

AUGUST 2024



NEWSLETTER

FOR A BEAUTIFUL, CLEAN AND SAFE PLAYA GRANDE

Asociación Playa Grande Sostenible is a non-profit organization founded to improve, protect and unite the Playa Grande Community

Our mission is to promote a balance between coastal development, human well-being and environmental conservation.

The initiatives we coordinate range from environmental education, to living responsibly within a National Park, to strategies that help keep our town safe.

Our board of directors, our administration department and our committees are made up of community members who, because of their love for Playa Grande, are dedicated to coordinating community efforts and demonstrating their sustainability.



www.playagrande.org

UNION COSTERA (COASTAL UNION)

Since June 2023, the Associations of Community Development and leaders of the coastal communities of the canton of Santa Cruz have united (COASTAL UNION) to ensure the well-being and common interests of our people representing our needs before public and private, national and international authorities.

Our vision is to be an example for other communities, focusing on being triggers of public and private funds for social and environmental welfare projects.

We aim to improve the living conditions, transit, health and education of children, young people and adults.

Our force is constituted by **ADI Tamarindo, ADI Flamingo, ADI Potrero, ADI Brasilito, ADI Pinilla, ADI Avellanas, ADE Ambiente Playa Grande, APGS, The Clean Wave & Costa Rica Regenerativa.**



Unión Costera

TRABAJANDO UNIDOS POR EL CAMBIO

1% COMMUNITY FUND PUSH

Our kind neighbor, **Michael Schatz**, has volunteered to take on the role as the 1% Community Fund Ambassador. He is reaching out to local and international business owners that have property in Playa Grande to join this fundraising strategy for community initiatives.

The main idea behind 1% is to minimize local donor fatigue by giving clients and visitors the opportunity to contribute. This fund is open to businesses abroad and can serve as a source of responsible marketing as well by adding a 1% "tax" to the market price of your product or service.

Thank you to our valued members of 1% for the Community Fund for your support and belief it: **Onda, Villas Kalei, Eduardo Pedraza Photography, Ojos del Mar, Señorita Casitas, Caracola Experience and Eco Art.**

For more information email info@playagrande.org or visit: <https://www.playagrande.org/en/negocios>



GREEN CURTAIN PROJECT

The protection of the PG Green Curtain is something close to our hearts since before the inception of APGS.

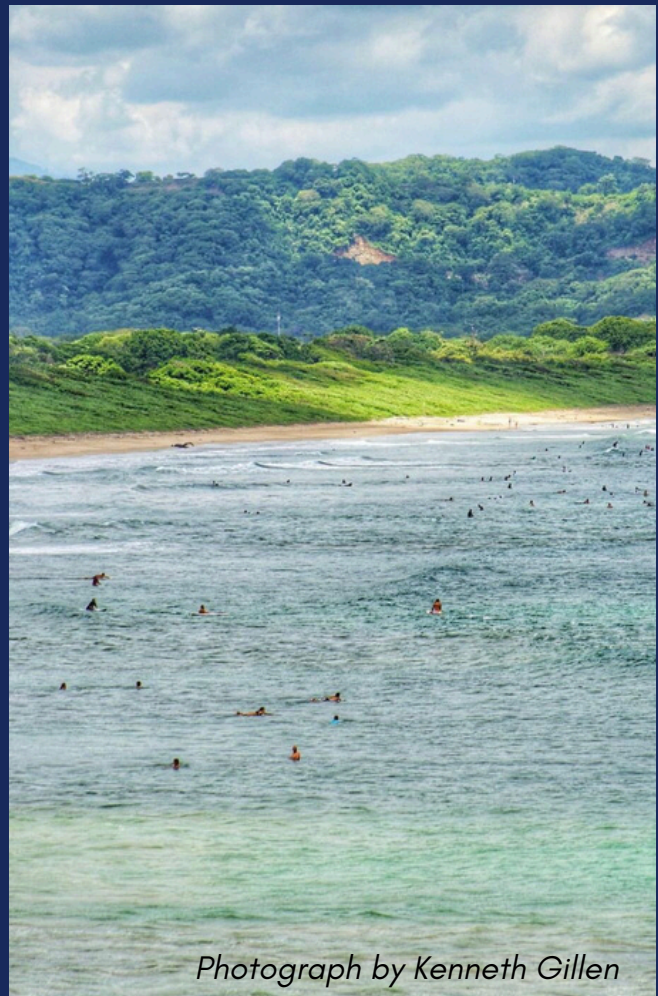
We have been collaborating with SINAC, ADE Ambiente PG, Sostenibilidad en Grande and IPS (fixtures made from recycled plastics collected from our beaches) to map out a plan and timeline to protect the coastal “face” of Playa Grande from wildfires and deforestation. This strip of public land is a highly valuable ecosystem and a biological corridor.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.playagrande.org/en/proteccióndelacortinaverde>

The signage is already in production and we will be working with the Brigada Forestal and the SINAC topographer to mark the limits on November 27th. The following days we will be looking for volunteers to help us with the installation of the regulatory signs produced by IPS and all of you who have collected plastic on the beach with The Clean Wave.

Thank you to all of you who have been donating to this cause since 2022. Thank you Victoria Manes for your continued support in all that we do and in funding this project to make it a reality this year.



Photograph by Kenneth Gillen

PG RECYCLING TRANSFER CENTER

Costa Rica Makes Me Happy and The Bag That Builds Program in partnership with Muni, The Clean Wave, Pedregal & CRDC: Receives ORANGE BAGS containing ALL PLASTICS (snack wrappers, styrofoams, plastic sponges, toothbrushes, beach plastics, bottles & caps, etc.) & can include TETRA.

Thank you to the Playa Grande Recycling Transfer Center Volunteers: **Christian Díaz (ADE Ambiente)**, **Paola Ramirez (Sostenibilidad en Grande)**, **Lisa Sweetman**, **Nova Everson** and a SPECIAL THANK YOU to **Nadia Borysenko** who has been the guiding light every step of the way to make sure this project and so many others become a reality 🙏



- The **LOCATION** is behind Playa Grande ASADA, enter through the dirt road between the fruit stand and the corner of El Estanco.
- **WHEN** are drop-off days? Thursdays 9am-12pm
- **WHAT** is received?: PRE-sorted items in transparent & orange bags:



● The **ORANGE BAGS** The orange bags are available at Matos Surf Shop PG and at the Palm Beach Market, cost \$1 plus tax (supports the COSTA RICA MAKES ME HAPPY program that educates and provides orange bags to children in public schools across the country). This program keeps plastic trash out of the streets, landfills, fires, rivers and sea. It also reduces the use of concrete by making Eco-Blocks, with the collected plastic, for locals and available to all. Creating a ♻️ circular economy.

● **CLEAR BAGS** containing: cardboard, tetra, glass and aluminum in separate bags.

PG SCHOOL SUPPORT

We continue to support several school needs. Funds are being used for general infrastructure maintenance and we are saving funds to install at some point a specific drop off and pick up area to keep kids safe during these periods. This will be a large investment as there will be land movement and re-location of the current parking area.

We continue to collaborate with CEPIA and have generous neighbors funding the children's clubs such as English, Music band, Swimming and Girls club.

Thank you **David Cothran, Melanie Andrews and Tam Mathews** for your time with these clubs!

We have been working on the possibility of a new play ground structure with Reserva Conchal.



On September 14th we will hold our annual gathering at the school and lantern parade to celebrate CR's independence. All are welcome to join!

Thank you **Natalie and Matt MacIsaac** for donating the soccer field! **Eugenia Barth** for your continued support funding so many school needs and your volunteered time with the kids in art projects. We are so grateful to **Sid and Leigh** for sponsoring the children's field trips and the continued cost of a teacher for 4th, 5th & 6th grades! Thanks **Keith** with Solo Good landscaping for keeping the outside areas clean and safe. Thank you **Tanya Montenegro, Paola Ramírez**, all the volunteers that helped us paint inside the classrooms and to our generous neighbors who continue to donate school supplies, toys and funds so that we can keep implementing changes for the students to have a better quality learning experience all around.

Also, thank you to our committee leaders **Bettina del Rio, Jodi Gallant and Silvia Odio** who have spent hundreds of hours volunteering their time and energy to this cause.



CHILDREN'S PARK

We are happy to report that we have obtained the goal we set at the first fundraiser at the end of March. We have started the process of moving the earth and getting the land ready to build. Due to the incredible amount of rain we experienced in June, we were only able to prepare one side of the lot. The other side will need to dry more before we can get into it. So we will focus on the rancho, bathrooms and parking lot first. We are currently in the process of hiring the building company. We are very grateful for all the donations up to this point. It looks like we raised enough for the first phase of the project, which is the earth moving and land preparation.

We are very excited to say that our goal is to be able to host the 3rd Annual Friendsgiving in the park the 3rd Saturday of November!





Thank you everyone for your support and please reach out if you have any questions or would like to help us out with the park. Thank you to the Children's Park Committee for your determination and follow through: **Matthew Laskowski, Federico de Mezerville, Felipe Volio, Alex Bidorini and Mariana Fonseca**. You can contact Matthew by Whatsapp at +506 8706 4302.

Either one of these links will allow your donations to arrive to fund the park:

<https://givebutter.com/ccxWaJ>

<https://www.playagrande.org/elparquedeni%C3%B1osyni%C3%B1as>

PG CENTER PRIVATE SECURITY

Foremost, thank you to such a great team of volunteers in our present day security committee: **Federico Valenzuela, John Wolfe, Michael Haaland, Brendan Bishop, Maria Paz Carranza and Melissa Molina.** The hire of GRCOE the past 5 months has been one of the best decisions we've made in regards to this program. This company has been working in the community patrolling realm for over 10 years. They are efficient, reliable and professional.

Earlier this month we created a collaborative web with supportive neighbors who have jumped in as neighborhood reps to help us communicate the importance of keeping this service alive and help collect the funds for it. Thank you **Shawna Mullen (PBE), Melissa Ryan (PGE), Amber Burroff (PG Center), Tres Shannon (PBE), Jorge Cerdas (PBE), Jake Van Steenburgen (PG FaceBook), Peter Lawson (Playa Ventanas), Paola Ramírez (Salinitas), Christian Díaz (ADE), Daniela y Ricardo (Ventanas de PG), Cesar Caso (Corona del Cabo 1), Nadia Borysenko (Corona del Cabo 2) y Sophie Toyas (Cabo Velas).** Thanks to you all , in one month, we are almost to the goal (10k difference) in the collection process to keep the service as is: one patroller from 5pm to 5am and a second patroller from 8pm to 4am. More funding is essential to hire a daytime guard.

For more information please visit the following links:

CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS:

https://linktr.ee/playagrandeorg?utm_source=qr_code

SECURITY PROGRAM DETAILS:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13umvzv6DkGkWG_K_6Sv3NdP7MCTJv-YSzID3w-VNyUI/edit

PATROLLER SECURITY INCIDENT REPORT (updated every Monday):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vWbc3m4-ig0i3TI2X54yBqB7PWGY4utzV6xTE6AW-vk/edit>

ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

SIDEWALKS

After months of following up with the Santa Cruz Municipality and close contact with MOPT, we are close to receiving the “mosaico catastral”, which will allow us to see the space legally available between private property and the public road. Then we take that into the design process.

We have to start with a shorter stretch that we would like, prioritizing where there are more pedestrians- Main beach access to Unity Gym.

Thank you to the sidewalk committee volunteers for your time: **Fernando Ortuño, Anne Roberts, don Oscar Venegas, Leandro Fernandez, Steven Molina y Christian Diaz.**

PUBLIC BUS TRANSPORTATION

Las Ventanas de PG administration reached out for support to collect signatures and send a letter to Comisión de Transporte Público (CTP) and Autoridad Reguladora de los Servicios Públicos (ARESEP), asking to add another scheduled route in and out of PG.

We currently count on transportation at 7am and 3pm. We are asking to add 9am and 5pm.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to sign!

PUBLICITY SIGNS

Unión Costera
TRABAJANDO UNIDOS POR EL CAMBIO

HOW ADVERTISING IS RULED IN REGARDS TO THE NATIONAL (Costa Rica) and MUNICIPAL (Santa Cruz) ROADS

DID YOU KNOW?

- On national routes, it is forbidden to install advertising signs without the proper authorization of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MOPT). Only MOPT has the power to issue permits or place informational signs.
- On cantonal routes, the placement of signs is the responsibility of the Municipality of Santa Cruz, and it is mandatory to obtain the corresponding permit.

THE MOPT WILL WITHDRAW ADVERTISING AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FINES WILL BE IMPOSED IF:

- There are advertising signs within the right of way (the area that separates public from private land).
- There is privately owned advertising that does not respect the alignment distance from national routes, as established by MOPT.
- The owner facilitates, authorizes or allows the permanence of advertising structures without respective permits.
- There is advertising not authorized by MOPT or the Municipality of Santa Cruz.

BENEFITS OF A PUBLIC ROAD FREE OF ADVERTISING SIGNS:

- Improves visibility when driving.
- It allows us to enjoy the landscape of the dry tropical forest of Guanacaste.
- Increases safety for pedestrians.
- Decreases the use of metals, paints and other materials that become waste when illegal advertising is removed by the governmental entities.

EPILOGUE

We've all witnessed and supported many other community initiatives, beach, road-side and river clean ups in the past couple of months organized by individuals with a passion for keeping our town and oceans clean. Gratitude fills our hearts each time we see people volunteering their most valuable asset (time) to minimize our human "footprint". Thank you **Stuart, Paola, Christian, Nova, Nadia, Andres, Alfredo, Ema, Jose Pablo, Allan**, our lifeguard volunteers, students from all the schools, and so many more caring neighbors that are ready to be hands on the ground to show their support. Thank you to our highly skilled supporters that are behind the scenes always ready to jump in when we need legal guidance and graphic design help: **Paola Retana (Legal She), don Oscar Venegas (Vision Legal) y Catalina Figueres (Good Vibes)**.

Please feel free to reach out with any concerns, ideas, if you have a particular skill you would like to offer and especially if you are willing to volunteer your time to any community initiatives. We strive to create spaces for neighbors to engage and become active members to join our committees.

We are truly blessed to live in connection in such a spectacular place on Earth. Let's keep joining forces to keep it that way!

RELEVANT LINKS THAT HAVE BEEN SHARED

APGS History- How, why, who, when, where:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/123p-Bqw0mamTqVoSusqAwiQHjicBz4ecNAyPX1r7-Zg/edit>

Important phone numbers:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-D4Xk3jMd8qzj7kdHozq48uLvgtNcTdJbIT3n27ZZyw/edit>

PG initiatives and organizations to donate to, to keep PG beautiful, clean and safe:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g6Fj8AUQHh3Q2LNYYIZsdmEoiz88P2hesxmzIB-vKQs/edit>

Security program Details:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13umvzv6DkGkWG_K_6Sv3NdP7MCTJv-YSzID3w-VNyUI/edit

Patroller Security Incident Report (updated every Monday):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vWbc3m4-ig0i3TI2X54yBqB7PWGY4utzV6xTE6AW-vk/edit>

PG Group chats & admins:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10aE_sa1cZgh39sZnGYyw9ZmQ78Chgrupwu7URlxpRFQ/edit

GET INVOLVED - ENGAGE - CONTRIBUTE



**KEEP PLAYA GRANDE
BEAUTIFUL, CLEAN & SAFE**

*Please send confirmation email for all
donations to info@playagrande.org*

