to ten weeks, a concerted effort was made to ensure that input was received from all segments of the community. This was achieved through various outreach events where the community was engaged through surveys, interviews, polling, and mapping exercises. Surveys were primarily conducted through face-to-face interactions, though some residents and visitors chose to utilize the web-based survey posted on the project website, [www.connectingcayucos.com](http://www.connectingcayucos.com).

These outreach events provided an opportunity for a better understanding of what participants would like to preserve, protect, and enhance in Cayucos. This input guided ideas and the resulting proposals presented to the community at the June 4th Advisory Council meeting.

## 1.3 Schedule of Outreach Events

- 4/2 Advisory Council Introduction
- 4/19 Easter Egg Hunt/Dog Parade
- 5/1 Rotary Club
- 5/7 Advisory Council Workshop
- 5/10 Interviews and Surveys at the Pier
- 5/10 Interviews with local business owners
- 5/23 and 5/30 Farmer's Market
- 5/23 Cayucos School, 8th graders

### 1.3.1 Advisory Council Meeting

On April 2nd, the project was introduced to the community at the Cayucos Advisory Council meeting. The council meeting provided an opportunity to share the goals of the project and provide an overview of the outreach process. Council members as well as members of the

general public offered their support, numerous suggestions regarding the direction of the plan, and which community groups would be interested in becoming involved. Guidance provided by the Advisory Council was invaluable to the process of developing the plan.

### 1.3.2 Surveying Activities

Significant portions of the community outreach efforts were focused on engaging directly with the public and utilizing the public space as a resource for reaching out to residents as well as visitors. Public input outlined the current state of these public spaces as well as desired additions and alterations through surveys from residents, visitors, and business owners.

#### *Easter Egg Hunt/Dog Parade*

The Cayucos Easter Egg Hunt and Dog Parade took place at Hardie Park on April 19th, 2014. Around 30 surveys were conducted with information received from both Cayucos residents and visitors. Because of the nature of this event, the majority of those in attendance were families with children.

Surveys were administered in a style that attempted to engage the public in a more conversational manner rather than a structured interview. The survey questions were aimed at gathering information concerning what visitors and residents like in Cayucos, suggested changes to public spaces, current common uses for public spaces, and opinions regarding mobility throughout the community. Figure 1.1 shows two students administering surveys with the public at this event.

At the Cayucos Easter Egg Hunt and Dog Parade, we surveyed both Cayucos residents and visitors. We approached attendees of the event, explaining who we were, our project, and the purpose of our surveying. The Easter Egg Hunt, conducted first, was attended mostly by families with children; therefore, we primarily surveyed parents during this portion of the event. We continued to survey attendees of the event during the Dog Parade as well.

**Figure 1.1 Cayucos Easter Egg Hunt and Dog Parade**



### *Booth at Pier*

The booth outreach took place at the Cayucos pier on May 10th. This site was chosen for outreach activities because of its prominent use as a public space by both locals and visitors. An awning, a table, and three versions of the survey—one for residents, one for visitors and one for business owners—were set up at the base of the pier, in front of the Veteran's Hall.

The focus of this event was to survey as many residents and visitors as possible, to obtain input on a variety of issues. The visitor survey sought to determine what attracted visitors to Cayucos, what they liked about the community, and what they do when they are here. Similarly the resident survey inquired about what people liked and did not like about Cayucos, and also asked what (if anything) they would like to change. The business survey asked similar questions to the resident survey, with additional questions about tourists.

Passersby were asked to stop and complete a survey and some businesses were visited and asked to participate. The event lasted for four hours and was successful in collecting surveys from a variety of people.

### *Online Survey*

An online survey was available via the project website, [www.connectingcayucos.com](http://www.connectingcayucos.com). Offering an online version of the survey gave residents and visitors the opportunity to complete it at their leisure, and also connect them to more information concerning the project.

Questions on the online survey were very similar to those found on the paper survey given to residents. A mix of 17 multiple choice and open-ended questions were used to inquire about a variety of issues including: public space uses, public space perceptions, downtown activities, attitudes towards the parking situation downtown, suggested changes to public spaces, and basic demographic questions.

Twelve members of the public completed the survey online. The online format allowed for easy analysis of the survey data.

### **1.3.3 Cayucos Rotary Club Meeting/Business Interests**

This meeting took place on May 1st. Throughout the planning process, a concerted effort was made to reach out to Cayucos business owners to gauge the economic base of the community. The Rotary Club represented business interests within the community and several of the topics discussed during this meeting reflected local business owner's concerns and desires.

Among the topics discussed with members of the Rotary Club included the economic vitality of Cayucos, parking issues, the resident versus tourist divide, various public spaces as well as community identity and characteristics. Of particular concern was the effort to foster economic diversity, attracting younger residents, creating better parking signage and enforcement, the growing trend towards part-time residency, and increased connectivity throughout the town to and from various public spaces.

Members voiced their desire to see a focus on services and amenities for full-time residents while acknowledging the overall importance of tourism to the local economy. The group discussed how



the plan might address work to continue to attract tourists. Members expressed hopes for the future economic prosperity of Cayucos.

### 1.3.4 Cayucos Elementary School

The Cayucos Elementary School outreach event took place at Cayucos Elementary on May 23rd. Ms. Peterson's 8th grade class engaged in activities to help us understand how youth experience Cayucos and to offer their ideas regarding what could be added or improved in the community.

The students were split up into two groups with Cal Poly students at each group to assist. Each group was given large maps, multi-colored markers, pictures of different activities, and glue sticks for placing the pictures on the map. Figure 1.2 provides an example image of one of the maps created by a group of 8th graders.

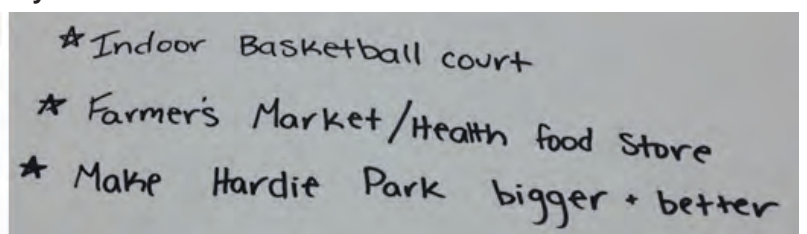
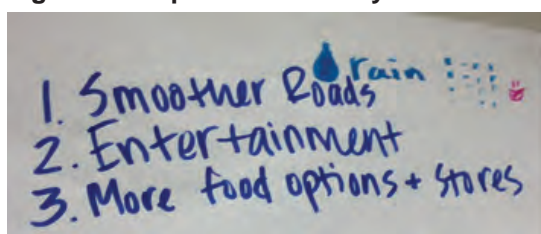
Each group of students was given two maps. On the first map, students were asked to show routes to school and what activities they participate in within and outside of Cayucos. Ms. Peterson's students provided a variety of answers regarding activities including sports, eating at local restaurants, and venturing into surrounding cities. The students were then given a second map to indicate what type of activities they would like to see in Cayucos. Students noted a desire for healthier food, more entertainment options, improved play areas (e.g. for basketball and football), smoother roads, and more diversity in shops and restaurants.

One of Ms. Peterson’s students captured what we heard throughout our time with the students: “We want some things to change, but it needs to stay Cayucos.” The top six ideas can be seen in Figure 1.3 below.

### Figure 1.2 Cayucos Elementary 8th Grade Map



### Figure 1.3 Top Ideas from Cayucos Elementary





### 1.3.5 Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market events took place at the Veteran's Hall parking lot on May 23rd and May 30th. Four posters, representing a culmination of 12 separate ideas for improving public spaces throughout Cayucos, were showcased to farmer's market visitors. Figure 1.4 shows Cal Poly students explaining ideas to the public.

The posters offered participants a way to engage in the project by asking for their vote. Participants identified themselves as either residents or tourists and were given colored stickers to vote for the top concepts (four to residents, three to tourists). Each participant had the ability to use all stickers on one idea or disperse their votes. Specific sticker colors were provided to residents (multi-colored) and tourists (dark blue) to divide answers between the two groups. Table 1.1 shows the total number of residents and visitors who voted for each idea. The totals for the most popular ideas are highlighted in dark blue.

**Figure 1.4 Farmer's Market Concept Voting**



**Table 1.1 Farmer's Market Community Voting Totals**

Visions and Actions for Public Space	Residents	Tourists	Total
Turn the State parking lot into an oceanfront multi-use park	16	8	24
Create a community garden	27	6	33
Wider sidewalks along Ocean Ave to increase pedestrian usage, increase dining, seating, and plantings to distinguish the downtown.	23	11	34
Creating community spaces on Ocean Front Street (car free).	16	5	21
Crosstown community shuttle	8	4	12
Increase bicycle facilities along Ocean Avenue.	18	5	23
Textured pavement at intersections along Ocean Ave.	14	2	16
Increased public art throughout town (i.e benches, murals).	35	5	40
Back in parking along Ocean Ave.	11	1	12
Expand Hardie Park and add new facilities such as a path along the creek, rebuilding the bridge across the creek, and adding a community garden.	22	6	28
Extend B Street to connect with Ocean Ave, utilizing sustainable street design features such as bioswales and pervious surfaces or pavements.	8	3	11
Improve recreational opportunities at Estero Bluffs & Whale Rock Reservoir by expanding connectivity, adding signage, and providing parking areas.	12	16	28
<b>Total number of persons that voted</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>94</b>

## 1.4 Summary of Major Findings from Community Outreach

Surveying activities highlighted key findings that contributed to the creation of ideas for public space in Cayucos. Recurring trends provided by participants included:

- Preservation of places and buildings in the community
- Maintaining community character and spirit
- Frequent use of downtown amenities
- The beach, Veteran's Hall, and Hardie Park were listed as the most used public spaces

Typical survey respondents were Cayucos residents over 40 years of age. All respondents expressed some level of feeling comfortable and safe in Cayucos, stating that preserving its character was of utmost importance. Many of the people who were surveyed also discussed the parking situation in Cayucos. Some did not think more parking was needed within the town, while others expressed that parking was difficult to find at times, particularly during the peak tourist season. However, almost everyone supported free parking within the community.

A strong connection that both residents and visitors alike have with the town of Cayucos was a major theme throughout community participation. Some of the common statements included:

- Preservation of the small-town character
- Attraction to the community because of a lack of chain restaurants or large businesses, such as Wal-Mart.

There were also some common responses about enhancements that would improve the community:

- Improved pedestrian and bicycle connections
- Improved pedestrian safety
- Additional bike infrastructure
- Better access to healthy and affordable food options
- Reduction of traffic speeds
- Improve sidewalks and walkability
- Maintaining and enhancing cleanliness around Cayucos

After meeting with local businesses and community groups, common themes included:

- Ways to increase local sales tax revenue
- A need to increase tourist revenue in Cayucos
- Ways to better connect the community when vacation rental vacancies often isolate them
- Increasing the types of small businesses

A summary of our findings can be found in the appendix located at the end of this document. Figure 1.5 illustrates terms used by survey respondents to describe or discuss Cayucos. Font size illustrates which terms were used most frequently in survey responses.

Figure 1.5 Popular Terms to Describe Cayucos



## 1.5 Introduction of Chapters

Chapter 2 highlights the existing conditions of Cayucos that may influence the use of public space, including land use, transportation, community services and utilities, community networks, housing, coastal access and trails, as well as historical aspects of Cayucos. Chapter 2 ends with a description of Cayucos' public spaces. Using existing conditions, relevant information from the County's Estero Plan, research on successful public spaces, and all of the community input provided by participants in the studio outreach, Chapter 3 covers goals and principles for Cayucos' public spaces. Themes highlighted in Chapter 3 include: community identity, economic vitality, access and linkages, parking, health, sustainability, and uses and activities. Chapter 4 provides visions and actions for Cayucos' public spaces. Some of the visions/actions provided are for specific geographic locations—Ocean Front Street, Ocean Avenue, and Hardie Park and B Street. Other visions/actions apply throughout the community of Cayucos.

# *Chapter 2*

## Existing Conditions



## 2.1 History

Prior to the introduction of Europeans to the area, the coastline between Morro Bay and Cayucos was inhabited by a band of indigenous Chumash with a large settlement located just south of what we now recognize as the town of Cayucos, at the mouth of Morro Creek (Cayucos by the Sea, 2013). The land now inhabited by the town was, until the early 19th Century, part of the 8,845 acre Spanish, and then Mexican, land grant known as Rancho Morro Y Cayucos.

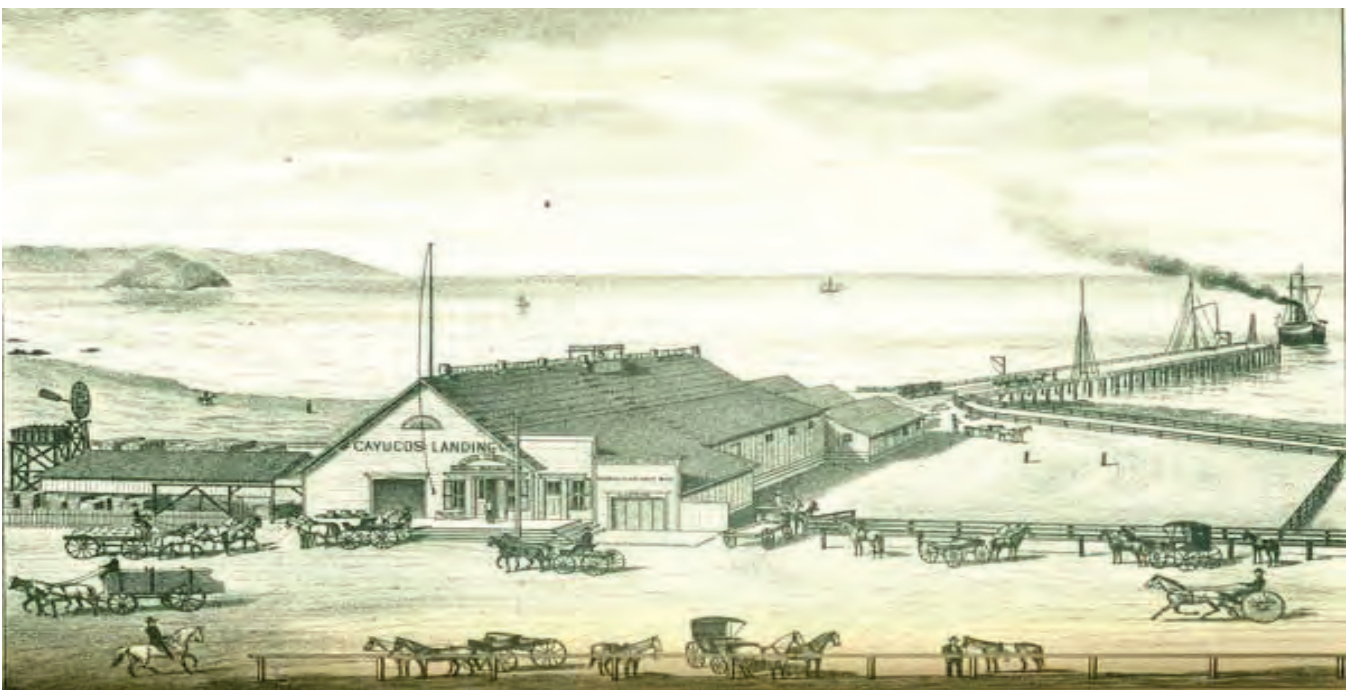
Modern Cayucos history began with the arrival of New England native Captain James Cass in 1867. Cass and his partner, Captain Ingalls, constructed Cayucos Pier, a warehouse, now known as the Veteran's Hall, and a store in 1872. Figure 2.1 shows an artist's depiction of the Veteran's Hall and pier during the late 1800s.

In the late 19th century, real estate promoter and developer C.H. Phillips began subdividing land into town lots and wider streets forming the framework for the modern town of Cayucos. (Maricle, 2007).

By the turn of the 20th century, Cayucos had approximately two hundred residents with a school, a church, drug store, a real estate office, meat market, and a Wells Fargo office. Since the mid-20th century, tourism and recreation activities have taken the place of farming and shipping as the primary economic provider for Cayucos. Figure 2.2 depicts sport fishermen on the Cayucos Pier in the early 1960s.

One of the most popular parks in the town, Hardie Park, was dedicated in 1959 in honor of the Hardie family, who came to California from Scotland during the gold rush and settled in Cayucos in 1866. Angus MacPherson Hardie served as the original postmaster, San Luis Obispo County Assessor, and County Supervisor.

**Figure 2.1 Artist's rendering of Cayucos Landing**



**Figure 2.2 Fishing Off Cayucos Pier**



### **2.1.1 Notable Cayucos Historical Landmarks**

Margaret Ann Maricle, local historian, wrote a walking tour for the community for Cayucos in 2007. This tour offers a summary of prominent historic landmarks and resources for the community. The source is both well researched and provides a comprehensive look at Cayucos of the past.

#### **Cayucos Pier and Veterans Hall (formerly the Cass Warehouse)**

The Cayucos pier made Cayucos the commercial hub of the central coast. The pier was used as a way for ranchers and dairy farmers to sell and export their products to larger markets up and down the coast. The term “Butter Day” or “Steamer Day” was used locally to signify the day both cargo and passenger ships would arrive at the pier to take on goods and passengers (Maricle, 2007).

An abalone canning plant was built halfway out on the pier in 1915 and rekindled the pier’s economic importance after the 1890s drought. The growth of the railroad and trucking industries ended its use as a working pier in 1920.

From 1920 and into the 1960s the pier was used by residents for sports fishing and as public space. Figure 2.3 provides a look at Cayucos pier in the 1920s and in 2010.

**Figure 2.3 Cayucos Pier, Then and Now**





### *The Cass House*

Captain James Cass built what is known as the Cass House in stages between 1867 and 1875. In 1993, after 12 years of abandonment, the property was purchased and the new owners spent 14 years restoring the house to its original splendor. As shown in figure 2.4, the house is now a boutique hotel and restaurant open to the public since the summer of 2007.

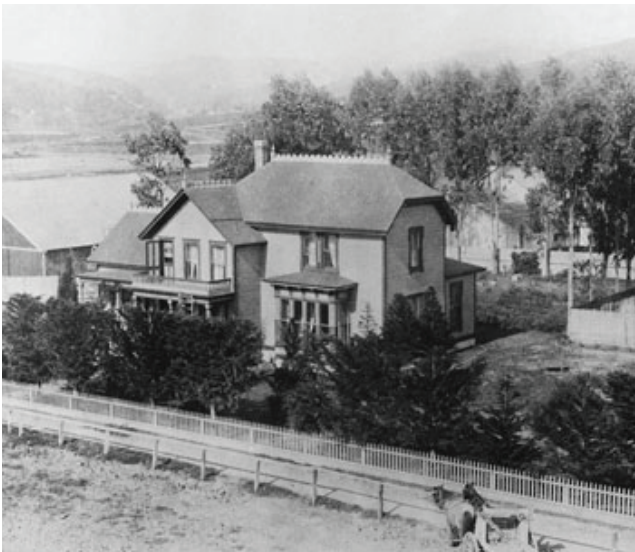
### *The Way Station*

Built in 1876, this building now houses Hoppe's Restaurant but was originally a twelve-bedroom hotel. The hotel's dining room was a favorite stopping place for the Hearst family on their way to their ranch at San Simeon (Maricle, 2007). Figure 2.5 shows the Way Station as it looks today.

### *The Saloon or "Old Cayucos Tavern"*

Ranchers and cowboys who were bringing cattle to the pier used the Old Cayucos Tavern. In 1941, rescued sailors were brought here from offshore when a Japanese submarine sunk the oil tanker Montebello. Figure 2.6 shows the Cayucos Tavern as it appears today.

**Figure 2.4 Cass House, Then and Now**



**Figure 2.5 The Way Station Today**

**Figure 2.6 Old Cayucos Tavern**



## 2.2 Cayucos Today

### 2.2.1 Population and Demographics

From 1970 to 1990, the population of Cayucos grew 67% from 1,770 to 2,960 residents. Since 2000, the population of Cayucos has been in steady decline, from 2,943 residents in 2000 to 2,592 residents in 2010. While permanent residents have decreased, the number of housing units has grown, suggesting a growth in seasonal residents not represented in the census. Table 2.1 shows the population growth rate between the years 1970 and 2010 for Cayucos, San Luis Obispo County, and the portion of County growth attributed to Cayucos.

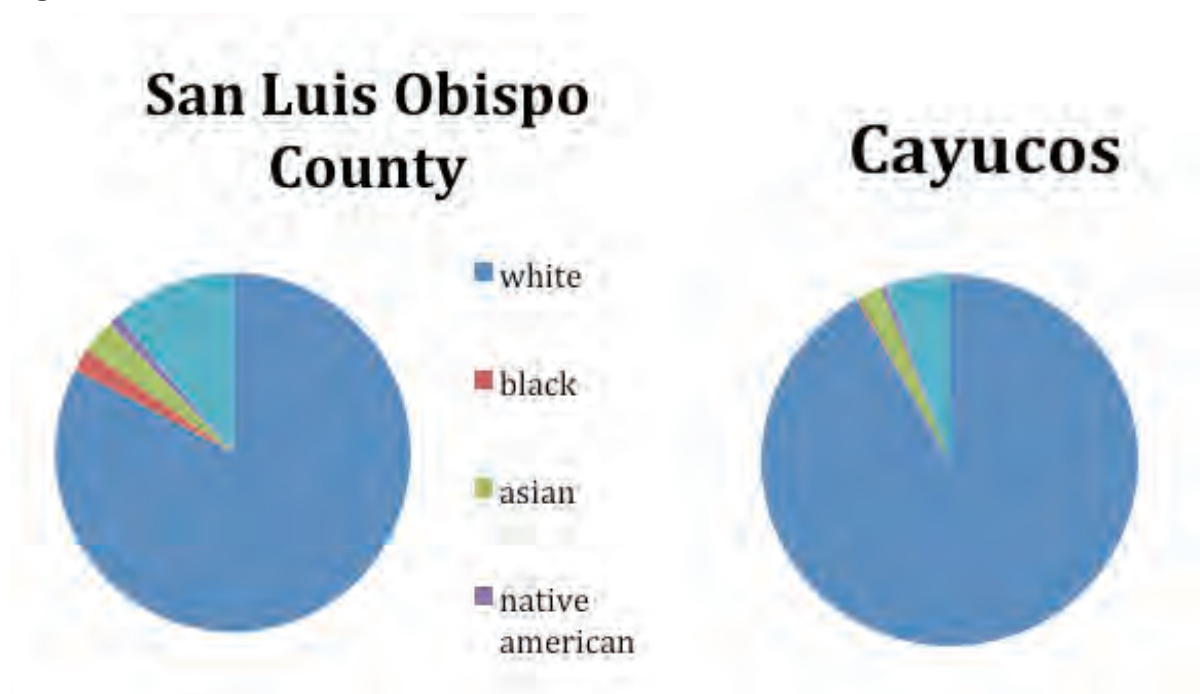
The town is 91.3% white, with 8% identifying as Hispanic. This distribution is shown below in Figure 2.7. The majority (97%) of residents speak English at home, while 3.1% of residents speak another language at home.

Table 2.1 Population Growth Rate

Population Growth Rate	Population Growth Rate				
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
<b>Cayucos</b>	0%	16%	29%	-1%	-12%
<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>	0%	47%	40%	14%	11%
<b>Share of County Population</b>	1.9%	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%	0.9%

Source: U.S. Census

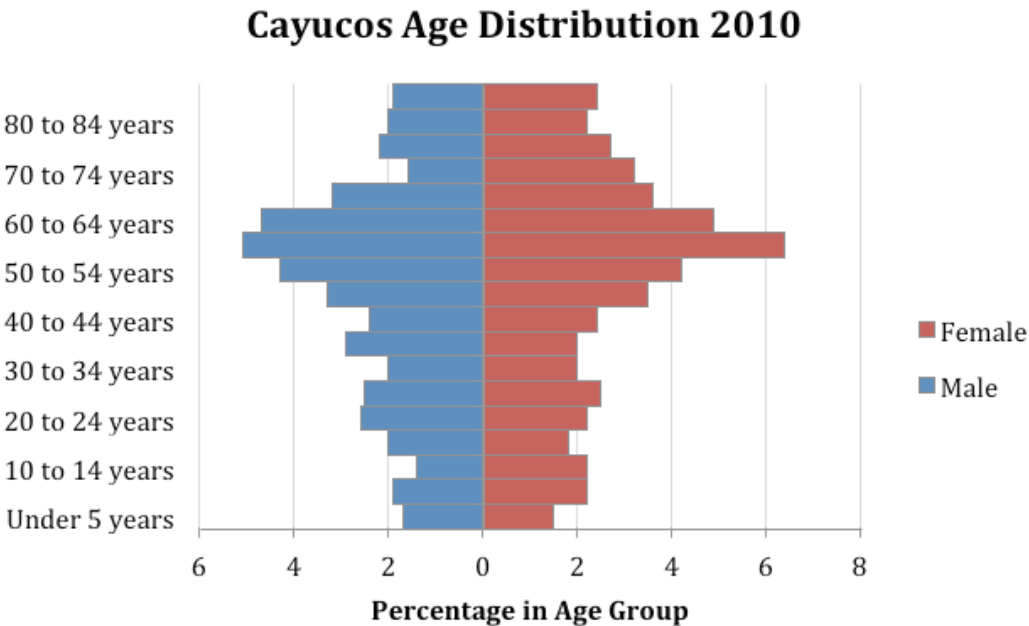
Figure 2.7 Race Distribution



Cayucos has a significantly older population than the county or state average. Figure 2.8 displays the distribution of the population by Age and Sex in 2010.

In 2010, the median age in Cayucos was 53 while California’s median age was 35.2, and San Luis Obispo County’s median age was 39.3. The number of Cayucos residents under the age of 18 is 337, comprising only 13% of the population.

Figure 2.8 Age Distribution



Source: US Census Bureau

2.2.2 Housing

Vacation rentals make up a large portion of households in Cayucos. Cayucos currently has 2,354 total housing units with 1,040 of those vacant, as seen in Figure 2.9 below. Of the total housing units, Figure 2.10 shows 893 are vacation-use homes or second homes that often sit vacant during the weekdays or winter months. Cayucos’ median housing price is \$713,000 and has an average household size of 1.97 people. The majority (78%) of all housing units are single family residential (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013).

Figure 2.9 Occupied Housing

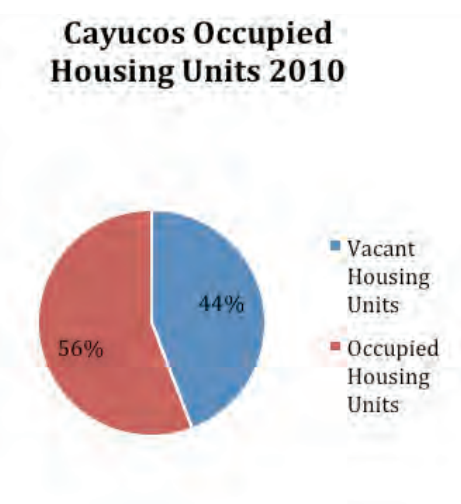
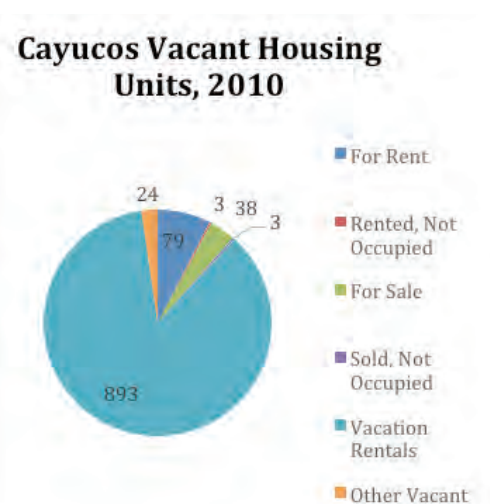


Figure 2.10 Vacant Housing





Housing development in the community has slowed considerably in recent years due to almost full build out to the Urban Reserve Line, which sets a boundary on growth. Future growth in the community will mainly consist of redevelopment and incorporating multi-family housing on remaining vacant lots.

### 2.2.3 Land Use and Growth

The area within the Cayucos Urban Reserve Line totals about 550 acres. Data summarized from the Estero Area Plan (2009) shows the majority of land is dedicated to residential single family and multi-family homes. Residential land uses total 250 acres, or 74% of land in Cayucos.

The next largest land use is recreational, totaling 48 acres or 14% of total available land. Cayucos is home to broad beaches that make up most of the recreational land-use category. There are also three public parks, totaling just over five acres. Commercial type land uses account for 23 acres or 7% of total land, and there are 18 acres of public facilities or 5% of the total land area. Figure 2.11 breaks down land use by type.

Cayucos currently has five acres of neighborhood/community parks, comprising Hardie Park and Paul Andrews Park. There is a plan to develop the Norma Rose Park in the southern portion of town.

According to the Estero Area Plan (2009), the community of Cayucos comprises six areas: the central business district, Cayucos Drive area, Locarno area, the Morro Rock View area, the Paso Robles Beach, area and the Morro Strand area. Commercial activity is primarily restricted to the central business district and along Ocean Avenue. Figure 2.11 shows zoning of land within Cayucos.

**Figure 2.11 Land Use in Cayucos**

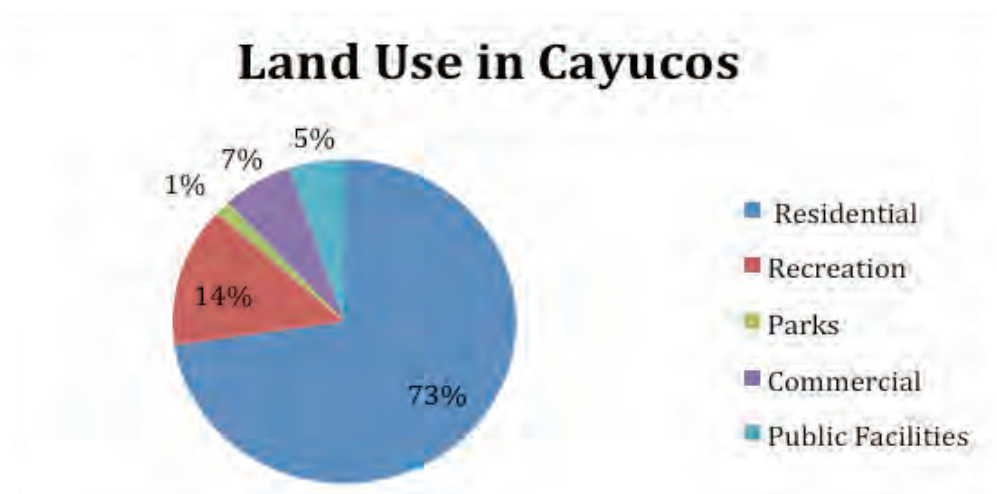
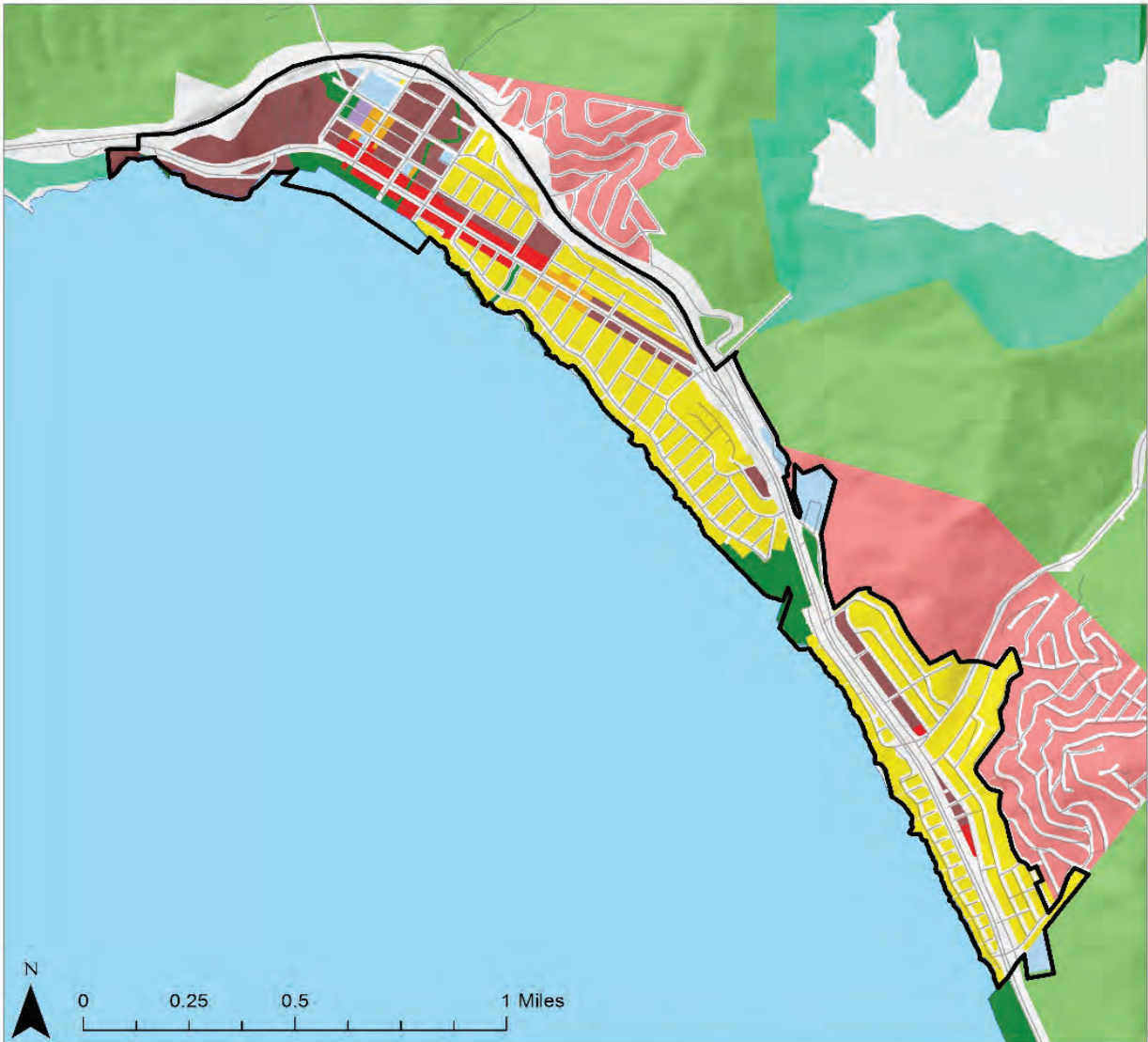


Figure 2.12 Cayucos Zoning Map

# Cayucos Land Use



- Agriculture
- Commercial Retail
- Commercial Service
- Industrial
- Multi-Land Use Category
- Office Professional
- Open Space
- Public Facility
- Recreation
- Rural Lands
- Residential Multi Family
- Residential Rural
- Residential Suburban
- Residential Single Family



The potential for growth in Cayucos is limited to within the Urban Reserve Line (URL) with very few vacant lots left to develop. San Luis Obispo County seeks to encourage infill development, and create a greenbelt of open space and agricultural land around Cayucos. In the hills outside of the Cayucos Urban Reserve Line there are two undeveloped subdivisions: Morro Rock View and Morro Strand. To protect wildlife habitat, prevent erosion and sedimentation, the county has policies outlined in the Estero Plan to limit the development of these parcels.

### 2.2.4 Circulation

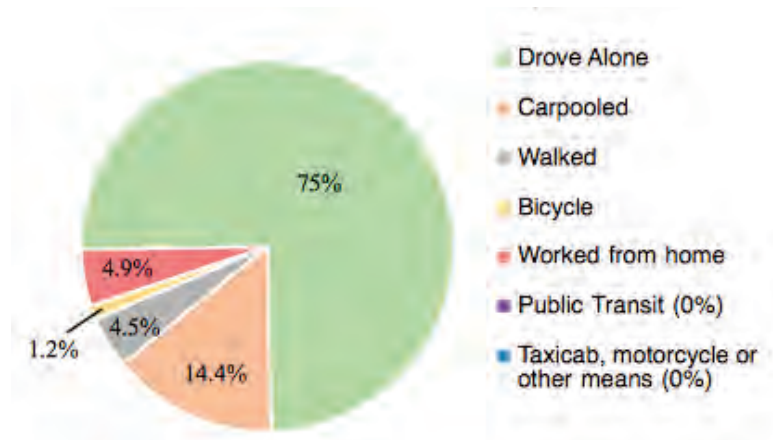
Streets within Cayucos are classified into four types of roadways, designating various vehicular traffic behaviors. Highway 1 serves as the principal arterial or main access roadway to both the northern and southern portions of Cayucos.

The central street of the town, Ocean Avenue, is classified as an arterial roadway, serving as the major artery of Cayucos. Other major roadways, classified as collectors, serve as connections for automobiles to the center of the town. These include Cayucos Drive, Pacific Ave, 13th Street, 24th Street, Studio Drive, and Old Creek Road. All other roadways within the town are classified as residential, designating lighter and slower vehicular traffic.

Cyclist and pedestrian infrastructure is dispersed throughout Cayucos with a lack of consistent infrastructure throughout the town, forcing cyclists and pedestrians to share the road with vehicular traffic. Bicycle lanes along Ocean Avenue do not run along the entire length of the street. Along other roadways, there is no bicycle infrastructure. Formal sidewalks exist along the central downtown area but do not extend out to neighboring streets.

Figure 2.13 shows the means of transportation community members utilize for their commute to work. Driving alone is the primary mode choice for most Cayucos residents. A small portion choose to carpool for their commute but only about 6% utilize transportation modes other than an automobile for their commute. One contributing factor to the minimal use of public transit may be the extremely low frequency of public transit running through the area.

**Figure 2.13 Means of Transportation to Work in Cayucos**





## 2.2.5 Community Services

There is no dedicated police force for Cayucos. The County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol share responsibilities for policing the community. San Luis Obispo County maintains a Cal Fire station in Cayucos, CA, shown below in Figure 2.14. This fire station is staffed 24 hours a day with a minimum of one Fire Captain and one Firefighter.

Ambulance service is provided to Cayucos through San Luis Ambulance, with stations in the cities of Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo. There are no hospitals in Cayucos and the nearest one is approximately twenty miles away within the City of San Luis Obispo.

Cayucos Elementary, shown below in Figure 2.15, is the only school in Cayucos with students ranging from kindergarten to the 8th grade. Approximately 200 students are enrolled each year. Cayucos students attend Coast Union High School in neighboring Cambria. The nearest community colleges are Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo and Alan Hancock College in Santa Maria.

Figure 2.14 Cayucos Fire Department



Figure 2.15 Cayucos Elementary School



## 2.2.6 Local Infrastructure

### *Storm Water*

The drainage system in Cayucos includes stormwater runoff and associated mudflows from steeper slopes within and above the eastern portions of the community, as well as localized flooding from stormwater runoff in other areas.

Areas immediately adjacent to the creek channels and estuaries bound the floodplains of Cayucos Creek, Little Cayucos Creek, and Willow Creek. Hardie Park, as well as the undeveloped private lot adjacent to Cayucos Creek, is subject to flooding. This may present challenges to development and safety.

In the event of the failure of Whale Rock dam, areas along the Old Creek channel would be vulnerable to flooding and damage. The creeks flow west and discharge into the ocean. The areas adjacent to the creek channels are subject to flooding in a 100-year storm. Figure 2.15 shows the northern end of Hardie Park, which borders Cayucos Creek.

## *Sewage*

Wastewater generated in Cayucos is collected in a conventional underground sewer system of laterals and sewer mains and sent to the City of Morro Bay sewage treatment plant.

## *Water*

Water in Cayucos comes from groundwater and the Whale Rock Reservoir, operated by the County of San Luis Obispo. Mission Country Disposal and the Integrated Waste Management Authority of San Luis Obispo provide trash and disposal service in Cayucos. Currently, there is no curbside green waste program.

**Figure 2.16 Hardie Park and Cayucos Creek**



### **2.2.7 Community Networks**

Cayucos has a vibrant network of community clubs and events. This close-knit community network represents what the citizens of Cayucos value and love about their town. These events and clubs play an important role in public space because they utilize the public areas of the town, such as the East Egg Hunt and Dog costume Parade in Hardie Park and the numerous clubs who use the Veteran's Memorial Hall.

The following local clubs and organizations are currently active within the Cayucos community:

#### **Chamber of Commerce**

The Chamber of Commerce meets once a month and focuses on promoting business and tourism within the area.

#### **Rotary Club of Cayucos-Seaside**

This is the local chapter of Rotary International. They are part of Rotary District 5240. They currently have 21 members and meet once a week at the Sea Shanty Restaurant.

#### **Lions and Lionesses Club**

The Lions Club was founded in 1948, the Lionesses Club was founded in 1950. The clubs are made up of community members and focus on hosting events that promote tourism and community interaction. They are two of the many groups that use the Veteran's Memorial Hall on a regular basis for club meetings.

## Cayucos Save the Pier/ Cayucos Pier Project

This group was formed to restore and rebuild the historic Cayucos Pier. The pier is currently closed due to storm damage. This group has held numerous fundraisers and has non-profit status.

## 2.3 Cayucos Public Spaces

Good public spaces offer a variety of benefits to a community, from enhancing the quality of life, to improving health and sociability of a population. Project for Public Spaces, the authority on placemaking, identifies four key features that make a good public space. These include comfort and image, uses and activities, sociability, and access and linkage. The following section will discuss many of these elements, including gathering places, streets, and coastal accesses that are present in Cayucos's public spaces. Table 2.2 below highlights existing public spaces.

**Table 2.2 Existing Public Spaces**

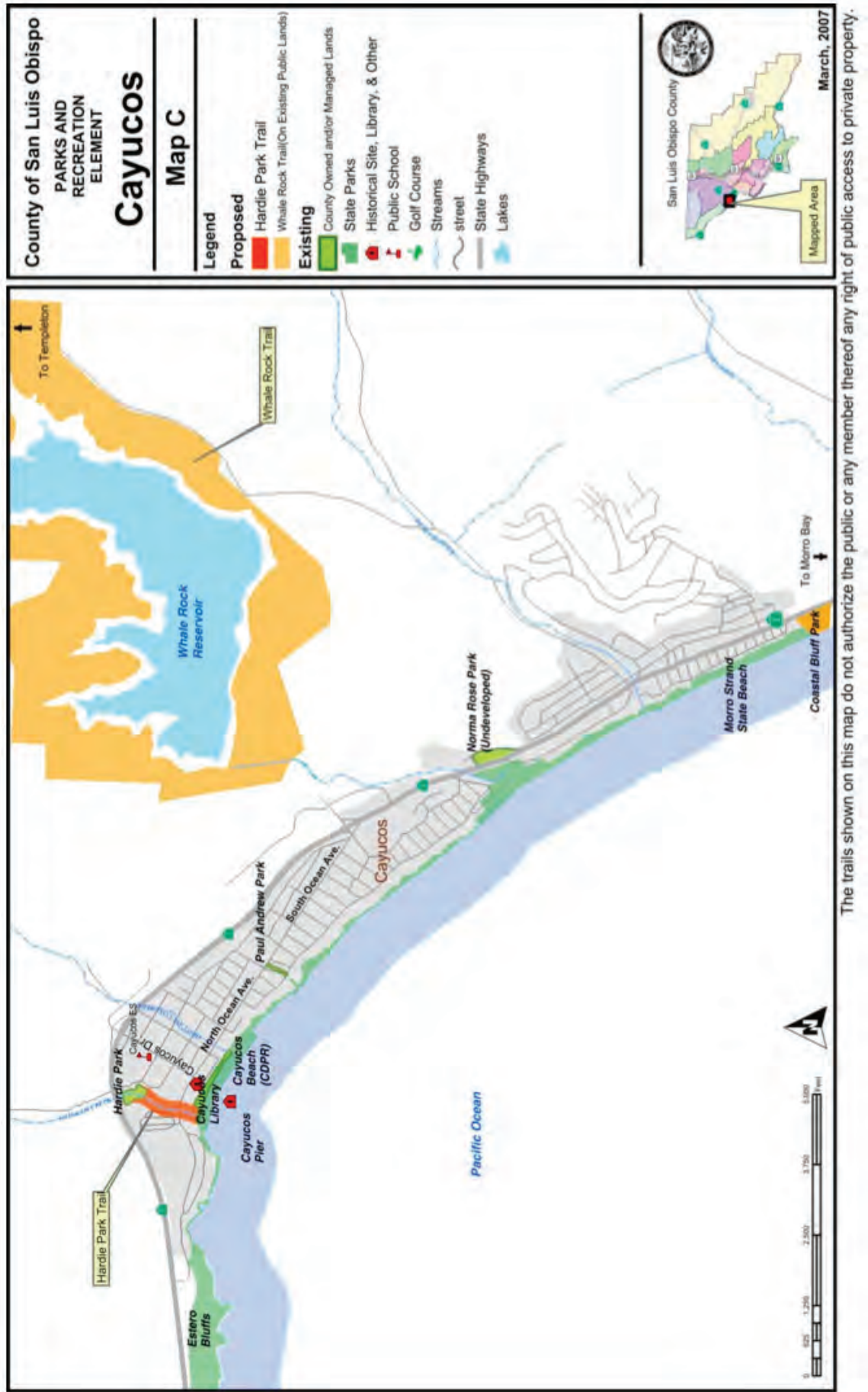
Table 1- Cayucos (Estero Planning Area)			
Name	Facility Type	Owner/Operator	Provides
Morro Strand State Beach Highway 1, Morro Bay & Cayucos	Beach	State Parks	Lateral coastal access, parking, and a restroom.
Cayucos Beach Between Cayucos Creek & Little Cayucos Creek	Beach and Community Center	State Park, SLO County Parks	Swimming, sunbathing, surfing, fishing, sightseeing, play equipment, barbeque area, indoor recreation (Veterans Memorial Building), the Cayucos Pier, life guards during summer. The land is owned by State Parks; however, SLO County Parks manages the area under a lease agreement. The community center is run by a non-profit.
Estero Bluffs Highway 1, north of Cayucos	Natural Area	State Parks	Trails and views of the ocean on 350 acres. Cayucos Land Conservancy holds the conservation easement.
Hardie Park North B Street & Birch, Cayucos	Community Park	SLO County Parks	Swimming pool, tennis courts, play equipment, and group and individual picnic areas.
Paul Andrews Park 3rd Street, Cayucos	Neighborhood Park	SLO County Parks	Community markets, picknicking, children's play equipment, and turf area.
Norma Rose Park Highway 1 & Ocean Blvd, Cayucos	Park	State Parks/SLO County Parks	Undeveloped parkland at this time. Master Plan complete. Development pending.
Whale Rock Reservoir East of Cayucos Cemetery	Natural Area	Whale Rock Commission (City of SLO, Cal Poly & California Mens Colony)	A reservoir, fishing and limited public access.
Cayucos Library	Library	SLO County	Library/facilities
Cayucos Elementary	School	Cayucos Elementary School District	Children's play equipment, open play area, and other recreation.

Source: The Estero Plan

With convenient access to Cayucos State Beach, residents and visitors frequent this regional recreation facility as well. According to standards set by the National Recreation and Park Association and the San Luis Obispo County General Plan, there should be 6 acres of community and neighborhood park space per 1,000 residents. According to San Luis Obispo County's Estero Plan, this means that Cayucos needs around an additional 14 acres of neighborhood/ community parks. Figure 2.17 below shows existing park and recreation areas in Cayucos, and Table 2.3 lists proposed sites for development.



Figure 2.17 Existing park and recreation areas



**Table 2.3 Proposed Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas**

Table 2- Cayucos (Estero Planning Area)		
Proposed Parks, Recreation & Natural Areas		
Name	Facility Type	Description
Coastal Bluff Park	Near Highway 1 Between Morro Bay and Cayucos	Obtain acreage for a park, coastal access, and a trail connecting the two communities
Cayucos Park	Specific Site Unknown	Obtain roughly 10 acres for a Park.
Cayucos Recreation Center	Specific Site Unknown	Provide an indoor facility for organized recreation programs.
California Coastal Trail	Along the coast	The CCT is a statewide trail extending along the California Coast. The CCT will connect the various coastal communities
Hardie Park Trail	Along Cayucos Creek	Connect Hardie Park to the beach using the Cayucos Creek corridor
Cayucos to Whale Rock Trail	Specific Site Unknown	Connect the urban area of Cayucos to public areas in Whale Rock.

Source: The Estero Plan

### 2.3.1 Gathering Places

#### *Library*

The community of Cayucos is served by one library, the Cayucos Public Library. The Library, shown in figure 2.18, is open Tuesday through Wednesday with limited hours. Current programs offered at the library include toddler story time, free nutrition programs for older adults, as well as free knitting classes. The Friends of Cayucos Library sponsor these programs as well as meet with Supervisor Bruce Gibson once a month, as advertised on the Friends website.

**Figure 2.18 Cayucos Library**



#### *Streets as Public Spaces*

Ocean Avenue, the main street that runs along the length of Cayucos' downtown, regularly acts as a public gathering space for local residents and visitors. It comprises various retail shops, restaurants, coffee shops, and popular tourist attractions. Ocean Avenue also can be shut down to automobiles and converted into a pedestrian zone for various community events during the year. These events include antique fairs, car shows, an annual Fourth of July parade, and their annual Christmas in Cayucos celebration. The Veteran's Hall Parking lot is also converted into a pedestrian zone every Friday from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend for a community farmers market.

### *Coastal Access Trails along Pacific Avenue and Studio Drive*

The County of San Luis Obispo maintains Coastal Access trails in accordance with the California Coastal Act of 1976. The Coastal Commission has plans to add a stairway for beach access on Studio Lane in the southern residential area of Cayucos. There are several coastal access ways along both Studio Drive and Pacific Avenue, but the area offers very limited parking for the public and is a residential area.

### *Morro Strand State Beach*

The beach is managed by the California State Department of Parks and Recreation. The beach offers fishing, campsites, swimming, and picnic areas. The City of Morro Bay is expanding its bicycle trail north and has expressed interest in continuing the trail to along Morro Strand State Beach to the southern end of Studio Drive in Cayucos. Currently, an unpaved parking lot for visitors to the beach exists at the north end of Studio Lane directly off Highway 1.

### *Coastal Access: Little Cayucos Creek, Downtown, and Beyond*

The area north of Little Cayucos Creek contains the oceanfront of the central business district and the pier. Businesses near the beach make this a popular area for the rental of surfboards and kayaks, as well as the launching of privately owned small watercraft. North of this area, across Cayucos Creek, the beach gives way to bluffs and private properties. A viewpoint and bluff top trail are planned for an area off of Lucerne Road. Just north of Cayucos is Estero Bluffs State Park. There is an undeveloped parking lot and trail to the coast near the intersection of Lucerne Road and Highway 1. Figure 2.19 shows the view of the beach and pier from the Estero Bluffs.

**Figure 2.19 View from Estero Bluffs**



### *Whale Rock Reservoir*

Whale Rock Reservoir has a 3.8 mile out-and-back trail good for all skill levels. The trail is primarily used for fishing access but also used for hiking, trail running, and walking. It is accessible from April until November. Whale Rock Reservoir, shown in figure 2.20, is open to the public during the trout-fishing season.

**Figure 2.20 Whale Rock Reservoir**





## Hiking and Trails: Harmony Headlands

About five miles north of Cayucos, one of the newest state parks in California called Harmony Headlands State Park is open to the public. The park is 784 acres of generally undeveloped land with a trailhead and parking lot directly off of Highway 1. The park is open from 6:00am to sunset and costs \$3.00 to park at the trailhead. As represented in Figure 2.21, there is an informational sign that provides guidance and information about the site.

Figure 2.21 Harmony Headlands Entrance



Along Highway 1, between Harmony Headlands State Park and the City of Cayucos, six unofficial parking lots are available for the public to park along the bluff side of the highway and enjoy the scenic views. Some sites allow for access to unmarked trails down to the bluffs and even down to small inlet beaches during low tide. South of Cayucos, along Highway 1 to the North Point Natural Area of Morro Bay, there are three unofficial parking lots that provide access to the dog friendly Morro Strand State Beach. Figures 2.22 and 2.23 provide views of Highway 1 north of Cayucos and south of Cayucos.

Figure 2.22 Highway 1 north view



Figure 2.23 Highway 1 south view



## 2.4 Regulatory Environment

Cayucos, California is an unincorporated area in San Luis Obispo County and falls under County jurisdiction. The following are the County, State, and Federal documents that provide guidance and regulations for the physical development of Cayucos.

### 2.4.1 County of San Luis Obispo's General Plan

The General Plan of San Luis Obispo (SLO) County expresses the county's development goals and embodies public policy relative to the distribution of future land uses. It provides a basis for local government decision-making and informs citizens, developers, and decision-makers of the ground rules that guide development within the county. State law requires that every general plan must contain the following components or "elements": Land Use; Conservation; Noise; Circulation; Open Space; Safety; and Housing. In addition, the County of San Luis Obispo has adopted seven optional elements: Recreation; Historic and Esthetic; Energy; Off-shore Energy; Economic; and Agriculture.

## **2.4.2 The Local Coastal Plan and The Estero Area Plan**

Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) are basic planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone in partnership with the California Coastal Commission. The California Coastal Commission is a state agency with quasi-judicial regulatory oversight over land use and public access in the California coastal zone. San Luis Obispo County consists of an expansive coastal zone, which encompasses Cayucos' entire boundary. San Luis Obispo County adopted an LCP in May 1992 and has experienced its most recent revision in April 2007. The document represents the county's commitment to implement the Coastal Act through both general plan policies and identification of detailed land use recommendations.

The Estero Plan was amended in January 2009 to establish a vision for the future of the Estero Planning Area that will guide development over the next 20 years. The Estero Plan also functions as the Coastal Plan for this area. This plan provides the future visions and goals of the represented communities (including Cayucos), and the policies, programs, and standards to help achieve them. When applicable, all public and private development in this planning area is to be consistent with this plan.

## **2.4.3 The Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance Title 23**

The Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (CZLU) of the County of San Luis Obispo, Title 23 of the County of San Luis Obispo County code is the guiding document of allowable uses in designated coast zones. Due to Cayucos being encompassed by the coastal zone, the unincorporated area must refer to this code for guidelines on allowable land uses. The purpose of this document is to implement the General Plan and the SLO County Coastal Program, and to guide and manage future growth of the county in accordance with those plans.

## **2.4.4 The Zoning Map**

The adopted zoning map for the Cayucos area, shown in the previous chapter as figure 2.12, represents the allowable uses reflected in the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (CZLU). It also reflects the coastal zone boundaries, the urban service line, urban reserve line, and planning area boundary adopted by the County.

## **2.4.5 Title 15 – County Traffic Regulations and Codes**

The County of San Luis Obispo Official Traffic Regulations Code of the County Code Title 15 provides guidelines of the adopted traffic regulations, speed limits, traffic control devices, parking standards, various zones, highways, intersections, pedestrian crossings, bikeways, prohibitions, rules for vehicles and pedestrians, restricted areas, and penalties for unlawful standing or parking for all unincorporated areas within the County.

## **2.4.6 Planning Area Standards**

Future development within the Estero Plan area must follow the Planning Area Standards found in Chapter 7 of the Estero Plan. Planning area standards are mandatory requirements for development and apply to certain activities, development, and establishment of new land uses. They must be satisfied before a land use can be established. The planning area standards for Cayucos can be found in Chapter 7 part V of the Estero Plan titled, "Cayucos Urban Area



Standards.” These standards provide guidelines for the following: resource capacity and service availability, building height, and parking lot design. Planning area standards also provide standards to lands in Geologic Study Area (GSA), Local Coastal Plan (LCP), and Sensitive Resource Area (SRA) that are located within the Cayucos Urban Reserve Line. There are also planning area standards for commercial retail areas, office and professional, recreation, residential multi-family, and residential single family. Within these different planning areas are guidelines on setbacks, architectural styles, and landscaping.

# *Chapter 3*

## Goals and Principles for Cayucos' Public Spaces

Public spaces contribute significantly to the health and cultural life of communities. They provide a space for public activities, which influences the character and identity of a community. Public spaces create a place for social activities by encouraging social interaction, social mixing, and social inclusion.

Public spaces provide for everyone in the community. Parks, libraries, public buildings, markets, plazas, playgrounds, beaches, waterfronts, sidewalks, and other gathering places create the space for people of diverse backgrounds to meet, exchange ideas, and participate in local activities. These places also provide the primary getaway spaces for relaxation and recreation in communities.

Public spaces function as the common ground where people come together as friends, neighbors, and citizens. They are the spaces people share together and are the primary sites for human exchange upon which our communities, economy, democracy, and society depend. The planning, design, and construction of public spaces influence both the quality of life of community members and the way that community members feel about the place in which they live, socialize, visit, or work.

The public spaces in Cayucos are the foundation of the community's character. Cayucos State Beach, Hardie Park, and the downtown core are just a few of the public spaces in Cayucos that function as prime gathering spaces for local residents and tourists alike. They provide space for casual gatherings, recreation, as well as the community's local events and activities. Ensuring that these public spaces are protected and enhanced are the driving forces in the goals and principles for the public spaces in Cayucos, outlined in this chapter.

## 3.1 Community Identity

### Goal 1: Preserved Historic Architecture

Principle 1.1: Protecting historic resources for the enjoyment of the community is essential to protecting the character and identity of a community. Some historic places in Cayucos have fallen into disrepair. The identification and verification of these historic sites allows for preservation and appreciation of community character and history.

Principle 1.2: Clear identification of historic and cultural resources enriches public experience and enhances a sense of community. The addition of these identification markers could provide opportunities for the creation of a historic walking tour of the area, highlighting the history and sense of place found in Cayucos. Figure 3.1 offers examples of historic markers.

**Figure 3.1 Examples of Historic Markers**



## Goal 2: Appreciation of Historically Significant Sites

Principle 2.1: Signage and placards to educate residents and tourists about the history of Cayucos will encourage respect and appreciation of historic and cultural resources. The wealth of history to be found in Cayucos should be communicated to the public so that residents and visitors alike can appreciate the area for its own unique heritage. Signs, like those seen in Figure 3.2, may be placed at strategic locations along the beach or near the pier to offer knowledge and insight to the public regarding the history of such places as the pier or Veteran's Hall.

**Figure 3.2 Examples of Historic Signage**



## Goal 3: A Pristine and Clearly Defined Greenway

Principle 3.1: Views of surrounding open space are an essential component of community identity. Figure 3.3 shows the vast amount of open space surrounding the downtown area. Cayucos has maintained a compact form since the beginning and the surrounding pasturelands have served as working ranches for over 150 years. Maintaining these historic viewsheds contributes to a unique sense of place, helps provide visual delineation for the community, and helps protect working ranches.

Principle 3.2: Surrounding open spaces provide space for recreation. Estero Bluffs to the north, the beach to the west, and the open pasture lands to the east are not only valued by residents for their beauty but also because they provide healthy and enjoyable recreation opportunities and gathering places.

**Figure 3.3 Aerial View of Cayucos**





#### Goal 4: Improved public space accessibility and seating

Principle 4.1: Seating increases the use and enjoyment of public spaces. Cayucos has many popular public spaces but limited public seating options. Seating is an essential component to a fully utilized public space. Increased seating options along the beach, as well as Ocean Front Street and Hardie Park will enhance utility and offer opportunities for a longer visit to an area. Some examples of unique seating creations can be seen in Figure 3.4.

Principle 4.2: Painted intersections with artistic murals will lower traffic speeds and create a sense of place for neighborhoods in the community. The acknowledgment of streets as public space allows the community to have a sense of place in public space that should be accessible to all. Additionally, the ability for community members to contribute to the built environment may entice some to live in the area longer than they would have and may entice others to move there.

**Figure 3.4 Example of Creative Seating**

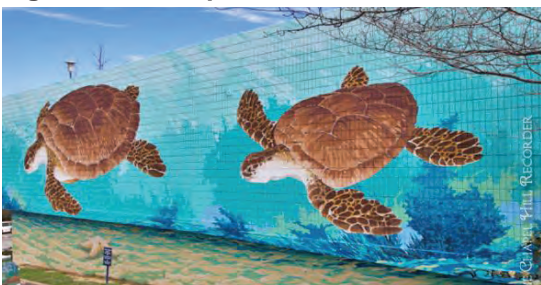


#### Goal 5: Community Supported Public Art

Principle 5.1: Increased public art opportunities will enhance the character of downtown Cayucos and contribute to a sense of cohesion for Cayucos. Public art can take many forms including murals, mosaics, sculpture, and other various art installations. Each of these is an opportunity for the community to distinguish itself and help tell the story of the community. Whether referencing historic events or celebrating important individuals in the community, public art is an opportunity for Cayucos to celebrate what matters to residents in a way that contributes positively to the aesthetics of downtown.

Principle 5.2: Creating opportunities for community members to participate in creation and direction of public art projects will enhance a sense of ownership and civic pride. Cayucos is a town rich in community participation, and public art provides a channel for engaged citizens to express their passion for the community. Whether permanent or temporary, art installations can add variety to the landscape and allow for people of all ages to help build community. Examples of topic-appropriate murals can be seen in Figure 3.5.

**Figure 3.5 Examples of Sea-Themed Murals**



## 3.2 Economic Vitality

Both residents and visitors alike cherish the eclectic nature of Cayucos. However, we also received comments during our outreach efforts that many people leave Cayucos to purchase groceries, go to the movies, or to engage in other activities. Therefore, the guiding principle for this section is to find ways to better serve both residents' and tourists' needs within the town. Figure 3.6 shows the main Business District in Cayucos, which runs along Ocean Avenue.

**Figure 3.6 Cayucos' Main Business District, Ocean Avenue**



### Goal 1: Community-Based Economic Consensus

Support community-based economic development initiatives consistent with this plan and the Estero Plan while being compatible with Cayucos' community livability and values.

Principle 1.1: Encourage community coalitions to implement development objectives and programs for the Downtown area.

Principle 1.2: Evaluate the impact of zoning regulations and procedures on community businesses and retailers using the community and county planning process. Involve affected businesses and neighborhood organizations in evaluation (i.e., sidewalk dining, signage, store awnings).

Principle 1.3: Maintain the existing small scale of development. It is highly important that all businesses within the downtown area fit with the existing scale of development so as not to disrupt the small-town feel of Cayucos. Historic buildings should be emphasized for the distinctive character they lend the commercial district. Figure 3.7 shows a local business within Downtown Cayucos.

**Figure 3.7 Local Cayucos Business**





## Goal 2: Make the Downtown Commercial Area More Accessible through Alternative Forms of Transit

This not only reduces the pressure for parking spots during the peak of the busy tourism season, but it allows all members of the community to easily access the commercial area to shop, eat, and socialize. This also creates a more vibrant pedestrian environment that increases foot traffic for businesses.

Principle 2.1: By making the commercial area more accessible to more of the population of residents and tourists, the area will become more vibrant and distinctive.

Principle 2.2: Improvements in transit options will benefit tourists and residents alike. The scenic stretch of Highway 1 that winds through Cayucos is very popular with cyclists. Cayucos already lends itself to being bicycle friendly because of its small-town nature and mild climate, but we heard from several residents and visitors that they don't feel safe riding their bicycles in town or have trouble finding places to store them. Simply having more bicycle racks, offering more convenient food options and casual dining opportunities will allow Cayucos to capture more visitor money and take advantage of tourist traffic that is already traveling through the area. Within the town, better marked bicycle lanes, bicycle rentals, and encouraging the use of complimentary bicycles at hotels and vacation rentals will encourage more people to traverse downtown without having to depend on their vehicles. This will in turn reduce the stress on parking capacity.

Principle 2.3: For those visitors and residents who may not feel comfortable riding a bicycle, a cross-town shuttle option should be explored. Cayucos has a significant population of senior citizens and a town shuttle would provide them with the independence to access downtown without relying on private transportation.

## Goal 3: Provide a Balance of Community-Serving and Visitor-Serving Businesses and Uses

While conducting our outreach, we repeatedly heard how much people enjoy staying active and exploring the natural surroundings of the town. As a community, Cayucos embraces living a healthy lifestyle. The current food options and recreation opportunities should be improved to reflect this, for the benefit of the community and its visitors.

Principle 3.1: Improving the availability of fresh, healthy food will benefit both locals and tourists alike. A summer season farmer's market already occurs on Fridays from 10am -12:30pm, but changing the time of this market would allow more people to make use of it. The possibility of shifting this Farmer's Market to a weekend would increase people's ability to get healthy food without having to leave the town, seen in Figure 3.8.

Principle 3.2: Expanding recreation opportunities will embrace the active lifestyle that residents value while improving tourism. Recreational fishing should also be encouraged when the historic pier is reopened. Simply expanding the activities offered within the community will benefit the businesses of Cayucos by dissuading people to leave the town as frequently to make purchases elsewhere.

**Figure 3.8 Farmers Markets Provide, Local, Healthy Foods**



Principle 3.3: Encourage residents to use the downtown area, even during the tourist season. While visiting the Cayucos Elementary School, the students told us they would like to see more healthy food options within Cayucos. Another issue that we heard from locals was that they didn't feel that the town was really "theirs" until after the tourist season had ended. We propose developing a locals-only discount that would occur once a month on days that aren't as popular with tourists to allow locals to converge on the downtown and support local businesses even during the tourist season.

### 3.3 Access and Linkages

#### Goal 1: Sustainable Circulation/Mobility that Provides Transportation Choices and Reduces the Use of Single-Occupant Vehicles (SOV)

Principle 1.1: Providing bicycle lanes, racks (shown in Figure 3.9), and other bicycle facilities is essential in making bicycle travel a viable transportation option to access all parts of Cayucos.

Principle 1.2: Walking is a primary method of transportation in Cayucos due to its small town nature and close proximity to a variety of uses. Ensuring a comfortable and safe walking environment within Cayucos neighborhoods and downtown will contribute to the pedestrian environment and improve accessibility in the area, seen in Figure 3.10 below. Creating wider sidewalks, a commonly requested item, can significantly improve access.

Principle 1.3: Cayucos is currently served by RTA which has two stops in Cayucos. The most recent census data shows that almost no one uses the bus to commute to work, despite many residents working outside of Cayucos. Providing comfortable and interactive waiting areas for users as well as more frequent pick ups will help encourage bus ridership, seen in Figure 3.11 below.

**Figure 3.9 Creative Bicycle Parking Ideas for Improved Accessibility**



**Figure 3.11 Example of Interactive Bus Stop**



**Figure 3.10 Improved Pedestrian Walkways and Bicycle Lanes**





Principle 1.4: Many people within Cayucos utilize their personal vehicles for transportation, particularly for commuting to work. Carpool and rideshare programs not only benefit the environment thanks to a reduction in emissions but also greatly reduce transportation costs for commuters. Future programs should be established to provide community members with ridesharing options.

## 3.4 Parking

### Goal 1: Maximized Benefit of Existing Parking Inventory in Downtown Cayucos

Principle 1.1: Cayucos currently has several locations, which hold large parking lots and are only used a few days a week. To increase the parking supply, a Community Parking Program could be implemented to create agreements with these private business lots, such as Churches or businesses closed on weekends and holidays, to add parking during high-volume weekends.

## 3.5 Health

### Goal 1: Expanded and Enhanced Outdoor Trail Network

Principle 1.1: Maintaining and promoting access to recreational trails can increase the amount of outdoor exercise residents and visitors get. Cayucos is home to some beautiful trails, often that people are unaware of. Improving signage, seen in Figure 3.12, and maintaining these trails will increase the number of people participating in this activity that can be beneficial for their health.

Principle 1.2: The maintenance and safety of beach and park facilities within the community, especially those areas adjacent to Cayucos State Beach, are vital, and, ultimately, may increase the number of residents who use these public spaces and promote being outdoors.

### Goal 2: Opportunities for Healthy Food Choices through Community Gardens

Principle 2.1: The community networks in Cayucos would provide a great starting point for citizen involvement in a community garden. As seen in Figure 3.13, community gardens are also a great location to provide fresh, healthy produce to residents (who, during public outreach, voiced that there is currently a lack of these options in Cayucos).

Figure 3.12 Improved Trail Signage



Figure 3.13 Example of a Community Garden



## 3.6 Sustainability

### Goal 1: Water Conservation in Cayucos

Principle 1.1: The use of water-efficient landscaping in public spaces is encouraged and can provide excellent examples for local residences and businesses. This policy can reduce use of water and therefore reduce the effect of drought conditions. Due to the current drought, the sooner water conservation measures take place, the fewer effects the Community will see in years to come.

**Figure 3.14 Examples of Drought-Tolerant Residential Landscaping Choices**



Principle 1.2: The use of native landscaping in public spaces will reduce water demand and create habitat for local fauna, as seen in Figure 3.14. Using this type of landscaping in parks and private yards can reduce the amount of water needed while still enjoying beautiful landscaping.

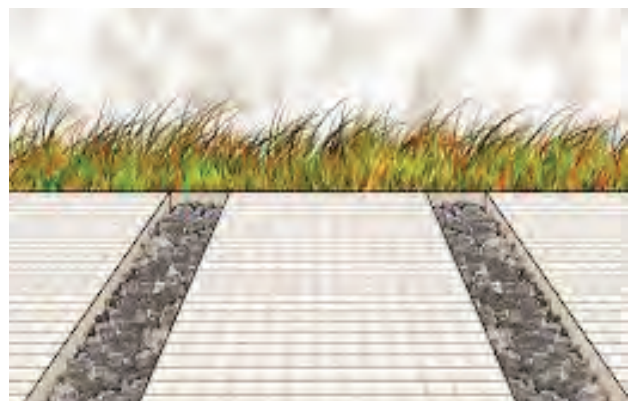
### Goal 2: Reduced Stormwater Runoff to Protect Water Quality of Ocean Water and Groundwater

Principle 2.1: Focusing on using pervious materials can reduce stormwater runoff and flooding concerns, as seen in Figure 3.15. These materials can be incorporated in parking lots and regions surrounding river and ocean access to reduce sediment flow into water. Not only do these surfaces let water flow through them into the ground, but they also create beautiful surfaces in any type of setting.

Principle 2.2: The community's water purveyors should develop innovative water management strategies that consider sustainable supply and treatment options.

Principle 2.3: Reduction of the use of fertilizers and pesticides will reduce water pollution. Areas such as Hardie Park and residents lining water sources can cut back or eliminate fertilizer use in order to reduce contaminated stormwater runoff flow into water bodies.

**Figure 3.15 Example of Pervious Surface to Reduce Runoff**



### Goal 3: Reduced Climate Change Impacts throughout Cayucos

Principle 3.1: Supporting local and statewide efforts to reduce emissions from greenhouse gases will benefit Cayucos. Solar energy is becoming a cost effective and easy source of renewable energy that can be placed on park structures and in public spaces. Educating residents about clean energy alternatives for maintaining and operating public parks can improve the community's overall health.

## 3.7 Uses and Activities

### Goal 1: Increased Community Activities in Temporary or Permanent Public Spaces

**Figure 3.16 Example of Creative, Temporary Community Gathering Event**



Principle 1.1: Incorporating public art in community gathering areas and public spaces can enhance surroundings. Using public art can help promote the funky vibe of Cayucos and also retain community identity while allowing residents to participate.

Principle 1.2: Holding additional community events in public spaces can increase the number of opportunities for residents and increase the community's economic vitality. For instance, amenities not normally available in Cayucos can be provided in public spaces through temporary events such as movie nights (as seen in Figure 2.16 above).

*Chapter 4*  
Visions and Actions for  
Cayucos' Public Spaces



## 4.1 Cayucos' Public Space Concept Map

The following sections detail recommendations for specific public spaces within Cayucos. As shown in Map 4.1, the following sites, as well as some community-wide ideas, will be addressed:

- Ocean Front Street
- Ocean Avenue
- B Street/Hardie Park

Map 4.1 Connecting Cayucos Concept Map



## 4.2 Ocean Front Street

Ocean Front Street primarily functions as a parking lot with approximately fifty spaces, a pedestrian walkway, and sea wall. Located along prime beachfront space, it has been used for temporary events but continues to be dominated by vehicular traffic, offering little seating or community space. Figure 4.1 shows the entrance to Ocean Front Street with the angled parking bordering Cayucos State Beach.

Cayucos State Beach, shown in figure 4.2, the Pier Plaza, and the Veterans Memorial Building are all popular gathering spaces that border Ocean Front Street. The Veterans Hall hosts music classes, computer courses, dance lessons, and a variety of community group meetings, including the Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council.

Enhancements to Ocean Front Street will augment the current and future uses and activities of Pier Plaza and will preserve the unique qualities that make this area a special gathering place. This plan aims to preserve some parking on Ocean Front Street while enhancing public space and protecting beach access.

During community outreach efforts, it was found that parking along Ocean Front Street is coveted and often fully occupied, especially during the summer months. Many residents were opposed to the potential removal of any parking. However, throughout this plan, additional strategies, including a crosstown community shuttle, and additional parking spaces at Hardie Park, should remove some demand from the Ocean Front Street parking lot.

Figure 4.1 Ocean Front Street



Figure 4.2 Cayucos State Beach



### 4.2.1 Ocean Front PARK(ing)

Based on a vision for this area as a vibrant community space, we have outlined various opportunities for this space that will transform it into a functional and flexible community gathering space.

*Vision: Enhancing Ocean Front Street to encourage community gathering and events will promote walkability while preserving beachfront parking.*

Ocean Front Street has the opportunity to be the most idyllic location in all of Cayucos for community gathering. Due to the large amount of parking, the area makes pedestrian access



more difficult and discourages walking and bicycle riding. By rearranging the parking spaces from angled to parallel and creating more space for the community, Ocean Front Street has the opportunity to be the most idyllic location in all of Cayucos for community gathering. The use of public art on Ocean Front Street could transform the space into a festive and welcoming atmosphere that promotes resident participation.

With the proposed improvements to the street, this location could become an ideal space to hold additional community events to bring residents together. Residents living along Ocean Front Street would continue to have complete access to their homes, and service vehicles would have access for deliveries, emergencies, and utility services.

Challenges for this vision include:

- The cost of restriping the surface of Ocean Front Street;
- Additional costs associated with the preferred method of a pedestrian buffer, whether that be paint, planter boxes, or other temporary uses to protect those enjoying the new space.

Since a number of events currently take place along Ocean Front Street, no significant new costs or challenges would be involved with an increase in the number of events. Concerns involving the reduction of parking spaces can be mitigated by the new configuration, and some spots along Ocean Front Street can be prioritized for handicap access.

*Action 1: Changing parking orientation to parallel spaces, creating more space and seating for pedestrians to walk and enjoy.*

This opportunity will allow safe, walkable spaces to businesses without the danger of moving vehicles. By rearranging the parking spaces from an angled configuration to parallel parking, more space will be added along Ocean Front Street for pedestrian access. After speaking with residents, comments received included the need for more outdoor dining opportunities without imposing on current narrow sidewalks. Figure 4.3 shows an example of an outdoor seating area that does not interfere with the pedestrian walkway.

Other moveable furniture could be incorporated into this location, creating a place for residents and visitors to enjoy the ambiance and charm of Cayucos. In addition, cyclists who travel to Cayucos via Highway 1 would have a safe and unique destination along their ride, thus additionally enhancing economic opportunities. Map 4.2 depicts the future vision for Ocean Front Street. Adults and children in Cayucos commented during our community outreach and explained things they would like to see which included movie theaters, more activity spaces for children, and healthy, affordable food options. Figure 4.4 shows some examples of temporary uses for Ocean Front Street, including food truck vendors.

**Figure 4.3 Example of outdoor dining along pedestrian walkway**



**Figure 4.4 Examples of temporary community events**





Action 2: Creating a buffer using paint or temporary planter boxes to protect pedestrians from vehicles parking.

With the new parallel parking reconfiguration, pedestrian walkability and access along business fronts will increase. To increase safety, temporary movable low planter boxes, painted or textured surfaces, or other types of moveable barriers could separate pedestrians from one-way traffic.

These planters would also create a welcoming environment to those sitting along Ocean Front Street enjoying the scenery. Using temporary barriers for safety, the street could become a pedestrian friendly location, promoting walking and outdoor dining options. Figure 4.5 shows some examples of planters acting as a buffer.

**Figure 4.5 Examples of planters**





Map 4.2 Ocean Front Park(ing) (top) and Ocean Front Plaza (bottom) Concept Map



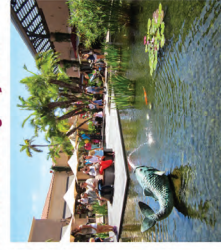
### ① Public Art Opportunities



Incorporating public art into more seating options can provide residents and visitors with a comfortable and aesthetically pleasing experience while using this public space.



### ② Walkability & Community Space



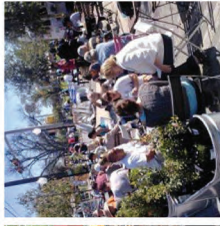
Enhanced walkability and community space along Ocean Front Street.

### ③ Entertainment & Gathering Space



Temporary and permanent space for entertainment, including movies on the beach, food vendors, and fairs.

### ④ Seating Areas and Bike Parking



Adding bicycle and pedestrian connections along Ocean Front Street.





## 4.2.2 Ocean Front Plaza

*Vision: With the creation of Ocean Front Plaza, this new gathering space will provide improved pedestrian access, economic vitality, and community identity.*

A more significant change to Ocean Front Street could be its permanent conversion into a plaza (without parking). Four qualities to successful public spaces include access, comfort, uses, and sociability. Currently, Ocean Front Street and the surrounding beachfront area offer some of the best views in Cayucos, but lack important qualities for good public space. The street area lacks public seating opportunities and a pedestrian welcoming presence, both essential components to a fully utilized public space.

The Ocean Front Plaza, which could run along Ocean Front Street down to the beachfront parking lot, would allow a small area of land to hold a tremendous potential for community-gathering events. After removing parking from Ocean Front Street, residents and visitors would have full enjoyment of the space without worrying about traffic passing through. Creating Ocean Front Plaza would increase walkability, improve bicycle options and bike parking, and increase economic vitality for Cayucos due to the increased foot traffic and Plaza amenities.

Incorporating the surface textures and colors as well as the public art discussed in the previous vision, the new Plaza could include a vast variety of native planter boxes, water features, moveable furniture, and more. This area has the potential to be a great location for holding events of all kinds including the local Farmer's Market, the Sea Glass Festival, and new events such as movie nights, hosting local bands and plays, or simply offering space for affordable food vendors and food trucks.

Challenges involved with the creation of Ocean Front Plaza include:

- Removing the approximately 70 parking spots
- Funding for new surfacing, furniture, and landscaping options
- Financing and approval of a safer seawall

While the parking issue has been addressed previously in this chapter, funding options could be secured with grants, County funding, local fundraisers, or other types of funding.

*Action 1: Transforming Ocean Front Plaza into a new public space that allows for a variety of public uses.*

The new Plaza would serve as a central gathering location for all residents and visitors of Cayucos. As shown in Map 4.2, Ocean Front Plaza will include all of Ocean Front Street as well as the beachfront parking lot. This location holds some of the most beautiful views of Cayucos beach and Morro Rock. To highlight its ideal location, the Ocean Front Plaza would be created for a wide variety of events and purposes. Opportunities along the street portion of the Plaza include more areas for outdoor dining, increased seating using moveable and permanent furniture choices, a beautiful water feature, areas for native planter boxes, as well as public art opportunities, all ideas which make for successful public spaces. The idea of the plaza is a controversial one. During community outreach, some residents were concerned about losing parking spaces that provide close access to the beach. However, other residents expressed interest in a car-free plaza and stated the need for safe, public space along the beach.

The Plaza will incorporate permanent seating options as well as drought-tolerant landscaping areas for picnic blankets and foldable chairs. With a paved surface along the seawall, opportunities for this space include: movie nights, local bands, cultural celebrations, healthy and affordable food vendors or food trucks, in addition to a wonderful public gathering space. As noted under Ocean Front PARK(ing), adults and children in Cayucos indicated they would like to see additional events and activities. Temporary events could be held in Ocean Front PARK(ing) and/or Plaza, including family movie nights (see Figure 4.6).

*Action 2: Closing down Ocean Front Street to through traffic, making it possible for more pedestrians to walk throughout downtown Cayucos and to visit local businesses.*

Throughout our community outreach events, the theme of keeping parking was heard consistently, and yet so was the need for better public spaces and improved economic vitality. By creating the pedestrian plaza along Ocean Front as shown in Map 4.2, the flow of pedestrian walking traffic will increase along Ocean Avenue and other parts of Cayucos. Residents and visitors will no longer simply park at the beach for one purpose, but instead use the surrounding parking locations as an opportunity to increase connectivity and pedestrian walkability throughout Cayucos, creating new economic opportunities for businesses owners. The Ocean Front Plaza will serve many purposes as both a destination and as an inviting location to stop while exploring Cayucos. Figure 4.7 shows an example of a pedestrian-friendly street envisioned for the Ocean Front Street plaza. In this plan, the removal of parking at this specific location has been compensated elsewhere throughout town while promoting walking and biking infrastructure.

**Figure 4.6 Examples of Temporary Community Events**



**Figure 4.7 Pedestrian-friendly Streets**



### 4.2.3 Additional Opportunities for Ocean Front PARK(ing) and/or Ocean Front Plaza

*Action 1: Using textured street surfaces with color such as bricks, pavers, or textured asphalt, allowing Ocean Front Street to appear more as a public, pedestrian space.*

The current surface of Ocean Front Street is black asphalt. This surface deters pedestrians, as it is generally associated with vehicular use. By changing the surface through enhancements of colors and textures, such as bricks, pavers, or textured and colored concrete, pedestrians



would feel safer, and the street more inviting. Figure 4.8 shows some examples of textured pavements that could be installed on Ocean Front Street. Short-term, cost-effective options for this opportunity could incorporate temporary public street art or painted floor surfaces. Map 4.3 depicts this opportunity.

**Figure 4.8 Examples of Textured Pavement**



*Action 2: Increasing the number of trash cans/ recycle bins, as well as pet waste receptacles.*

According to several community members, there currently are not enough trash receptacles available during high traffic weekends and summer days. With the anticipated increase in pedestrian traffic, more trash and recycling bins would be needed along Ocean Front to keep both the street and beach clean.

Since the beach is a dog friendly area, installing pet-waste bag dispensers, such as those shown in Figure 4.9, could reduce pet waste from the streets and beach. Figure 4.10 shows an example of trash collecting bins, which could be designed with natural materials or incorporated into public art to preserve the community identity for the area.

**Figure 4.9 Example of pet waste bag dispensers**



**Figure 4.10 Example of waste collection bins**



### *Action 3: Using public art as a method to enhance the existing space.*

While holding community outreach events, the idea of public art throughout Cayucos was one of the most popular ideas. Residents agreed that the mural on the public restroom was beautiful and incorporating more art like this would add to community identity.

Using this as inspiration, more public art along Ocean Front Street could beautify space while incorporating Cayucos' beach culture. To enhance the space during events, the beachfront parking lot surface could be painted as a historical mural or original design. Incorporating art into the sea wall, new seating options, ground surfaces, and even community art projects would be a great way to enhance Ocean Front Street. Adding public art, such as the examples shown in figure 4.11 and 4.12, can be done very inexpensively and can incorporate temporary or permanent art. The use of public art can also be incorporated into Ocean Front Street PARK(ing) or Ocean Front Street Plaza, see Map 4.2.

**Figure 4.11 Example of Mosaic Tile Bench**



**Figure 4.12 Example of Street Chalk Art**



### *Action 4: Creating historic signage along Ocean Front Street to highlight the importance of Cayucos' past.*

Cayucos community members have commented on the importance of preserving community identity. The Save the Pier movement is a testament to the community's commitment to the unique history of Cayucos. The creation of a historic walk, similar to figure 4.13, along Ocean Front Street would educate visitors and residents about the fascinating and exciting history of the area, fostering appreciation and connecting community members to each other and the past that has shaped Cayucos. Residents and local artists could participate in creating this signage to incorporate the use of standing signs, floor murals, or signage along the seawall. The vast history of Cayucos can tell its story along the Ocean Front Plaza.

**Figure 4.13 Example of Historical Information Signage**





*Action 5: Updating the current seawall to improve seating capacity and to make it safer and more aesthetically pleasing (by incorporating public art).*

According to several community members, the seawall is currently poorly maintained and is in need for repair. The seawall is actively used by residents and visitors as a seating location; however, the poor condition makes it difficult for a significant number of people to use. By updating this bench, Cayucos State Beach will have increased seating facing the ocean that is safe and visually appealing for residents to gather, families to watch children on the playground and for everyone to watch the waves pass. Using public art and sea glass, seen in Figure 4.14, to incorporate mosaics, historical information about Cayucos through words, pictures or natural materials, the updated seawall will serve many purposes that would benefit residents. Figure 4.15 highlights ideas for other permanent seating examples.

**Figure 4.14 Example of Public Art**



**Figure 4.15 Example of Permanent Seating**



## 4.3 Ocean Avenue

Ocean Avenue serves as the primary commercial district for Cayucos as well as a gathering space for various events throughout the year. It also hosts a variety of restaurants, retail, and lodging options for residents and visitors. The concept area for this project includes Ocean Avenue extending from North Ocean Avenue starting at Cayucos Drive to B Street, and South Ocean Avenue extending from 4th Street to 13th Street.

While a major function of Ocean Avenue as a street is providing the primary arterial roadway within Cayucos, it should also be considered as a prime public space. It already hosts a variety of features that contribute to it being a thriving gathering space for locals, including shops, restaurants and businesses, and ocean views.

Ocean Avenue is classified as an arterial roadway, serving as the major artery of Cayucos. It is approximately 100 feet wide and consists of seven crosswalks beginning at the end of North Ocean Avenue at Cayucos Drive and ending at Park Avenue. There are currently no crosswalks along South Ocean Avenue beyond Park Avenue. Sidewalks along the northern end of Ocean Avenue vary from 9 to 11 feet wide. Consistent sidewalks on both sides of the street extend from north Ocean Avenue near Cayucos Drive to E Street. Beyond E Street, sidewalks are interrupted or are nonexistent along South Ocean Avenue. The project area currently contains approximately 170 parking spots.

Although there is a partial bike lane that runs along Ocean Avenue, there is no designated bicycle infrastructure along North Ocean Avenue, including bike racks. There is also a minimal amount of street trees and landscaping as well as limited outdoor seating and public gathering space. There are approximately four locations that provide outdoor seating and public gathering space along Ocean Avenue. These include:

- Vegetated planters and a single bench on the corner of E Street
- Tables, chairs, and benches in front of Top Dog Coffee and A Deli and Pieman Pies
- Outdoor furniture and planter boxes on the left side of the Remember When Antiques store
- Tables and chairs in front of Ocean Front Pizza

The following visions and opportunities reflect the already existing assets of Cayucos' Ocean Avenue as well as recommended enhancements.

*Vision: Enhancing the comfort and walkability of Ocean Avenue will improve an already thriving pedestrian-oriented public space.*

Downtown Cayucos reflects the unique identity of the community through its eclectic mix of shops, restaurants, historic structures, and complementary ocean views. By improving the comfort and walkability of downtown, more residents and visitors will be able to enjoy and participate in the heart of culture in Cayucos.

Ocean Avenue has the potential to be a prime space for pedestrian activity. Enhancing streets to be more pedestrian oriented encourages walking and creates space for community interaction. The street is then able to function as a means of mobility from one destination to another as well as a prime public space for residents and visitors.

*Action 1: Encouraging pedestrian circulation through sidewalk widening from Cayucos Drive to E Street.*

Downtown Cayucos is the ideal destination to maximize pedestrian activity due to its mix of shops and restaurants, scenic views, small town feel, and temperate weather. Some businesses have already taken it upon themselves to provide outdoor seating and cafe tables to allow residents and visitors to use the street to gather, eat, and relax.

With current sidewalk widths, seating and dining tables impede the pedestrian walkway and make the sidewalks feel crowded. Ocean Avenue provides ample opportunity to widen and extend sidewalks to enhance and encourage pedestrian circulation within the downtown. Sidewalks along the section of Ocean Avenue between Cayucos Drive and E Street have the opportunity to add an additional width of up to five feet. With an expansive 100 foot right-of-way with head-in parking, two travel lanes, angled parking, and a median, sidewalks can be widened by eliminating the existing painted median with no decrease in existing parking or width of travel lane.

This additional sidewalk widening creates a more inviting and comfortable walking environment. It would provide more outdoor space for people to gather, enhance economic activity, improve safety, and calm traffic, thus, creating a more pedestrian-oriented downtown. At the Farmers Market outreach held on May 23rd and 30th, this idea was met with favorable approval by community members who participated. See Figure 4.16 for examples of wide sidewalks envisioned for Cayucos.



**Figure 4.16 Examples of Wide Sidewalks Envisioned for Cayucos**



The San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works confirmed that the right-of-way on Ocean Avenue would allow for the sidewalks to be widened. Challenges would include the infrastructure costs and maintenance. If funding could be obtained, Cayucos' could potentially create a volunteer beautification group to provide sidewalk maintenance and clean up. Businesses could also pay into a fee that would pay for sidewalk maintenance.

In order to get an initial experience with wider sidewalks in the downtown, the community could undergo a 'trial' phase with temporary 'extensions.' Barricades or temporary planters could be placed in the street, separating the temporary 'widened' sidewalk from street traffic. As shown in Figure 4.17, local retailers, restaurants, and community groups could create an inviting pedestrian-oriented public space through the introduction of sidewalk vendors, movable outdoor furniture, outdoor seating at restaurants, and temporary landscaping. While some members of the public were in favor of a sidewalk widening, others expressed some hesitation. By creating a trial phase, community members can get an idea of what the future widening would be like before any permanent infrastructure changes.

**Figure 4.17 Example of Temporary Pedestrian Zone**



*Action 2: Encouraging pedestrian circulation through sidewalk extensions beyond E Street.*

The commercial district does not end at E Street in Cayucos. Beyond E Street, along South Ocean Avenue, are several local businesses that are staples to the Cayucos community. These include the locals' favorite restaurant, the Sea Shanty, and the only grocery store, Cayucos Market. There are several other retail shops and businesses along this stretch of Ocean Avenue that contribute to Cayucos' local economy and character.

Beyond E Street, sidewalks become piecemeal or are nonexistent along South Ocean Avenue. Ocean Avenue has the opportunity to provide a greater connection between North Ocean Avenue and South Ocean Avenue by extending sidewalks along each side of the road, at least until 4th

Street. See Map 4.3.

As it currently stands, there are several sections of the sidewalks where pedestrians are forced to walk in the street or walk in the bike lanes on South Ocean Avenue. This creates conflicts with pedestrians as they attempt to share the road with drivers and cyclists. Providing consistent sidewalks in the commercial district along Ocean Avenue will improve pedestrian safety and also provide greater connections from North Ocean Avenue to South Ocean Avenue.

*Vision: A balance of infrastructure and aesthetically pleasing alterations could enhance downtown's streetscapes.*

Currently, Ocean Avenue reflects the eclectic nature of Cayucos. One of the reasons people appreciate the town is the numerous historic buildings and local businesses that represent Cayucos' unique character. Wider sidewalks, enhanced lighting, and increased landscape can make the commercial district of Ocean Avenue more appealing for cyclists and pedestrians, encouraging more people to leave their cars at home.

*Action 1: Improving the aesthetics of downtown through increased landscaping and lighting.*

Currently, there are traditional streetlights along Ocean Avenue, but they are tall and create light-pollution. Smaller pedestrian-oriented streetlights along the sidewalks from where Little Cayucos Creek crosses under Ocean Avenue to where Ocean Avenue intersects 4th Street are recommended. Figure 4.18 highlights one example. This will create a safer walking area along Ocean Avenue and help distinguish the commercial area to visitors. Light-pollution-minimizing streetlights are mentioned because they help embrace the small-town, rural feel of Cayucos without sacrificing the safety and comfort of residents living nearby.

At present, some local businesses along Ocean Avenue have window boxes and planters to add to the unique beauty of the downtown. More planting areas would enhance not only the appearance of Cayucos, but would also make pedestrians more comfortable and safe by creating a buffer between them and automobile traffic. Taller shrubs could be used sporadically to create some shade for people strolling along Ocean Avenue on sunny days without interrupting the views of the beach and hillsides. Figure 4.19 shows examples of potential landscaping that could be implemented along Ocean Avenue.

**Figure 4.18 Example of Streetlight**



**Figure 4.19 Examples of Drought Tolerant Plants**





### *Action 2: Improving signage along Ocean Avenue.*

There are two Highway 1 exits that people currently use to enter Cayucos. The northern exit takes people onto Cayucos Drive and right past the school to enter the downtown. The southern one directs people off on 13th Street and then has them turn right on Southern Ocean Avenue through a residential area. Neither one of these exits is ideal because people who are unfamiliar with the area may exit with higher speeds directly into areas where lower-speeds are most needed to maintain safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and other drivers. While doing our outreach, an eighth grader at Cayucos Elementary spoke to us about being struck/brushed by a vehicle while riding his or her bicycle.

Increasing orientation signage near these highway exits would not only offer the opportunity to welcome people to Cayucos, but also serve as a reminder for them to reduce their speeds. Signs with directional information to the downtown would also reduce the risk of people getting lost along residential streets and making sudden maneuvers that could lead to accidents. Figure 4.20 shows some examples of signage that could be installed within Cayucos.

**Figure 4.20 Example of Traffic Calming Signage**



### *Action 3: Providing more seating options in the downtown core and increasing the availability of trash and recycle bins.*

Along Ocean Avenue right now, there are very limited public seating areas. This means that people who wish to sit and enjoy the beautiful views of Cayucos have few options. By increasing public seating options along Ocean Avenue, not only will people be able to rest and stay within the commercial district longer, but seating options also offer an opportunity to incorporate more public art throughout downtown to reflect the creative independent spirit of the community. Examples are highlighted in Figure 4.21.

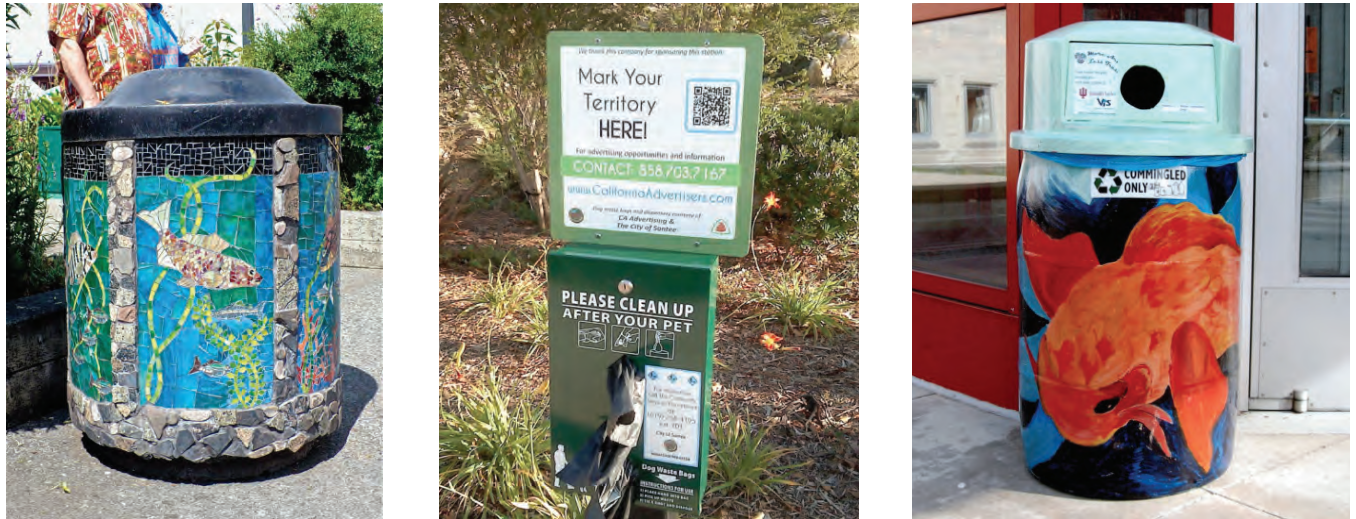
**Figure 4.21 Examples of Creative Seating Options**



Another issue we heard from the community is the lack of trash and recycling receptacles within the downtown. By increasing the frequency of trash and recycling facilities throughout the downtown, people will find it more convenient to dispose of waste appropriately, and this will help maintain the cleanliness of the community. As shown in figure 4.22, trash bins with recycling options could also incorporate advertising and public-art space.

In our discussions with community members and tourists, Cayucos was frequently described as being very dog-friendly. To make sure it is convenient for people to dispose of their canine's waste correctly, dog waste bag dispensers and receptacles should also be increased along Ocean Avenue to keep the area attractive and inviting for everyone to enjoy.

**Figure 4.22 Examples of Creative Waste Reciprocals**



*Vision: Safety on Ocean Avenue can be improved by increasing protection of pedestrians from oncoming traffic.*

Walking is a primary mode of travel for residents and visitors living and staying within Cayucos, as indicated by community members surveyed during the course of this project. However, wide streets such as Ocean Avenue can encourage cars to travel at high speeds, negatively impacting the safety of pedestrians. A lack of frequent sidewalks on long blocks and wide streets can also cause increased jaywalking, putting pedestrians at risk. Providing a safe and pleasant walking environment along Ocean Avenue has been established as a primary goal for enhancing Ocean Avenue's function as a public space.

Community members surveyed at the Easter Egg Hunt and Dog Parade held on April 19, 2014 said that they felt Cayucos was great for walking. However, some community members also expressed concern over people traveling at high speeds on Ocean Avenue and not stopping at marked stop signs. The following opportunities are ways to address this safety concern and make Ocean Avenue a safer place for pedestrian activity.



### *Action 1: Enhancing pedestrian safety through traffic calming measures.*

As depicted in Map 4.3, various traffic-calming measures could encourage pedestrian activity in Cayucos. This plan's recommendations include:

- Raised and textured intersections
- Midblock crossings/ Medians
- Bulbouts
- Painted crosswalks

#### **Raised and textured intersections**

There is opportunity to make pedestrian crossings more visible to on-coming traffic at crosswalks and key intersections along Ocean Avenue through the creation of raised intersections with colored or textured pavement. Raised and textured intersections reinforce slow speeds and increase visibility of the crossing, encouraging motorists to yield to pedestrians at the crosswalk, shown in Figure 4.23.

At the Farmers Market Outreaches held on May 23 and 30, 2014, the idea of raised intersections received 16 votes, showing some level of interest from community members.

#### **Midblock crossings/Medians**

In order to decrease instances of jaywalking and improve pedestrian safety, creating additional midblock crossings along Ocean Avenue should be established. Pedestrians will often take the most direct route possible to get to a destination, even if that means crossing multiple lanes of traffic. Midblock crosswalks can provide visual cues to drivers to slow down and be alert that pedestrians might be crossing.

Medians can slow down traffic by reducing the usable width of the street and also improve safety by allowing pedestrians to negotiate traffic in only one direction at a time. Medians also provide an opportunity for additional landscaping. The proposed locations for midblock crossings are shown in Map 4.3. Figure 4.24 shows an example of a combined midblock crossing and median.

Due to the annual Fourth of July Parade held in Cayucos each year, a full median along Ocean Avenue would not be feasible. Creating pedestrian refuge islands is a more viable option as they can take up less space while still creating safer crossings for pedestrians midblock and periodically narrowing the lane and reducing travel speeds.

**Figure 4.23 Example of Raised and Textured Intersection**



**Figure 4.24 Example of Pedestrian Refuge Islands at Midblock Crossings**



## Bulbouts

In order to decrease the distance of the crosswalk, sidewalk extensions known as bulbs can be implemented to allow for pedestrians to get across Ocean Avenue faster. Due to a decreased radius, bulb outs also help reduce the speeds of vehicles making right turns. One example of a bulbout can be seen in Figure 4.25.

## Painted crosswalks

Another way to improve visibility of pedestrians and improve safety is by making the crosswalks stand out. Some of the sidewalks are already zebra striped which helps enhance visibility. Figure 4.26 highlights an example of using multiple colors to further increase the visibility of pedestrians and provide additional public art downtown. Painting the crosswalks is also an inexpensive solution and can be temporary or changed periodically.

Figure 4.25 Example of a Bulbout



Figure 4.26 Example of Painted Intersection



*Action 2: Improving pedestrian connections from neighborhoods to the downtown.*

Cayucos is a small town with a mild year-round climate that is ideal for pedestrian travel throughout the community. However, we heard from residents and tourists alike during our outreach that they didn't always feel comfortable trying to access the downtown commercial area on foot. Uneven sidewalks that aren't continuous do not encourage people to use walking as a form of transportation to travel from the residential areas into the Ocean Avenue commercial core.

*Vision: Bicycle travel along Ocean Avenue could be encouraged through improved bicycle facilities.*

Cycling is a popular activity for locals and visitors residing near the Morro Bay and Cayucos region. With Cayucos being a small city with scenic ocean views, bicycling should be highly encouraged to both residents and visitors. It is already a popular spot of cyclists to travel to recreationally, and some members of the public noted that they frequently bike around Cayucos. Increasing bicycle activity can help alleviate pressure on the limited parking supply in Cayucos. There are several opportunities to increasing bicycle travel in Cayucos by increasing bike racks, expanding bike lanes, and establishing a bicycle rental.



*Action 1: Increasing the number and frequency of bicycle racks.*

Cayucos is a popular spot for cyclists visiting the community as well as for residents as a means of travel and recreation. Several participants in our community outreach surveys expressed how much they like to use their bicycles as a way to traverse through the town, whether it be for running errands or physical exercise. They described how enjoyable they find it due to the scenic natural surroundings of Cayucos and the small scale of the town. These respondents also expressed to us that they have problems finding places to secure their bicycles when they reach the commercial area of Ocean Avenue because of the lack of bicycle racks. Figure 4.27 shows some examples of creative bicycle racks that could be installed in Cayucos.

**Figure 4.27 Creative Examples of Bicycle Racks**



Providing additional bike racks at key locations around Cayucos will encourage bicycle travel amongst both residents and visitors and help reduce pressures on parking. Some suggested locations for bike racks are near the beach by the Veteran's hall, the downtown core near Top Dog Coffee, and at the Cayucos Market. Bicycle racks provide a needed function for cyclists but also have the ability to become public art. We know from our outreach efforts that Cayucos deeply values its artistic and eclectic nature. Creative bicycle racks could be used to benefit the streetscape appearance and embrace the uniqueness of Cayucos.

*Action 2: Extending bicycle lanes on North Ocean Avenue.*

Due to the small town nature of Cayucos, its variety of shops and restaurants, and its expansive scenic views with year-round temperate weather, Cayucos is an ideal location for active transportation. In order to encourage more frequent bicycle travel, providing additional bicycle lanes on Ocean Avenue should be encouraged.

There are currently no bicycle paths along North Ocean Avenue where angled parking is located, beginning at Park Avenue and extending to Cayucos Drive within the downtown core. In order to provide enough space for parked cars to back out of the angled spots, the lane is wide enough to accommodate both cars and cyclists. In order to provide a designated bike lane along North Ocean Avenue, the head-in angled parking spots would have to be converted to head-out.

During the Easter Egg Hunt and Dog Parade on April 19, 2014 and the Farmers Market outreach activities held on May 23 and 30, 2014, members of the public who participated responded in favor of more bicycle lanes in Cayucos. Some members expressed concern over the safety of cyclists while traveling on Ocean Avenue due to cars backing out and the high speeds of traffic. Providing designated bicycle lanes can help separate drivers and cyclists and improve visibility of cyclists to drivers.

The biggest challenge to extending bicycle lanes on Ocean Avenue is the angled parking. A bicycle lane cannot run behind the angled parking as vehicles need five feet of space to back out. The lane on its own is currently wide enough to accommodate cars and cyclists, though they have to share the lane. Parking would have to be reconfigured from head-out parking to back-in parking, discussed further in this chapter.

*Action 3: Encouraging bicycle rentals and a bike share program.*

There are several hotels and vacation rentals that provide lodging for the many visitors who come to Cayucos year-round. An increase in visitors often means an influx of additional cars that require more parking. A demand for parking has the potential to be diminished if hotels and vacation rentals provided bicycles for visitors to use or rent, seen in Figure 4.28. This would allow visitors to leave their cars at their hotels and primarily use a bicycle to travel around Cayucos.

**Figure 4.28 Bicycle Rentals and Bicycle Share Examples**



Hotels and vacation rental companies can also use the bikes to be additional advertising by putting plaques or their names on the bikes. This would provide them with more exposure as visitors cycle around town. The challenges to implementing this type of program would be the organization amongst hotel owners as well as the costs of bicycles and bicycle maintenance. However, at the various community outreach events, members of the public showed favor at the idea of bicycle rentals. They also showed favor over using bike rentals and a bike share program to alleviate parking needs during high tourist seasons.

*Action 4: Increasing public space and safety by changing the head-in parking to back-in parking striping on Ocean Avenue.*

Currently on Ocean Avenue, vehicles park in angled parking spaces, head-in. Parking at an angle allows for an increased number of parking spaces compared to a parallel parking. While back-in parking does not add more parking spaces to the alternative head-in parking, but it requires less street space and has numerous safety features.

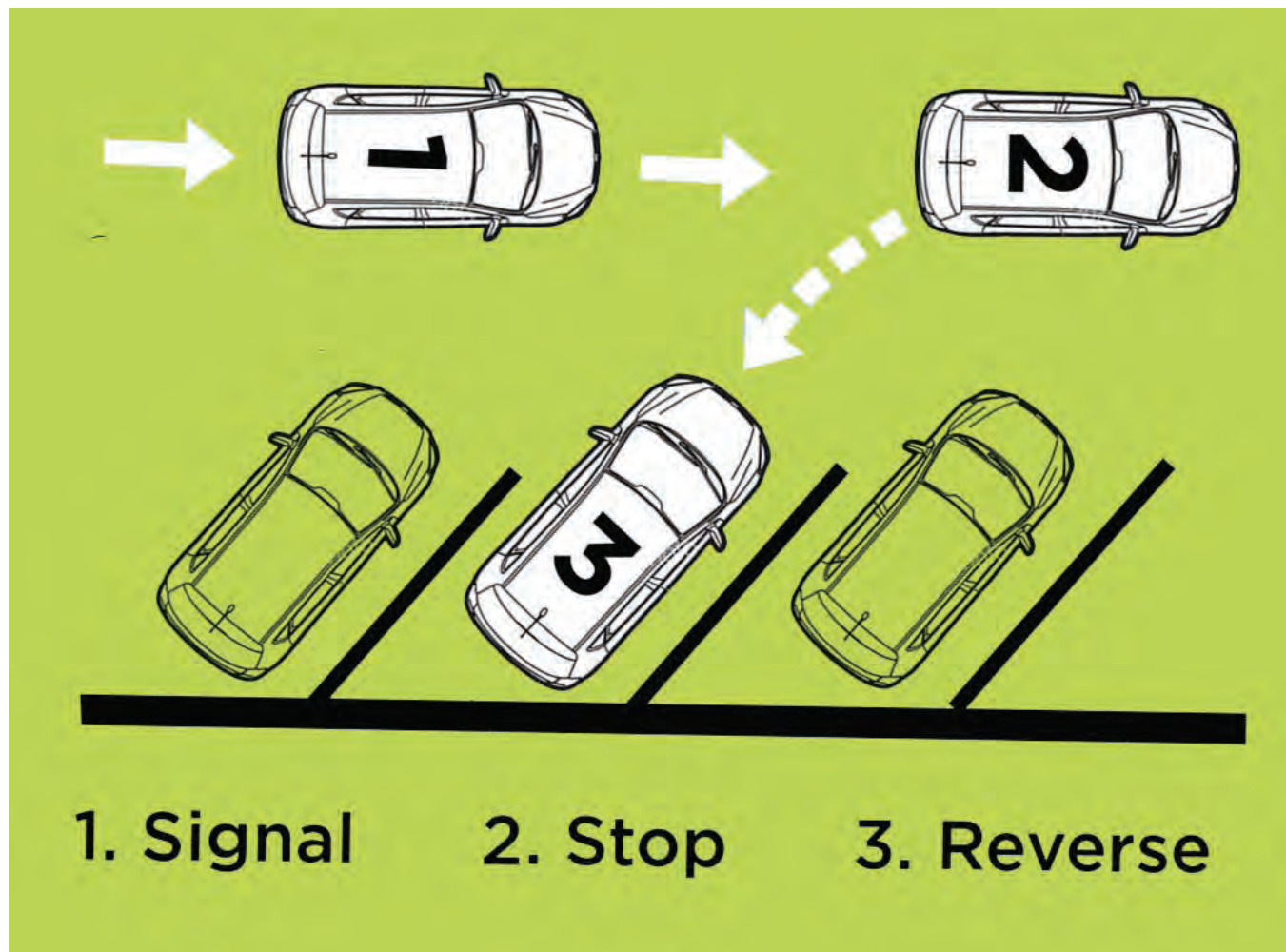
The head-in parking requires an extra five feet for drivers to safely back out into the street. Back-in parking requires five feet less than head in parking because drivers are able to see bicyclists and oncoming traffic and could safely drive off. The extra space the back-in parking saves could be used for adding bike lanes and expanding the sidewalks. People could also access the trunks of their cars without interrupting the flow of traffic and risking possible vehicle-pedestrian collisions.

Members of the public did express some concerns about back-in parking. For example, if trucks have a trailer hitch, pedestrians on the sidewalk may be at risk of being hit by the trailer. To mitigate this concern, a parking bumper and or a landscaping strip between cars and sidewalk could be installed.



People also were concerned about the health effects of having automobile exhaust pipes facing the sidewalk. However, the extra space that head-out parking saves can be used to extend the sidewalk and add landscape features, creating a barrier between the parked vehicle and pedestrians. Figure 4.29 shows the ease of back-in parking in three simple steps.

**Figure 4.29 Steps to Back in Parking**





Map 4.3 Ocean Avenue concept map





## 4.4 B Street/Hardie Park

### 4.4.1 B Street and B Street “Causeway”

B Street, which runs in a north-south direction at the northern end of downtown Cayucos, currently ends at the intersection of Ash Avenue. As noted by the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in 2009, a lack of conveyance facilities for stormwater runoff has led to frequent flooding problems in the Cayucos Creek area and presents a unique challenge when attempting to address stormwater management at this site. In an effort to facilitate stormwater run-off along Hardie Park, a concrete drainage ditch has been constructed immediately in front of the park entrance and along Cayucos Creek Road leading from the north side parking lot, seen in Figure 4.30.

Figure 4.30 Current Drainage Piping Along B Street



This drainage ditch eventually leads down to man-made, dredged drainage ditches. Beyond the paved surface area of B Street is an elevated “causeway,” a vegetated strip of land which extends nearly to the endpoint of North Ocean Avenue. This “causeway” (which is in the public right of way) is paralleled on both sides by drainage ditches that are often filled with runoff water flowing down from B Street and out to Cayucos Creek via partially-covered stormwater piping. These ditches cut off the “causeway” from any pedestrian access, seen in Figure 4.31, to North Ocean Avenue. Currently, pedestrians walking to or from various locations in this area (including Hardie Park, the community pool, Cayucos Elementary School, and the Cayucos Public Library) use the undeveloped series of parcels adjacent to this “causeway” as an access point to Ocean Avenue.

Figure 4.31 Current Ditches Blocking Pedestrian Access



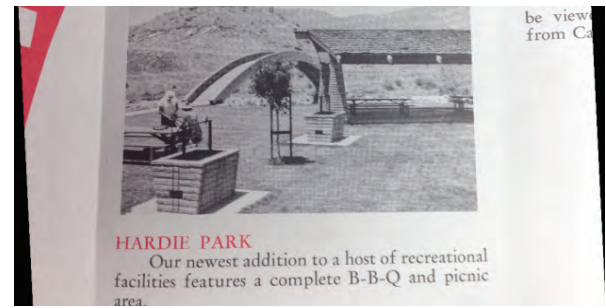


#### 4.4.2 Hardie Park

Hardie Park is located near the Cayucos Library and elementary school. It offers a grassy setting that is often warmer than the beach, for families and kids to gather, play, or relax. It is the most developed public park in Cayucos and includes a covered pavilion, a horseshoe pit, restrooms, a children's play area, grassy lawns, two tennis courts, and a swimming pool.

The park has its own small parking lot and is also accessed by an unofficial walking trail that leads south, through two vacant lots, towards downtown and Cayucos State Beach. In the past, Hardie Park included a half-acre lot across Cayucos Creek. A footbridge used to connect the properties, as seen in Figure 4.32, but was removed when it fell into disrepair. The half-acre, county-owned lot across the creek is now unused and inaccessible.

**Figure 4.32 Historical Photo of Once Existing Hardie Park Bridge**



*Vision: Public access between Hardie Park, Ocean Avenue, and the beach could be improved through effective stormwater management practices and sustainable streetscape design.*

*Action 1: Implementing a “green” street project for B Street in order to improve existing stormwater runoff infrastructure, improve the streetscape, and create greater accessibility between Hardie Park and Ocean Avenue.*

Using the existing drainage ditches that run from Cayucos Creek Road, down past Hardie Park and into the B Street “causeway,” a series of bioswales and bioretention cells could be implemented along B Street to accomplish the dual goals of improving stormwater management of the Cayucos Creek and B Street corridors and creating a more pedestrian-friendly streetscape. Figure 4.33 highlights examples of both bioswales and bioretention cells as implemented recently in Paso Robles at 21st Street. Other sustainability-minded streetscape strategies could include the use of pervious pavement materials, the integration of native plants to provide a buffer between pedestrian and vehicular areas, and the preservation of existing street trees and new street trees to increase tree canopy. Careful consideration of already existing street parking options on B Street, near Hardie Park and the community pool, would be incorporated into the streetscape design. As the 21st Street complete “green” street project highlights, numerous grant opportunities are available from “green” infrastructure-promoting organizations (including the Urban Greening Grant Program) and should be carefully considered as a funding mechanism for such a project.

**Figure 4.33 Examples of Bioswales Along Roads**



*Action 2: Improving public access and connectivity from Hardie Park to the beach and Ocean Avenue by way of B Street, through the implementation of a public walkway or trail along the B Street “causeway.”*

In conjunction with the B Street “green” street project, our proposed extension of Hardie Park, and the proposed new parking spaces within the vacant B Street parcels, a public walkway could be implemented using the existing B Street “causeway.” It should be noted that both B Street and this B Street “causeway” are in the public right of way per data collected from the county. A number of possible sustainable paving options are available for the walking path including pervious paving surfaces, concrete alternatives, a raised wood walkway or even natural gravel or wood chip surfaces. The “green” street project could also be extended into this area through construction of bioswales in place of the current drainage ditches along both sides of the “causeway”. Figure 4.34 shows some examples of bioswales that run along walkways, elements that could be incorporated to the “green” street project in Cayucos.

As a long-term opportunity consideration the community could extend B Street as a multi-modal roadway along the “causeway” to connect B Street with North Ocean Avenue.

However, based on initial community feedback, the walkway or trail opportunity presents a more attainable, short-term option to address connectivity in this area of Cayucos. In conjunction with this “causeway” trail project, the installation of a wood or steel footbridge, seen in Figure 4.33, at the end of the “causeway” would serve to link the “causeway” with B Street and the end of North Ocean Avenue. Each of these opportunities would help improve public access and linkages to the beach and North Ocean Avenue and would help connect already valued public spaces.

**Figure 4.34 Example of Pathways and Bioswales**



**Figure 4.35 Examples of Footbridges**





*Vision: Expanding the boundaries of Hardie Park could allow more diverse uses and also create more avenues for pedestrian access to the park.*

The 2009 Estero Area Plan states that there is not enough public open space in Cayucos to serve the community's current population. Expanding Hardie Park is a likely solution to the problem because of its central location near downtown, public facilities, potential for beach access, and nearby vacant land. The vacant lots surrounding the park total almost three acres, and a half acre of this is already owned by the county. There are environmental constraints that limit the development potential of the lots, making them even more attractive to use as public open space.

*Action 1: Expanding Hardie Park and improving its connectivity by rebuilding the bridge across Cayucos Creek.*

Hardie Park used to include a small lot across Cayucos Creek from the pavilion area. Over time the bridge fell into disrepair and was demolished, cutting off access to the lot. Rebuilding the bridge across the creek would reopen the vacant half acre, currently still part of the park property across the creek (one idea is seen in Figure 4.36). This area could be used as an additional play area for children, or as a scenic walk along the river. The bridge would also provide a pedestrian connection between the mobile home park and the Hardie Park/ elementary school area. However, the vacant lot is not located in an ideal location. It is bordered by a steep embankment and Highway 1, and an unattractive backlot of the mobile home park.

**Figure 4.36 Example of Connecting Bridge For Hardie Park**





*Action 2: Expanding Hardie Park through lease or purchase of three vacant lots south of Hardie Park.*

The lots represent a sizable amount of the vacant land in Cayucos (2.15 acres), and could accommodate a variety of public uses. If the lots were obtained by the County or a nonprofit, they could be used for a community garden, additional parking near downtown, and an attractive walking trail. Figure 4.37 shows an example of a community gardening effort. Support for this project is strong among participants in the outreach effort for this studio. However, the main challenge for this opportunity is obtaining the funding necessary to purchase the lots.

**Figure 4.37 Example of Community Garden**



The B-Street lots offer abundant space for people to garden and compost small amounts of green waste. The proposed community garden would also provide a place to compost but not likely solve the problem of what to do with all of the green waste generated in Cayucos. It would be too small and too close to homes to serve as a community-scale green waste facility, but would more likely be used for household, kitchen type compost. Cayucos participants in the outreach for this studio, through surveys, have shown a large amount of support for community gardens and have acknowledged the need for a green waste solution.

A parking lot, seen in Figure 4.38, could also be developed on the property to serve the expanded park and also overflow parking from downtown and the beach. The lot is already used for parking during Peddler's Fairs; however, it is basically unimproved and vulnerable to flooding and erosion. It could be redesigned using green techniques to limit erosion and stormwater runoff. A number of configurations could be used for the parking lot. A one-way layout with slanted parking stalls, accessed from North Ocean Avenue and exited on Ash Avenue, could limit the traffic impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

The unofficial trail to Hardie Park, that is currently used by many to walk from downtown to the park, could be improved to prevent erosion and landscaped to create wildlife habitat and shade (an example is shown above in Figure 4.39). The trail could wind through shade trees and offer views and access to the creek as it leads from downtown to Hardie Park. Map 4.4 shows a visual of these proposed ideas for B Street and Hardie Park.

**Figure 4.38 Example of Parking Lot**



**Figure 4.39 Example of Trail for Hardie Park**





Map 4.4 Hardie Park and B Street concept map



① Community Garden



② Park Expansion and Creek Trail



The addition of an open lawn provides an activity area for children and organized sports, expanding total park area to over 2 acres.

③ Additional Parking Lot



A new parking lot will provide an addition 19 spaces for visitors to Hardie Park and downtown.

④ B Street Bioswales and Walkway



Above: Bioswale adjacent to walking trail and parking lot

Left: Bioswale and bioswale cell found at B Street in Paso Robles, CA

⑤ Rebuild Hardie Park Bridge





## 4.5 Cayucos Pier

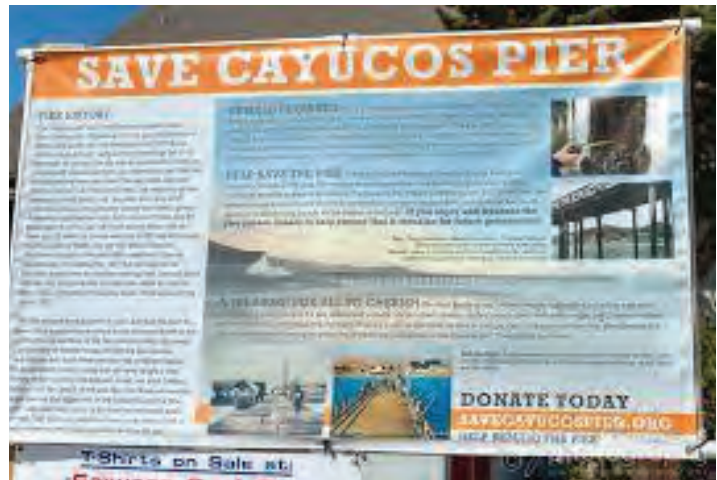
The pier, seen in Figure 4.40, is a valuable component to the community of Cayucos as a historic structure and as a unique public space. Residents and visitors historically and today enjoy the pier, whether traversing its length or admiring it from afar. Currently, only part of the pier is accessible to the public due to aging support beams and safety concerns. Some seating at the Vet's Hall near the base of the pier offers a place for those wanting to enjoy the pier. Use of the pier provides access and connection for visitors and residents to the history of Cayucos and the beauty of the ocean.

Today, the pier is closed. Figure 4.41 shows how much of it is not accessible to the public as well as the informational poster located at the pier entrance for the Save Cayucos Pier movement.

Figure 4.40 Cayucos Pier 2012



Figure 4.41 Cayucos Pier 2012





The importance and attachment of the community to the pier is an asset to the preservation and importance of this site, but also may represent a challenge when proposing pier enhancements. Community members may wish to see the pier maintained in its original state; however, the small enhancement opportunities proposed will promote recreation and economic growth for residents and visitors, while reinvigorating the historic legacy of the pier.

Sport fishing became a major draw for visitors to Cayucos in the 1960s, seen in Figure 4.42 below. The redevelopment of this site could provide opportunities to rekindle the economic and activity uses that support sports fishing on the pier. As demonstrated through the “Save Cayucos Pier” movement in the community, the Cayucos Pier offers an important and vital contribution to the identity of Cayucos.

**Figure 4.42 Sport Fishing on Cayucos Pier in 1960**



*Vision: Revitalization of the pier to include additional passive and active recreational opportunities.*

The beach and its resources act as the foundation for much of the identity and character of Cayucos. Increasing uses will only enhance the already established public facilities located at Cayucos State Beach. The pier is a prominent component to the public space at the beach and provides many opportunities for active and passive recreation.

The community’s investment of time and energy into saving the pier and working toward re-opening it for public use, highlights the importance and necessity of this resource as an integral public space. The views from the pier are beautiful and connect users to the ocean, offering a new and exciting panorama of the community from afar. Using grant funds and donations raised by the Save Cayucos Pier movement, the redevelopment of the pier will promote community connectivity to the ocean and open the pier for recreational and leisurely use again.

### *Action 1: Increasing opportunities for recreational uses on the pier.*

The past use of the pier as a sport fisherman's destination offers a unique opportunity for this kind of use to be encouraged on the pier once again. Cayucos should revitalize the development of visitor-serving commercial and recreational facilities designed to enhance opportunities for coastal recreation on the pier. The inclusion of cleaning stations, as shown in figure 4.43, to the redevelopment of the pier would entice fisherman to use the pier again as a sport fishing spot.

In looking to the future, Cayucos may consider providing a location in the downtown, on the pier, or near the pier area for a bait and tackle shop as further economic support for the sport fishing industry. A small shop such as this may be a nice addition to the Cayucos pier and provide easy access for fisherman. Figure 4.44 shows some examples of bait and tackle shops that are adjacent to piers. There are also opportunities along Ocean Avenue or Ocean Front Street for the inclusion of a shop of this scale.

**Figure 4.43 Examples of Cleaning Stations on Piers**



**Figure 4.44 Examples of Bait and Tackle Shops**





*Action 2: Adding beach binoculars along the pier.*

Looking through binoculars at the beach is a popular pastime that can help the community connect with the wonderful views while generating more revenue for the pier. Currently, the pier has a few benches along its length, but no opportunities to get a closer view of the beach and town from afar. Binoculars placed at a few locations along the pier would add to recreational opportunities. An example can be seen in Figure 4.45.

**Figure 4.45 Beach Binoculars on the Pier**



*Vision: Cayucos' unique character could be further maintained and appreciated through additional attention to its history.*

Historical buildings and sites, surrounding open space, and the beach are recognized as integral components to the community's identity. Increasing awareness of these cultural assets through educational signage or self-guided tours could result in greater public engagement, increased tourism, and the maintenance and promotion of community identity. The pier is an important and unique historic resource for the identity of the community as demonstrated through the community's appreciation and efforts to save it.

*Action 1: Highlighting the historical importance and unique character of the pier.*

Residents of the community have commented on the lessons learned by the loss of the pier and the importance of maintenance to preserve "appealing, safe, and fresh" public spaces. The pier offers a unique and important historic resource for the community of Cayucos that should be accessible and maintained for the enjoyment of future generations of residents and visitors. A historic plaque, seen in Figure 4.46, detailing the history of the pier would educate visitors and residents, would encourage appreciation and respect for this historic place.

**Figure 4.46 Examples of Historical Signage Along Walking Path**





## *Action 2: Applying to list the pier on the State or Federal historic registers.*

Adding the pier to the California Register program encourages public recognition and protection of this historic resource. Inclusion in this register identifies the pier as a resource for state and local planning purposes, determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding, and offers protections under the California Environmental Quality Act. Because maintenance has been an issue in the past, having the opportunity to secure grant funding for the pier may help offset some of the cost associated with maintenance and repair, keeping it open to the public for recreational use.

### 4.6 Open Space Access

Cayucos is a small community with many acres of public open space and the promise of new opportunities for the future. From Estero Bluffs State Park and Harmony Headlands to the north, Whale Rock Reservoir to the east, and the potential for public access on the hillsides to the south, Cayucos is surrounded by a number of natural resources and recreational opportunities. These open spaces, shown in figure 4.47, serve as both a visual, natural, and recreational resource. While some areas currently have trails and existing facilities such as Estero Bluffs, other areas such as Whale Rock Reservoir provide only limited infrastructure.

Beyond their scenic value, open space areas provide opportunities for active and passive recreation, allowing residents and visitors alike to exercise, relax, and connect with the area as well as one another. Participants in numerous outreach events indicated that increasing recreation opportunities was one of their top priorities. Estero Bluffs State Park provides birdwatching and tidepooling opportunities while Whale Rock Reservoir provides opportunities to fish and hike. By focusing on improvements to access and facilities, the community of Cayucos can begin to realize the opportunities that lie just beyond its borders.

**Figure 4.47 Current Open Spaces in Cayucos**



*Vision: Creating greater connectivity between residents and surrounding open space could facilitate the use of these spaces.*

Many residents of Cayucos have stated that surrounding open spaces are an essential component of the community. While the surrounding greenway provides agricultural and viewshed, a majority of these spaces are inaccessible due to a lack of pedestrian infrastructure, established parking lots, or maintained trails. Feedback from residents and visitors indicates that Cayucos is an active community and residents desire greater recreational opportunities. In one particular survey, visitors voted for improvements in greater numbers than residents. This suggests that increasing recreational opportunities would enhance the experience of visitors and may increase marketability of Cayucos as a primary vacation destination. By incorporating the following measures, the community of Cayucos can better capitalize on existing natural assets.

*Action 1: Increasing pedestrian accessibility and safety through improved pedestrian infrastructure.*

Estero Bluffs State Park is an existing scenic, natural, and recreational resource that borders Cayucos. Presently there are two obstacles to pedestrian access between downtown Cayucos and the section of town north of Cayucos Creek: a narrow path and heavily trafficked roadways.

The first challenge to pedestrian or bicycle access is the narrow bridge crossing Cayucos Creek. There is a narrow path on one side of the bridge and no shoulder to keep separation between cars and pedestrians. Long term, the county may consider widening the bridge; however, an intermediate, more cost- sensitive option could be a simple sign on both ends of the bridge, alerting drivers to the presence of pedestrians.

Once pedestrians have crossed the Cayucos Creek Bridge they are faced with the second challenge to accessing Estero Bluffs. Two roads, North Ocean Avenue and Lucerne, connect the community with the southern end of the park. While a bike lane currently runs the length of North Ocean Avenue, only a partial sidewalk exists on Lucerne and North Ocean Avenue. Expanding the sidewalk or creating a more clearly delineated path, as shown in Figure 4.48, will address this deficiency and improve pedestrian access and safety.

**Figure 4.48 Idea for Future Pedestrian Access Pathways**



Building a safe, accessible route from downtown will allow the community to capitalize on this nearby resource while improving public safety and increasing connectivity between residents. Short-term alternatives include a gravel pathway, or graded dirt pathway through the existing right of way.

*Action 2: Increasing accessibility to Estero Bluffs State Park by providing an established parking lot at the north end of town.*

An informal dirt lot is located at the junction of Lucerne and North Ocean Avenue. The lot is adjacent to state park property but is situated on the public right of way. Currently, cars park in a disorganized fashion with few obstacles to limit their impacts. An established gravel or asphalt lot would help minimize impacts on surrounding vegetation and could help manage stormwater runoff as well. An established lot would increase accessibility, facilitate greater use, and limit negative impacts to the surrounding area. The county may also wish to consider gravel alternatives, as they can be cheaper to install and last for years with minimal maintenance.

*Vision: Expansion of the trail network in surrounding public space could improve recreational opportunities for both residents and tourists.*

Whale Rock Reservoir and the hillside lots off of Gilbert Avenue both present possibilities for greater recreation within a close distance to town. While each location has unique limitations, these can be addressed through short and long term solutions described below.

*Action 1: Expanding recreational facilities at Whale Rock Reservoir.*

Whale Rock Reservoir is a 40,000 acre resource located one mile beyond community boundaries. This scenic resource offers opportunities for fishing, hiking, mountain biking, among others. While the land surrounding the reservoir is owned by the state, the County of San Luis Obispo currently manages its recreational use. Though people are not permitted to enter the water, fishing is allowed, and a narrow portion of the east shoreline is currently set aside for this reason. Extending a trail network will facilitate access by all users, encouraging physical activity, healthy recreation and creating a draw for visitors that will benefit the economy and the residents of Cayucos.

*Action 2: Establishing a trail network at the Gilbert Avenue subdivision for public use.*

The subdivision at the south end of town is split into small parcels that are owned by a number of different parties. Over the past 10 years, the Cayucos Land Conservancy has been buying parcels to help prevent them from being developed. Though these lots are currently fragmented, the Land Conservancy is continuing its efforts to create a contiguous network of parcels. These hillside lots overlook the entire bay, providing sweeping views from Point Estero to Morro Rock. If an accessible open space preserve were established it would be the first extensive trail system, highlighted in Figure 4.49, located directly within the Cayucos community boundary. This would provide an opportunity for greater recreation among residents, an attractive destination for visitors, and help to enhance an important element of Cayucos' community identity.



**Figure 4.49 Expanding Recreational Opportunities Through Trail Networks**



## 4.7 Crosstown Connections

The automobile remains the preferred mode of transportation for people in Cayucos. The majority (75%) of commuters travel to work in a single-occupancy vehicles (SOV). In particular, residents who live in the southern portion of Cayucos resort to driving to downtown since the distance is too far to conveniently walk or bike in full. Shown in figure 4.50, there is currently a pedestrian and bicycle path on the eastern side of Highway 1 that connects Cabrillo Avenue.

The western side of southern Cayucos has no connection to downtown Cayucos other than Highway 1. To access the northern portion of Cayucos, people can travel along the beach, cross Highway 1 to Cabrillo Avenue to access the pedestrian and bicycle bridge or travel by car. Enhancing these connections would not only improve accessibility for residents but would also help reduce the parking demand in downtown Cayucos, particularly during the popular tourist season.

**Figure 4.50 Current Bike Pedestrian Path in Cayucos**



Both the Estero Plan and the San Luis Obispo County Bikeway Plan contain proposals for future connectivity enhancements. According to these documents, future improvements, highlighted in Figure 4.49, for Cayucos should include:

- Park-and-ride lot facilitated by San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) and Caltrans
- Bike lanes along full length of Ocean Avenue
- Class I bikeway connecting Morro Bay and Cayucos
- Class I bikeway and bicycle/pedestrian bridge, connecting Studio Drive to Pacific Avenue

*Vision: Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure enhancements could reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles (SOV) and encourage the use of alternative modes of transit through*

*Action 1: Enhancing bicycle infrastructure and landscaping*

Both the proposed Class I bikeway, connecting Morro Bay and Cayucos, and the Class I bikeway, connecting Studio Drive and Pacific Avenue in Cayucos, encourage bicycle usage. These have the potential to reduce the parking demand in downtown Cayucos. To complement these infrastructure improvements, additional landscaping along the Cabrillo Avenue bike and pedestrian path would enhance the experience of people who utilize the route. These enhancements could include additional signage to promote the alternative routes for residents and visitors alike who may not currently be aware of this connection. Figure 4.51 shows an example of directional signage that could increase awareness of designated pedestrian and bike routes.

During community outreach at the Cayucos Farmer's Market on May 23rd and 30th, 2014, participants supported ideas for more public art and more recreational trails. Enhancing the aesthetics along this path could satisfy both of these desires.

Landscaping enhancements, such as those shown in Figure 4.52, that are implemented through grassroots community efforts, such as organized community landscaping, would help keep the effort a small localized improvement and may also distract from the neighboring facilities.

**Figure 4.51 Example of Directional Signage**



**Figure 4.52 Example of Landscaping Along Biking and Walking Path**





## Action 2: Operating a crosstown community shuttle

Although the enhancements along the existing bike paths may encourage more bicycle and pedestrian activity, parts of Cayucos, particularly, downtown, may still be difficult to reach via walking or biking. To mitigate this issue, the implementation of a crosstown community shuttle, such as the one shown in figure 4.53, could assist with transporting people throughout Cayucos.

**Figure 4.53 Example of Crosstown Community Shuttle**



If the county is unable to provide funding for the operation and maintenance of the shuttle, perhaps volunteers willing to donate a larger vehicle could support the effort, reducing the cost of the initial purchase. There may also not be as high of a demand for the shuttle during the off-peak tourist season, in which case it may be more effective to make the shuttle operate seasonally. Funding could then potentially be acquired through an additional tax implemented during the tourist season, either at hotels or local businesses. A potential route and access points are highlighted in Map 4.5.

**Map 4.5 Proposed Shuttle Route, Bicycle Route and Pedestrian Route**





*Action 3: Developing underutilized space on Cabrillo Avenue for a park-and-ride lot and additional community parking.*

There are also areas of underutilized space along Cabrillo Avenue that provide an opportunity for new alternative transit options, particularly a park-and-ride lot for a crosstown shuttle. This underutilized space could serve as potential drop-off locations for automobiles as well as pick-up locations for shuttle riders. Providing park-and-ride lots would help reduce the parking demand within the downtown, but to achieve this county funding would need to be allocated to the development of the lot. Figure 4.54 shows an example of a park-and-ride lot.

**Figure 4.54 Example of Park and Ride Lot**



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### Chapter 2

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