

# Harbor Soaring Society Update to the Costa Mesa City Council



January 21, 2025  
Presented by: Mat Garcia, 2025 HSS President

# Introduction

- Harbor Soaring Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the public good
- AMA's Oldest Radio-Controlled Soaring Club established as an organization in 1964
- Have flown all types of model aircraft at the current location in Fairview Park since 1963
- The flying field was closed due to COVID in 2020
- The flying field was re-opened in July of 2023



# Current City of CM Map - July 2023

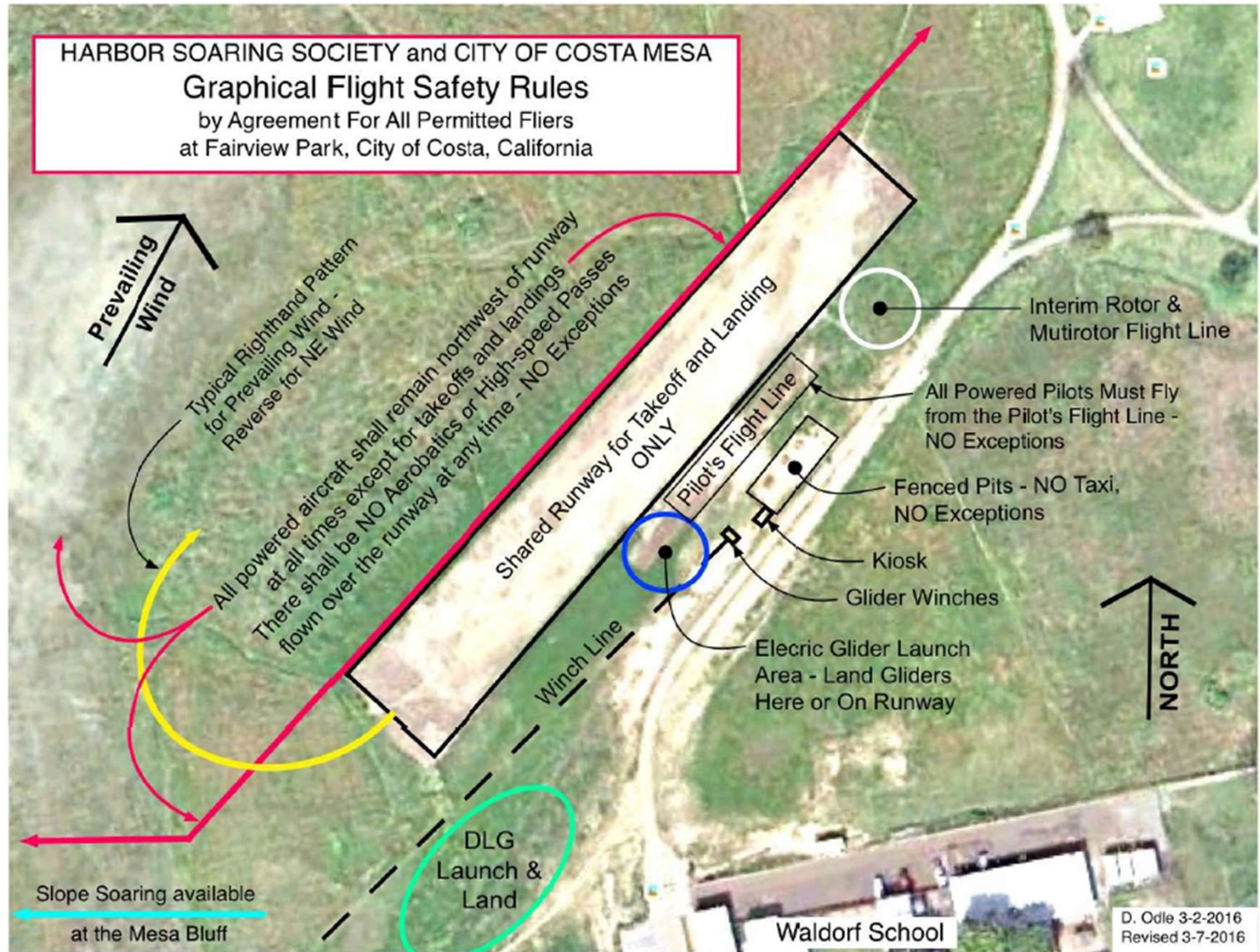
This map was created in July of 2023 by the City of Costa Mesa Parks Department and is posted on the City website as guidance for current flying field operations. It was created for the re-opening of the flying field after the COVID shutdown. It was created after the field was measured on July 11, 2023.



# Flying Field Map – March 2016

## ~~Current~~ Flying Field Operations [in 2016]

Runway Area – 0.9 Acres, Ancillary Areas (Pits, Pilot Stations, Sailplane Launch Area) - 0.3 Acres. A total of 1.2 Acres, or 0.6% of the 208 total acres within Fairview Park.



This map was created in March of 2016 and showed the size and flight operations of the flying field when Measure AA was passed in November of 2016. This map was previously posted on the City of CM website.

# Operating Principles

1. Always operate safely
2. Minimize impact to the environment
3. Maximize community benefit

HSS has demonstrated 18-months of well managed operations.



# Safety

- HSS membership is required to fly at Fairview Park. This allows HSS to enforce flying field rules.
- Zero injuries have occurred in 18-months of operations.
- Safety training is provided to all pilots flying solo and additional safety training is provided to all flight instructors.



# Minimize Impact to the Environment

- Zero intrusions into the vernal pools in the past 18-months.
- Zero interactions between airplanes and birds in the past 18-months.
- Pilots receive training to always yield to large raptors.
- HSS members have participated in restoration events to ensure an understanding of the sensitive wildlife in Fairview Park.
- Flight operations are adjusted as needed due to active nests in the area of the runway.



# Maximize Benefit to the Community

- Provide access to a STEAM-focused activity at the Fairview Park Flying Field and off the field
- Support Newport-Mesa Unified School District
- Support Vital Link, OC-based 501(c)(3) non-profit
- Support CM City events like Scarecrow Festival
- Facilitate internships between Costa Mesa students and local engineering/manufacturing businesses
- 18 years of exhibiting at Imaginology





# April - HSS Continues to Support Imaginology – 18<sup>th</sup> Year

*"I have had the pleasure of partnering with the Harbor Soaring Society for over 10 years. They have been one of our best and a long-time supporter of the OC Fair's annual educational youth S.T.E.A.M. event, IMAGINOLOGY (formerly Youth Expo)."*

*"I greatly value Harbor Soaring Society's participation and commitment to the youth who attend our event. This group goes above and beyond to make Imaginology a meaningful and fun event."*

Christine Gunst  
Event Coordinator  
cgunst@ocfair.com

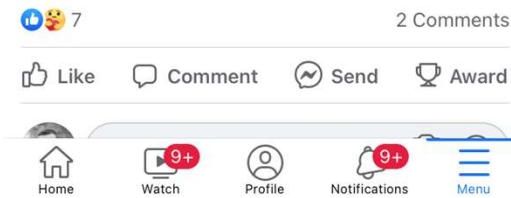


# HSS Participates in Fairview Park Restoration Events

Thank you to the volunteers who came out to pull weeds on Love Costa Mesa Day!



Thank you to the volunteers who once again showed up to remove nonnatives in the warm sun! You are the best and together we are making a good difference! 😊





## Harbor Soaring Society Supports Engineering at Estancia High School















# HSS is Excited to be Part of the Costa Mesa Community Since 1964

- Thank you to all our members and supporters for a great 2024!
- Please visit [www.harborsoaringsociety.org](http://www.harborsoaringsociety.org) for information about the organization
- AMA's Oldest Radio-Controlled Soaring Club
- Harbor Soaring Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit

