

CASTROVILLE TO THE COAST

A multi-benefit vision for the Lower Salinas Valley

A Multi-Benefit Vision

The town of Castroville sits at the base of the Salinas Valley and benefits from its proximity to fertile farm lands and the beautiful Monterey Bay. The town is encircled by ecologically unique creeks, sloughs, wetlands, and sand dunes and is less than two miles from the beach. However, because of the alignment of Highway 1 and limited open-space and trails, residents have limited access to these natural resources without the use of a car and thus, many in the community rarely visit their local beach.

Over the past few years, many community stakeholders have met to discuss surface water, open-space, and flood control needs and through that dialogue the “Castroville to the Coast” concept arose. The goal of **Castroville to the Coast** is to restore degraded waterways, improve water quality, reduce flooding, and provide a pedestrian and bike path between Castroville and the Coast. New state funding opportunities makes this project a great opportunity to invest in Castroville as an agricultural community in harmony with a well-managed system of creeks and wetlands.



Multi-benefits of the Castroville to the Coast Project

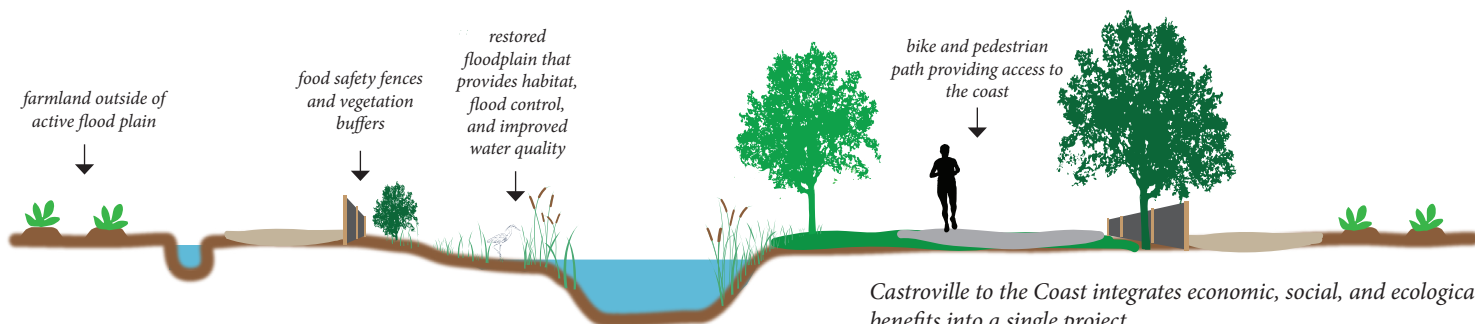


The Castroville community lacks public access to their neighboring waterbodies and coast.

Greater Monterey County Storm Water Resource Plan

In 2019, the Central Coast Wetlands Group worked with a team to develop a Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) for the Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region. As part of this plan, a watershed enhancement prioritization model was developed to guide the selection of lands for wetland, creek, and riparian restoration. The SWRP ranked the **Castroville to the Coast** project as a top priority for funding. The **Castroville to the Coast** project will benefit both the agriculture industry and the community of Castroville. Specific goals are to:

- Improve aquatic habitat and water quality
- Support flood control and storm water capture
- Work with farmers to reduce regulatory burdens
- Develop projects that provide open space and recreational opportunities for local communities
- Identify strategies of resilience as we face increasing sea level rise and storm intensity



Castroville to the Coast integrates economic, social, and ecological benefits into a single project.



Project Location



Castroville to the Coast could begin at Haro Street in Castroville and follow the Tembladero Slough along agricultural fields to Salinas River State Beach. Interpretive signage and other trail amenities can be placed along the trail.

Partners

Potential partners include:

- Castroville Community Services District
- Castroville League of United Latin American Citizens
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Landowners and farmers
- Transportation Agency for Monterey County
- Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group
- North Monterey County Parks District
- Local restoration and education organizations

Potential Funding Mechanisms

- State Water Bonds
- Public/private sustainability investments
- Establish a Regional Open Space Authority
- California Urban Streams funding

Similar Successful Projects Around the Monterey Bay



Watsonville Wetlands Watch Trail



Monterey Peninsula Recreational Trail outside of Castroville



Hwy 1 bike path outside of Santa Cruz