



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### DST TO EXPAND TO GRANT PARK

Supervisor John Leopold and The County of Santa Cruz are pleased to announce the expansion of neighborhood cleanup efforts in and around Grant Park.

Through an expanded contract with Downtown Streets Team (DST), the County is expected to formalize neighborhood beautification and cleanup efforts in and around Grant Park, which experiences impacts from its location between downtown Santa Cruz and the County's Health and Human Services campus on Emeline Avenue. The contract would augment services already provided by the City and Adopt-a-Park volunteers from Grant Park Neighbors.

"When neighbors spoke out, we listened, and I expect the expansion of the Downtown Streets Team will provide benefits for those for whom use Grant Park and live in the neighborhoods around the Emeline complex.," Supervisor John Leopold said.

"The Grant Park Neighbors are pleased the County has accepted our recommendation to join us in protecting this important community asset. We look forward to a constructive partnership that greatly improves conditions in and around Grant Park," said Brad Angell, director of Grant Park Neighbors.

DST operates its evidence-based volunteer program in several California counties, providing homeless team members with work experience and stipends for volunteer service. Team members also receive access to case management services while taking steps toward employment and housing.

After first arriving in Santa Cruz County in the downtown core and Riverwalk/Levee, DST services have since been expanded to Harvey West, Pogonip Park, Cowell's and Main Beach, North Coast beaches and Felton.

"Our programs in Santa Cruz County have provided a valuable resource for both the community and our team members," said Brooke Newman, project manager of the Santa Cruz Downtown Streets Team. "We look forward to continuing to have a positive impact on the community."