

Downtown Redevelopment



Consistent with several significant redevelopment projects in the City's downtown, the Casa Munras Hotel, located at the intersection of Munras Avenue and Cass Street, experienced a renaissance since it was purchased by new owners in late 2006. Originally constructed as the home of Don Esteban Munras in 1824, the hotel is situated on approximately four acres of land and is one of the largest private land holdings in the City. The property underwent several remodels before becoming a hotel in 1941 and expanding to 152 guest rooms by 1972.

The newly remodeled Casa Munras Hotel has 171 guest rooms, a new restaurant and a spa. The buildings on the site experienced comprehensive interior and exterior remodeling. Throughout the planning process, the property owner worked closely with City staff and a local architectural firm to retain traditional details and incorporate contemporary treatments that contribute to the historic character of the City.

\$2 Million for Neighborhood Improvements



The Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) will spend more than \$2 million on 38 projects this year, including the following:

- Dead tree and "fire fuel" removal for Skyline Forest, Alta Mesa and Fisherman's Flats
- Park upgrades and renovations for Laguna Grande, Casanova-Oak Knoll, Hilltop, Cypress, Deer Flats and Dennis the Menace
- Seismic upgrades at the Visitors Center (French Consulate Building)
- Restoration of the Monterey Conference Center Mural and creation of a new mural for the Recreation Trail
- Sidewalk installations on Ramona Avenue, various locations in Casanova-Oak Knoll and Prescott Avenue
- New "state-of-the-art" storm drainage system at Del Monte Beach.

Strategic Initiatives Update

The City made progress on several fronts with the strategic initiatives set by the City Council. The Council passed a Green Building Ordinance that provides more environmentally friendly alternatives for new construction and remodels. Landscaping replaced the Mohr Imports building and car lot at Window-on-the-Bay. The cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove intensified talks about consolidating fire departments under a single command, and initiated discussions about combining Library services.

The Library and Museum staff and Historic Monterey partners developed the first citywide heritage tourism brochure. The "Explore Monterey" brochure, funded by a Preserve America grant, is available throughout the City. An interactive online version of the brochure is being developed by a CSUMB multimedia class and will be released later this year.

A traffic consultant began traffic simulations on the remaining Lighthouse Avenue and Foam Street one-way alternatives, requested by Cannery Row. This work includes a feasibility study for a potential pedestrian / bike bridge over Del Monte Avenue at Washington Street to improve operations and traffic flow.

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