

## NATURAL RESOURCES: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Natural resources in the three parks include a wide array of species, habitats, and ecosystems adapted to the dynamic coastal environments. In all parks, these natural resources face challenges related to fragmentation, loss of connectivity, barriers, suppression of natural processes, and non-native species. These challenges reduce ecosystem resilience and can be addressed through a variety of management policies that will be incorporated into the General Plan Update. Several challenges and potential opportunities are highlighted below. Please share any thoughts on this critical issue at the feedback board provided at this station.

**CHALLENGE:** Fragmentation of habitats, loss of connectivity and reduction of ecosystem extent and complexity.

**MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES may include:**

- Strategically restore natural processes and ecosystem integrity to reduce fragmentation
- Designate wildlife corridors to improve connectivity
- Prevent further loss of ecosystem extent
- Reintroduce physical and ecological processes that create complexity

**CHALLENGE:** Physical and regulatory barriers

**MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES may include:**

- Relocate physical barriers, or redesign legacy infrastructure to reduce barrier effect
- Partner with regulatory agencies to reduce barriers

**CHALLENGE:** Suppression of natural disturbance regimes

**MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES may include:**

- Re-establish physical and natural processes that create and maintain ecological diversity

**CHALLENGE:** Competition from non-native species that displace native assemblages

**MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES may include:**

- Develop non-native species removal program
- Re-establish physical and ecological processes to improve native assemblages ability to compete with non-native species

### WORK UNDERWAY: EL CAPITAN ENTRANCE

The entrance to El Capitán was developed in 1978 and included an undersized culvert for El Capitán Creek. The culvert constrained natural flooding processes and created a barrier to fish movement. The redesigned entrance, which is currently under construction, will better accommodate natural stream flow variations and allow for fish passage.



*El Capitán entrance bridge construction. Photo source: Parks, January 2026.*

### POTENTIAL FUTURE WORK

- Creek Crossings
- Riparian and Wetland Restoration
- Fish Migration Improvements
- Legacy Infrastructure Upgrades
- Identify Barriers
- Improve Management of Marine Ecosystems



*Other natural resources challenges?*

*What opportunities do you see?*