



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/1g6Fj8AUQHh3Q2LNYYIZsdmEoiz88P2hesxmzLB-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 may 2025.

APGS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We begin by thanking the principal and the school staff who have opened the doors to receive support from the community in such an available and graceful way.

Thank you to the Education Committee (**Jodi Gallant, Bettina del Rio, Paola Ramírez, Stuart Sheldon and Tania Montenegro**) and **CEPIA** for being dedicated and committed advocates for the improvement of the school for the children.

The Playa Grande Public School needs 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 scarce. Please, take a moment to watch our video:

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



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Weekly Jiu Jitsu classes through **Barretto Jiu Jitsu** (located above Unity Gym) are a huge hit! A special thanks to **Steven Molina and the BJJ team** for donating their time and energy.

With the support of **CEPIA** and our dear donors, the tutoring program is maintained with an additional teacher to provide academic support.

CEPIA's swimming club continues weekly classes thanks to the generous support of **Melanie and Gordon Andrews and Hotel Las Tortugas** for sharing their pool for this club. Thank you to the collaborating volunteers and to **David Cothran** for his dedication and complete commitment in teaching the swimming and English classes.

Recently, **Paola**, through Sostenibilidad en Grande, has guided a group of PG school students to the district's Science Fair. This project was not only exceptional, but has been selected for the regional competition. This is a testament to the commitment and dedication of the students, and of Paola's valuable support.

Thank you to all the community members who have joined the Playa Grande School Reading Club! Each week, our volunteers sit down with students for one-on-one reading sessions in both English and Spanish. Your time and dedication are helping foster a love of reading and building stronger language skills for our local children.



INFRASTRUCTURE & MAINTENANCE

You might have noticed in passing that we painted the outside wall. Thank you **Manuel Ortuño and Carly Mendoza** for volunteering!

A warm thank you to **Keith Clower** with Grande Vacation Rentals and his generous team, **Don Mario and Emilio**, for keeping the school's green area clean and beautiful.

Thank you to all our generous donors for your continued support. We are always looking for additional volunteers and funds to help maintain our school and support programs for the children.

To get involved, please contact Jodi Gallant: gallant.jodi@gmail.com.



APGS SECURITY COMMITTEE

MISSION OF THE APGS SECURITY COMMITTEE

To ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of our community through the implementation and management of a proactive, transparent, and effective security program. We are dedicated to coordinating efforts with security providers, fostering open communication, and collaborating on the creation of strategies that protect the property and integrity of each member, maintaining a safe and reliable residential environment.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE

1. **Prevention**- We work to make Playa Grande less attractive to crime. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: Maintenance of public lighting with CoopeGTE, continued patrolling, encouraging community collaboration in spreading messages, and expanding visibility through community cameras.
2. **Real-Time Response** - Provide personalized attention within the first 5 minutes of receiving an emergency call. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: Maintaining the patrol project with the company GRCOE, raising funds among neighbors to sustain the cost of this project, using the map of contributing neighbors to effectively locate their homes, and following protocols for new patrol officers.
3. **Reporting** - Create mechanisms to report incidents and spread alerts among neighbors. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: Enabling the management of incident information between contributing neighbors and GRCOE through a WhatsApp group and SoSafe, facilitating the online reporting process, sending and analyzing incident reports from affected neighbors via Google Forms, and formulating community safety surveys to get neighbors' opinions.

The committee has supported us all with security bulletins, protocols, safety tips and informative meetings that we continue to organize. We thank **Amber and Melissa** for their dedication during their time with the Security Committee. They supported a growth process that was extremely valuable for the safety of everyone.

COMMUNITY CAMERAS

As some of you may remember, in February, the Playa Grande Security Committee organized an open meeting to present our plan for a community video surveillance program with The Sovereign Techs (cnantes@gmail.com). It has been a challenge to follow up on this issue to bring it to fruition. We are enormously grateful to Shawna Mullen and neighbors for their support in this project. Thanks to this support, we have been able to get two more community cameras. We are also pleased to inform you that Paraclete (info@paracletesecurity.com) and our collaborating neighbor Michael Schatz installed, free of charge, two community cameras at the Playa Grande school to monitor the street near the bus stop.



POLICE K-9 UNIT

Collaboration has been initiated with ADI Tamarindo and the Public Police Force to bring the support of the Police K-9 Unit to our area.

Thanks to our neighbors **Allan Camacho (Parco)**, **Eugenia Barth**, **Chris Eifert**, and **The Leatherback Trust** for their interest in contributing to this initiative!



WE HAVE STARTED THE 8TH ROUND OF FUNDRAISING FOR THE COMMUNITY SECURITY PROGRAM!

The goal is to finance Playa Grande's security for the next six months, from October 1, 2025, to March 30, 2026, for a total cost of \$62,484. Your contribution is a direct investment that contributes to the tranquility and safety of our community, covering the costs of:

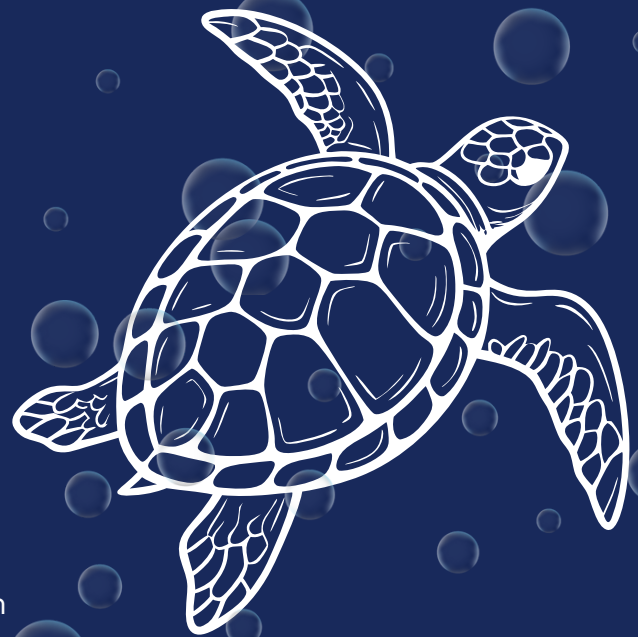
- Two dedicated night patrollers.
- The monitoring of community cameras.
- The administration of the program.

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION GUIDE

- **Businesses and properties under construction:** \$1,000+
- **Homes:** \$600 per home
- **Empty lots:** \$400
- If these suggested amounts are outside your budget, please **contribute what you can** — every donation helps.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- **Deadline:** Please send your contribution BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10.
- **Payment methods:**
[https://linktr.ee/playagrandeorg?
utm_source=qr_code](https://linktr.ee/playagrandeorg?utm_source=qr_code)
- **Confirmation:** After making the payment, send the receipt to info@playagrande.org with your name and property details so that we can identify you as a contributor.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO EXPAND COVERAGE

Both companies (Paraclete and The Sovereign Techs) are providing us with an incredible benefit: for every 10 cameras that Playa Grande neighbors install through them, mentioning the APGS recommendation, they will donate two additional community cameras! We encourage you to use the services of these companies and notify us at info@playagrande.org when you do. This way, we can keep track of the number of community cameras we will receive and expand the security of the entire neighborhood. If this initiative yields positive results, we will contact the entire community to expand the program and make it even more complete. We appreciate your understanding as we continue to work to find the best solutions for everyone.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

- The way we prevent crime through fundraising as a community is by having the presence of patrollers to make it uncomfortable for criminals on the prowl and to have more immediate assistance in case of an incident.
- 911 can answer calls in Spanish and English.
- Please file reports, as they can bring more government resources for Playa Grande's security. The Police Force in Brasilito can come pick you up and take you to their office to file a report if necessary. Phone number: 2600-2086.
- For anonymous reports regarding drugs, dial 1176.
- The APGS Security Committee is continually working to establish an online reporting process with OIJ in Playa Grande.
- Here it is very likely that criminals will not be incarcerated for stealing. For this, practice prevention by applying the suggested security tips that we post.

WE NEED YOUR COLLABORATION WITH:

- **PROPERTY CLEANLINESS:** We kindly ask owners of empty lots to keep their lot clean. Keep the area around the houses as clean as possible of weeds; this allows for a better view for the patroller and prevents the possibility of hiding places for potential criminals.

- **PROPERTY LIGHTING:** As much as possible, install lights with a motion sensor 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:** Report all general information when making an incident report (theft, assault, disturbance, loss of belongings) clarifying the location where the event occurred, as well as the characteristics of the person or people involved, this is an extremely important example: (color of clothing, shoes, physical characteristics, tattoos, type and color of the 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!

Let's 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 UNITED FORCE. PLEASE BE AN ADVOCATE FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S SAFETY. THANK YOU!



APGS PARK COMMITTEE

The committee, made up of **Mathew Laskowski, Felipe Volio, Alex Bidorini, and Federico de Mezerville**, is in the final stages of design and planning. This project has grown considerably and we are creating a truly incredible space for our children and the community in general. Once the plans are finalized and we have a clear budget, we will launch our fundraising campaign.

We appreciate your patience very much. The result will be a beautiful playground that we can all enjoy. If you have any questions, please contact: matthewlaskowski@gmail.com



APGS ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

PAVING THE WAY TO A SAFER PLAYA GRANDE WITH SIDEWALKS!

Our most urgent and impactful current project is the construction of sidewalks throughout Playa Grande. For too long, our beautiful community has lacked safe pedestrian pathways, forcing residents, children, pets, and visitors to navigate busy roads shared precariously with vehicles and speedy construction machinery.

WHY SIDEWALKS NOW?

- **Unrivaled Safety:** Protects our children, families, pets, and all pedestrians from traffic hazards.
- **Enhanced Accessibility:** Creates an inclusive environment for strollers, wheelchairs, and everyone to move freely.
- **Reduced Dust & Mud:** Improves air quality and cleanliness, especially during dry and rainy seasons.
- **Increased Property Value:** Enhances the desirability and livability of our neighborhoods.
- **Fosters Community Connection:** Encourages walking, biking, and outdoor interaction, strengthening our community bonds.

This is more than just concrete; it's about building a foundation of safety, accessibility, and pride for our beloved Playa Grande.

JOIN US IN BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE!

This committee (**Oscar Venegas, Fernando Ortuño, Anne Roberts, Sebastian Artiñano, Steven Molina, and Leandro Fernandez**) has been in talks with politicians, public officials, and government entities to secure allies who will support us with the legal sidewalk construction project in Playa Grande.

Don Oscar Venegas has drafted the agreement (APGS-Muni-Mopt) to legalize the process. The agreement would be a collaboration as follows:

- **The PG community (APGS)** raises the funds for the construction.
- **The Municipality** provides the permits.
- **MOPT** approves the work.
- **CONAVI** provides the maintenance.

The success of the sidewalk project and all our initiatives hinges on the collective support of our neighbors. Your involvement, no matter how big or small, makes a profound difference.

SIDEWALK PROJECT TIMELINE

- **September - October 2025:** Spread the word and inspire. Signing of the agreement between APGS, MOPT, and the Mayor of Santa Cruz.
- **November 2025 - January 2026:** Raise money for 600m of sidewalk (from Las Tortugas to Unity Gym).
- **February 2026:** Start construction.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE SIDEWALK PROJECT:

- **Donate:** Your financial contribution directly funds the materials and labor needed to build safe pathways.
- **Volunteer:** Lend your time and skills to assist with project coordination, outreach, or practical support.
- **Spread the Word:** Share our vision with friends, family, and local businesses to grow our movement.

Let's collaborate to transform Playa Grande into an even safer, more walkable, and sustainable paradise for generations to come.

Asociación Playa Grande Sostenible Email: info@playagrande.org

More Information & Get Involved: <https://www.playagrande.org>

GREEN CURTAIN PROTECTION COLLABORATION

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

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

This coastal vegetation system is part of the Las Baulas Marine National Park, but it requires the control of everyone to protect it from possible deforestation due to forest fires and future development in search of personalized beach access trails. We have opened the 2.5 km firebreak trail, delimiting the perimeter between private property and the National Park/protected area. The goal is for this firebreak to be used as a shaded trail for pedestrians and bicycles for its maintenance and to provide signage to inform locals and visitors about the protected area and where the nearest beach access is. In support of the reforestation and coastal restoration plan of 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 and Casa Verde, Palm Beach Estates (2.5 km).



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS MADE THIS PROJECT A REALITY:

Grande Vacation Rentals (Keith Clower, Don Mario and Don Emilio), Victoria Manes, Condominio Ventanas de Playa Grande, Ventajas Mundiales, M & M Inversiones, Mobaz, Pots & Bowls, Rip Jack Inn, Fichtner Family, Hotel Las Tortugas, Sol Sanctuary, Butterfly Pool & Garden, Onda, Playa Grande Surf Camp, Padoka, The Robert's family, Cantarana, Shawna Mullen: Señorita Casitas, Nadia Borysenko, Dawn & Deb Pinkham, Grande Salvaje, Pierce Ingle, Pandeli, Gordon & Melanie Andrews and to ALL OUR NEIGHBORS WHO SHOWED UP TO WORK AND CONTINUE TO DO SO! 🦵❤️🙌

This project requires everyone's commitment to maintain it if we want to continue enjoying it. We appreciate your support and collaboration in keeping the trail clear. For more information, visit:

<https://www.playagrande.org/protecciondelacortinaverde>



1% COMMUNITY FUND



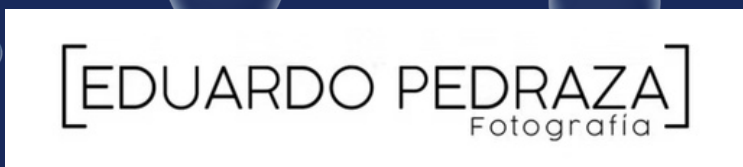
The main idea behind the 1% is to minimize local donor fatigue by giving customers and visitors the opportunity to contribute through their purchase of goods and services. This fund is open to businesses abroad and can also serve as a source of responsible marketing. It consists of adding a 1% "tax"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

Thanks to our valuable 1% Community Fund members for their support:

Onda, Villas Kalei, Eduardo Pedraza Photography, Ojos del Mar, Señorita Casitas, La Caracola Experience, Festoon Salon and Eco Art.

If you want your business to also be part of this fund, send an email to: info@playagrande.org and you can 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

Hello friends,

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to the incredibly talented people who support us behind the scenes, providing their guidance and graphic design skills whenever we need them. A sincere thank you to **Sonia Aragón, Don Oscar Venegas, Paola Retana, Fabrizio Venegas, Lisa Simpson, Anne Roberts, and Catalina Figueres**. Your support is invaluable. Since the 70s, my father and my uncle were pioneers, surfing the world-class waves we still enjoy today. Their adventurous spirit brought them to this tropical paradise where I was born and raised, and now it's my privilege to share it with all of you. Founding APGS and serving our multicultural community is in tune with my life's purpose. I thank each of you for choosing Playa Grande as your home, creating a collaborative community that I am blessed to serve.

I've been noticing that as our town grows there is room for curiosity, which is an opportunity to continue evolving. It's natural for concerns to arise from different perspectives. My greatest desire is for us to maintain open and united communication in our community. That's why I personally invite you to reach out to me directly or any member of the Board of Directors if you have any concerns or feedback in regards to the work we do to keep us moving forward as a united force. We're here to answer your questions and work together, because the active participation of every neighbor is fundamental to the well-being of our town.

This paradise is a treasure we must care for, and we cannot do it in isolated steps. What we have accomplished as an association, in just three years of existence, is a testament to the power of collaboration within our community. Thank you!

With you in the light for our community,

Brooks Wilson

Director of Development
Asociación Playa Grande Sostenible
info@playagrande.org



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_sa1cZgh39sZnGYyw9ZmQ78Chgrupwu7URlxpRFQ/edit?usp=drivesdk



www.playagrande.org