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# **ANNUAL** REPORT

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# DO YOU KNOW WHAT OUR **DREAM** IS?

To build a community that values the well-being of all living things.

Since its inception in 1975, the Nosara Civic Association has been at the heart of the Nosara community: promoting planning, civic activism, and conservation.





## **MISSION**

To honor and promote a sustainable future  
for the Nosara area.

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## **VISION**

A model community that values the wellbeing  
of all living beings



# LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS


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It is no secret to anyone that the pandemic affected us all - from the financial to the emotional. But at the same time, this historic juncture became a push for many residents and visitors of Nosara to notice the value of this special place and the important role the Nosara Civic Association has played in its development.

While the whole world was dealing with the confinement, the NCA offered the community **12 kilometers of trails** and copious parklands so people could move and connect with nature in a safe environment. We wonder how we could have endured the quarantine and closed beaches without hiking the trails and wonderful wildlife? We have no doubt that we are in a privileged position.

We also remember that when most of the beaches in Costa Rica were closed, we had the privilege of Guiones and Pelada beaching being open because they are a part of the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge. This makes us value more and more the vision that the members of the **NCA had in the 80s, to incorporate these two beaches in the refuge to ensure their conservation.**





Without a doubt, the pandemic has shown us how lucky we are to live in the buffer of the wildlife refuge in Nosara and why that charm captures more people from all over the world every year who want to come to live here.

**The magic of Nosara is no accident.** We know that much of this is the result of the hard work of the NCA for more than 40 years.

With all the challenges during 2020, the NCA made significant progress on projects that are relevant to our members and positive for the entire district. **We managed to take possession and close the Nosara garbage dump, which is located on NCA land. We are determined to turn it into a public park.** There is much work to do and we require community help. We are in the technical studies phase; the NCA plans to perform a full technical closure to protect the environment.

**With our support, the Municipality of Nicoya achieved the approval of the building regulations for the buffer zone of the Ostional Wildlife Refuge!** These regulations oversee development within the refuge buffer zone - seeking a balance between nature, resources, such as water, and human presence. Many of our members know that these regulations are currently being sued before the Administrative Litigation Court and that the NCA is supporting the defense of the regulations to protect the natural wealth and sustainable development of our community. The response from the community and the support received is undoubtedly one of the high points of the year.

The Board of Directors and staff of the NCA are proud of the work achieved in 2020. We can only say thank you. Thank you for sticking with us, understanding that the parklands and trails do not manage themselves, and for sharing the same vision for Nosara. **Thank you for loving and respecting this place that has given so much to all of us.**



The magic of Nosara is no accident.

Much of its charm is the result of the hard work of the  
Nosara Civic Association.



# WE WORK HARD ON THESE PROGRAMS



1. MOBILITY



2. BIODIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION



3. SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH



4. CITIZEN  
EMPOWERMENT



5. GOVERNMENT  
SUPPORT



**LET'S CHECK**

**PROGRAM BY**

**PROGRAM**



# 1. MOBILITY

The NCA maintains 12km of trails - connecting different points in Nosara - with the intention that locals and visitors have better mobility options.

## RESULTS

- Thanks to several events organized by the **NCA Trails Committee, the Nosara Trail Builders,** and the NCA staff, two trails were repaired: Bodhi Tree - Spanish Institute and the Wanderlust - Pacífico Azul trails.
- Our gratitude to the organizing volunteer members: Aaron Taylor, Anne Michel, Chris Johnson, Juan Pablo Berrocal, Natalia Vargas, Nathaniel Jackson, Patrick Kilhborg, Peter Kelly, Nancy Fannon and Erick Aragón.





## 2. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The NCA owns and protects 240 hectares for conservation. Some of the properties are forest and others have community infrastructure. Thanks to this program, we managed to conserve the biodiversity that makes Nosara a unique coastal community, with patches of forest that connect with the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge.

### RESULTS

- Five properties have new planos and are now properly listed under the NCA name, free of annotations and administrative warnings.
- We continue to advance with our park fencing plan to protect the parks: 12 properties are completely fenced, 18 are partially fenced and 2 are about to start.
- The Nosara Garbage Dump was officially closed and soon after we started working on the technical closure process.







# **CLOSURE** OF THE NOSARA DUMP





After more than 20 years of the existence of the open-air garbage dump, where all of our trash went, the NCA helped achieve municipal trash pick up, In 2020 the **NCA managed to take possession and fully close the dump** by formalizing an agreement with the occupants of the site.

Thanks to this, **the technical closing process was started** and the chemical engineer Kathia Elizondo was hired by the NCA to guide the process.

As part of the process, we drilled 3 monitoring wells that will help us analyze the state of the groundwater.



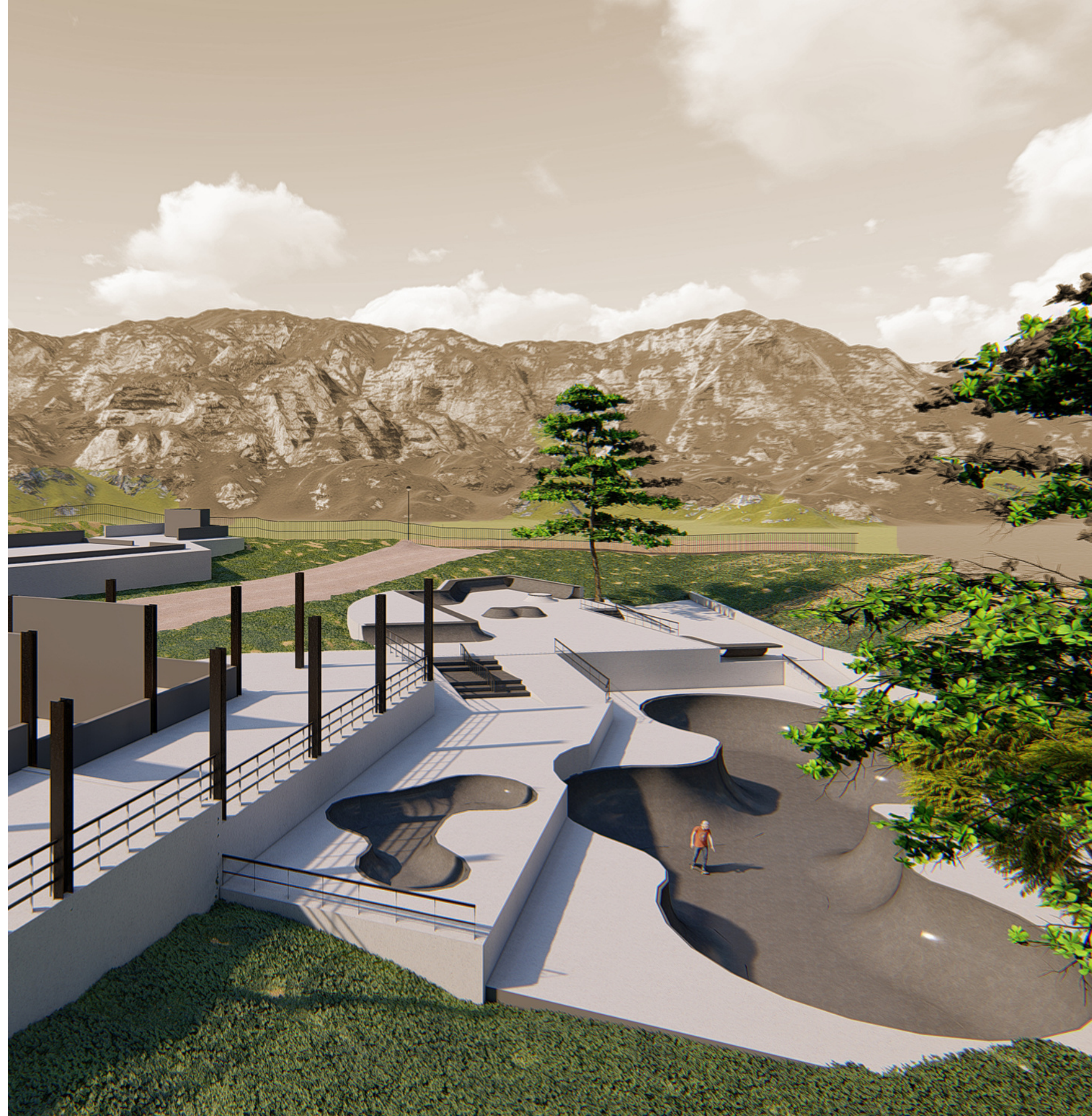
# OUR DREAM

The NCA intends to regenerate this space, which lies adjacent to other NCA parkland and turn it into a public community park where a cultural exchange can be generated between Nosara residents and tourists who visit Nosara.

Architectural designs are already underway, including an amphitheater, a skatepark, small restaurants and shops, jogging trails, and educational facilities.

On behalf of the Nosara community, we are grateful to Aracelly Quintana, architecture student at Veritas University, who has led the design of the community park, accompanied by the Public Park Commission.

The commission is made up of Elizabeth Cundill, Daniel Brett, Vytas Gruodis, Erick Aragón, Jim Ewing, Yy (Krystyn) Dennis. and Francisco Jimenez.





### 3. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

With the intention of being a community that preserves its natural wealth as part of its well-being, in 2020 we promoted research that will help us gain a better understanding of our biodiversity and thus help the community to make better decisions. These efforts are undertaken in partnership with national and international universities.

#### RESULTS

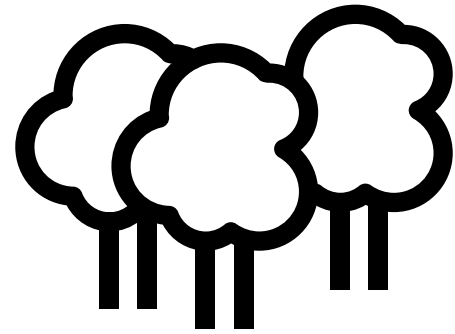
We are collaborating with the following university research:

- **NCA Property Management Plan.** (Daniel Gutierrez, Lic. Geography, University of Costa Rica)
- **Numerical modeling of the Nosara coastal aquifer.** (Adrián Martínez, Masters in Hydrogeology and Management of Water Resources, University of Costa Rica)
- **Local disaster risk reduction strategy for the district of Nosara.** (Fabián Corrales, Environmental Engineering, Costa Rica Institute of Technology.)



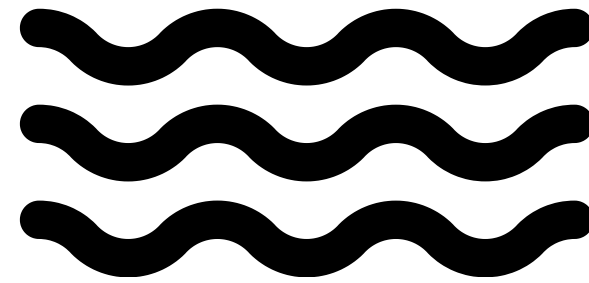


# RESEARCH



## NCA PARKLANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

This project is following the methodology used by the National Parks System of Costa Rica for Management Plans for protected areas. This will help the NCA to create a socio-ecological diagnosis, a zoning proposal and management strategies for all our parklands.



## NUMERICAL MODELING OF THE NOSARA COASTAL AQUIFER

We want to build a conceptual and numerical model of the coastal aquifer of Nosara to characterize the flow of groundwater, as a basis for the management of water resources. With this we will be able to understand the behavior of the aquifer of the coastal sector of Nosara and analyze to what extent it can be affected by the variation in climatic dynamics and surface hydrology.



## LOCAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NOSARA

With this research, the real context of Nosara will be analyzed to understand how resilient the community is to disasters generated by natural events. Once this scenario has been identified, an action plan will be designed to reduce risks in the community.



## 4. CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

What better way to achieve changes in a community than with active, committed and participatory citizens. That is why the NCA promotes spaces for citizen participation in which it is possible to jointly seek solutions to face the challenges of our community.

### RESULTS

- Active participation and promotion of the Multi-stakeholder Platform for Tourism in the OWR
- Creation of the Campaign: "Nosara te necesita"







# MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

The NCA is one of the three promoters of the Multi-stakeholder Platform- a horizontal leadership space. In it, the administration of the Ostional Refuge participates with community leaders and representatives of the tourism sector, who promote and implement solutions to face the challenges of the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge. During 2020, this group achieved:

- Co-creation of the Covid-19 protocol for the opening of the Refuge's beaches.
- Formation of the group "Guardians of the Coast" to inform visitors about the rules of the Refuge.
- Improvements in the management of waste on the beaches, eliminating garbage dumps.
- Repair of access to the beaches to prevent the entry of motorized vehicles.
- Promotion of Beach Clean Ups.





# NOSARA TE NECESITA

With the intention of supporting the victims, after the indirect impact of Hurricane Eta, the NCA organized a fundraising campaign in partnership with the Nosara Food Bank.

- Eight collection points were activated in San José, two in Heredia and two in Alajuela.
- Thanks to the campaign and the work of the Food Bank, more than 200 packages of food and clothes were delivered to those affected.



## 5. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

At NCA we want to be a community that supports institutions in the creation and implementation of planning strategies that incorporate nature-based solutions.

### RESULTS

- Approval of Building Regulations for the buffer zone of the Ostional Wildlife Refuge, in partnership with the Municipality of Nicoya. The regulations became law February 2020.
- Completion of the Management Plan and Environmental Viability for the Ostional Wildlife Refuge.
- Active participation in the Regulatory Plan Commission at the Municipality of Nicoya. (Plan Regulador).





# BUILDING REGULATIONS

Thanks to the impetus of the NCA, the Municipality of Nicoya approved in February 2020 the Regulations for the granting of building permits for the buffer zone of the Ostional Refuge. This regulation regulates the height of buildings, construction coverage, wastewater management and lighting.

After the Municipality was sued for the approval of these regulations, the NCA decided to support the Municipality and collaborate with the defense. Thanks to the campaign: "Nosara somos todos", a community fund of \$ 9,000 was raised to help cover legal defense costs.



## Sí al reglamento de construcciones en Nosara

**14,583 personas firmaron.** ¡Ayuda a conseguir 15,000!



Roberto Ávalos firmó esta petición



Michel Viau firmó esta petición



# MANAGEMENT PLAN OSTIONAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

CIMACO is the official council that supports the management of the Ostional Wildlife Refuge. The NCA is on the technical commission. With our help, at last, CIMACO has **completed the RNVSO General Management Plan**, which was submitted for environmental evaluation by SETENA and complied with all the technical requirements of the Ostional law. Once the unconstitutionality action filed against Law 9348 is resolved, SETENA may issue criteria, and its implementation may move forward. **This is important because once approved the Ostional Wildlife Refuge can fully organize uses, activities, and zoning inside of the refuge.**



# REGULATORY PLAN

The Regulatory Plan is a land-use planning tool required by the national government that would define the construction, zoning, and urban planning rules for the entire canton of Nicoya based on environmental, economic, and social criteria. In 2020 the NCA provided technical advice to the Regulatory Plan Commission thanks to a cooperation agreement signed in 2018 between NCA and the Municipality of Nicoya. Members of our staff do their best to make sure this process keeps moving forward.

- Following our participation and economic support, phase 2 of the Nosara hydrogeological study is being reviewed by SENARA and is expected to be approved in the first quarter of 2021. This is important because without this step the process would be stalled and prolonged.
- In addition, the Municipality is working to develop the Environmental Fragility Index for the canton.
- We participated in the drafting of a grant proposal for the plan to the National Institute of Rural Development (INDER); it is currently under discussion.
- The economic, social and physical-spatial studies of the plan were completed with the support of the National Direction of Climate Change of Costa Rica.



# INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE COMMUNITY

In addition to protecting and caring for land for conservation, the NCA provides the following community infrastructure, which promotes the well-being of the Nosara community



Land for tanks  
and water  
wells



Nosara Recicla



ASADA  
Office



Meeting  
room for  
organizations



**ABOUT**

**US**



# MEET OUR BOARD



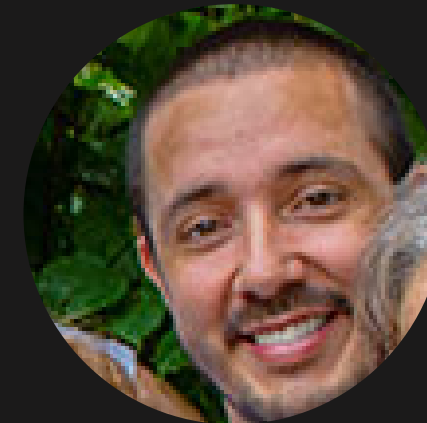
**Kuki Araya**  
President



**Nice Alterman**  
Vice President



**Fritz Elmendorf**  
Secretary



**Gustavo Hernández**  
Treasure



**Anne Michel**  
Vocal 1



**Luis Pardo**  
Vocal 2



**Keri Dawn Solner**  
Vocal 3



**Andrés González**  
Fiscal



# MEET OUR STAFF



**Francisco Jiménez**  
Project Manager



**Roberto Acuña**  
Comunications



**Rafael Díaz**  
Parkland Operator



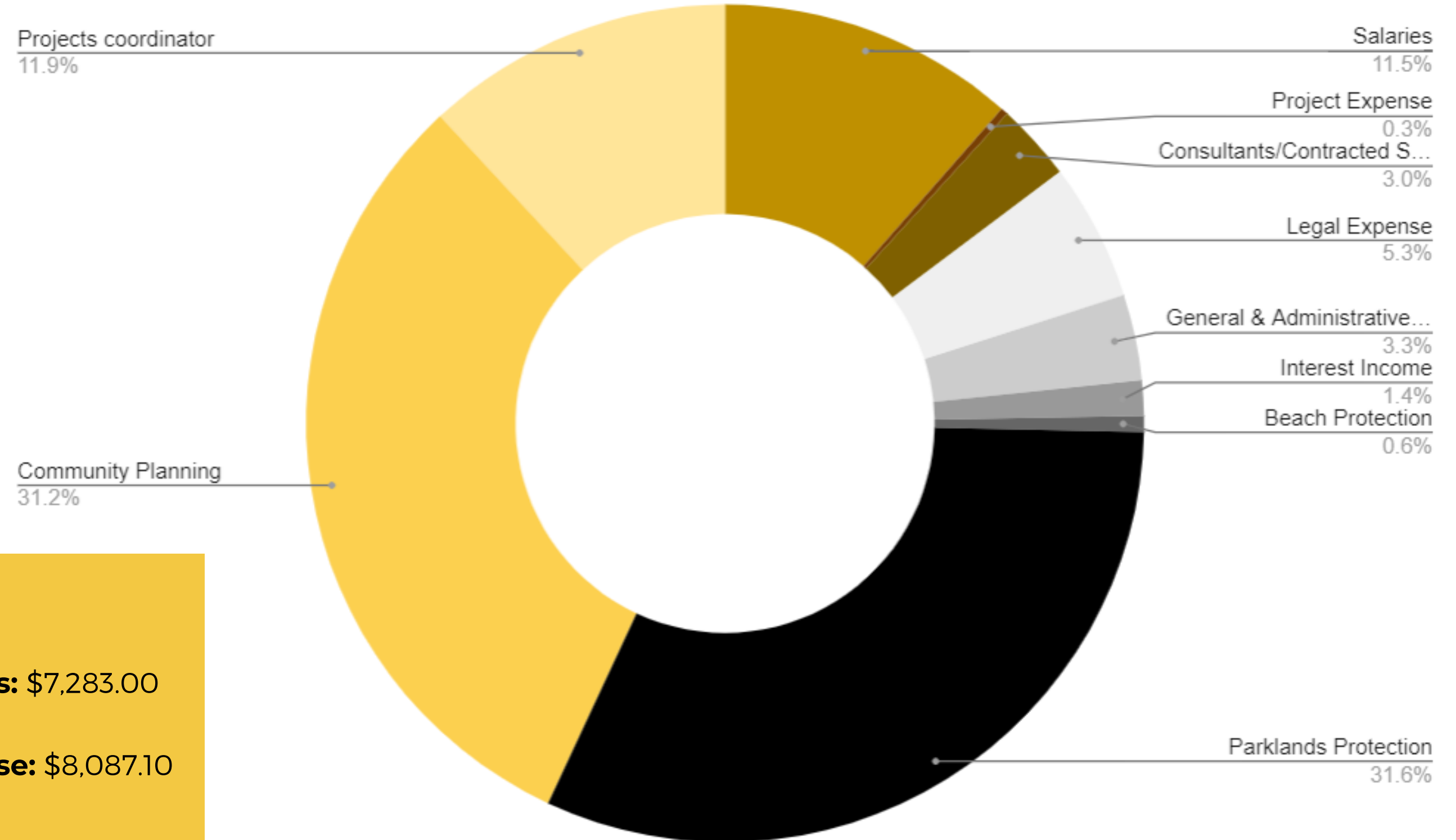
**Boanerges Montiel**  
Parkland Operator



# FINANCES

## EXPENSES

- **Salaries:** \$27,914.70
- **Project Expense:** \$672.51
- **Consultants/Contracted Services:** \$7,283.00
- **Legal Expense:** \$12,871.30
- **General & Administrative Expense:** \$8,087.10
- **Interest Income:** \$3,285.64
- **Beach Protection:** \$1,500.00
- **Parklands Protection:** \$76,909.60
- **Community Planning:** \$75,819.90
- **Projects coordinator:** \$28,955.00





# INCOME

## Membership and Assessment:

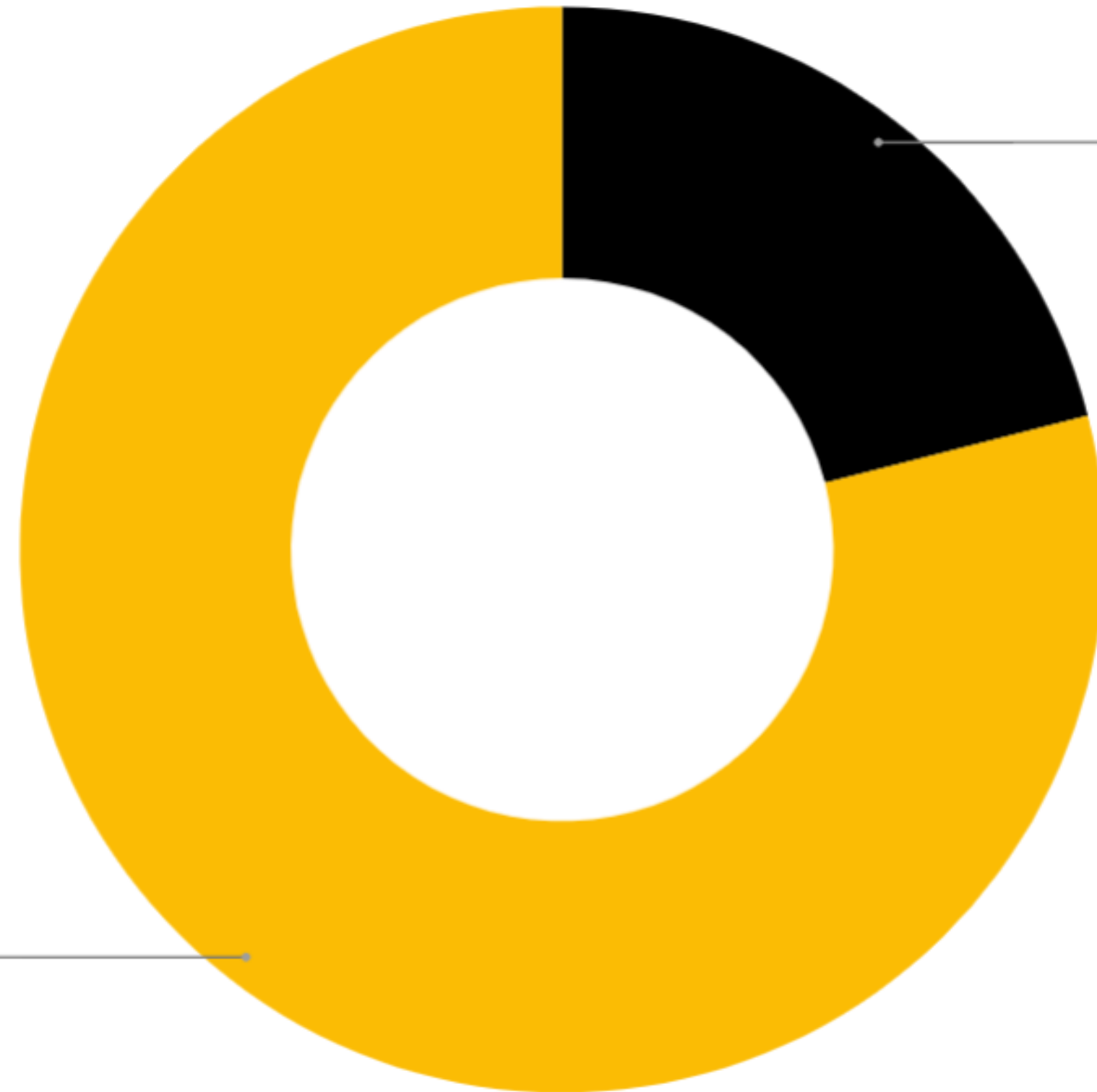
\$26,721.47

## Donations and Grants:

\$100,380.53

Donations, Grants  
79.0%

Membership and Assessm...  
21.0%







**HAVE YOU EVER IMAGINED...**

WHAT **NOSARA** WOULD BE LIKE WITHOUT THE NCA?





Be part of the change.

**Support** the Nosara Civic Association!