



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.

Meet the board of directors

<https://www.playagrande.org/en/quienes-somos>

Please take a moment to get to know the non profit associations that support our town's social and environmental wellbeing:

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



If you are not in the ❤️ PlayaGrande community whatsapp chat and have property or live in PG, please email

infor@playagrande.org to be added and stay informed.

Below is what has happened through Asociación Playa Grande Sostenible since December 2024.

APGS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Playa Grande School requires a lot of community support. Since it is in an area so far from the capital, the resources provided by the Ministry of Education are slim. The school has one teacher educating 30 students with learning levels that vary between first and sixth grade. Maintenance needs of the old building and grounds are constant. The school's principal (and teacher), **Sugey**, is delightful and for the kids she goes above and beyond her duties. She is so grateful for the support of our community. Please watch our video:

<https://www.playagrande.org/en/apoyoaescuelap%C3%BAblica>



VEGGIE GARDEN

We hired **Michelle Rodriguez** from Plants in Trouble to implement a new curriculum focused on sustainable gardening. Michelle led the creation of a beautiful vegetable garden, with produce to be used in school lunches, and will continue teaching students permaculture and sustainability throughout the year.

Funding was secured from OU Relief and UCF Hillel students to purchase plants and materials for the garden. Student volunteers spent two days preparing the soil and planting the garden.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Scheduled weekly Jiu Jitsu classes through **Barretto Jiu Jitsu** (located above Unity Gym) starting May 1. Special thanks to Steven Molina and the BJJ team for their generous donation.
- With the support of **CEPIA**, it has been possible to maintain an extra teacher in charge of teaching fourth, fifth and sixth grades and the inclusion of tutorials and extracurricular surfing classes with Hotel El Manglar, English, swimming and music.
- The swimming club found a new pool for weekly classes thanks to the generous support of **Melanie and Gordon Andrews**. Thanks to **Hotel Las Tortugas** for sharing their pool for this club since its inception. Thanks to the volunteer collaborators and to **David Cothran** for his dedication and complete commitment to teaching swimming and English classes to the kids.



INFRASTRUCTURE & MAINTENANCE

Thanks to the **National Park volunteers** we have new shelves for the kindergarten classroom and the school building. They also did a deep cleaning of the school in preparation for the new school year in April.

We installed a new fence around the water tank to ensure student safety. Continued thanks to **Keith Clower** with Grande Vacation Rentals and his generous crew, don **Mario & Emilio**, for keeping the schoolyard clean and beautiful.

Thank you to our anonymous school donors who's funds go towards repairing school infrastructure, paying for an extra teacher and for these much needed clubs: swim, tutorials, music and conversational English.

And thanks to the APGS Education Committee (**Jodi Gallant, Bettina del Rio, Paola Ramirez, Stuart Sheldon and Tania Montenegro**) for being dedicated and committed advocates towards the betterment of the school for the children.

We are always seeking additional volunteers and funding to help maintain our school and support programming for the children. To get involved, please contact Jodi Gallant at gallant.jodi@gmail.com.



APGS SECURITY COMMITTEE

Thanks to all of you we raised the 67k needed to pay for the community patrolling service from April through September. We will start fundraising for the next round late August. Even though we have had break-ins (especially in crime peak months: April & October), crime rate is still much more under control in regards to the incremental growth of our town and only 2 night time patrollers.

For patroller incident reports check out:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14vUkkgNZZwsPOabDQad-lzRHBOEoVI5GOMd762XPhjA/edit>

The committee has supported all of us with security newsletters, protocols, safety tips, and informative security Town Halls that we continue to host.

Thanks to the support of these dedicated volunteers and neighbor's donations we have established a tight relationship with the Brasilito police force providing them with vehicle maintenance, meals and various other resources. Hence, their presence in town has been more often and constant.

We have allied with The Sovereign Techs for cameras and their monitoring company negotiating free community cameras and free monitoring for every 10 cameras purchased through Christian from a PG neighbour. Contact: cnantes@gmail.com.

Please copy info@playagrande.org so that we can keep track.



PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT:

- In CR it is most likely that criminals will not be put in jail for stealing. For this please practice prevention applying suggested safety tips shared below.
- The way we prevent crime through fundraising as a community is by having the presence of patrollers to make it uncomfortable for criminals to lurk around and have more immediate assistance in case of an incident.
- 911 can attend calls in Spanish & English.
- Please file claims as they can bring more law enforcement support for security in a Playa Grande. Police Force in Brasilito can come pick you up and take you to their office to file a claim. Phone number: 2600-2086.
- For anonymous drug claims dial 1176.
- APGS Security Committee is continuously working on getting set up with OIJ to file claims online in PG.

WE NEED YOUR COLLABORATION WITH:

- **PROPERTY CLEANING:** We kindly ask empty lot owners to keep your lot clean. Keep the surroundings of the houses as clean as possible of both weeds, as well as grass; this to allow a better view for the patrolman and avoid the enabling of hiding spots for potential criminals.
- **PROPERTY LIGHTING:** As far as possible, install lights with a motion censor around the properties for a better view of the external part of the properties. (Please use downward- facing lights to avoid light pollution).
- **SPECIFIC INFORMATION:** Inform the entire population in general that at the time of making a report of an incident (theft, assault, riots, loss of belongings) be clear in the place where the event occurred, as well as be clear in the characteristics of the person or people involved this is extremely important example: (color of clothing, shoes, physical features, tattoos, type and color of vehicle).

- **ALARM SYSTEM:** Urge different homeowners to install an alarm system.
- **CAMERAS:** If you are going to buy cameras, please do it through cnantes@gmail.com and copy info@playagrande.org so that we can get sponsored community cameras.
- **PREVENTION:** Make sure that doors and windows as well as gates are properly closed when leaving your homes.
- **GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR:** Invite them into the community chats and to contribute with the cost of the community patrolling service.
- **COMMUNICATE:** Every PG neighborhood has a rep and a WhatsApp group chat. If you don't know your rep nor WhatsApp neighborhood chat, please email info@playagrande.org.



Please share what is posted in the community chat with other PG neighbors or invite them in and send their contact to info@playagrande.org.

Instruct all people in charge of taking care of the different houses, businesses, premises to report any suspicious person or vehicle as soon as possible via SoSafe, neighborhood chats or to the **GRCOE** patrollers emergencia number: **+506 8821-5775**.

Get the SoSafe App: <https://links.sosafeapp.com/eBY8>

Then join our community group: <https://links.sosafeapp.com/Fs19EV8bRR11Xt4s8>

And email info@playagrande.org for a code.

We need to make more use of this SoSafe app. Thank you for those of you who do! Use it for lost & found (pets), for road issues, environmental situations, anything that the community needs to be alerted about. The word around is that Playa Grande is one of the most organized coastal communities in the Santa Cruz county!

Lets keep that momentum and continue to work together towards the same goals. The way we do that is by staying informed, contribute when needed, alert each other and most of all **GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS** and invite them into this collaborative web.

🙏 Thank you to our amazing Security Committee for countless hours in meetings and volunteer work to keep our town as safe as we can!

THIS TAKES A UNTED FORCE. PLEASE BE AN ADVOCATE FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S SAFETY. THANK YOU!



APGS PARK COMMITTEE

The committee **Mathew Laskowski, Felipe Volio, Alex Bidorini and Federico de Mezerville** are in the final stages with the new constructive plans. The project has grown and we will be creating an amazing space. You will hear more from us in the next few months as we will be finalizing our plans and getting our budget locked in. From there we will start our fundraising effort.

Thank you for your patience as it will be rewarded.

For questions please reach out to: matthewlaskowski@gmail.com

APGS ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

This committee (**Oscar Venegas, Fernando Ortuño, Anne Roberts, Sebastian Artiñano, Steven Molina and Leandro Fernandez**) has spent a lot of time in meetings with politicians and public officials to establish allies who support this initiative. For the first stage we aim to build a sidewalk from the main beach access towards the PG school. If we are able to, we will continue to the ASADA and for following stages, all the way to The Store.

With the preliminary project in hand we will proceed to raise, among us neighbors, the funds needed for the construction. Parallel to this, Don Oscar Venegas is drafting the agreement (APGS-Muni-Mopt) to legalize the process.

The agreement would be a collaboration as so:

- The PG community (APGS) collects the funds to build the sidewalk.
- Municipality provides the permits.
- MOPT gives the green light.
- CONAVI provides ongoing maintenance.

We'll keep you posted!

PG GREEN CURTAIN PROTECTION COLLABORATION (ADE Ambiente PG, APGS, SINAC & Sostenibilidad en Grande)

The green curtain is one of the phenotypes responsible for the scenic beauty of Playa Grande, characterizing its wide desolate and green coastline. It is of great ecological importance due to:

- It protects the dune as a nesting site for sea turtles.
- It is a biological corridor of coastal species such as birds, iguanas, crabs, among others.
- It reduces sonic and light pollution directed towards the beach.
- It mitigates erosion and the effects of climate change (high tides, strong winds).

This system of coastal vegetation is part of the Las Baulas Marine National Park, but it requires the control of everyone to protect it from potential deforestation due to forest fires and future development in seek of personalized beach access trails.

APGS is working with SINAC, ADE Ambiente de Playa Grande, Sostenibilidad en Grande and you to raise the necessary awareness to maintain a 2.5km firebreak delimiting the perimeter between private property and the National Park / protected area. The objective is to have this fire break be used as a pedestrian and bike shaded trail for its maintenance and provide signage to inform locals & visitors about the protected area and where the nearest beach access is located.

In support of the coastal reforestation and restoration plan of the **ADE Ambiente de Playa Grande, SINAC, Mi Bosque and Costas Verdes** we protect the "green curtain" with a firebreak that runs parallel to the beach along the 50-75 meter line between The Taco Star to Casa Verde, Palm Beach Estates (2.5km).

We concluded four of five stages of the Green Curtain Project firebreak!

FOURTH STAGE:

Regulatory Protected Area signage installment

- Grande Vacation Rentals (Keith Clower, don Mario y don Emilio)
- Condominio Ventanas de Playa Grande
- Ventajas Mundiales
- MyM
- Inversiones Mobaz
- Pots & Bowls
- Rip Jack Inn
- Fichtner family



THIRD STAGE:

Clearing the 2.5km path

Neighbor volunteers

- Grande Vacation Rentals
- Hotel Las Tortugas
- Deb & Dawn Pinkham
- Sol Sanctuary landscapers
- Butterfly Pool & Garden
- Victoria Manes

SECOND STAGE:

Clearing the 2.5km path

Neighbor volunteers

- Grande Vacation Rentals
- Onda
- Pots & Bowls
- Victoria Manes



FIRST STAGE:

Clearing the 2.5km path

Neighbor volunteers

- Victoria Manes
- Butterfly pool & garden
- Playa Grande Surf Camp
- Padoka
- Grande Vacation Rentals
- Yeri Delgado
- Erin Civello
- Patrick Majer
- Victoria Manes
- Cantarana
- Señorita Casitas
- Nadia Borysenko
- Deb Pinkham
- Grande Salvaje



NEXT STEP

FIFTH STAGE: Clearing both ends of the path and installing the 2 large WELCOME signs, plus grooming the path.

Thank you neighbors, **Paola and Mandy** who have been going to the path on their own to groom it!

For more information visit:

<https://www.playagrande.org/en/protecci%C3%B3ndelacortinaverde>

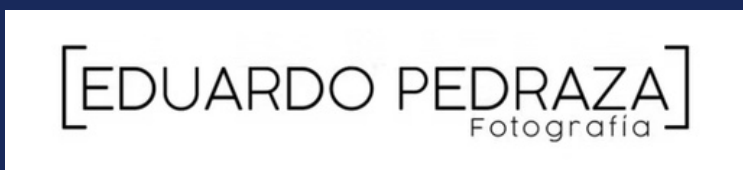
1% COMMUNITY FUND



The main idea behind 1% is to minimize local donor fatigue by giving clients and visitors the opportunity to contribute through their purchase of goods and services. This fund is open to businesses abroad and can serve as a source of responsible marketing as well. It consists of adding a 1% "tax" to the market price of your product or service and transferring that amount to APGS for community initiatives.

Thanks to our valued members of 1% Community Fund for their support and belief it: **Onda, Villas Kalei, Eduardo Pedraza Photography, Ojos del Mar, Señorita Casitas, La Caracola Experience, Festoon Salon and Eco Art.**

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



COASTAL UNION



Since June 2023, the Integral Development Associations and the leaders of the coastal communities of the canton of Santa Cruz have come together (COASTAL UNION) to guarantee the well-being and common interests of our people. Representing the needs of our people before public, 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.

Our goal is to improve the living conditions, transit, health and education of children, young people and adults.

This collaborative force is made up of **ADI Tamarindo, ADI Flamingo, ADI Potrero, ADI Brasilito, ADI San Jose de Pinilla, ADI Avellanas, ADE Ambiente Playa Grande and APGS.**

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT / DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT OF APGS

Several of us have witnessed and supported many community initiatives, beach, road and river clean-ups in recent months organized by people passionate about keeping our town and ocean clean. Gratitude fills our hearts every time we see neighbors offering their most valuable asset (time) to minimize our human "imprint".

Thanks to our highly trained supporters who are behind the scenes available when we need their legal guidance and help for graphic design: **Sonia Aragón, Don Oscar Venegas, Paola Retana, Fabrizio Venegas, Lisa Simpson and Catalina Figueres.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me (info@playagrande.org) with any concerns, ideas, or if you have a particular skill that you would like to offer and especially if you are willing to offer your time for community initiatives. We strive to create spaces for neighbors to get involved 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!

With you in the light for our community,

Brooks.

RELEVANT LINKS

APGS- OUR STORY:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/123p-Bqw0mamTqVoSusqAwiQHjicBz4ecNAyPX1r7-7g/edit>

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-D4Xk3jMd8qzj7kdHozq48uLvgtNcTdJbIT3n27ZZyw/edit?usp=drivesdk>

PG GROUP CHATS:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10aE_sa1cZgh39sZnGYyw9ZmQ78Chgrupwu7URlxpRFO/edit?usp=drivesdk

Thank You

www.playagrande.org